



THE FIGHTING EAGLE BATTALION NEWSLETTER

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BC's Corner

“Do It Better!”

Eastern Washington University's Fighting Eagle Battalion's motto for fall quarter 2006 was “Do it Better!” This motto serves as a constant reminder to steer clear of the pit of complacency. The idea behind the motto is always striving to improve, from year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter and day-to-day. I have challenged everyone in the Battalion to find something and “do it better” each week at lab. As a MS IV class we are striving to “do it better” at developing training opportunities for underclassmen. I have challenged the MS III class to strive to “do it better” as a MS III class than my class did last year and the MS II class to “do it better” than the current MS III class did last year, and so on. In our quest to ‘do it bet-



ter’ we have created a squad competition to build a spirit of competition and motivation. The competition involves the best average Physical Fitness Test score, practical land navigation scores, knowledge test, a drill and ceremony competition and the most consistent attendance. At the end of the year we will see which squad can “do it better!”

--Cadet Caleb Newbill

Wings from Within



Air Assault School is an intensive ten-day school at Fort Campbell, KY, where I had the opportunity to attend this summer after attending the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). We started zero-day with 198 soldiers and cadets total, after going through the obstacle course we dropped to 168 participants. There are several obstacles such as the Tough One, four foot wall over, low crawl under concertina and the Confidence Climb. There were three phases to the school: Phase I--Safety and Hand and Arm Signals; Phase II--Inspections and Rigging Techniques; Phase III--Rapelling. For each phase we had hands on and written tests. Each test must be passed with a score

of 70 or higher to move to the next phase. Throughout the 10 days we also performed countless inventory inspections and had a four-, eight- and twelve-mile ruckmarch to complete in a certain time frame. The most fun I had in this course was completion of the Tough One, rapelling off the wall 30 foot tower, and knowing deep down I BEAT the twelve-mile ruckmarch with 18 minutes to spare. Through this course, I have realized my fear of heights didn't kick in until I was thirty feet off the ground. Thank goodness I was able to overcome this fear and I now wear my wings upon my chest like many before me.

--Cadet Charles Hines

Airbone Summer 2006

As we have all heard, only two things fall out of the sky, bird poop and fools. I guess we must be fools because who wants to jump out of a perfectly good airplane? This summer, six of our cadets had the opportunity of a lifetime to enjoy three wonderful weeks at beautiful Fort Benning, GA, learning how to be super duper paratroopers.

Our first week started with a simple yet grueling Army Physical Fitness Test. After making it through this test of our ability, we were excited to begin Ground

Week. This week consists of learning how to jump out of an airplane and land. Our first task was to learn how to exit an airplane properly. For this, we learned the Hit It drill. Sergeant Airborne would yell "hit it" and we would tuck our chin to our necks, take one step forward, pretend to throw our second step out the airplane door, and then count 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000. The next step in Ground Week was the 34-foot tower with a mock airplane door. Students use this to practice their exits out of the mock airplane. Each exit is graded and you must have three satisfactory exits to move on to Tower Week.

Tower Week consists of two main events. Being dropped from the 250 foot towers, and mass exits out of the 34 foot tower. On the 250 foot, you are put into a parachute harness with

the chute already open, then lifted to the top of the tower. You are then dropped. This gives you the experience of what a real landing is going

to be like during Jump Week. Next is practicing mass exits from the 34-foot tower. This is done in groups of four. Mastering mass exits is very important because you will be doing this during Jump Week.

Now comes the part every student has been waiting for -- Jump

Week! Throughout this week students conduct four day jumps and one night jump. Two of the jumps are Hollywood jumps, which means that the only thing you have is your main parachute and your reserve parachute. The other two jumps are combat load jumps. This is where you jump with a weapon and an Alice pack. While waiting to jump, you are checked countless times by jump masters to be sure that your parachute will open. This is by far the best week of the course.

There is nothing more thrilling than jumping out of a perfectly good airplane. It was great training and an awesome experience for the cadets that attended the course this past summer. It was also a great bonding experience for those of us who were there together.

--Cadets Chris MacGeorge & Veronica Roel



Airborne School Attendees

July 2006

CDT Veronica Roel

September 2006

CDT James Appel
CDT Christopher MacGeorge
CDT Nicholas Potter
CDT Tyler Mayes
CDT Richard Senkler



COL Mark W. Borreson

Army National Guard
Senior Policy Advisor
Reserve Forces Policy Board



COL Michael P. McCaffree

Commander, 81st Heavy
Brigade Combat Team

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CADETS!

CDT Erik Lokkins
Field Artillery

CDT Amanda Rowse
Air Defense Artillery

CDT Mark Hardee
*Signal Corps
branch detailed
Infantry*

CDT Parker Hathaway
Ordnance

CDT Benjamin Neeley
Armor

CDT Susan Brown
Nurse Corps

CDT William Lewis
Aviation

CDT Charles Hines
*Signal Corps
branch detailed
Field Artillery
branch detailed
Infantry*

CDT Nick Charlton
Signal Corps

CDT Bryce Brown
Corps of Engineers (RC)

MS IV Branch Results

When the MS IV cadets arrived at lab on 2 Nov 2006, most of them had heard a rumor that this was the day they would find out their branch.

Some knew what was going on because they had been talking to their friends from the Leadership Development and Assessment Course who had already found out their branches. The Cadre refused to give us any information but LTC

Millet, the Professor of Military Science, simply said that he needed a few minutes at the end of lab to talk. By this time all the MS IV's knew that they would get their branches then. At the end of lab, LTC Millet talked about the branching process, commenting that it was "the biggest event in a cadet's career besides commissioning." While he was talking, the MS IV's just

wanted to get their branches and were growing more and more anxious. After he was done talking, LTC Millet called up each cadet individually and hand-

ed them a folded piece of paper. Inside were the cadet's new branch insignia and their new branch's mission statement. Each cadet read the mission statement.

Cadets Hathaway, Hines and Newbill were offered Army funded graduate school in ex-

change for 3 additional years of service. Cadets Lokkins and Neeley both signed for 3 more years in order to get their branch choices. Cadet Bryce Brown will serve in the Army Reserve Component as an Engineer Officer while pursuing a civilian career. All the other cadets will serve in the active Army.

--Cadet Erik Lokkins



Life as a Freshman Cadet

When I came to Eastern, while most students went to sleep before the first day of classes looking forward to a few hours of class and some homework, the freshmen cadets like me, looked forward to Physical Training in the early hours of the morning. As the quarter progressed, most students were getting used to attending classes and doing their homework every day, while we had, on top of the normal struggles, to learn how to march with a 35-pound ruck sack and how to use suppressing fire to cover our buddies. And you know what? We are better for it. There is a reason that ROTC cadets have a higher graduation rate than the rest of the population of the university. The cadets work us hard, but we are better for the challenge. I know with-

out ROTC the transition into college would have been much harder. The cadets accepted new freshman easily and made it easier for all of us. With the support from the other cadets I am sure that the new freshman this year, and the years after, will be able to handle all of the stresses of college life.

--Cadet Josh Decker



RANGER CHALLENGE 2006

The cadets of the Fighting Eagle Battalion recently had the opportunity to participate in the annual Ranger Challenge competition in November. This day-long competition is designed to develop individual leader skills and build esprit de corp. It was organized by the University of Idaho ROTC and brought eight teams from various universities such as Central Washington University, Washington State University, and University of Idaho. The competition consisted of seven events including a written land navigation test, army physical fitness test, M16 assembly and disassembly, grenade assault course, one Rope Bridge, practical land navigation course and a ten kilometer forced road march to finish off the day.

Although neither of the two teams from the Fighting Eagle Battalion placed in the top three, every participating cadet learned something important about themselves and their comrades. The EWU "Rangers" lead by Cadet Appel and Cadet Hall and the EWU "Sappers" lead by Cadet Hockett and Cadet Cain displayed their abilities and team cohesion while at the same time enjoying the thrills of competition. Cadet Abshire, a first time participant, states "It was a great learning experience for me, I look forward to participating again," as do many of the cadets who are already excited at the opportunity to compete, and win, the next Ranger Challenge a year from now.

--Cadet James Appel



Note from the PMS

We are excited to send out our first Fighting Eagle Battalion Newsletter to alumni, faculty and parents. I am proud of each one of these Cadets and think it is important to share with everyone the hard work, dedication, and great attitude of the entire Corps of Cadets. These Cadets are an example for others to follow; they are able to maintain their academic programs, improve their physical fitness, refine their leadership attributes and juggle all the other demands of college life. I know these future officers will be prepared to take on the challenges of leading a platoon in the ever changing operational environment we live in.

Fall quarter 2006 was as fast paced as ever with the new MS IV senior Cadets ready to take on the demands of leading the Battalion, and the MS III junior cadets eager to undertake the rigors of training in preparation for their Ft. Lewis, Washington Leadership Camp this summer. Between supporting the EWU Football games, preparing and participating in Ranger Challenge, conducting weekly Leadership Labs, and participating in a well-developed Fall Field Training Exercise; the Cadets found time to keep up with their studies and other activities.

Two key dates to remember for this upcoming spring are the EWU ROTC Military Ball on 11 May and our Commissioning Ceremony on 15 June. I look forward to updating everyone again at the end of spring quarter 2007 and allow the Cadets to share their accomplishments and achievements with our alumni, campus community and their families.

LTC M. David Millet
dmillet@mail.ewu.edu

A CTLT Experience

I attended Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) from 19 July 2006 through 9 August 2006. During my experience, I shadowed a second lieutenant fire support officer (FSO) from the 2-508th PIR, 4th Battalion Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Upon my arrival at Ft. Bragg I was picked up by 2nd LT Merkel the FSO that I was to shadow and learn from. After receiving my gear and talking with the company commander, all CTLT cadets were to be sent to West Point, NY, to help in the support of the West Point summer camp.

The next morning I went to Basic Airborne Refresher (BAR) training to prepare for a jump at West Point. After BAR, breakfast, and meeting up at CQ, three sergeants, two privates and three cadets with equipment piled into a 15 PAX van and drove from Ft. Bragg, NC to West Point, NY. We came into West Point about 20 hours later. The trip was quite long and I caught up on some much needed sleep.

At West Point I was assigned to be a Platoon Leader for a Forward Support Company (FSC) truck platoon which was a detail of about 70 drivers and 76 Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTV). As the PL I would attend weekly meetings and prep for the next weeks movement of cadets from training site to training site. Week one ended at West Point and the battalion had planned a jump; it was my first since airborne school. The jump went alright, only about six paratroopers landed in trees. and no one was injured. As a PL, I helped prepare an OPORD for a truck obstacle course with a risk assessment and wrote up some Army Commendation Medals for troops in the detail. I left West Point 3 August 2006 and went back to Ft. Bragg, NC.

At Ft. Bragg I was to head to a Observation Post (OP) and call for fire with the Battalion Forward Observers (FO) to register four guns. That was a four-day, three-night exercise of calling for fire. We shot about eighteen hours a day, rotating on the radio and binoculars recording spottings and keeping track for the Fire Direction Center (FDC).

--Cadet William Lewis

ALUMNI News

FRED A. SHARP (1961)

COL (R)

Retired 1988. Worked for industry and finally retired in 1999.

ROBERT D MORIG (1964)

COL (R)

Deputy Director of Resources at the Pentagon in Army G8 equipping the force.

DONALD C. NELSON (1966)

COL (R).

Retired OHARNG Colonel and Corporate Pilot. Resides in Columbus, OH

JERRY P. MELLICK (1967)

LTC (R)

Manager, Network Control Center, Anheuser-Busch Companies

JOHN N. NANSEN (1967)

LTC (R) FA

Retired engineer from Fluor Hanford, Tri-Cities, WA. Moved to Lake Curlew, WA IN 2001.

VICTOR L. NELSON (1976)

COL (R)

Retired 01 July 2006. Currently Africa Regional Officer, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Dept of State.

MARK LISI (1980)

COL (R)

Retired July 2006 at Ft. Lewis. Currently teaching in the Tacoma school district.

JOEL MITTELSTAEDT (1980)

COL

Working for the HQDA G8, but stationed at Ft. Lewis as the Director of the Army Transformation Team.

ROY BROWN (1984)

LTC

Currently the Chief of Operations for USAAC and a member of the accessions targeting board.

JASON A. ELBERG (2000)

CPT, TC

Company Commander for G Forward Support Company, 1-82 Field Artillery, 1BCT, 1CD at Ft. Hood, TX.

MICHAEL G. ROE (2001)

CPT, TC

Currently Captain, Transportation Corps, 710th BSB, 3rd IBCT, 10th Mountain Division, Salerno, Afghanistan

JASON SHULTZ (2001)

CPT

Currently stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY with the 101st. In command of B/1-187 IN.

LESLIE J. RATLIFF (2004)

1LT, EN

Currently serving as company XO with FSC, 1st EN BN out of Ft. Riley. Currently deployed in support of OIF.





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Visit our EWU Flying Eagle Battalion website at:

<http://www.ewu.edu/rotc>

or pay a visit to our Cadet Command website at:

<http://armyrotc.com/edu/easternwa/index.htm>

We would like to hear from you!

Do you have news to share? Retired? Let us know! We will update our records, our EWU website and share your news with alumni and friends in upcoming issues of our newsletter.

Send us your updates by email at rotc@mail.ewu.edu or by mail. Please include the month and year you commissioned.



Mike Roe ('01) in
Afghanistan, June 2006