



The Fighting Eagle Battalion NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009



BC's Corner

by CDT Rosie Covos

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the Fighting Eagle Battalion during Spring Quarter 2009. We have accomplished much this year and I have noticed the growth in our Cadets' skills and leadership abilities. My goal for the quarter was to prepare all MS III's for Warrior Forge 2009. They had the opportunity to apply the techniques that they trained for throughout the year and showed confidence and proficiency during our spring quarter FTX (Field Training Exercise) in May. I am confident that they will succeed this summer and return the following year as good leaders for the future of the Fighting Eagle Battalion. I want to wish those Cadets who will be attending Warrior Forge this summer - Good Luck!

And Congratulations to the newly commissioned 2LT class of 2009! As the Cadet Battalion Commander, I would like to advise all future and current Cadets to always maintain focus in your goals and build strong camaraderie within the battalion. Have a good summer, stay fit...stay focused... stay alert...and be safe!



Note from the PMS

by LTC Michael G. Kirkland



A new era has begun here at Eastern Washington University. The Cadre and Cadets have bid goodbye to LTC David Millet and all wish him well in his new endeavors. As with the previous departing Professors of Military Science, he is staying in the local area and will hopefully drop in to reminisce with us of his time spent here at EWU. I especially thank LTC Millet for the hearty welcome and guidance over the three-week transition period. Thanks also go to Dean Vickie Shields, the ROTC Cadre, our newly commissioned Lieutenants and the Cadets for a fine welcome. The Fighting Eagle Battalion is in great shape and with the exemplary leadership of LTC Millet has grown tremendously during his tenure.

I am excited to begin my duties as the Chair of the Military Science Department here at EWU; we have our work cut out for us: molding, teaching, and creating leaders for the Army, Army Reserve, and the National Guard as well as the local community. The Army Leadership Values that are infused into our Cadets here at EWU will serve them well wherever their paths and careers take them.

I know the summer will be busy as our Cadets travel to Fort Lewis, WA., Fort Knox, KY., and elsewhere with their training opportunities. I hope that all return this fall invigorated and prepared for another academic school year. And of course, we welcome new students to visit our offices at 202 Cadet Hall and join the Fighting Eagle Battalion!

I look forward to meeting and conversing with the EWU alumni who continue to support the ROTC Foundation and invite all alumni to do the same. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be used to support our program as we continue to maintain the high standards and traditions of the Fighting Eagle Battalion.

If you have questions, alumni information, or just want to contact the new guy, send me an email at mgekirkland@ewu.edu or contact our secretary at rotc@ewu.edu.

Stay **EAGLE STRONG!**

Freshman Experience

by Cadet Shane Stack

Bounding from an electrical apprentice to an US Army ROTC Cadet and student at Eastern Washington University was the biggest culture shock of my life. No more 10-day stretches pulling wire in open warehouses. Now my job was to wake up for Physical Training and go to school; something that I had been away from for over 8 months.

I have good and bad memories looking back on my first year of college, but contracting into the Army will always be the most prominent. People have told me my entire life to always make sure you know what you're getting into before you do it, but honestly you can't know until you actually "jump in". Raising my right hand was the day I figured that out for myself and experience has shown that this is just what I needed.

On the academic side of things, Military Science is still my favorite class. A typical week allowed me to learn about the theoretical end and the 'best branch in the Army' on Tuesday, and actually put them into action on Thursday at Lab. Fortunately, I had the chance to participate in both winter and spring field training exercises where the entire weekend is spent outdoors doing simulated missions, land navigation, and in the case of the Spring FTX, getting transportation from Blackhawk helicopters, a personal highlight of ROTC.

Finally, for all the incoming freshmen, especially ROTC Cadets, it's a lot easier to drown in the pool with ACU's and shoes on than in swimming trunks in the South Pacific. So be ready for the swim test and be ready to show up for class. But don't just take my word for it, "jump in".



Military Ball 2009

by Cadet Kevin Lawson

The Military Ball is a lab exercise of the ROTC program, as well as a farewell to the departing seniors. The event is planned by an MS IV and involves a Cadet from each class. The 2009 Military Ball was organized by Cadet Chris OBrine, and was held at the Red Lion Hotel.

The Military Ball gives Cadets an excuse to put on their class A uniform. As a social event, Cadets had many opportunities to meet each other's significant others, family and friends. Through these people we are able to learn more about our peers, and perhaps even gain a deeper appreciation of who we are, and why we do it.

Our guest speaker was Colonel (R) George A. Abbott, a Fighting Eagle Battalion Alum who commissioned in 1981. He spoke words of encouragement and gave invaluable advice to the many future Lieutenants. His time was appreciated and well spent, as Cadets from every class were able to take his lessons to heart.

Then came the grog. The grog is a ROTC tradition and contains of a mixture of various substances representing the many experiences throughout the year. It is passed around to Cadets, Cadre, families and friends, who happily accept the drink as a token of ROTC heritage.

All in all, it was a fun event.





Spring 2008 FTX

by Cadet Sarah Spevack

“Locked, cocked and ready to rock!” These six words were the Battalion Motto for spring quarter 2009 and this summed up the experiences of Team Pharaoh at the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX). The FTX began with the MS I and MS II Cadets flown out to the Seven Mile Military

Reserve in Black Hawk Helicopters. After some instruction and some night land navigation Team Pharaoh occupied a patrol base for the first night. Throughout the night the steadfast Cadets maintained a fireguard which consisted of thirty percent security. Many Cadets greeted the next morning with comments of “Man, I didn’t get any sleep last night.” (Cadet Yim) and “It is way too early.” (Cadet Chankau).

A simulated artillery round got the sleepy Cadets to move speedily to their next location. The MS IIs got a taste of squad leadership as they rotated through different missions and different Cadet leadership positions. This was the most educational part of the FTX for many of us. We then underwent two more iterations of Land Navigation (day and night).

The Cadets greeted the cancellation of fireguard duty for the second night with tired gratitude. Sunday morning the Cadets arose and greeted the day with considerably more enthusiasm than previously displayed. After one last mission and another Black Hawk Flight Team Pharaoh cleaned weapons and enjoyed some Longhorn BBQ. All told the FTX introduced the MS I and MS II Cadets to what they would face as MS IIIs, and had a great time on the FTX.

WSU 100K

by Cadet Patrick Watts

A stiff breeze rolled across the WSU campus on the morning of 19 April. Competitors lined up across the starting line at the Field House, ready and set. These runners were the starting lineup for teams participating in the 2009 WSU 100k Relay Race. Eastern Washington University’s ROTC sent ten of its members to the race, who proudly represented EWU, the ROTC program, and the Army. This was my third year as a competitor, and a first for many. Newcomers to the race this year were Cadets Quinton Brooks, Shane Stack, Karl Kristensen,, Jonathan Abshire, and Blair Powers.

The Veterans of previous races were myself, Blaine Powers, Chris O’Brine, 2LT Nicole O’Brine, and LTC M. David Millet. Legs of the relay varied in terrain and distance, from about four miles on flat pavement to seven miles covering an 1800 foot ascent. Much team and individual conditioning was required for the event, along with extreme dedication and team encouragement. Our first-timers proved to be an important asset to the team, coached and guided by the veteran runners.

The team’s hard work paid off, earning for itself the yellow ribbon for third place in the open division, and seventh place overall out of fifty-one teams. The EWU ROTC team came in eleven minutes ahead of the WSU ROTC team, a gap that our team is gearing up to increase for next year’s race. Photos of the race, along with the yellow ribbon are proudly displayed in Cadet Hall.



100K team resting along the Snake River



Cadet Powers shows effects of a long run

Commissioning June 2009

by 2LT Chris O'Brine

Friday, June 12, 2009, was a day that will not be forgotten by three Cadets from the Fighting Eagle Battalion. It was on this day that former Cadets Stan Stadelman, Aaron Peterson, and Chris O'Brine finally attained their long sought after goal of becoming Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. The ceremony was held in Showalter Hall on the Cheney campus with scores of loved ones and family looking on.

After reciting the Oath of Office, the mothers, fathers, wives, or fiancés would then pin the new goldbars upon the new officers' shoulders, with hugs, kisses, and whispers of pride and congratulations. Then, as to not stray from tradition, the brand new officers received their first salutes from a non-commissioned officer of their choosing. Words of commemoration were bestowed to each 2LT by LTC M. David Millet, along with a framed Commissioning Certificate, copy of the Soldier's Creed and a copy of the Officers Guide, to aid the new officers in their future career and to help them be the leaders we all know and expect them to be.

As a young Cadet reading this, be reminded that, though your end goal may seem far away, your hard work now



Dean Vickie Shields, 2LT S. Stadelman, 2LT A. Peterson and 2LT C. O'Brine.

will benefit you in the future, and you will reach it with determination. Look to each other for support and guidance. Aid the younger generation of Cadets so that they will flourish. If this happens, not only will we make stronger individuals and a stronger ROTC program here on the EWU campus, we will have made a stronger Army of the future. Blood and sweat wash off, wounds heal, but a damaged pride from giving up on yourself can never be repaired.



Cadet Weber crosses the rope bridge.



Cadets tackle the high obstacles

LRC ROPES COURSE

by 2LT Michael Sadler

On the 21st of May 2009 The Eagle battalion went to the high elevation LRC ropes course on campus. This course is a series of belayed activities fixed at 25-40 feet high. The activities primarily focused on individual accomplishment but also involved pairs and groups. For example, "The Giant's Ladder" obstacle can be conducted with a partner or individually.

This course is new to the line up of training activities our battalion conducts every year. This course is also very valuable to our MS III cadets who are attend LDAC this summer because they will have to overcome and scale high altitude obstacles during their training. Overall, this course was great training for our cadets and it helped raise their moral and confidence before heading of to LDAC, the most important training they will have to face as a Cadet.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2008-2009 Commissionees

2LT James M. Appel
Medical Service Corps
Fort Riley, KS

2LT Christopher S. MacGeorge
Military Intelligence/Infantry
Ft. Benning, GA

2LT Aaron D. Peterson
Armor Corps
Ft. Polk, LA

2LT Russ A. Cuajunco
Unassigned Branch

2LT Christopher H. Moradi
Unassigned Branch

2LT Blaine M. Powers
Unassigned Branch

2LT Amber C. Ellis
Medical Service Corps
WAARNG-Seattle, WA

2LT Chris A. O'Brine
Quartermaster Corps
Ft. Hood, TX

2LT Michael J. Sadler, II
Corps of Engineers
WAARNG-Spokane, WA

2LT Josi L. Hall
Transportation Corps
Germany

2LT Nicole L. O'Brine
Nurse Corps
Darnall Army Medical Center, TX

2LT Stanley M. Stadelman
Military Intelligence Corps
WAARNG-Spokane, WA

ALUMNI UPDATES

Ernie Hobbs (1968) Three years in Army. First two years in Naples Italy as Headquarters' Records Officer for NATO in Allied Forces Southern Europe, Third year, Vietnam Adjutant for a Group Commander & Company Commander of the 42nd Army Postal Unit. Since leaving Army, State Farm Insurance Agent 36 years in Wenatchee, WA and lives in Cashmere WA.

LTC Douglas J. Bell (1986) Recently completed a command tour at Defense Distribution Depot, Korea, located at Camp Carroll, Korea. LTC Bell is currently on a joint assignment to the Department of State in Washington DC as a Military Advisor in the Bureau of International Organizations. (2/24/09)

LTC Mark E. Sinclair (1988) Currently serving as the S6, TRADOC G2, Human Terrain System at Fort Leavenworth, KS. (8/20/09)



LTC Michael T. Wright (1990) Assumed command of the Second Battalion, 401st Army field Support Brigade (Southwest Asia) on 3 July 2009. He is stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

MAJ Katrina (Katie) Parise (Glass) (1993) Recently left Active Service and now serving in USACE USAR, Washington DC. Last duty station was as the G1 Engineer, HQDA (Pentagon) and now working as an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Married to Alfred Parise, Firefighter at Fort Myer, VA (serving the Pentagon and Arlington Cemetery, and Military District Washington) in 2004. Son, Anthony, born on Jan 29, 2009. (6/2/09)

MAJ Chad Heffernan (1995) Currently serving as a the Division G8 Resource Integration Officer, First Army at Fort Meade, MD. (4/13/09)

MAJ Kathleen Richardson (Lecoq-Cannon) (1995) Returned from a 15-month tour in Iraq with the 102nd FST and was practicing in the Internal Medicine clinic at MAMC as a FNP. Summer 2009 will PCS to HRC to serve as a branch manager and and earn my doctorate degree. (4/6/09)

CPT Kevin R. Bentz (2001) Current assignment is with the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2BCT, 11D from Fort Riley, KS. I am approaching the 6 month mark on our current deployment in support of OIF. Our BDE is currently responsible for all operations in Northwestern Baghdad. I am currently the Battalion S1, Public Affairs Officer, and S7 (Information Operations Officer). I have served in a Armored Cavalry Regiment (2002-2004), and currently serving in the Support Battalion (TC, QM, OD, and LG Officers primarily also have MI and SC) (3/15/09)

CPT Jason Shultz (2001) Commanded The Sabalauski Air Assault School 101st ABN Div: APR 08 - June 09. Commanded B/1-187 IN, 3BCT 101st ABN Div: OCT 06- APR 08. 3 Tours ISO OIF.

Ben and Veronica Neeley (2007 & 2008) This is a photo of Veronica and I in Kuwait before we went our separate ways into Iraq. Thanks for all the great training. We love our jobs!





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*The EWU US Army ROTC Color Guard Leads the June 2009 Graduation
Grand Marche to Woodward Field.*