
THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

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BATTALION WELCOMES NEW CADETS



(Clockwise from top left) LTC O'Brien gives opening welcome to new cadets; MS Is enlist into Army ROTC; Doug Allison and Chris Stein enjoy the comfort of a swiss seat; Don Nestor fits the MS Is into their first pair of combat boots.

The 1993 Army ROTC Orientation for new cadets was held from 24 to 27 August. Seventy-two freshmen, as well as several transfer upperclassmen participated in the welcoming activities. Numerous upperclass cadets were on hand to introduce the new cadets to ROTC and Notre Dame life. New cadets participated in many activities such as a pizza and volleyball party, a rope bridge exercise, and an early-morning PT session giving the newcomers a great start to the new year.

Letter from the Professor of Military Science, LTC O'Brien

A chill is in the air, the leaves are starting to turn different colors, crowds are gathering at Notre Dame on Saturdays...it must be fall. Welcome back to school!! We are glad that you all are safely back. By all accounts, you all did quite well over the summer. For those of you involved with summer camps and/or other Army training, I have received nothing but glowing reports of praise for the job that you did. You have continued the tradition of success established by the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

To all the new members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion---greetings, it's good to have you with us. You have committed yourself on a path of self improvement and excellence. Our tradition here is one of leadership development and personal growth. Congratulations on your past successes that have opened the door to continued challenges. Plan to take full advantage of your opportunities.

By now, you have likely taken good measure of what this academic year has in store for you. Are your classes going to be tough or easy? How committed will you be to extracurricular activities? How's that new roommate going to work out? Is your work/study job going to be too taxing? Have you been able to get tickets to those "critical" football games? Have you made the right decisions and set the best goals for this year? You are not alone. Each of us--freshman through senior--is going through the same analysis.

For all of us, the fall semester starts out with a bang--and we all continue at a "dead run" until final exams and Christmas. We have numerous activities to participate in--academics, ROTC, social, sports, and others. Your highest priority here at school must be to your academic work. You came to college to succeed as a student. Set your goals to that purpose, plan to succeed, and do it!! Enjoy all there is in being a college student, but make sure you do well in your most important task.

A major autumn source of stress for the seniors is the fabled "Accession Process". This is the process through which the MS IVs are selected for active duty, reserve forces duty, or educational delay to active duty--and then assigned to their basic branches in the Army. Although the MS IVs have a chance to express their preferences, their ability to influence whether or not they get their choices has already been set by their previous performances. For all the rest of the battalion, you still can improve your chances for success.

There are a number of items considered by the Army during the accession process. The four "critical" items are your college grade point average (GPA), the cadet's position in an ROTC class order of merit (OML), the cadet's Advanced Camp performance grade, and my PMS evaluation of your leadership abilities. You obviously play a big part in whether or not you get your choices. Of these four factors, GPA figures prominently in three of them--GPA, OML, and the PMS evaluation. Have a good GPA. It matters.

For this year, I promise tough, challenging, leadership-oriented training. From you, I want you to "DO THE RIGHT THING". Focus on what is important in your life. This academic year offers a tremendous opportunity for personal growth. Don't waste it. Commit yourself to improvement.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE.

James O'Brien

Awards Ceremony Honors Achievements

By Hoa Vu

This year's Fall Professional Development and Education Awards Ceremony was a big day for the cadets of the Fightin' Irish Battalion. Awards, honors, and scholarships were given to cadets for their achievements over the summer. A special award was given to CPT Selling for his four years of dedication to the Battalion.

"Notre Dame has one of the best ROTC programs because of individuals in the cadre as well as the cadets — and it shows in their accomplishments", says LTC O'Brien.

The following cadets received the Distinguished Military Student (DMS) award:

Peter DiPaola, Darrel Driver, Mike Kaley, Paul Kell, Jessica Lovejoy, Pat Martin, Brian O'Meara, John Pierce, Joe Reardon, Andrew Scarcella, Andrew Sinn, and Michael Deperro.

Three-year Army ROTC Scholarships were awarded to: Karien Cook, Thomas Donlan, John Dwyer, Karin Gilbert, Jim Hardison, Sean Keenan, Brian Loftus, Emily Lord, Erin Lyons, Brian Matzek, Hoa Vu, Bart Bogust, and Timothy Consedine.

The following cadets successfully completed Airborne or Air Assault school: Joseph Adent, Alex Andreichuk, Pete Goyer, Dave Guzman, Joel Junker, Polly Lancaster, Brian Loftus, Pat Martin, John Merriam, Robert Payne, Joe Reardon, Clark Rogers, Craig Roman, Jeff Roth, Monica

Scales, Clifton Trout, Steven Van Hoof (Airborne), and Daniel Verich (Air Assault).

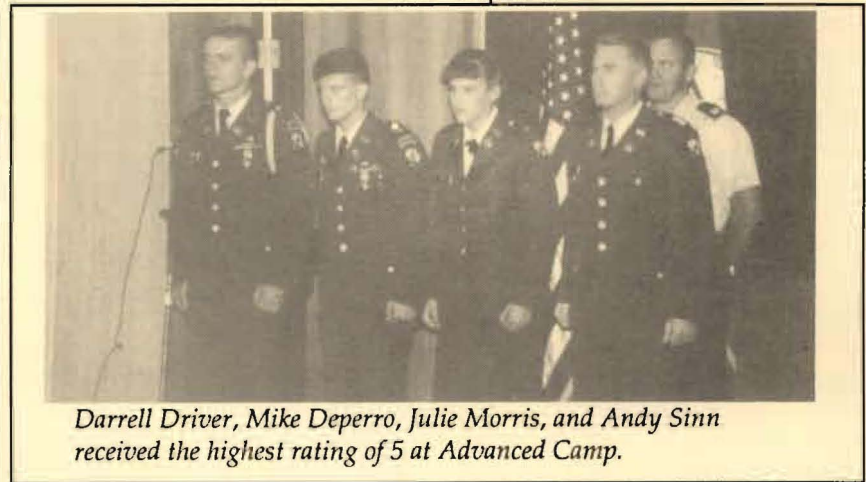
Many of our cadets received excellent ratings at Advanced Camp. Receiving 5's were: Darrel Driver, Julie Morris, Andy Sinn, and Michael Deperro. The following received a rating of 4: Brian Bouton, Peter DiPaola, Jamie Ford, Chad Hensley, Aaron Hoover, Mike Kaley, Paul Kell, Pat Martin, Greg Massa, John Pierce, Joe Reardon, and Andrew Scarcella.

These cadets were also recognized for their accomplishments while at Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT): Darrell Driver, Jamie Ford, Mike Kaley, Jessica Lovejoy, Brian O'Meara, Andrew Scarcella, Melinda Zapata, and Michael Deperro.

Ranger Challenge Begins Training

It's 0600 the dew is still on the ground and the air is chilled, the morning calm is disturbed by grunts, moans and cadence. You might ask who would be up and training so early; naturally the answer is the Ranger Challenge team. Throughout the nation, Ranger Challenge is considered the varsity sport of Army ROTC, typically involving the premier cadets in each program. These teams represent their schools at Brigade, regional and soon at national level competition.

The 1993-94 Fightin' Irish



Darrell Driver, Mike Deperro, Julie Morris, and Andy Sinn received the highest rating of 5 at Advanced Camp.

Ranger Challenge Team is led by Cadet Captain Deperro. The team has twenty six members; seven women and nineteen men (nine freshmen, four sophomores, six juniors, and seven seniors). This year, both a nine man team and a five women team will represent the University of Notre Dame in

the Brigade competition 22-24 October 1993 at Camp Atterbury Indiana.

The typical Ranger day begins at 0600 with morning training concentrating on strength and endurance of the chest, shoulders, and abdominal muscle

(See Rangers, page 6)

CTLT, A Great Leadership EXperience

By Melinda Zapata

Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) gives cadets an opportunity to serve as a platoon leader in an active Army unit upon completion of Advanced Camp. I was fortunate enough to spend five weeks of CTLT in Bamberg, Germany, with the 630th MP Company of the 793d MP Battalion.

As first platoon leader, I was responsible for a 28 member platoon and accountable for all of its equipment. Daily responsibilities included supervising training and keeping the company commander informed about their progress. I attended weekly training meetings and biweekly battalion staff meetings. Also, I participated in a staff ride to the courtroom where the Nuremberg Trials took place. My duties culminated in a four day platoon FTX which I planned and executed. Here, my tactical experience was tested and enhanced by the addition of tactical MP vehicles and low intensity training.

But the five weeks was not spent entirely on the job. On the weekends, I took trips to nearby Nuremberg and Wurzburg to sightsee. Bamberg had a lot of history in itself. I also walked in five Volksmarches.

What can I say? The food and drink were OUTSTANDING. The training experience was invaluable.

Advanced Camp 1993: GO FOR THE GOLD

By Sean O'Reilly

For a large portion of the past summer months (six weeks to be exact), we MS IVs took a trip that differed from your average lazy, hazy days of summer. Yes the sun was there, and we all got to go south, but there was one little catch; this was no vacation, this was Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Thirty-seven students attended what is billed as the "Super Bowl" of our ROTC careers. Camp All American provides students with an evaluation of their leadership potential in a wide variety of environments. Three years of ROTC classes, labs, and PT sessions go into one six-week period in which you try to show that you are the best that you can be as a leader and a follower.

When arriving at Fort Bragg, you are immediately greeted with the heat and humidity of the wonderful North

Carolina countryside. You become climatized by drinking water, a whole lot of it. The first week consists of some inprocessing, physicals, introductory and safety briefings, and the PT test. The remainder of camp is divided into five phases: Trail Blazer, Gun Smoke, Audie Murphy, Kit Carson, and All American Challenge. Operation Trail Blazer begins your first hands-on training at camp; it includes land navigation, communications, NBC and the infamous gas chamber, FLRC (Field Leader Reaction Course), and the ever fun RECONDO day of training in which you will rappel, swim, and negotiate the 40 ft rope drop. Trail Blazer is followed by Operation Gun Smoke—a week long light and heavy weapons introduction. This includes: basic rifle marksmanship, hand grenades, artillery, armor, and air defense. (See Camp, page 7)



Andy Sinn (far right) celebrates camp with his new buddies.

Staff Ride Goes to Tippecanoe Battlefield

By Christy Daly

On Saturday, September 25, the MS IVs traveled to Tippecanoe Battlefield for a staff ride. Accompanied by LTC O'Brien and CPT Van Vliet, the seniors conducted the ride at the site where a battle was waged between the U.S. and Indian forces in November 1811.

The Battle of Tippecanoe took place near the junction of the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers in Central Indiana. Hoping to repel U.S. expansion, Indian forces led by the Prophet attempted to raid the U.S. force's encampment; however, the force, led by General William Henry Harrison, resisted the attack and won the battle.

Before the staff ride, the cadets were divided into groups of 4 or 5 people. Each group researched and concentrated on a certain aspect of the battle, with each individual in the group responsible for specific questions on the topic. On the day of the staff ride, the groups briefed the class on topics such as logistics,

tactics, and leadership on the sides of both the soldiers and the Indians.

Many groups used the standard briefing style so well popularized in the Fightin' Irish Battalion by CPT Tyler, but others opted for a more interesting approach. Cadet Brian Banigan presented an Indian OPORD for his portion of the briefing, acting as Prophet, the Indian leader. Some groups stressed participation in their presentations. For instance, after one presentation, the MS IVs were thrown into a Family Feud match, hosted by everyone's favorite game show host, Cadet Aaron Hoover.

Though adverse weather conditions prevailed and there was always the allure of the Irish football game being played just minutes away, the staff ride proved to be a great success. First, the MS IVs got a chance to apply the principles of war to a real historical battle, which was the purpose of the ride. Secondly, they gained valuable experience

for the future staff rides they will take as officers. And lastly, in the words of MS IV Shannon Neptune, "It was just plain good senior bonding."

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Battalion Welcomes New Cadre Member

By David Buckley

A desire to preserve the American way of life (as it has been handed down since the founding) unites all who choose to serve this nation in uniform. Notre Dame Army ROTC cadets welcome to the cadre of the Fightin' Irish Battalion, Major Roger Norfolk, an individual whose character and service record are worthy of emulation. Major Norfolk's career has been marked by respect for tradition, dedication to service, and a desire to impart the knowledge he has acquired in nearly two decades of experience. Major Norfolk's personal motto is: "The greatest gift you can give to your descendants is the continuance of freedom."

Major Norfolk is a native of Palmyra, Missouri. In 1975, he was commissioned in Armor through Army ROTC at Northeast Missouri State University. He has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, and a Masters of Science in Systems Management. His military education includes attendance at Airborne School, Armor Officer Basic and Motor Officer courses, the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and the Command and General Staff College.

Major Norfolk's father is a survivor of the Bataan Death

March, and endured four years of Japanese captivity. He credits his father's example as having instilled in him a sense of duty and uncompromising principles. He also sees his life as being defined by his faith in God and his strength of family (he and his wife of twenty years have two teenage sons).

His first Army assignment was as a platoon leader in the 13th Armor Battalion in the Federal

Republic of Germany. Other assignments in Germany would later follow, interspersed with assignments at Fort Knox, where he has spent the bulk of his career. The Major's stay at Fort Knox culminated in his being named Executive Officer of the Armor School.

Major Norfolk will be a valuable asset to the Fighting Irish Battalion, particularly to the MS II classes he oversees.



Members of the Fightin' Irish Battalion participate in the POW/MIA Ceremony.

(Rangers, from page 3)
groups. The team then conducts endurance runs or speed work. The speed work consists of three miles of Indian runs or interval training. In the afternoons, the team conducts skills training: assembly of a one rope bridge, timed assembly of the M16A1 rifle and M60 machine gun, hand grenade throwing and technique, basic rifle marksmanship, and patrolling techniques. On some of the weekends (away games), the team conducts speed (foot) marches and land navigation exercises.

After reading this, you might assume that the grade point averages of the Ranger Challenge Team would be lower than the Irish Battalion average, but it is in

fact slightly higher, about a 3.3 GPA; busy people are more efficient. You might also think that to participate you have to be a tremendous athlete, again not true. Many of the team members began with poor physical performance and achieved success through perseverance and perspiration.

Obviously, participation in the Ranger Challenge program is not for the faint of heart but for the best of the best. Certainly, a review of the events and training which the team conducts explains the historically strong Advance Camp performances of past and current team members. In summary, Rangers Lead the Way!!!

Tackling the Tippecanoe River

By Pierre MacGillis

The 2nd annual Army ROTC canoe and camping trip was held September 11 and 12 in the Tippecanoe River Valley, approximately 45 miles southeast of South Bend. Organized by CPT Van Vliet, the trip was designed to offer cadets an opportunity to make new friendships and to experience adventure training. Eighteen cadets, fifteen of whom were MS Is, participated, and were led by CPT Van Vliet, CPT Tyler, and SFC Austin. The trip was shortened, due to inclement weather, yet all those who participated thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The first day of canoeing, which lasted approximately nine

hours, involved traversing nearly thirty miles of slow-moving river. Highlights of the initial leg of the trip included seeing the beauty of the surrounding nature and the spirited water fights between different factions of the group. The canoeing commenced at 0900 and the destination of the first day, a river-side campground, was reached at 1900. MS Is had their first experience setting up a camp, while the cadre prepared a cookout dinner. After dinner, torrential rain and lightning commenced, and would not stop until later the next day. A decision to abort the trip was made due to the high ability of water and trees to conduct electricity. It was decided that the second day of canoeing, which would have meant

over twenty more miles, would involve too much risk, so SGT Scruggs was summoned early Sunday morning and led the tired and wet, yet happy group back to Notre Dame.

The trip, though shortened, was very successful, as cadets and cadre got to know each other better, and at the same time, explore nature in a canoe. Depending on interest and funding, CPT Van Vliet hopes to take more cadets on the trip next year, perhaps all the freshman, to again face the mighty Tippecanoe River.

Battalion Bids Farewell to CPT Selling

After serving three-and-a-half years with the Fightin' Irish Battalion, CPT Selling departed to Ft. Rucker, Alabama. He will be training to fly Chinooks and will go to Korea for his permanent assignment in January. The battalion thanks him for his service and wishes him the best of luck in the future.



LTC O'Brien presents award to CPT Selling for his service to the battalion.

(Camp, from page 4)

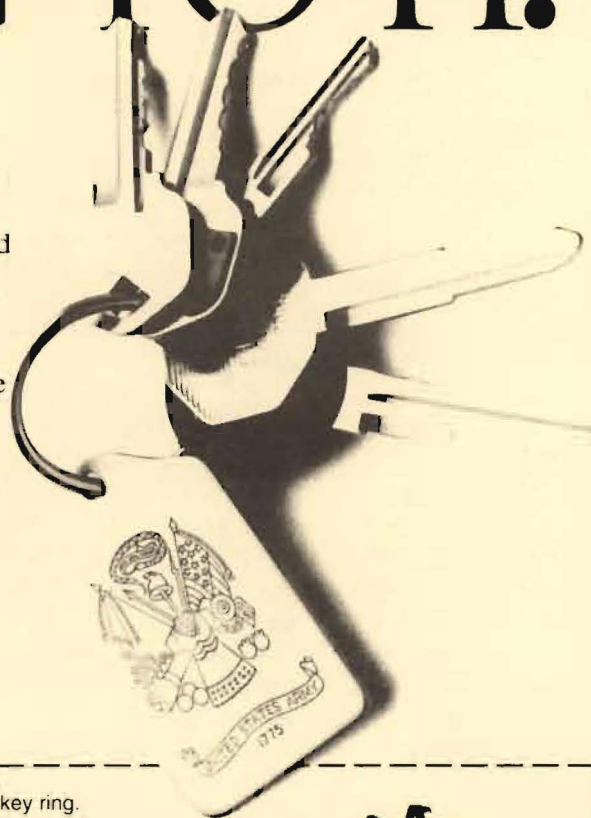
Finally, after three weeks of camp you will enter tactics. Audie Murphy is the squad tactics phase including: ITT (Individual Tactical Training), squad offense/defense, squad patrolling, and the best chance to show your stuff-STRAC (Squad Tactical Reaction Assessment Course). STRAC is a two-day event involving a patrolling lane for each of the members of your group and is a great day to show your knowledge of tactics. Camp progresses into the platoon patrolling phase and finally to All-American Challenge. AAC is a two-and one-half day exercise devoted to platoon patrolling. At this point in camp everyone is pretty motivated to get home and it goes by really quickly. Once it gets through, you do the Capstone run (a five-mile regimental run with BG Johnson), outprocess, and get on the plane to NJ (if you so

desire).

That, pretty much, is the day to day of camp in a nutshell. MS IIIs relax-Notre Dame ROTC prepares you very well for the challenges you will meet at camp. CPT Tyler will assure that you know more terms and graphics than anybody at the place. Although you may feel intimidated at first, remember that everyone there is a college student like yourself even though many will have prior service. Camp does seem like it takes a while to get through. You just may have a calendar of the days on your wall locker. But remember this, the only honorable way to leave is to graduate. Therefore, make the most of your time. As with anything else in life, a positive attitude can do wonders-especially at camp. Keep your chin up, be confident in your abilities, don't be afraid to make some new friends, and you just might have some fun!

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