

# THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion

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## Accession Results Announced

By C/PV2 Rebecca Benson

52 Fightin' Irish cadets found out the Army's plan for their future when the 1992 accession results were announced in mid-January. 27 cadets were awarded regular army or active duty commissions, 11 will enter the reserves and 14 received an educational delay.

37 out of 52 cadets were assigned their choice of reserve or active duty. 26 of 30 requesting active were awarded it, and 11 of 22 requested and received reserves. 87 percent of those in the active component were assigned to one of their top three branch choices and 97 percent of all cadets were allocated either their component preference or one of their top three branch choices.

Cadets could request the reserve or active component and ten branch preferences. The active component is divided into three possibilities: regular army, active duty and educational delay. The number of cadets accepted for regular army is set by

*(continued on page 7)*



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

The men's "A" basketball team reached the quarterfinals in the Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament, held Feb. 1 and 2. See page 5 for story.

## New Cadre Member Arrives

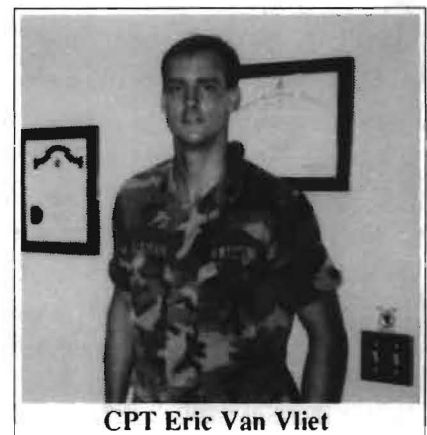
By C/CPT Laura Gritz

CPT Eric Van Vliet, who arrived at Notre Dame in January, joins the Fightin' Irish Battalion's cadre as an Assistant Professor of Military Science. Though he will serve as the sophomore class instructor in the fall, this semester Van Vliet will work on several projects, including an independent study, occasional teaching and FTX preparation.

Van Vliet, a quartermaster officer, said he specifically requested an ROTC assignment at Notre Dame. "I have a strong belief in the ROTC program and I thought it would be great to come back and instruct cadets," he said. "Notre Dame has got a

good reputation for ROTC throughout the U.S., and I just wanted to be part of that team."

Home for Van Vliet was previously Ft. Lee, Virginia, where



CPT Eric Van Vliet

he recently attended his branch's Advanced Course. He has also been stationed at Ft. Schofield,

*(continued on page 6)*

**From the Professor of Military Science:**

# Reductions Change Today's Army

“We regret to inform you that your services are no longer required.” These are the words we hope to never hear. Yet, reading the *Army Times* reveals the impending reduction of military forces. Recent articles in the *Observer* have stimulated some discussions over one’s future in the military profession. What will a reduction mean to you? I’ve gone through a few reductions in force (RIF); so I’ll pass along my perceptions of what the winds of change may mean.

The Army I joined over twenty years ago was an active force of a million and a half soldiers; it was engaged in the Vietnam War and deterring communism through its forward-deployed forces in Korea, Europe and Panama. It also maintained a strategic reserve in the United States along with a training base and other commands. The war ended for the U.S. in 1973 and by 1979 the active army was manned by 780,000 soldiers, its strength until last year. With the demise of communism the U.S. no longer needed that size force. A year ago, Congress reduced the Army’s end strength to 535,000 by 1995; hence our current situation.

“It was the worst of times...” Those who sought service in the active force while it stood at three quarters of a million are facing the current RIF. It is unfortunate that anyone will be asked to leave; however, performance will determine who stays and leaves. Fortunately, the Army’s leadership has a plan to moderate the experience to the extent they can through a choice of severance plans.

“It was the best of times...” I am envious of and excited for those who have joined the profession since 1991 (or who are about to join). The Army has done some careful planning and anticipated the reduction. The class of 1991 commissioned no more lieutenants than it will need for an army of 535,000. Likewise, this year’s class will see the appropriate number of leaders for the future requirements of the force. A new lieutenant’s future holds a plethora of opportunity and excitement. Will it last? Will there be more reductions? The

future is always uncertain; however, I doubt that there will be further reductions. My conclusions are based upon the President’s State of the Union address and a prudent assessment of America’s continued role as the preeminent world leader.

President Bush recounted defense cuts of thirty percent during his administration and stated emphatically there could be no more. Practically speaking, if any nation hopes to provide stability in the twenty-first century, it is the United States. Even without a Soviet threat, tomorrow’s army must still train, maintain, conduct research and development, and attend to the medical, legal, spiritual, and social needs of its families.

It still must be capable of deploying anywhere in the world to defend the nation’s vital interests. For those reasons, I contend that the future of tomorrow’s Army leaders is sound, stable and optimistic. There will be as much potential for advancement and success in tomorrow’s force as there ever was in the past. Some might conclude there is a greater potential. If we achieve the hoped-for Pax Americana, I do not expect further reductions.

**LTC Robert Gillespie**

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## Tri-Military Ball



Photo by CCPT Laura Gritz



Photo by C/2LT Garr Schwartz

**Above:** MSIVs Val Frost, Adeline Cassin, Joelle Pouliot, Laura Gritz and Amy Keough traded army green for formal wear.

**Left:** MSI Elmer Kuhn escorted freshman Laura Empey to the ball, held February 7 at Union Station.

## Airborne Training Challenges Cadets

By C/PFC Elizabeth Reres

"It's going to be rigorous, it's going to be fast," CPT Richard Miles warned the thirty-one Airborne, Air Assault, and Northern Warfare "hopefuls" at their first meeting. Then, on a more encouraging note, he added, "Training's going to be so easy that you'll be saying 'let's go one more mile.'"

Preparation for the Army Basic Courses involves extra PT sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 0615 to 0730 over a four-week period. Cadets have been divided into four sticks (a term used to denote a group of parachutists exiting from the same door during one pass over

the drop zone) under the direction of MSIVs Tony Aquino, Mike Brennan, Jennifer Coyne, Tim Feeney and Jerry Rullo. The original stick leaders, who organized the sticks, were MSIIIs Mike Kane, Tim Povich, and Lisa Valenta, and MSII Andrew Scarcella.

The trainees must wear white T-shirts with their stick numbers on them, patrol caps, BDU bottoms "highly pressed," and boots "highly polished" or running shoes for physical training. They are expected to know the Airborne and Air Assault fact sheets, and to pay special attention to detail.

There are twenty-two appli-

cants for Airborne (including three Air Force cadets), eight for Air Assault, and one for Northern Warfare School. Regardless of the number of slots available, only those cadets who are qualified will be permitted to go. The "burden of proof" rests on the shoulders of the cadets. Rullo reminded them, "You're the best cadets here—the best in the country. Prove it to me, prove it to yourselves."

There is a clear-cut goal behind the proof, however. As stated by CPT Miles, "The purpose is not to see how many push-ups they can do. It's not to scare them. It's to get them ready so that they can go down to Fort Benning with confidence."



# Women Hoopsters Dominate Tournament

By C/CPT Laura Gritz

A tri-military women's basketball team including four Army cadets captured first place in the Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament, held February 1-2 in the ACC. The squad won all four of its games, defeating teams from Purdue, Minnesota and South Dakota.

Army cadets Rebecca Benson, Shari Shepard, Melanie Standley and Kay Wakatake represented Notre Dame along with four Air Force cadets and one Navy midshipman. Shepard was named the women's tournament Most Valuable Player.

This was the first year the tournament has included women's teams. "We didn't know what the other schools were going to bring," said Shepard. "Six or seven girls had played a lot and some girls had never played. We had some people who came a long way."

"Everyone had a good time and that was the main thing," said Air Force cadet Marcia Powell,



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

**Kay Wakatake and Shari Shepard take a break between games at the Flyin' Irish tournament.**

who organized the team. "We had a full spectrum of talent."

"We're just getting off the ground, but I'm pretty excited about the future," said Shepard.

## Rifle Team Shoots for Ohio State

By C/PFC Mike Bartish

On February 22, ten members of the Rifle Team will compete in the Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference Tournament at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The team will compete against fourteen midwestern teams, but it is not eligible to win due to its first-year probational status as a new conference member. This will be the team's first competition in 1992.

SSG Keith Ragsdale, cadre advisor, stated that he expects impressive showings from MSIVs Mike Julian and Mike Brennan and from MSII Dan Dipaola. Cadet MSI Jeff Mackey is the lone freshman making the trip. SSG Ragsdale stated that "although the team cannot win the competition, the shoot provides an opportunity for the team to find out all their hard work and dedication paid off."

### On Campus

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Photo by C/MSG Claire Heil

MSI Carrie Stambaugh marched in an Army color guard at the men's basketball game on January 27. The color guard recently acquired new weapons.

# Army Men Play Ball

By C/PV2 James Demer and C/CPT Laura Gritz

The men's basketball team competed February 1-2 in the Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament, an annual event sponsored by Notre Dame Air Force ROTC. 28 teams from Tennessee, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota participated. All games were played in the ACC.

Notre Dame Army fielded two teams, divided into "A" and "B" groups based on talent and experience. The teams compete separately in club and tournament action.

The A team advanced to the quarterfinal round but lost to the eventual champion, Notre Dame Navy, 45-37. On the first day of competition, the A team beat

Marquette Navy, Marquette Army, Illinois Air Force and Illinois Institute of Technology Navy.

The B team played four games on February 1 but was unable to achieve a victory. The team's large size (16 players) hampered its ability to play well together. "It's hard to build a cohesive unit with that many people," said B team member Tim Povich.

The twenty-eight member team practices from 0645 to 0800 on Thursday mornings under the guidance of CPT Brian Selling.

The next challenge facing the team is the Dayton Army ROTC basketball tournament, scheduled for February 28-29.

## Junior Training Begins

By C/PFC Kay Wakatake

The MSIIIs are currently participating in "junior training," a time of extra training to allow the seniors to pass on information about their experiences to help the juniors prepare for Advanced Camp.

"It's a big confidence boost for

us because it shows we are good at PT, can march people around, and when we get to camp we can concentrate on other things," said MSIII Tracy Farrell.

Two informal informational sessions will allow the MSIVs to share their experiences and offer tips on subjects such as packing, barracks life and dealing with cadre at camp.

Four monthly PT tests will be given on Monday mornings at 0630 in the Loftus Sports Center to test the juniors' physical strength. Drill and ceremony will be the focus of three Wednesday-morning sessions. The training will end with a send-off on Sunday, April 26 in the cadet lounge.

## Dining-in set for February 28

By C/PFC Tony Alfidi

The Fightin' Irish Battalion will hold its annual dining-in ceremony on Friday, February 28, at the Marriott Hotel in South Bend.

The festivities will commence with cocktails at 1700 for MSIVs, who will go through the receiving line at 1750. Underclassmen will proceed through the receiving line at 1800. The evening's program should be over by 2030.

Bus transportation will be provided throughout the evening. The uniform for both male and female cadets is Class "A," without covers, and males must wear a white shirt and black bow tie.

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:30

Sat. 8:00-3:00

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# Dennis Wolfe: Not A Generic Cadet

By C/ILT Jamie Reidy

Every college freshman arrives on campus with at least one goal to be met within the following four years. While most people concentrate on academics, sports or even ROTC, others strive to succeed in non-traditional venues. As founding member and drummer for the campus band "The Generics," MSIV Dennis Wolfe is one of these unique individuals.

"I wanted to come to Notre Dame and start the ultimate campus band. I imagined a group of generic musicians with a distinct sound that got people to move. That's where the name came from, the T-shirts we wear, etc. Our whole image is just what I dreamt of in high school."

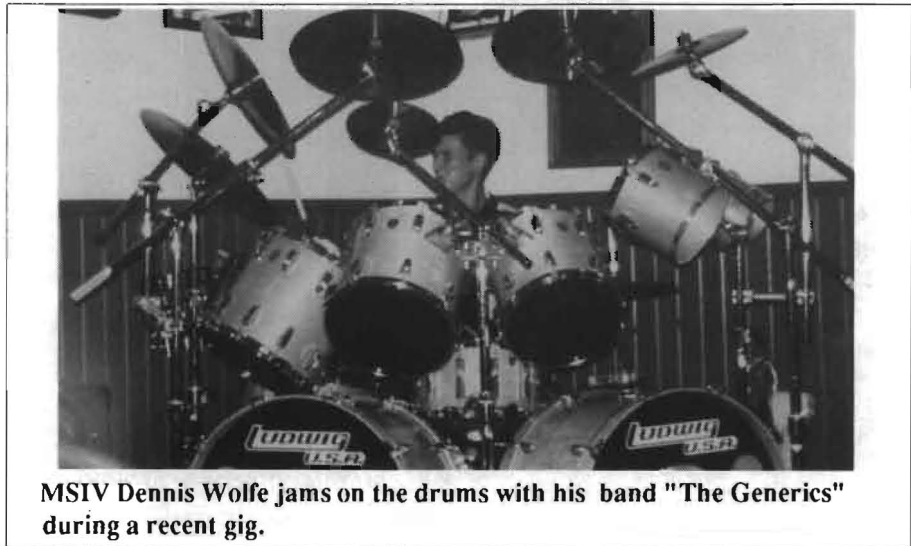
Playing college alternative rock, The Generics have established themselves as Notre Dame's best dance band. With numerous selections from groups like Jesus Jones, Red Hot Chili Peppers, REM, and the Cure, the band provides a wide range of tunes that keep people on the dance floor.

With an enthusiastic following of fans, Wolfe's band is under constant pressure to play as often as possible. "We play between four and six times per month," he said. "We'll play SYRs, off-campus parties, and of course the local bars like Bridget's and Senior Bar."

Such a busy schedule would seemingly conflict with Wolfe's other priorities, namely school and ROTC, but that is not the case. "The school work isn't a problem because it's simply a matter of time management," he said. "The discipline I've learned through the Army has helped me a great deal in that respect. The cadre have been extremely accommo-

dating. For example, last year's FTX fell on the same weekend of An Tostal's band competition on Stepan Field. Instead of making me miss the chance to play, the colonel let me leave the FTX for an hour and then return, so it all worked out."

Being the leader of a popular band has given Wolfe ample opportunity to exercise his leadership abilities. "I know it sounds strange," he admitted, "but by setting up gigs, choosing band members, etc., I utilize a lot of the skills I've been taught in ROTC over the past four years."



MSIV Dennis Wolfe jams on the drums with his band "The Generics" during a recent gig.

*(Van Vliet from page 1)*

Hawaii, as a company commander and logistics officer, and at Ft. Carson, Colorado. In addition, he is a graduate of the Logistics Course (a school for battalion S4's) and of the Air Assault School.

Van Vliet has previous experience with ROTC; he received his commission through the program in 1983 from Radford University, where he majored in marketing. He also holds a master's degree from Central Michigan University. He is originally from Annandale, Virginia.

Van Vliet resides in South Bend with his wife Karen and their two children, Matthew, 4, and Michelle, six months.



(Accession from page 1)

Congress. A regular army officer may remain in the military after four years, while an active duty officer must apply to remain. Cadets who accept an educational delay are obligated to four years of active service after they complete their studies.

Many of the MSIVs were pleased with their assignments. Blair O'Connor, who received the educational delay he applied for, said "I was really happy; I

got what I wanted."

Joelle Pouliot requested and received reserve duty as well as her third branch choice, transportation. She said will be content to be able to live in Virginia with "access to D.C. where I want to work."

Jamie Reidy, who requested reserves, was not so lucky as to get exactly what he wanted, but said he expected being chosen for active duty. "I was prepared for them to pick me," he said.

The accession papers were filed in September, then reviewed by a board of colonels representing each branch of the Army. Nationally, about six thousand folders were reviewed and 5,200 commissions awarded. Of those, only 2,300 could enter the active component.

The board considered cadets' GPA, camp score, school order of merit, discipline of degree earned, and the competitiveness of the school.

Component

- RA - Regular Army
- AD - Active Duty
- DL - Educational Delay

Branches

- AD - Air Defense
- AG - Adjutant General
- AN - Army Nurse
- AR - Armor
- AV - Aviation
- CM - Chemical
- FA - Field Artillery
- FI - Finance
- IN - Infantry
- MI - Military Intelligence
- MP - Military Police
- MS - Medical Service
- QM - Quartermaster
- SC - Signal
- TC - Transportation

If two branches are indicated, the first is a branch detail, and the second is the permanent branch.

Accession Results

Name	Component	Branch	Name	Component	Branch
Aquino, Anthony	RA	IN/TC	Ninneman, Thomas	AD	AV
Bates, Brian	RA	IN/AG	Nolte, Michael	AD	MS
Brennan, Michael	AD	MS	O'Connor, Blair	DL	FI
Castell, Heather	AD	AN	O'Malley, David	RD	AG
Coyne, Jennifer	RA	TC	Pearl, Michael	RD	TC
Cunningham, Mike	AD	INMI	Peterson, Elizabeth	AD	MS
Feeney, Timothy	AD	IN/MI	Piercy, Daniel	RA	FA
Ford, Gerald	RD	TC	Pouliot, Joelle	RD	TC
Fritz, Donald	AD	SC	Raulston, Matthew	RD	SC
Frost, Valerie	DL	SC	Reidy, James	AD	AG
Gray, Timothy	RD	TC	Renard, Kathleen	DL	QM
Gritz, Laura	RA	TC	Rullo, Jerry	RA	AR/TC
Grogan, James	RD	IN	Schuermann, Stephen	DL	MS
Hanson, Steven	DL	FI	Schwartz, Garr	RD	TC
Hendry, Gregory	RA	IN/FI	Sharkey, Daniel	DL	AD
Hitzeman, Dennis	AD	AD	Shattuck, Luke	AD	MS
Julian, Michael	DL	AD	Stiffler, Mark	RD	QM
Kelly, Tara	AD	CM/TC	Thewes, Katherine	DL	MS
Keough, Amy	RA	MS	Toner, Christopher	AD	AG
McGriff, Lisa	RD	CM	Trisko, Michael	RD	MP
Meko, Chris	RA	MS	Welicky, Gregory	RD	CM
Milito, Erik	AD	MS	Wolfe, Dennis	RD	SC
Mullaney, Colin	DL	MS	Wolken, David	DL	MS
Murphy, Pat	AD	MI	Muilenberg, Tony	RA	SC
Nave, Nicholas	RD	FA	Battiston, Matt	RA	AV
Nelson, Christopher	DL	MS	Gerosa, John	RA	AR