

# THE SHAMROCK

*Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion*

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## Young Rangers Fare Well and Look Ahead to Next Season

By Mike DePerro

As daylight broke on the morning of October 30, the Fightin' Irish were preparing for more than one battle that weekend. Amidst the anticipation of the Notre Dame-Navy matchup on the football field, the Irish Rangers, representing the Fightin' Irish Battalion, embarked on a grueling two-day Ranger Challenge competition in the back woods of Ravenna, Ohio. Almost two months earlier, this young squad, consisting of seven juniors (five of which were returning competitors), two rookie sophomores, and one fearless freshman, met with one goal in



**The Ranger Challenge Team ties a rope bridge during competition.**

mind—to be all they could be, and more.

As competition com-

menced and the adrenaline began to flow, the team came together

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## Battalion Welcomes Sergeant Murphy

By Joe Turbyville

So you want to be a PT stud? You want to run circles around the Ranger Challenge Team without working out twelve hours a day? Well, now you can learn how from the Fightin' Irish Battalion's very own Master Fitness Trainer!

Her name is SSG Mary M. Murphy and she is a qualified Master Fitness Trainer. Her primary position will be Administrative NCO; in other words, she will be replacing SFC Ragsdale,

who is leaving sunny South Bend for Hawaii. (I bet that took a lot of arm twisting!)

SSG Murphy has been in the military for fifteen years, and her last duty station was at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. While the ROTC program at Ball State is slightly smaller than ours, SSG Murphy does not anticipate any problems making the transition. After all, she has been to camp and dealt with a veritable plethora of ca-

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**LTC O'Brien welcomes SSG Murphy to the Irish Battalion.**

## Letter from the Professor of Military Science

It's that time of the year again. The time for thoughts of football bowl games, Christmas holidays, visiting friends and relatives, a break from classes and studying, and... last minute papers, all nighters, and FINAL EXAMS!!!! We all feel pressured as the end of the semester and the holidays (both of which we thought would never get here) rush upon us. Fear not! Take one thing at a time, allocate available time, and you will get through it all. Best of luck to everyone as the semester draws to a close.

The end of the calendar year and the mid-break of the school year provide us all with an excellent opportunity for introspection. Did we accomplish everything that we set out to do this year? Were we as devoted to our "work ethic" as we initially wanted to be? Were we all that we wanted to be? If the answer to any of the above is no, fear not! You are in good company with the rest of us. You still have had a successful year. If you have done your best, you have done all that can be expected of you.. Now look to the future, and do not regret the past. What is important for you now is to set your sights on how you will do better this next semester/year.

During your break, make a time for yourself to think about and plot out the upcoming semester. Ask yourself the following questions honestly, one at a time, and without thinking about the new question:

1. What do I want to accomplish during 1993 ?
2. Where do I think that I am now?
3. What do I need to do to accomplish my goals from where I am now?
4. How will I know when I accomplish my goals?

In doing this, I expect that you will develop a road map to success in 1993. Don't be afraid to set your goals too high. Not accomplishing lofty goals is not failure. Not demanding enough of yourself is.

At the close of this year, it is important to thank all who have made this year so positive for the Fightin' Irish Battalion. My personal thanks to each of you for your efforts and your successes. It has been a great opportunity for personal learning and growth for each of us. In particular, we all thank MSG & Mrs. Ricky Burr, who are leaving us and retiring from the Army—thanks to you and your family from a grateful nation for your many years of selfless service. Our thanks also to CPT John Pottinger and CPT and Mrs. Richard Miles, who are all departing for assignments in Germany and to SFC and Mrs. Keith Ragsdale, who are leaving in January for Hawaii. To all of you, your work here at Notre Dame has made great leaders for our Army and our Nation.

Happy holidays to you all. Enjoy your well deserved vacation. Come back healthy and well. Be safe. Remember to take some time to lay out your path to success for 1993.

**LTC James O'Brien**

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# The Latest Adventures in Drill Team

By Melinda Zapata

In a four day period the Drill Team participated in four Color Guards. The first of those was the Boston College football game. With two practices and two rookie freshman, Joe Adent and Jeff Roth, the effort was (almost) flawless. One down and three to go. Unfortunately the three to go were all on Wednes-

day, Veteran's Day.

Getting up at 0545 to do a color guard at a junior high in Elkhart is not the best way to start one's day, but when duty calls . . . you know the rest. Although I had "reconned" the site the previous week, we hadn't practiced the flag raising ceremony. Luckily, I had two veteran Marauders, Lara Dickey

and Mark Gray, who eased my concerns. And frosh Joe Adent was now experienced—this was his second color guard. Decked in Class A uniform and chrome domes, we looked sharp and performed admirably. The free donuts weren't bad either.

The only guard that I didn't oversee was a flag ceremony for a Nursing Home in Elkhart. Freshmen Jeff Roth and Erin Lyons readily volunteered but despite all my efforts and ultimatums, by Monday I still had not found the fourth person. Stress!! Then a revelation came to me. I needed a person with experience and who else would be more squared away and experienced than Greg Cannata? Thanks for the help, Greg. This, along with the Veterans Day Ceremony went very well.

These are just some highlights of those few days, but they do not reflect the serious training and preparation that the Drill Team has done in the past few weeks. We have come so far in such a short time. What impresses me is everyone's willingness to do their fair share, whether on details or Adworks duties. That stressful week when I needed volunteers for the color guards and details, people were helpful and cooperative. Thanks for making my job a pleasure, troops; we're going to have a great year.



The Fighting Irish Drill Team forms up at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

## Battalion Bids Farewell to Four Cadre Members

CPT Miles, CPT Pottinger, SFC Ragsdale and MSG Burr will soon be leaving the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

CPT Miles and CPT Pottinger are both on their way to Worms, Germany. They will be working as computer systems managers in the same unit and the same building. CPT Miles will leave directly for Europe in January and CPT

Pottinger will first attend a Computer Automation course in Georgia. SFC Ragsdale will be off to Ft Shafter in sunny Hawaii in mid- January. He will be working in a mayoral program; and MSG Burr will soon be retiring and heading out to Minnesota. The battalion is very thankful for their service and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

### Shamrock Quiz

According to the Ranger Handbook, what is the first step after killing a fowl, for eating or preserving it?

# Cadets Run in Marathon

By Michael Kane

All cadets have the enjoyment of running 2 miles during the Army Physical Fitness Test. But imagine competing in an event over twelve times longer. Sounds impossible; but for two cadets from this year's MS IV class, competing in and completing such an event was on their schedule for Fall Break.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, Cadets Michael Kane and Michael Warmerdam were among the thousands of runners to take part in the Chicago Marathon. The event, 26.2 miles long, took the runners from the start at Daley Plaza, through various sections of the Windy City, along Lake Shore Drive, and finished up in Grand Park.

The two cadets took very different approaches to training for the event. Mike Kane, having run it last year, knew the rigors of such a long race and knew that both physical and mental preparation were important. Kane had logged about 40 miles a week since late August to prepare for the event, with one long run every Sunday morning. Mike Warmerdam's training, on the other hand, consisted of a week which included a 3-mile run, a 6-mile run, and a personal record of 12 miles. When asked what possessed M. Warmerdam to compete, he said, "My Rector challenged me to beat his

personal record of five and one half hours, and helped me organize a sponsorship of \$15 to St. Hedwigs, a local charity, if finished."

The day of the race was a perfect day for running, sunny and cool. The two cadets didn't see each other until the 20-mile mark, when they were going the opposite way on Lake Shore drive. Kane was about two miles ahead at that point but was feeling the effects of the run in his joints, especially his ankles. Nearly four hours after the starting gun was fired, the two cadets completed the grueling event. Cadet Kane crossed the finish line at 3 hours and fifty two minutes, about 30 minutes slower than his time last year. A few minutes later, Cadet Warmerdam crossed the finish line. For perspective, the winner finished in just over two hours.

Both cadets felt exhausted after the event. Kane said, "I felt good that I had completed a second marathon but right after finishing I didn't know when I would run a third." Warmerdam was not eager to run anytime soon either, "I think it will be a while before I attempt something like this again, but I have an experience now where I accomplished something I never thought I was capable of doing."

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# Battalion Receives MacArthur Award

By Melinda Zapata

For the third year in a row, the Fightin' Irish Battalion received the MacArthur Award for Best Overall Battalion in the Second Region in the Large School category. This encompasses nineteen schools in thirteen states. LTC O'Brien accepted the award for the battalion from General Wallace C. Arnold at the annual PMS Conference at Fort Knox, Kentucky, on Oct. 22. The criteria for the award is based on administrative details of budgeting, supply, and cadet paperwork for camp and commissioning, for example. Furthermore, training requirements and junior camp performances also contribute. According to LTC O'Brien, the award is largely cadre based. However, the cadets' efforts in getting paperwork completed and performing in and out of the classroom make the cadre and battalion look good.



The Ranger Challenge Team reconnoiters before land navigation.

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behind the talent and leadership of the returning juniors. Mike DePerro, the team's first junior captain, rallied the team as they scrambled for time during the rope bridge event. Likewise, Andrew Scarcella, the team's APL, showed his brute strength by finishing the 10-K ruck march with not one, but two forty-pound packs on his back. Hard-charging junior Darrel Driver set a fierce pace to lead the Irish Battalion to a third place finish. In the PT competition, juniors Andy Scarcella, Mike DePerro, Pat Martin, and Brian O'Meara led the way with an average score of 297. In a shining solo performance, rookie junior Pat Martin scored a perfect three-for-three

to max the grenade throw event. Joe Reardon, one of four juniors leading the orienteering buddy teams, was responsible for bringing in more than fourteen of the forty required points for the Irish's first place victory. Most importantly, junior Chad Hensley not only provided valuable Ranger knowledge and support, but came through for an injured Dan Verich to complete the ruck run.

As the season comes to close, the Ranger Challenge Team takes great pride in their accomplishments. With a possible eight returning members, five of which will be seniors, the team looks forward to a possible trip to West Point.

## "The Chaplains Corner"

Chaplains Fr. Dick Warner, Kate Barrett, and Judy Hutchinson are available to listen to, chat with, or just hang out with any cadets. Their office is right next door to the Army ROTC office and their office hours are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1400-1600hrs.

# The Green that March in Blue

By Sean Kenney, Greg Cannata, and Elmer Kuhn

Throughout the fall, several Army cadets are seen marching around campus in blue uniforms. No, they are not doubling as Air Force cadets, they are Army cadets that march in the oldest university band, the Band of the Fighting Irish.

The spirit of the Band begins to stir on Friday afternoons before a home game when the band steps off from the steps of the administration building at 1630 and heads to practice. We try to let the entire campus know we're out. That evening, at 1900hrs, we raid the Joyce ACC and help provide a little thunder at the Pep Rallies. Saturday mornings start at 0645 with Cap'n Crunch Breakfast at the Band Building and a 0730 step off, at which time we proceed to wake up North Quad. The Band does more before 0900hrs on a Notre Dame Football Saturday than the rest of the campus does all day. Hooah! The busy day continues with a concert and then, of course, the game itself. Eventually, the day will end about an hour after the game does.

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dets and their administrative conflicts.

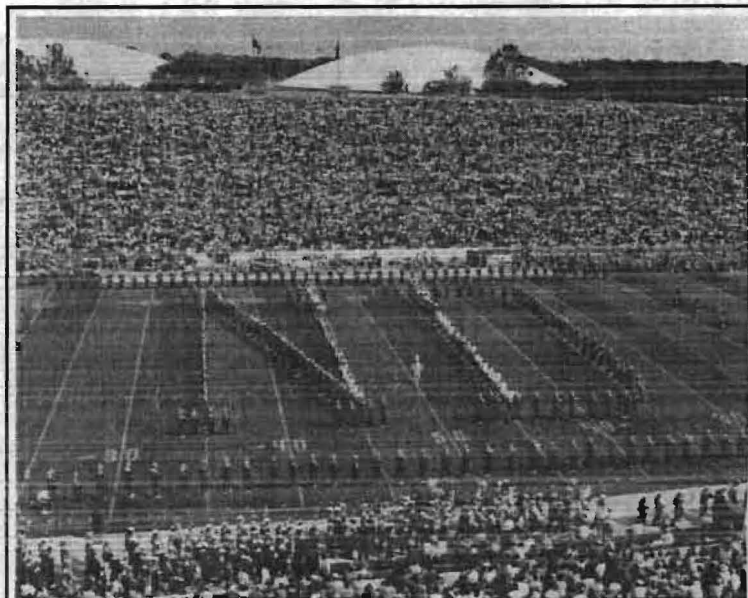
SSG Murphy is originally from Richmond, VA, and the fact that she is from the South automatically qualifies her as a definite asset to the battalion (just ask Darrel). She spent four years in Panama with Operation Just Cause, and five years working in a confinement facility with the Military Police. She enjoys anything athletic and looks forward to becoming involved with our PT program. While she cannot turn you into a stud overnight, she might be able to tell you how you can improve your PT and teach others to do the same.

The Shamrock welcomes SSG Murphy to the Fightin' Irish Battalion, and we are sure that everyone will benefit from her expertise.

There are ten Army cadets in band. The list includes senior Jason Black who is the band president, a bass player and this years recipient of the outstanding senior band member award; Tracy Farrell (Parliamentarian/Percussion); one junior, Christy Daly (Piccolo); six sophomores, Greg Cannata (Bass), Elmer Kuhn (Percussion), Sean Kenney (Sec. to Director/Trumpet), Jacob "Ski" Morzinski (Bass), Matt Festa (Trombone), Stoney Trent (Percussion); and one freshman, Jeff Catalina (Sax).

There are several reasons these cadets joined the band. Anyone in the band can attest to the fact that the band is a family. Stoney says, "It's a good place for camaraderie outside the dorm and ROTC." Tracy also cites the friendship aspect, "there are a lot of great people in Band; I cherish the friends I've made over the past four years and I enjoyed time I spent with them." Greg and Elmer have other reasons. They both took the heritage avenue, "In the 70's it was Greg Cannata Sr. and Elmer Kuhn III, both were in Band and ROTC; now it's the 90's and there's Greg Jr. and Elmer IV."

If anyone wants to know more about the Band, feel free to approach any of your fellow cadets that march in blue as well as green.



The Notre Dame Marching Band performs at halftime.





## Scenes From the Army Ball



## Notre Dame Honors Veterans

By John Donlan

On November 11, the three branches of ROTC at Notre Dame, the Army, Navy and Air Force gathered around the South Quad flag pole in honor of those who have served in the US Armed Forces. C/Maj. Tracy Farrell MC'ed the Veteran's Day Retreat Ceremony first welcoming

Father Warner for the invocation, and then introducing the guest speaker Col. Regan (ret) of the Marine Corps. Col. Regan spoke of the importance of the tradition of Notre Dame, and how the values instilled by Notre Dame are the same values that are necessary in the armed forces. He remarked that the four words etched on the walls of the ba-

silica: God, Country, Notre Dame, are the basis for these values which give Notre Dame graduates a vision of a better world; the same vision that so many of our veterans possessed when serving in the armed forces. The ceremony was concluded with the sound of Sean Kenney's bugle as he played "Retreat".