

THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion

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Fall FTX; Fun to the Extreme

By Tracey Farrell

"PL, PL, where are you PL? What are you doing? What should you be doing? Do it!" As the junior in charge scrambled about to gain control of the patrol and the APL quickly ordered a head count, I inwardly smiled at the confusion in front of me. This was a high pressure learning environment, this was the Fall FTX, this was (dare I say it?), fun.

Between 0450 on 10 October and 1715 on 11 October 1992 the Fightin' Irish Battalion of Notre Dame conducted a field training exercise. The activities took place at Ft. Custer, Michigan, an installation approximately two hours from Notre Dame. As the weather fluctuated between rain and sun, the MSII's, MSIII's, and MSI's participated in MSIV-led exercises designed to increase both their knowledge and their confidence. Preliminary reports mention that an unique learning experience occurred on
(continued on page 6)



MS I patrol getting ready for a weekend of team building and individual training at Camp Custer on the FTX.

Many Honored at Awards and Retirement Ceremony

By Sean O'Reilly

The Fightin' Irish Battalion Fall Awards and Retirement Ceremony was held September 9, 1992 at the Hesburgh Memorial Library. All Army cadets attended and witnessed presentations of awards and recognition of the great achievements the cadets have made. In addition to the awards presentation, the battalion bid a sad farewell to Lieu-

tenant Colonel Robert E. Gillespie and Sergeant Major James O. Johnson, who are both retiring this year.

The awards began with the presentation of the highly competitive three-year Army ROTC scholarships granted to the following cadets: Alford, Bartish, Junker, May, McNeile, Trout, Parry, Cook, Hemphill, Kuhn, Quigley, Rau, and Turner.

(continued page 3)



LTC James O'Brien with retired SGM James Johnson and wife.

Letter from the Professor of Military Science

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!!! Although that sounds somewhat trite, it is exactly how my wife, Carolyn, and I feel about our joining the Fightin' Irish Battalion. Your battalion has a long tradition of producing quality officers for the Total Army—and leaders in every sector for our country. I am grateful to my predecessors in this job for leaving me a solid, well oiled organization in place. We have a superb physical facility, an outstanding cadre, and the best cadet battalion in the country. You are held in highest regard here and throughout the Army.

For all the new members of the battalion—welcome to the unit. Do your best to maintain the tradition of excellence that you have joined. Be apart of all that Army ROTC is. For all you old timers—welcome back from a summer of hard work. Continue to set and meet the highest standards of performance that are your trademark. I am proud to join you in the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

In this opening issue of the Shamrock, let me offer you some of my views about our responsibilities to this unit. We all have jobs that we must accomplish to the best of our abilities to better ourselves and our fellow cadets. My commitment to you is to provide you with realistic, challenging training and with the opportunity to lead. The cadre and I will do everything that we can to help you become a better citizen and a responsible, caring, and capable leader. We'll teach you techniques and procedures, place you in leadership situations, assess your behaviors, and provide you with constructive feedback and recommendations to help you improve.

You have the tougher job. Most importantly, your number one priority is to your academic work. You must focus on doing well—to ensure graduation, to have a higher GPA, to earn a scholarship, to LEARN while you are in col-

lege!!! You must first succeed as a student before you can succeed as an ROTC cadet.

During this year, I want you to be the leader. “When in charge, take charge” is an old refrain, but a valid one. All classes will have numerous leadership opportunities throughout the year. Set the example for the other cadets—and for other students. Show them (and sometimes yourself! !) what standards are to be achieved and how to meet these standards. Be a leader in your dorm and in your peer group, both in and outside ROTC. Remember, “DO THE RIGHT THING” is a basis for all that you do. Don't succumb to peer pressure to do the wrong thing—be the catalyst for positive action.

I also want you to be a team player. When another is designated to be the leader, do all that you can to support the leader. Shine in your role as a follower—it helps the overall group achieve success and encourages others to follow you when you are the leader. It also provides you with a case study of how someone else leads. Learn from each other.

This year offers us all a tremendous opportunity for personal growth. Don't waste the chance to improve yourself. Set high goals and work to achieve them. Commit yourself to improvement. The cadre and I will be there beside you, encouraging, guiding, and assisting. Commit to Excellence in Leadership! !

LTC James O'Brien

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POW/MIA's Remembered

By Rebecca Benson

The POW/MIA Tri-Military Flag Retreat Ceremony was held on September 18, 1992 at the Library Auditorium in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing-in-action from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other military conflicts of the United States.

The Air Force, Navy, and Army ROTC's, as well as local families and journalists, attended the commemoration ceremony.

Celia Schmalbach, a cadet in Air Force ROTC, was the

Master of Ceremonies. The stage parties included COL Moe, William Driscoll, also a cadet in AFROTC, and Dr. Kent Laudeman, the guest speaker.

Dr. Laudeman, an administrator at IUSB and a veteran of Desert Storm, spoke eloquently of the "legions of lost souls" involving thousands of Americans from the wars of past decades.

Dr. Laudeman expressed sympathy for the veterans who have struggled with the

United States government's apparent betrayal of POW's, a topic covered in many recent books and articles. He spoke of our government's responsibility to its people and listed certain steps which should be taken, such as the establishment of a Senatorial committee to pursue POW/MIA investigations and the allotment of more resources towards the effort to locate POW's and MIA's.

In honor of POW/MIA's, Dr. Laudeman also read the US Armed Forces' military oath, reminding us of the sacrifice made by all those who served.

(continued from page 1)

In addition, cadets Pelletier, Pierce, and Premeske were awarded two-year scholarships after attending Camp Challenge this past summer.

Colonel William Brooks (Ret.) was then called to recognize members of the battalion who attended specialty schools in the summer months. Cadets Cannata, Carver, T. Farrrel, Fisher, Kell, O'Reilly, Reeder, Tilton, Trent, and Verich were re-pinned with their coveted Airborne wings earned at Fort Benning, Georgia. In addition, Mike Kane and Andy Scarcella completed Air Assault school.

The final portion of the awards ceremony was reserved for Advanced Camp '92 recognition. Cadets Stephanie Slebodnick and Gregory Wessels

were recognized with the Advanced Camp top ten percent achievement award for receiving a perfect five at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Cadets Danieluk, Farrell, Kane, Klotz, and Kuzmits were presented with Advanced Camp top thirty percent achievement awards for receiving a four at camp.

Finally, Advanced Camp Physical Fitness Excellence awards were presented to the following cadets: Klotz, Kowalski, Povich, Reeder, Wessels, and Keough. Also, Army Physical Fitness Excellence awards were presented to cadets Keough, Klotz, and Wessels. In addition, the following cadets were Recondo qualified: Danieluk, Donlan, Drozeski, Farrell, Heil, Kane,

Kestner, Klotz, Kowalski, Kuzmits, Murphy, Overbaugh, Povich, Reeder, Richards, Slebodnick, Turbyville, Warmerdam, Wessels, and Keough. This concluded the awards portion of the ceremony.

The following portion of the ceremony was dedicated to honoring LTC Gillespie and SGM Johnson, who have relentlessly served the US Army for 21 and 30 years respectively. Their heart-filled efforts for the cadets at Notre Dame will certainly be missed.

Special Thanks to:

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What Fort Bragg IS (And what it is NOT)

By Jeff Squyers

Fort Bragg is a challenging environment in which the individual can grow in a veritable plethora of ways. The first dimension in which you will grow is coping with unending, unrelenting, unbelievable stress. Second will be the lack of sleep. (Sleep is for the weak, who needs it?) Following that will be the deafness associated with your TAC NCO's constant screaming in your ear. As an added bonus, you will find out just how much you can swear in sixty seconds.

Let's summarize. . .

Ft. Bragg is hot. Very hot. Imagine hell with humidity.

Ft. Bragg is a trip to a government founded biological zoo (you will never see the same type of insect twice). It is not a six week vacation for you and your family.

Ft. Bragg is not a good hunting ground for those \$%^&#@#%#^ woodpeckers (a kinder, gentler army).

Ft. Bragg is full of sand. All of the roads that you will march on have a firm base of shifting sand.

However, there is no water (fit for swimming) anywhere nearby, nor does anyone look good in BDUs. Conclusion: Ft. Bragg is not a beach club.

Contrary to popular belief, Ft. Bragg is not six weeks of Hogan's Heros. It's more analogous to drawing the infamous card, "Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go, do not collect \$200."

Ft. Bragg does not have a reputation for its exquisite cuisine, such as the Four Seasons Restaurant in New York does. After three weeks of Bragg food, several cadets in my platoon attempted to make a Run for the Border. Unfortunately, they were caught and sentenced to three weeks of duty with the 84th training brigade in Operation Gunsmoke.

Ft. Bragg is not all army, however. Most people don't know that thirty square miles have been closed to the ROTC training because it has been set aside as an exclusive playground for Arnold Schwarzenegger's children. "I love zis country. Your gov'ment iz zo gut to me," says Schwarzenegger.

Ft. Bragg is a chance for you to finally decide, "Yes, Infantry is definitely the branch for me."

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Cadre, Cadets, and Canoes Open Year

By Brian Bates

On the morning of September 19, 1992, while most students slept in until tuning into the Michigan State game, one group of adventurers was up early. Perhaps meeting at the ROTC Building at 0530 on a Saturday morning doesn't sound like fun, but eight cadets and six cadre members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion enjoyed an exciting weekend on the Tippecanoe River. The group pushed off-shore in five canoes, followed by MSG Burr

and CPT Selling in MSG Burr's motorized fishing boat.

The group rowed approximately fifty-seven miles on the two-day trip. The weather was perfectly placid, and the shallow, slow-moving river gracefully glided the canoes down the winding river. After the first day, they set up camp along the river bank and ate a BBQ dinner of hot dogs, burgers, beans, popcorn, and marshmallows. SFC Austin made outstanding use of his training when he provided medical

care at the campsite for a young boy who had been stung by several bees. And to top off the trip, MSG Burr reeled in a bass.

Participants included CPT Tyler, CPT Selling, CPT Van Vliet, CPT Miles, MSG Burr, SFC Austin, Tim Povich, Jay Tilton, Brian Bates, Mike Warmerdam, Peggy Keough, Jessica Lovejoy, Mike Sofield, and John Dwyer. The next trip will take place in late March or early April and will be open to more cadets, so join in on the next adventure.



Cadet Major Tim Povich leads the convoys of canoes down the scenic Tippecanoe River.

The canoers enjoy a BBQ dinner after their tiring first leg of the journey.



Advice from the Fort Bragg "5's"

By John Donlan

Seniors Greg Wessels and Stefanie Slebodnick were the two cadets from Notre Dame who performed well enough at Advanced Camp to earn the All-Almighty "5." Their hard work and commitment to the battalion has respectively earned them the positions of cadet Battalion Commander and cadet Battalion XO.

When asked if they had any advice to give to the rest of the battalion, Stefanie and Greg said that being in "great shape" is the first step in making sure that camp goes well. Stefanie added, "You have to have a sense of humor—while it's important to take things seriously, you must always remember the big picture." She added, "Be yourself, don't change your personality just because you're at camp. And remember to take care of those who take care of you." Greg added, "you have to know your tactics, but the first thing you

should do when you get to camp is to make friends. During the first week there is some extra time, so use this time to get to know people, it will make the rest of camp much easier."

In thinking back to the best and worst times at camp Stefanie said, "the best part is when you just sit around and chat with people in your platoon, and the worst thing is when you have fake people in your platoon, those spotlight rangers who only pretend to work when the TAC is looking."

Greg's favorite part was the platoon-level tactics because that is when "everything started to come together, people knew what they were doing." His least favorite part was STRAC because "that is when the teamwork broke down." Greg's final word of advice was for juniors to take advantage of their leadership positions now; because whatever you learn now will make life that much easier when you get to Ft. Bragg.

(continued from page 1)

the patrol lanes, the rifle range, the rappelling tower, and the FLRC course. Rumors are that most people actually enjoyed "being out in the field" for the weekend.

In reality, this exercise never ends. The fall FTX is one of many building blocks that Army ROTC requires you to take part in and says "enjoy it, learn from it, and expand on it." Hopefully everyone—from the freshmen to the senior—can say that the Fall FTX was not a boring waste of time, but an exciting test of their strengths and weaknesses. Additionally it would be nice if a few people (other than the OpFor) had fun. . .

Shamrock Quiz

The first MSI Cadet to give an answer to the PAO will receive a PRIZE!

Who is the Cadet Battallion S1?



SFC Ragsdale helps a cadet zero his weapon.

Fighting Irish Battalion Welcomes New Cadre

By Shannon Neptune

The Battalion welcomed five new members to its community this year who are adding new ideas, experience, and expertise to cadet training. The new cadre members include LTC James O'Brien, CPT Tyler, SFC Austin, SFC McCullough, and SGT Scruggs.

LTC O'Brien graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1974. He has since

served in numerous places, including Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, the Republic of Korea, Germany, and most recently, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He now not only brings his experience but fresh new ideas and an open mind in running the battalion.

CPT Tyler offers the battalion years of field experience; he has worked in various environments, demonstrating highly-tuned leadership techniques and

expertise in basic soldiering skills. He has been stationed in the United States and most recently in Korea. Regarding his position here, he says not only does he have a lot to give, with all of his experience, but he has something to gain as well from training people who want to learn.

The new operation's sergeant is SFC Austin, who is joining us after a tour in the Persian Gulf, where he served for six months as a mortar platoon sergeant and a first sergeant in the field. SFC Austin has served the Army in Infantry for eighteen years, and currently has a love/hate relationship with his computer.

SFC McCullough, our new training sergeant, completed his previous assignment in Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. Like Austin, he is also an Infantryman, and he has served for seventeen years. McCullough and Austin are no strangers—in 1977 they served in the same platoon at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. While working with the Fightin' Irish Battalion he says he will use his experience to "help make better leaders in the upcoming army."

The new friendly face in the supply room is SGT Scruggs, who has just come from the 198th Personnel Service Company in Stuttgart, Germany. He has been in the Army for seven years. He says that he is here to support the cadets and "use his logistical experience to improve training."



MS I Tom Donlan consults with C/2LT Claire Heil.



High speed MS I prepares to fire down range.