

# THE SHAMROCK



*Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion*

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## Battalion Receives Stone From Checkpoint Charlie

*General Carl E. Vuono recently presented the Fightin' Irish Battalion a piece of stone taken from Checkpoint Charlie, to be displayed in the Pasquerilla Center. A letter to the Battalion accompanies the stone. Printed here is the text of General Vuono's letter.*

To the Fightin' Irish Battalion:

On behalf of the United States Army, it is an honor to present this piece of Checkpoint Charlie for display in the Pasquerilla Center. Although small in stature, this momento symbolizes a victory of extraordinary dimensions--the victory of freedom and democracy on the continent of Europe.

This triumph was achieved, first and foremost,

by the courage and commitment of generations of American soldiers. For more than four decades, our soldiers, together with our allies and members of our sister services, manned the ramparts of freedom in Europe. Among them were a number of Notre Dame graduates, individuals who exemplified the spirit of selfless service to our nation that has distinguished "Fightin' Irish" alumni throughout the years.

Today, the Iron Curtain has been lifted. Berlin is once again a unified city, and Checkpoint Charlie no longer monitors the flow of people between East and West. The long struggle is over, and every cadet who pauses to reflect on the meaning of this small piece of stone should take enormous pride in what our

nation and our Army achieved in Europe.

Sincerely,  
Carl E. Vuono  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

*Notre Dame ROTC's piece of Checkpoint Charlie is on display in the Pasquerilla Center. The engraving on the stone reads:*

**Checkpoint Charlie  
Berlin Wall**

**Stone Taken From  
Checkpoint Foundation  
On Day of Closure  
22 JUNE 1990**

C/CPT Rachel Lovejoy

# Just Do It!

Last month I received a small chunk of stone in the mail. No, it wasn't a gag gift and it wasn't a promotional from Prudential. This was a piece from a different rock: the foundation of Checkpoint Charlie in the Berlin Wall. The rock was sent to me and meant for you. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Carl Vuono, who has close ties to Notre Dame and the Fightin' Irish Battalion through his sons Tim ('85) and Jeff ('88), sent the piece of Checkpoint Charlie for display in Pasquerilla Center. He sent it as a reminder of the contributions that your predecessors have made and of the commitment that you continue to make.

That piece of Checkpoint Charlie and the letter which goes with it will be displayed in our new building as soon as I can get it mounted. When you see it, remember what that rock stands for: nothing is impossible if you don't quit. After forty-five years the "Cold-War" is over; it sounded strange to my own ears to hear myself say that in a class the other day, but it is really over. Not that there aren't enough other problems in the world to keep us busy, but the big, bad, mutual assured destruction global conflict cold war isn't one of them any longer. Deterrence worked because a lot of people

made a commitment and stuck with it, even when that wasn't the popular and certainly not the easy thing to do.

Within the next four or five years the Army is programmed to decrease in size by one-third as the need for forward deployed forces diminishes. What won't decrease or diminish is the need for committed leaders who build and motivate effective, well-trained units. That starts with the platoon, so it starts with you. The soldiers you will lead will respond to the kind of person and leader you are. If you care, they will; if you're committed, they will be. Your integrity and responsibility will make it easier for them to show the same traits. And one of the best parts of the whole equation is that if you want to learn, your soldiers will make sure you do. They'd rather have someone they can

depend on than a question mark.

Every one of you is learning the things here that you'll need when you lead. One of the most important of those things is that you can do more, and better, than you might once have thought. The message behind the rock is that nothing is impossible; if you, the leader believe something is important, then you, the leader, can get it done.

It's been a great semester. I'm glad to have each of you on the team. Now go do what's important on finals, and have a happy and peaceful Christmas and a well-deserved semester break.

LTC Hemphill

## Shamrock Staff

PAO.....	C/CPT Rachel Lovejoy
Asst. PAO's.....	C/2LT Tony Muilenburg C/2LT Greg Coughran C/2LT Bill McHugh
Editor.....	C/SSG Paul Webb
Staff Writers.....	C/1LT Kristen Mancuso C/PFC Cheryl Zopp
Staff Photographers.....	C/SSG Paul Webb C/CPL Claire Heil
Advisor.....	CPT Brian Selling

## A Desk With a View

Sitting behind the Battalion Commander's desk offers a broad perspective on ROTC at Notre Dame and the Fightin' Irish Battalion. I see three companies working hard to outdo each other in friendly competition. Who has the best PT scores, the best attendance, the most inspiring training: these are the criteria for company bragging rights.

I see MSIII's taking charge and involving themselves in the execution of battalion, company and platoon operations. MSIII's in Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie are learning by teaching and doing while shaping the personality of the Battalion. I see MSII's finding their place in the Battalion as the ROTC veterans, the sages to the freshmen and providers of valuable feedback to the juniors. I see MSI's discovering the opportunities and camaraderie of the Fightin' Irish Battalion. The eager, enthusiastic freshmen are the lifeblood of this Battalion.

Finally, I see my classmates, once the rowdy freshmen of Alpha Company, now the seasoned camp veterans leading the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

Have a Merry Christmas and a good break.

C/LTC Brian Stokes

## An Alpha Counter Column

At the risk of sounding sappy, I enjoyed having each of the members of Alpha company with me this semester. Except for a few problems with the guidon, the semester went by without any real problems. Although I'm sure many of you don't realize it, we completed the platoon drill portion, Chapter 6, of that D&C bible—FM 22-5. That is a lot of material. My hope is that many of you leave Alpha with most of that information. Like I have said in the past, you will need it. Many of you will not be fortunate enough to return to the hallowed ranks of Alpha (although some have been lucky enough to be in Alpha 7 of 8 semesters). You will have to rely on what you've learned this past semester for the rest of your time in ROTC. Keep your copies of FM 22-5. I promise that at some point you will need them.

The thing that I would most like all of you to work on in the coming semester is your motivation. It becomes very easy to get down on ROTC second semester. Seniors start thinking that it doesn't matter what they do because they have already been given their branch and component assignments. Juniors get upset about all the time that they must spend to prepare for the summer. Sophomores are especially susceptible to second semester apathy.

They are rotated back into a company that they have already been a part of and are still in followership roles. God forbid, even freshmen have been known to get burnt out after first semester. Remember, that mood is contagious; if one individual is dragging it doesn't take much for everyone else to drag. The converse is also true: If one is out to have a good time, that person can be a positive influence.

The Fightin' Irish Battalion has won awards for being one of the best in the country. Alpha has also been recognized as being the most efficient company in the battalion. To maintain such standards, we must all consistently give 100%. I didn't see any severe problems with motivation this past semester, but it could definitely stand improvement.

Those of you who have the opportunity to choose what company you prefer, give Alpha company a look. Alpha has consistently been the fun company in the battalion. Just ask anybody who has been in Alpha. If they tell you differently, see me. I want their names!

Good luck with your finals and have a Merry Christmas! Alpha leads the alphabet (and the way)!!

C/CPT Thomas Beasley

# You Can't Beat the Cavalry

With only two weeks of school remaining, I challenge the members of Bravo Company to pursue their academics with the same fervor that they have shown to have as the leaders of this battalion. The shoot, move, communicate philosophy of the Cav has helped the members of the company become proficient in the use of the M-16, as well as many other weapons systems such as the TOW missile, the .50 caliber machine gun, and the M-203 grenade launcher. The company has also had extensive training in land navigation, including the practical, outdoor course, and

has gained familiarity with the TA 312 field telephone and the AN/PRC-77 radio. The MSIII's did an outstanding job training the MSI's and MSII's. The mission of CAV company could not have been completed without the MSIII leadership.

This article would not be complete without reference to the outstanding motivation which ran deep throughout the whole company. It started with the outstanding involvement that the staff and the platoon leaders had in the company. The XO, S1/S5, S3, S4 did a lot of behind-the-scenes work, and consequently deserve 99 percent of the credit for the

operation of the company. The platoon leaders taught their platoons the importance of military bearing, but more importantly, they taught the platoons how to have fun. MSIII leadership also inspired motivation in the company through their knowledge, and determination to have a good time. The MSI's and MSII's, what can I say, you are the backbone for motivation and esprit de corps in the company. This has been an outstanding semester, and I have to applaud everyone in the company. you worked hard, you gave a damn, and it showed. Charlie Don't Surf.

C/CPT J. Peter Deutsch

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## Charlie: STRAC and Proud of It

Charlie Company is in the homestretch. The toughest training you will receive is now at the doorstep. You've made it through STRAC and are now entering the TACOP zone. Yes, the TACOP zone will provide you with the basics in platoon offense and defense. You will be prepared to be thrown into battle against the Iraqi Army; well, not really. Maybe you will defeat your buddies from State or U of Z at camp who only know D & C.

If time allows, we will also teach you survival techniques from 21-76 to include which bugs and insects

taste good with your MRE crackers and how to amputate a chicken's head without tools.

Rangers lead the way!

(Especially after having the MRE bean component)

C/CPT Michael Dunleavy



Grenade!

## MC Danny V and the Marauder Posse

Marauder Drill is looking strong going into the Winter Break. The response for recruits from Bravo Co., as well as Alpha Co., has been tremendous. I welcome all new recruits aboard. This is also a reminder for those interested in joining the team next semester. It is imperative that you demonstrate your interest by attending drill team practice within the first two weeks of next semester. If you have questions, call me before break at x2447.

Practices will be more frequent and intense in the second semester in preparation for competition. Practice times will be posted

upon our return from winter break. This year, the Irish Marauders will compete in the Purdue Drill Meet on March 23 and the Illinois Invitational Drill Meet on April 12 and 13. The Illinois Meet will include an overnight stay in Champaign, IL. Competition for leadership positions will be held next semester.

Veteran's Day weekend found the Battalion's drill elite in action on campus and in South Bend. Cadets Welicky, Kane, Tilton, Warmerdam, Fritz, Hull, Schuermann, and McCarthy were on hand for the Retreat ceremony at the South Quad flagpole. On Veterans Day, a freshman

detail consisting of Cadets Mike Deperro, Melinda Zapata, Gregg Massa, and Mike Kaley participated in a flag lowering and flag raising ceremony in downtown South Bend. Check out the clipping on the bulletin board, unless someone ripped it off again.

Have a Merry Christmas and don't get fat. Be ready to work towards bringing home some trophies next semester.

We just want to drill, is that so wrooong?!

C/1LT Daniel Vásquez

## Ranger Challenge Finishes A Strong Semester

On Thursday, Nov. 15th, the Irish Ranger Team traveled to Ft. Knox, Kentucky to battle the best Ranger teams from the eight state region. Friday afternoon marked the beginning of the competition with APFT. In that infamous Ranger sunshine and 40 degree temp., the Irish took a first place, with Ranger Hendry winning the 2-mile run in 11:07. We had three max's overall—Hendry, Wessels, and Shashy—and a team average of 292.

Saturday, the competition resumed with M-16 firing and orienteering,

which we placed third. Next, we moved to the rope bridge site in which Murphy's Law is always in effect for Notre Dame. The Irish had an unexpected visit from the famous Jacques Cousteau one-rope bridge when the farside knot slipped. After drying off, we competed in the grenade assault course. Dennis Danieluk showed his stuff here by missing the window target but sending the grenade through the wall. But the Irish bounced back with a respectable showing in weapons assembly.

The next event,

patrolling, is the heart of the Ranger competition. The event begins with receiving a Battalion OPORD at 1800 hrs. to raid an enemy radio relay site. Ranger teams then plan and execute the raid at 0400 hours while being evaluated by an Officer and NCO on a grade sheet with over 200 subtasks. The Irish did well, placing second overall in this event. The culmination of the 30-hour competition is the 10 kilometer road march (run) in full combat gear. The Irish showed what they were made

**Challenge Cont. on Pg. 7**

## Did You Know...?

Craig Lanigan, a senior history major from Chicago has been on the ND football team for two years. He plays fullback and plans to be back next year to lead the Irish to victory. You may also have heard Craig playing piano at Tippicanoe Place two years ago. And yes, it's true...he was also known regiment-wide for his inspiring jodies at camp. A-r-m-y A-r-m-y Army Army.

Chris Nelson, an MSIII from Rochester, NY is on the varsity lacrosse team. Chris has lettered the past two years. Since lacrosse is a spring sport, he now keeps himself busy with the Army basketball team. In the spring, Chris will also have the pleasure of taking the MCAT because he is a pre-med major.

Heather Finley, an MSIV psychology major, has been in ND chorale since her freshman year. Heather has a beautiful voice and you are all invited to hear her sing and play guitar when she plays at Grace Coffee House or at Breen-Phillips mass on Sunday nights. Heather always enjoys the support of her Army pals.

Tracy Farrell, a sophomore math/computer science major plays the cymbals in the Notre Dame marching band. Have fun at the Orange Bowl! Tracy also plays the bassoon in the concert band, woodwind ensemble, and woodwind quintet.

C/1 LT Kristen Mancuso



Are you sure those coordinates are correct, sir?

## What's Up Down Range

The rifle team's last match for the semester will take place on 7 December. Competition will not resume until next semester.

This semester the team has made great progress, especially among the MSI's and II's who are at or above the level of last year's underclassmen. Consistent high-scorer is Mike Julian, NCOIC. With more hard work, the rifle team's scores should rise considerably next semester. Unfortunately, we suffered two losses this semester, but both were to teams which have always been outstanding. Next semester we'll be road-tripping to the University of Illinois at Chicago (and to Gino's), a team we should beat.

Mike Juilan and I would like to thank SSgt. Ragsdale for his help this semester. He puts in a lot of time for the rifle team, but I'm sure it's worth it just to hang out with a bunch of wild n' crazy dudes such as ourselves. Boy, I'm tellin' you, it's just wacky down in those sheds, especially when SSgt. Ragsdale starts playing Ice-T on his jam-box! Now if we can just keep security out of the range... Party on!

C/1LT Ted Sherman

## The 1990 Dixon Challenge

On the morning of 2 December, Loftus Center was once again filled with the happy early morning greetings of the Fightin' Irish Battalion. This gathering was not another Loftus FTX; it was the mighty Dixon Challenge where the victors are immortalized and the losers go back home and sleep the rest of the afternoon.

Since its inception a few years ago, the Dixon Challenge has become another important part of the battalion training schedule. It is the one time in the semester where individual squads are allowed to compete against each other and show just how well they have trained.

The competition was divided into eight different stations - including the rigorous rest station - which were graded on team and individual performance. The scores were combined from the substations and averaged to produce the final score for

each event. Not much in the way of the events changed from the past Dixon Challenges. However, there was a twist in the actual competition—Squads were randomly arranged so that people were working with people they had not worked with before. Also, an elite squad of MSIV's was allowed to compete for the first time in the history of the Dixon Challenge.

It soon became obvious that the most difficult stations were the grenade obstacle course and D&C stations as reflected by the somewhat low scores in these two events. However, outstanding scores were recorded in the APFT with some squads scoring near maximum points. When the smoke finally cleared, Bravo-4 emerged as the 1990 Dixon Challenge Champions.

C/2LT Tony Muilenburg

### Challenge From Pg. 5

of for this "gut-check" and placed first of all teams. Unfortunately, because of inconsistent showings on other events, this was not enough. The Irish Rangers placed fourth overall in the region.

The Ranger team trained very hard and performed well at both state and regional competitions. Sure, we had some mental errors, but that always happens under such high levels of stress.

I want to thank the Rangerteam, Capt. Miles, and MSG Price for the sacrifices they made to make the team a success. Have a relaxing school year. Y'all earned it! Airborne! Air Assault!

C/MAJ Ron G. Shashy  
Ranger Team Commander



## Signal and Medical Service Corps Commanders Visit ND

The Fightin' Irish Battalion was lucky this fall to enjoy visits from both Major General Kind, Commander of the Signal Corps, and Brigadier General Miketinac, Commander of the Medical Service Corps

Before beginning his briefing on the Signal Corps, General Kind presented the Fightin' Irish Battalion with four pictures representing the Signal Corps. The first picture presented some history behind the Corps. The second displayed the Corps' Insignia of a golden eagle holding a baton with the signal flag. The Corps' Code of Arms was shown in the third frame with a fist holding three lightning bolts to symbolize applying speed to communication. Finally, the last picture portrayed the Signal Corps as a part of a team with a global mission.

After presenting Colonel Hemphill with these gifts, the General briefed the cadets on expectations for the Signal Corps. He explained the components of the basic course and the training the cadets would complete upon their arrival at Fort Gordon. He then listed numerous assignments they could be given upon graduation from the advanced course. Lastly, General Kind had some words

to share on the benefits of the Army. He emphasized, "The Army provides focus and purpose for an individual."

General Miketinac, the always enthusiastic Commander of the Medical Service Corps, also briefed cadets on his branch. After introducing the Medical Service Corps with slides and a video, General Miketinac emphasized the educational opportunities of his particular branch. He explained that officers can work toward both Master's degrees and PhD's

in such areas as psychology, biology, hospital administration, nutrition, and many other fields.

Accompanying the General were several Medical Service Corps officers who answered the more specific questions of cadets after the presentation. As General Miketinac portrayed to the Fightin' Irish cadets, "You have to love the Army to make it your career. And I love the Army!"

C/CPT Rachel Lovejoy  
C/PFC Cheryl Zopp



Major General Kind visits Notre Dame



# The Best NCO in the Best Battalion

At the 1990 Region Commanders Conference at Fort Knox Kentucky, the Fightin' Irish walked away with four big awards. Brigadier General Charles R. Hansell, the Second ROTC Region Commander presented LTC Hemphill with awards naming the Fightin' Irish Battalion the Second Region's top large school unit for 1990 in two of three categories.

Our own MSG Price was also presented with two awards at the conference. He received the Army Achievement Medal for being named the Brigade NCO of the Year, and he received the

Army Commendation Medal as the Second Region NCO of the Year.

We've always known that MSG Price is the best; now everyone also knows, too.

Congratulations to MSG Price and to the rest of the Fightin' Irish Battalion!

C/CPT Rachel Lovejoy



MSG Price gives a lucky cadet a boost.



BG Hansell presents LTC Hemphill with a trophy for the Battalion