

THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion

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April 1992

LTC Gillespie to Retire September 1

By C/CPT Laura Gritz

LTC Robert Gillespie, Professor of Military Science, will retire from the Army September 1 after 21 years of service.

"I've loved every minute of this career, and I really feel like I'm leaving on a highpoint," Gillespie said. "It's easy enough to look back and imagine this has

been the most pleasurable 21 years of my life. To serve the last tour at Notre Dame has been a double blessing because I've been around the most dedicated, qualified, energetic and promising future leaders that have ever been assembled in one spot."

Gillespie said he hopes to remain in the South Bend area and seek employment in an edu-

cational capacity in northern or central Indiana. He will stay at Notre Dame throughout the summer, directing the transition program for the new PMS, who should arrive by August 1.

The name of the new PMS will possibly be announced before the end of the school year, pending the university's approval of the Army's selection, Gillespie said.

Cold Spring FTX a Hot Success

By C/CPL Elizabeth Reres

On April 11 and 12 the battalion attended a spring FTX, held at Camp Custer, Michigan. On the first day, MSIs and MSIIIs participated in a patrol led by MSIIIs and evaluated by the MSIVs. The patrol, which was basically one long STRAC lane, consisted of a raid and ambush, and incorporated recons and a link-up.

Upon completing the patrol, cadets set up defensive positions in preparation for an impending probe by the seniors. After breaking for a Palm Sunday service conducted by ROTC chaplain Father Warner, work on the fortifications was finished and security was set up. The cadets endured several probes, remain-

ing at their positions until midnight.

The following day, cadets were divided up by class and participated in different activities. MSIIIs fired weapons, MSIIIs rappelled, and MSIs completed a grenade assault course consisting of grenade throwing, techniques for moving injured soldiers and elementary land navigation.

In spite of the cold and rainy weather, most cadets felt that the FTX was an invaluable experience. MSII Lara Dickey stated, "It was a great learning experience. You're actually out there in the real woods. It gives you more of a feeling that you're doing a training exercise. My
(continued on page 3)



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz
MSIV Mike Brennan was all smiles serving as a range safety officer at the FTX.



From the Professor of Military Science:

The Year in Review

As the end of this year approaches, I reflect on all the hard work accomplished by the Fightin' Irish Battalion and conclude that this was indeed an action-packed, yet productive year.

We started out with the annual Freshman Orientation, greeting new members to the battalion and hopefully making them feel welcome. The cadet chain of command sought to develop unity and corporateness via the "Company Orientation" operation. Our first semester labs focused on preparing the unit to perform its first battalion level off-campus FTX—a very successful training experience for the sophomores and juniors, and a "fun" (?) time for the freshmen. (You did very well in your rappelling, M-16 and reaction course training. And you can thank the Sergeant Major for the cookout.) Naturally, none of that was possible without the energies of your senior class.

The year progressed with the winter socials, the Army Ball, the Dining-in, and the Tri-Mil Ball. More labs, classes, and the Dixon Challenge prepared the juniors for RIBPIN and everyone for the spring FTX. The spring FTX witnessed the active participation of the freshmen in the tactical squad reaction courses and the company defense, M-16 firing for the juniors, rappelling for the sophomores, and the grenade assault course for the freshmen. Again, the entire package was tightly wrapped by a hard-working and capable senior class.

Many other operations filled the year: MSIII Land Nav weekend and range week, sponsoring high school visitors on campus, parades, inspections, JPW, etc. In all, this was a very busy year. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the interminable hours spent by a devoted cadre. Likewise, your own efforts were key to a successful year. As I proclaim the year a success, I am reminded that the mission is only complete for the senior class. The mission goes on for the other classes as the

juniors ponder how they will lead the battalion next year. Similarly, you sophomores can anticipate the assessment opportunities of your MSIII year and the freshmen can look forward to the opportunities they'll be afforded as next year's "leadership interns."

As this is the final *Shamrock*, it's appropriate for me to say, have a safe and restful summer. You've all earned it and we'll anticipate your return next August. To the seniors, I must say that it's been my privilege and pleasure to be the MS IV instructor, and to work closely with you throughout the year. If any of our training was successful, it was due in large part to your dedication. You can each take great pride in a job well done and be assured that you will each enter your commissioned service well prepared for the challenges you'll meet. To all, you've done a marvelous job.

Sincerely,

LTC Robert Gillespie

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MSIIIs Train at RIBPIN Weekend

By C/CPL Sean O'Reilly

Recently the MSIII class participated in some weekend training in preparation for Advanced Camp this summer. On March 28, the MSIIIs were involved in a land navigation day and on the weekend of April 3-5, they participated in the annual RIBPIN training exercise.

During the land navigation training, cadets had to find a set number of points, testing their map and compass skills as they were required to shoot azimuths, keep a pace count and recognize terrain features.

RIBPIN is an annual training exercise involving cadets from Rose-Hulman, Indiana, Ball State, Purdue, Indiana University at Purdue, Notre Dame, Xavier and Northern Kentucky.



Photo by C/PFC David Chang

The juniors fall into formation prior to leaving for RIBPIN.

The training took place at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, in Indianapolis. RIBPIN provided the MSIIIs with the opportunity to train with cadets from other universities, showing what they have learned and learning from the other cadets.

RIBPIN consisted of setting up a bivouac site, long-range patrolling, STRAC lanes, and a night land navigation course. Although the weather the first night was inclement, the juniors overcame the initial adversity and performed well during the next day and a half of training.



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

MSII Shari Shepard aerobicizes at morning PT.

(continued from page 1)

squad really planned ahead. There was a lot of teamwork."

"We have an advantage over other ROTC units that don't do this sort of thing," added MSI Dave Chang.

LTC Robert Gillespie said he thought that more time was needed in between squads during the patrol, but that he was pleased with the FTX as a whole. "I thought that the FTX was a smashing success," he said. "It made all of the training objectives I had in mind when I designed it. It had the realism I wanted to see, and the type of physically demanding challenges to put pressure on squad members, and hopefully, the mentally demanding challenges that will help the juniors get ready for camp."



Hasta la Vista NCOs! Fightin' Irish Battalion loses enlisted cadre

Price moves from Pasquerilla to Debartolo

By C/MAJ Amy Keough

On May 7, the Fightin' Irish Battalion will say goodbye to its smokin' & jokin' NCO with the black beret, MSG Steve Price. Price will retire from the Army twenty years after he embarked on his exciting career as an 11B infantryman.

His career has moved him around the United States to bases including Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; Ft. Richardson, Alaska; the Florida Ranger Camp where he was a Ranger Instructor; Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he served as a drill sergeant; ROTC duty in South Carolina where he and one officer started the ROTC program; Ft. Carson, Colorado and finally, Notre Dame.

At Notre Dame, MSG Price became most famous for his work with the Ranger Challenge team (and his jokes!), leading the team to four straight state titles and competition in four brigade competitions. He was also awarded NCO of the

Year for Second Region and NCO of the Year for the Light Fighter Brigade, both in 1991.

Price is no stranger to such awards, as he graduated Distinguished Honor Graduate from Airborne School, Air Assault School and the NCO Academy. Other schools he has attended include Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Sergeant Major Academy, Basic and Advanced NCO Course for Combat Arms, Drill Sergeants School, Rappel Master School, and Open Water Scuba Certification.

The Fightin' Irish Battalion will certainly miss MSG Price, but he won't be far away—Price begins his new "civilian" job as building manager of the Debartolo Building on May 11. The battalion is invited to visit him there where he plans to "grow his hair" and give up BDU's! Farewell MSG Price, hello Mr. Price!

Sionara SFC Ragsdale

By C/CPT Laura Gritz

Newly promoted SFC Keith Ragsdale will relocate to Camp Zama, Japan, in September for a three-year tour.

This summer, Ragsdale will attend the Advanced Course for NCOs, a seven-week school at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

During his years at Notre Dame, Ragsdale has worked as an administrative NCO, receiving and processing paperwork for cadre and cadets. He also served as Rifle Team advisor and ran most of the battalion's training ranges.

"I'm going to miss everybody," he said. "Working with cadets has been an original experience."



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

Shogun First Class Ragsdale



SGM Johnson happily retires to the civilian world

By C/CPL Tony Alfidi

After thirty years as an active duty non-commissioned officer, Sergeant Major James Johnson will retire from the Army at the end of the school year. When asked to reflect on his imminent departure, SGM Johnson described himself as "absolutely overwhelmed, and very thankful."

Starting as a platoon sergeant in Vietnam, Johnson served as an operations sergeant and later as a platoon sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division. Later in his career, he served near the West German border as a first sergeant. Johnson said he is impressed with the way the Army has improved over the years: "It's gotten smarter," he comments, "and the leaders are now top notch. And the pay is better, too!"

Having served as an ROTC instructor and as the cadre advisor to the Irish Marauder Drill Team, SGM Johnson hopes that he has passed on his experiences to the next generation of Notre Dame's Army leaders. "I hope I've made cadets aware of the pitfalls in dealing with the NCO's," he said.



Photo by C/MSG Claire Heil

SGM Johnson faces retirement with a smile.

For the immediate future, Johnson is looking forward to taking a year off with his wife of 26 and a half years, just to enjoy the fact that "I've never really been a civilian," he said. "When I joined the Army, I liked the idea of touring the world, so I bought the recruiter's lie," he commented. After settling down again, Johnson anticipates teaching Junior ROTC in high schools.

SGM Johnson expressed his satisfaction with the time he has spent at Notre Dame. "I'll leave with the thought that I've helped," he says. "I'm gonna miss the place, but I'm really excited about retiring. . . I'm smiles all over."



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

SGT Cynthia Brown will be leaving N.D. this summer for an uncertain future.

JOKE OF THE DAY:

How many NCOs does it take to replace a lightbulb?

Four: SFC Ragsdale to assess the situation, SGT Brown to take it out of supply, MSG Price to screw it...in, and SGM Johnson to make it look "mighty fine."

Fightin' Irish Battalion welcomes MSG Burr

By C/SGT Ross Davidson

MSG Rick Burr is the new cadre member in the Fightin' Irish Battalion. His military past brings years of experience and knowledge to Notre Dame.

It all started in December 1969 in basic training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. From there, MSG Burr spent three years in Germany with the combat engineers. After a two-year break, he was at Ft. Carson with the 24th Infantry Division, then back to Germany with the 1st Infantry Division, filling in the positions of squad leader and assistant platoon leader. He spent the next three years as a drill sergeant at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and Ft. Dix, New Jersey. From 1982-85, MSG Burr was a military advisor for the National Guard and Reserve, where he evaluated training. He was then sent back to Germany to join the 8th Infantry Division where he was first sergeant and platoon sergeant. His most recent assignment was at the National Training Center for armed desert warfare at Ft. Irwin, California. He was a student at the US Army Sergeant Major Academy before coming to Notre Dame.

MSG Burr said he asked for an ROTC position to help educate the future officers of the Army. His main job is working on a project LTC Robert Gillespie is administering for the battalion to function more like a regular Army unit. Even

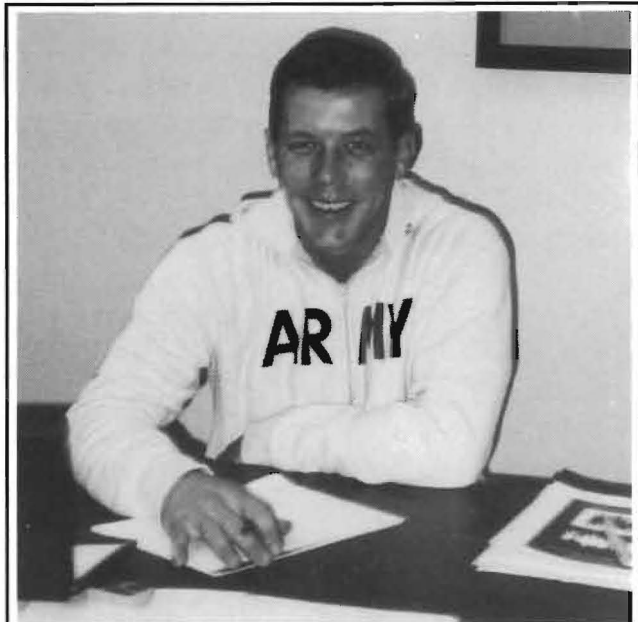


Photo by C/MSG Claire Heil

MSG Rick Burr invites cadets to visit him.

though Burr will not be teaching an official class, he will be teaching in the labs. "I am here to help educate the future officers with relationships with NCO's," he said.

MSG Burr said he is an avid bass fisherman. He tries to go out at least once a week but since the weather has been so cold the only thing he has caught is "frostbite." He said if anyone has great fishing stories or just wants to learn more about NCO and officer relations, stop by and visit. "Don't be afraid to come and visit," he said.

Joan's Staying!

As many of our NCO's depart, Joan will be around next year to hold down the fort.



CAMP 1992

MSIIIs prepare to meet the greatest challenge of ROTC career

By C/PFC Rebecca Benson

This summer forty-three Fightin' Irish MSIII cadets will head to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to take part in the long awaited five week Advanced Camp which they have trained for all year.

The emphasis on leadership is the most important part of camp. Cadets are assessed in their leadership positions at the squad, platoon, and company level. Their positions are chosen on a random basis, and they have the responsibility for planning all the participation and training while they are in that position.

There are five phases of training during the five weeks. First is Operation Trailblazer which includes general subjects such as land navigation, communications, the PT test, and nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) warfare, among others. Operation Gunsmoke deals with weapons training. Cadets use and are evaluated on their use of the M-16, M-60, squad assault weapon machine guns, grenades, fire support defense, armor, and anti-armor.

Operation Audie Murphy includes instruction for basic tac-

tics such as individual and squad tactical training, small unit patrolling, and the squad tactical reaction and assessment course (STRAC). In Operation Kit Carson, Cadets train in more advanced tactical instruction, executing platoon tactics and patrolling. A special training subphase where cadets experience a combat arms live-fire demonstration and a branch demonstration lasts one day before the capstone exercise, Operation Adventure Challenge.

In the last phase cadets plan and execute platoon air assault missions. The four-night exercise includes reconnaissance patrol, ambushes, attacks, and raids before the platoons are extracted from the area. The camp culminates with a graduation ceremony.

All ROTC students in the country attend camp. About 3,200 attend camp at Ft. Bragg and an additional 3,200 at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Camp begins the first week in June and ends the last week in July and includes eight regiments.

The instructors at camp are the same cadre that prepare the students at their universities. This year Captain Miles will partici-

pate in the STRAC committee at Ft. Bragg and Captain Pottinger will be part of the Inspector General's Office.

The training the MSIIIs have accomplished for camp this year has been excellent. According to Captain Pottinger, "they're the best prepared class I've worked with the three years I've been here." Most of the training took place in the classroom but with important new additions, three sand tables for tactical exercises. Field experiences were also important this year. The fall FTX, land navigation exercises, Operation RIBPIN, and spring FTX were valuable training for the MSIIIs as well as the whole battalion.

GOOD

LUCK

JUNIORS!

MSIV Plans For the Future Vary

By C/PFC Kay Wakatake

It's May and the class of 1992 is leaving. What will they be doing after getting commissioned? Approximately 23 will be going active duty, 15 into the reserves, and 8 have educational delays.

Some MSIVs will be hearing wedding bells in the next year. Katie Renard plans to marry in June, then attend law school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She has received the dean's scholarship, which goes to the school's top six applicants and covers half the tuition.

Valerie Frost will pass through a sabre arch (a tradition at military weddings) in Vermont on January 2. Frost also plans to study law, at Campbell University in North Carolina.

A full summer is planned for Jen Coyne as she flies off at airborne speed June 8 to Ft. Knox

KY, to be a cadre member for Camp Challenge, which trains those who join ROTC after their sophomore year. She will get married on August 8 in Cincinnati and postpone her honeymoon to go to transportation Officer Basic Course (OBC) on August 11 at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, also her permanent duty station.

Some other cadets receiving educational delay status include Dan Sharkey, who plans to go into corporate law, and Kate Thewes and Dave O'Malley, who both plan to go to medical school. Mike Julian will attend engineering graduate school at Ohio State University before entering the Army as an air defense officer.

Many cadets are also going in the reserves, including Mike Cunningham, who will attend the American Graduate School of International Business ("Thunderbird") in Phoenix, Arizona. Lisa McGriff will be as-

signed to a medical service unit in Cincinnati, while also working for Baxter Health Care Corporation.

Jerry Rullo, who is going on active duty, will serve as cadre at Camp Challenge, then attend armor OBC at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. After OBC, he will be stationed with the 24th Mechanized Infantry at Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

Other future active duty officers include Dan Piercy, Amy Keough and Tom Ninneman. Piercy will be hitting the waves and soaking up some rays at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Keough will also be enjoying some sunshine during medical service OBC at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, then with the 44th Medical Brigade at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Ninneman will travel to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for field artillery OBC.

SUMMER PLANS

The following cadets will attend Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, this summer:

Greg Cannata
Matthew Carver
Adrian Enzastiga
Tracy Farrell
Robert Fisher
Bob Fugate
Mark Gray
Elana Hemphill
David Hoeffel

Adam Kane
Paul Kell
David Reeder
Sean O'Reilly
Stoney Trent
Steven Van Hoof
Daniel Verich

Attending Air Assault School will be

Michael Kane
Andrew Scarcella

The following cadets will participate in Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) this summer:

Jason Black
(Ft. Carson, CO)
Tim Povich
(Ft. Riley, KS)
Mike Warmerdam
(Ft. Lee, VA)
Greg Wessels
(Ft. Bragg, NC)



Photo by C/PFC Rebecca Benson

MSIV Steve Deick and SGT Brown were dining companions.



Photo by C/PFC Dave Chang

LTC Robert Gillespie greets MSIV Garr Schwartz in the receiving line.

Scenes From the Dining-in

February 28, 1992



Photo by C/PFC Rebecca Benson

Autumn Basinger, Paul Kell, Greg Cannata, and Melinda Zapata comprised the color guard.



"A Visit to the Speech Therapist"

Starring:
Scot Graydon
Lisa Valenta
Mike Deperro
Tracy Farrell
Jeff Squyres

Photo by C/PFC Rebecca Benson

Drill Team Competes at Villanova

Marine Judging Costs Irish Title

By C/ISG Christopher Hull

After nearly six months of preparation, the Irish Marauder Drill Team ventured to Villanova, Pennsylvania for the Villanova University Invitational Drill Meet on March 20-22, 1992.

Leading off the action at the competition was Blue Squad, led by C/SSG Paul Kell. The squad, comprised of cadets Lara Dickey, Autumn Basinger, Andrew Dekever, Bob Fisher, Kim Gooley, Caimien Quigley, Jack Vales, and Greg Cannata, performed well, although they did not place.

The next event for the Marauders was the color guard competition, in which Kell, Basinger, Cannata, and C/SSG Melinda Zapata competed. Again, despite a very sharp routine, the team did not place.

The team's frustration continued with Gold Squad, commanded by Zapata and comprised of cadets Dickey, Tony Alfidi, Matt Festa, Liz Reres, Mike Sofield, Carrie Stambaugh, Jim Stehlik and Dan Verich. Despite an excellent performance, the team was again unable to bring home the brass.

Of all the performances of the weekend, the best by far was that of the platoon, commanded by

C/MSG Mike Kane. He and his fifteen troops performed a nearly flawless (by Army standards) routine, and, yet again, was denied an award.

By this point the entire team was rather frustrated, with themselves and with the Marine evaluators. They hoped for success in the IDR Knockout, in which the entire team competed. Within the first three commands of the knockout, all but three Marauders had been relieved (due to the phantom command "rifle salute"), and by the fourth, all team members were gone (due to their three-count "present arms"). They argued for reinstatement since they were executing commands in accordance with the Army drill manual, but were unsuccessful in convincing the Marines.

Despite the obvious frustration the team encountered, they came together as a unit that weekend. The weekend also produced enough quotes to keep the *Observer* classifieds operating in the black for ten years! While the team is young, it gained very valuable experience, which can only raise expectations for the future. With a solid nucleus of MS I and MS II cadets returning, the Drill Team has the potential to bring it home next year.

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Dixon Challenge '92

Congratulations to Charlie Company's First Squad, First Platoon for winning the Dixon Competition!

Squad members were:
MSIII Jeff Squyres (Squad Leader)
MSII Brian Bouton
MSII Aaron Hoover
MSII Andy Scarcella
MSIII Jeff Austin
MSII Paul Kell
MSII Caimien Quigley
MSI Mike Marty

Second place went to Alpha Company's First Squad, First Platoon, led by Dennis Danieluk.

Bravo Company's Third Squad from Second Platoon, led by Carl Christensen, captured third place.



MSII Yve McCarthy assembles and radio checks the PRC-77 for her Squad.

Photos by
C/CPT Laura
Gritz



Members of Alpha Company grind sit-ups at the PT stage.



MSI Clesson Turner is timed as he puts on a gas mask.