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# THE SHAMROCK

*Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion*

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## Operation RIBPIN Hones MSIII's Skills "Roger That!"

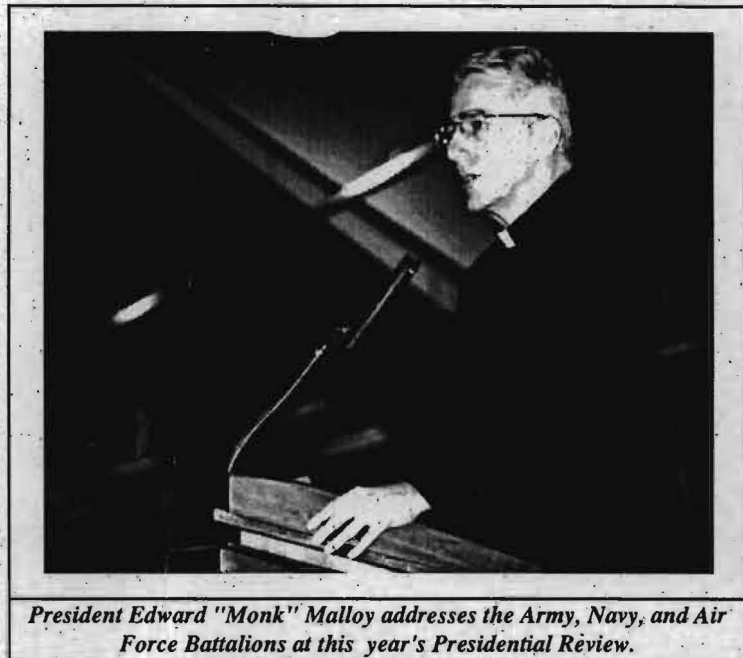
C/SSG Brendon Johnson

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Escaping Notre Dame's tenacious winter weather and lackluster spring, fifty MSIIIs journeyed seven hours south, for three days (April 12-14, 1996) of intense training. Our migration led us to bluegrass and derby country, Ft. Knox, KY, where we would complete a seventy-two hour simulation of camp known as RIBPIN for the six schools that it unites (Rose-Hulman, Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. at Indianapolis, Ball State Univ., Purdue Univ., Indiana Univ., and Univ. of Notre Dame). This exercise allowed the junior class to experience garrison life, STRAC (squad tactical reaction assessment course) and PLT OPS (platoon operations) with fellow cadets in an environment closely approximating Advanced Camp.

Daily training on campus gives Notre Dame cadets a

*Please See RIBPIN on Page 5*



*President Edward "Monk" Malloy addresses the Army, Navy, and Air Force Battalions at this year's Presidential Review.*

## Presidential Review Passes Inspection

C/SFC Heidi Urben

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One can always tell when the school year is coming to a close and spring has arrived. Some brave souls venture to wear shorts, the snow melts away, and random ducks sit in the middle of the quad. Spring is in the air,...and I'm not just referring to the ethanol plant. For ROTC cadets, one of the other marked characteristics of spring is the annual Joint Presidential Review held in Loftus Sports Center. Not only is it a sign that spring is here, but along with the Awards

Ceremony, it also signifies the end of ROTC for the year for most cadets.

It is a time to honor the senior awardees, a time to wear your uniform with pride, and a time for Joint spirit and unity. But most of all, it's a time to bond with Cadet Jack Dwyer.

All cadets, regardless of their year were given the opportunity to learn and practice their skills. MSIs, the unfamiliar minions to the world of Joint ceremonies, had to master the

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

We made it. Spring has finally arrived--and not a moment too soon... Time to turn our attention to that last paper, those final exams, and heading away from school for a well deserved break.

This has been a great year to be a part of the Fightin' Irish Battalion. We've had a great year of Ranger Challenge, Drill Team/Color Guard, Dining-In, Army Ball, Dixon Challenge, Joint Military Ball, labs, PT, MS III training (kinda early, weren't they?), et al. From my view, I saw lots of development--physical, emotional, and mental. I saw leaders grow into better, more effective leaders. I saw men and women take charge and seek improvement in self and in their units. I saw enthusiasm, motivation, and personal effort. As always, I continue to be impressed with the effort and learning that I see from each of you.

Our MS IVs will soon celebrate their commissioning and graduation. Shortly thereafter, they will embark on their new lives as officers in the Army. They will also face and overcome numerous adventures and challenges--many of which we will hear retold in precise--or maybe exaggerated--detail at reunions in the future. They will do a great job representing the Fightin' Irish Battalion to the rest of the Army. Thanks to each senior for the uniquely outstanding leadership that you have provided for the battalion this year. You have been a great chain of command for us all.

Our MS IIIs "eagerly" await their challenges of Advanced Camp. Fully prepared for success, they anxiously look forward to proving their leadership in the crucible of camp. I am personally proud of the growth that I have seen in every junior over the past year. You all will do great.

Our MS IIs have had a brief taste of what its like to be in a significant leadership position. Next year will bring many more such opportunities to develop and shape their personal leader "styles". Enjoy your summer. Stay in shape. Come back next fall ready.

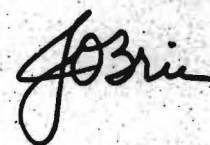
Our MS Is have begun to define the personality of their class in AROTC. They have had a chance to "see what this ROTC is all about." You all look like great potential leaders. I hope to see you all back in the fall.

Many of us will be traveling the US heading for Airborne and Air Assault schools and for active Army units a for Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). You will all return to the battalion loaded with new experiences to share with us all.

With all the excitement of new beginnings, all of us feel some anxiety and apprehension for what the future holds. Next week, next month, next year will be different for us. We, too, will be improved and ready for all our future challenges. Remember that you are all well prepared for the future. My congratulations to all for our designation as Best Army ROTC Battalion in the entire country. Everyone played a part in this honor. Great work!!

My personal thanks to everyone who has made this year such a success. From every cadet who volunteers free time to make our operation run smoothly to our senior chain of command, your efforts make us the wonderful unit that we are. Please join me in extending thanks to the cadre--every one gives 100%++++ to the Fightin' Irish Battalion. My personal thanks to each of you.

For everyone, you are a great bunch of cadets. It has been a year of growth for all. Best wishes for a fulfilling and relaxing summer. Remember "DO THE RIGHT THING".





## Cadet Battalion Commander Bids Farewell


C/LTC Monica Scales

When LTC O'Brien came to me last August and offered me the Battalion Commander position, I remember the distinct sensation of being honored, excited and anxious at the same time. For three years, I had watched others take on the challenge. And now, it was my turn to have the privilege of leading the finest group of cadets in the nation.

Now that the year is almost over and Uncle Sam has control over my future, several of my friends have asked me if I have ever regretted being involved in ROTC. And no matter how many times I am asked this question, I have the same answer — Never. Occasionally I think about the missed SYRs or the funny looks I still get when I walk across campus in my uniform. However, more often I remember the fun times — bonding with my buddies during all of those freezing FTXs or wondering how I would ever make it through the semester on three hours of sleep during my junior year. If you have ever thought about these

things, remember that this program is worth the long hours. The friendships you make and the skills you learn are priceless.

As I look back on the year, I realize that all of our accomplishments are the result of the hard work and determination of each member of the battalion. But then again, I have always known that the Fightin' Irish Battalion is unique. We are lucky to have a fantastic cadre and intelligent, dedicated cadets. However, this year, Cadet Command has noticed our successful program as well. We have been awarded the MacArthur Award for the best large Army ROTC unit in the


nation. LTC O'Brien and I represented the Battalion at the annual U.S. Army Cadet Command Awards Review. I cannot think of a more fitting end to a successful year: Thank you for all of your hard work and devotion to the unit. I know that all of you are proud to say that you are an Army ROTC cadet at this fine University. I wish you all the best of luck next year and in the years to come. Always remember, that even though the football team may not have brought home the number one ranking, we have our own national championship. You truly represent the finest our military has to offer! 

### REVIEW - From Page 1

difficult tasks of keeping their bearing, standing at parade rest, and turning their head to the right at the proper time. However, the key personnel MSIIIs and MSIVs were faced with a far greater leadership challenge: attempting to keep all limbs and vital organs intact after long rehearsals with SGM Vincent Mier. Yet they also had the opportunity to experience thrilling moments throughout the ceremony such as hearing C/MAJ Dwyer shout with such gusto, "Sound Adjutant's Call," and

counting the number of Air Force cadets that passed out.

The review also gave Cadet Mark Bigelow the opportunity to fulfill a boyhood dream by acting as CO of the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

As the year comes to a close, we look back fondly on our joint activities, especially Cadet Chris Stein's "We Had a Warrior Challenge: You Just Must Have Missed It." As we proudly pass the torch to the "flyboys and flygirls" we leave them with this valuable piece of wisdom: "Don't Lock Your Knees." 

## Spring FTX Equals Opportunity

C/Cpl John Menicucci

While the main focus of the FTX weekend was to get the MSIIIs ready for camp, the MSIIIs were also busy developing leadership, trust, and camaraderie amongst one another. Patrolling, living in the barracks for the weekend, and the FLRC course all contributed to teaching the MSIIIs what will be expected of them next year.

The first night was taken at a leisurely pace for the MSIIIs while bunks and equipment were organized by squad. The MSIIIs issued OPORDs, assigned fire guards, and prepared for the next day. MSIIIs were given the opportunity to talk to the MSIs and help prepare equipment for

the next day's training.

At O' dark hundred on Saturday, cadets were loaded into the deuce and a halves and given a lift, care of SFC McCullough and SGT Hagel-Pitt, to various assembly areas to begin platoon operations. First platoon wasted no time in taking its first casualty. Although SGM Mier's life was eventually saved by a brave cadet, the mud bogs continued to prove trepidous the remainder of the day. Luckily for the compass man navigating the lane, SGM Mier was not forced to engage in future bouts of mud wrestling.

Throughout the rest of the day MSIIIs were given invaluable experience, with some even assigned to the position of

team leader. Overall, everyone learned a great deal from patrolling.

On Sunday the MSIIIs and MSIs attempted the Field Leadership Reaction Course, FLRC. Though it consisted of many obstacles, the course offered a chance for the II's and I's to lead one another through the obstacles within given time hacks. Problem analysis, oral communication, and judgment were just a few of the leadership dimensions that were employed during this training.

The FTX concluded early Sunday afternoon with a few comments by LTC O'Brien. On the whole, the FTX not only provided an opportunity for the MSIIIs to sharpen their skills for camp but also the chance for MSIIIs and MSIs to foresee what lies ahead of them in the next couple of years. ✻



*A team of MSI's tackles the FLRC course at Camp Custer, Michigan. The FLRC training emphasizes leadership as cadets lead one another through physically and mentally challenging obstacle courses.*

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**RIBPIN - From Page 1**

horrendous months of juggling activities outside and inside the classroom with ROTC, MSIIIs could finally focus on leadership alone and put their skills to the test. As we filed off the bus, tales we had been told of inter-school rivalry echoed, leaving us with much anticipation and anxiety. Yet, in the initial phases of the operation, cadets from all across Indiana set aside differences and formed squads and teams that they would work with throughout the weekend. With successful training as our common goal we helped "square each other away."

The operation was conducted in three phases - Garrison Operations, STRAC, and PLT OPS on a rotational basis with three cadet companies. During the opening ceremony Friday evening, the Brigade CDR, COL Dooley addressed an impressive assembly of cadets. Evaluations began immediately following as the TACs (tactical officers - evaluators) increased the pressure for those in leadership positions for the first night.

Garrison life is radically different from the field but it afforded the junior class good practice for camp. All actions are

made under the guise of evaluators who constantly monitor all actions and furiously jot them down. Barracks activity entails keeping everything neatly stowed away and straightened out to the most minute detail, with constant accountability of all personnel and equipment. With an early wake-up call the next day, one and all, attempted a few hours of rest with their trusty weapon keeping them company.

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**"Cadets from all across Indiana set aside differences and formed squads and teams that they would work with throughout the weekend. With successful training as our common goal, we helped "square each other away."**

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The following morning, under the cover of dark, we moved out for the first training phase at various locations around the base. Cloud cover and subsequent showers did not impede STRAC or PLT OPS. Teamwork was crucial and movement was executed in accordance with training. In the pandemonium of a firefight, with mud-caked feet, clothing and equipment wet, feeling miserable and hungry, we persevered by

maintaining our momentum.

After a hard day of exercises we all welcomed a hot meal and the dry barracks. The company not participating in the field was back in the barracks conducting high speed D&C, hip pocket training and formulating SOPs for the field.

Sunday afternoon after the last rotation and after diligently preparing the barracks for the final inspection we rejoined the other cadets from Notre Dame. On the way home we exchanged stories (even the bus driver added some flavor to the discussion) and reminisced about the weekend, with a quick break for food thanks to LTC O'Brien. Finally back under the gaze of Our Lady, LTC O'Brien gave a final word to this summer's Camp All American ND cadets.

RIBPIN is an excellent training event in preparation for Camp All American in which all ND cadets excelled. It proved that we could forge new teams with complete strangers and successfully lead fellow cadets. RIBPIN is the final field training event for MSIIIs before camp!!! For all of you hard charging juniors, next stop: Ft. Bragg, N.C. Good luck and have a great summer. HUAH!!! ❁

## Army Basketball...It's Fantastic

### Men's Basketball

#### Tournament Highs & Lows

C/1LT William Edwards

As soon as the Fightin' Irish men's Army ROTC basketball team showed up at the Joyce ACC for the 10th annual Flyin' Irish Invitational on 3 February 1996, they knew it would be a long weekend. Their first opponent in the round-robin play was Michigan's Air Force ROTC, the defending champions. After being down early, the Irish rallied around the sharp shooting of junior Pete Thomsen and the strong inside play of senior Pete Goyer to cut the Wolverine's lead to one. When Senior Bill Edwards went to the line with four seconds to play, it looked as if the Irish might escape; but the ball bounced off the back of the iron, costing the team the win. The top eight teams from the round robin play on 3 February make the tournament round on 4 February, and a record of 3-1 doesn't guarantee a wild card.

The heart and experience of the Army Irish squad showed through however, as they bounced back to defeat Illinois Air Force by six and Miami of Ohio Air Force by ten. Since the wild card teams are determined by point differential, the Irish knew they would have to run it up in their last game against Kent State's Air Force team. The cadets responded with their best effort of the day by defeating Kent 72-39, good enough to earn the last wild card spot, the number eight seed.

The highlight of the weekend for Army Irish however, didn't occur until the next morning. Pitted against Notre Dame's Air Force, the hosts of the tournament and the top seed, the

Army cadets knew they faced an uphill task. The experience of the Army cadets was proven again though, as they got another great long range shooting performance from Thomsen to upset the Air Force 53-49.

The victory was short-lived however, as the weary Irish fell to Illinois Institute of

### Women's B-ball Continues Spirited Tradition

C/SGT Megan Scull

The Fightin' Irish Battalion once again fielded a women's team for the ND Air Force Basketball Tournament. With the help of vigorous recruiting we even had enough team members to make substitutions, prior to losing several players to injury. Under the experienced guidance of our mentor and coach, SGT Mac "Daddy" McCullough, our women made a strong showing. Despite child-size jerseys and a limited cheering section, the ND Army ROTC women's basketball team continued the long tradition of tenacious defense and

Technology's Army team in the semifinals. Playing their sixth contest in 24 hours, the Irish didn't have enough left to come back against a bigger, quicker IIT team. Fortunately for ND, the Notre Dame Navy squad defeated IIT in the final, bringing the championship back home. ✻

explosive, albeit undisciplined, offense. Utilizing the "foul 'til you drop" tactic on defense, and the fast break play on virtually every offensive run, we outran rather than outplayed most of our opponents.

This year we bid a sad farewell to a substantial portion of our team, as they graduate and are commissioned into Uncle Sam's big basketball team. Therefore, we will be scouting the ranks of PT for a new crop of ROTC women willing to donate a few hours on a Saturday to honor the Fightin' Irish Battalion at next year's tourney. Any interested parties should contact Megan Scull or Sarah Lokiec next semester. Many thanks to Erin Lyons and Barb Wilson for four years of hard work and spirited play on the basketball team. ✻



LTC James J. O'Brien presents Cadet Kevin Kuwik with the Cavanaugh award for academic excellence. The award is given annually to the senior Army ROTC cadet with the highest cumulative grade point average.



## Junior Training Lives Up To It's Reputation

C/SFC Ian Palmer

It's dark. It's cold. It's 0515. The rest of the Battalion is still asleep, dreaming of how nice it is to have an hour left of sleep. The only people walking around campus are the crazy and the drunk. Eerily, walking shadows clad in black sweat suits make their way east to their Mecca, know to mere civilians as Pasquerilla Center. It is there that these strange children of the early morning learn of bed-making army style, the dreaded D&C, the more dreaded OPORD, and even worse, what Bill Edwards looks like at 0530. It's ugly, it's Junior Training.

Every year during the spring semester, MSIIIs of the Fightin' Irish Battalion find themselves thrust into this new, strange world of camp preparation. Junior training consists of 0530 sessions at either Pasquerilla Center or the Joyce Athletic Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, where the MS IVs orient their subordinates to the ins and outs of summer Advanced Camp. The MSIIIs review the tasks that they learn in lab and class, and are also given extra instruction on subjects that do not come up in lab. Extra STRAC lanes, simulated OPORDs, and Good Housekeeping by SGM Mier are all included in these Tuesday and Thursday ventures into the unknown. Camp stories are spun and absence is prevalent, but in the end, the Juniors feel that their added training is necessary and welcome.

CDT Dan Green explains, "Junior training pretty much sucks, but you'd be surprised at the volume and quality of

information that someone can take in before anyone in the free world is awake." CDT Tony Bouchard continues, "(Junior training) makes you tougher. You learn to survive on less rest. It has increased my confidence in my tactical abilities and I feel I am prepared for camp."

In the end, this semester long cram session leaves the MSIIIs of the Fightin' Irish Battalion ready to take on Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, or whatever the camp site of the week is. Juniors, you've seen the light. Sophomores, the tunnel has only begun. Happy camping. ✱

## ARMY ROTC Pitches-In With Christmas In April

C/CPL Doug Heil

On Saturday, 13 April 1996, eighteen students from the three ROTC branches boarded a bus at Pasquerilla Center. The destination was Rum Village, the South Bend neighborhood where Christmas in April would be held this year. While the students from the Navy and Air Force worked at a warehouse, Cadets Matt Danysch, Rob Fellrath, John Menicucci, Tim Wickham and I were dropped off at 1513 Scott St. Upon leaving the bus, we saw a house without a roof that left exposed many second floor rooms. The old roof had been torn off by volunteer workers from Midland Engineering, a firm that has handled ND roofing assignments ranging from the Administration Building to many of the newer dorms. Immediately the on-site foreman looked at us and said, "Good! The cleaners are here!"

As "cleaners" our job was to remove the few tons of debris from the old roof using shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows. Without hesitation, we got down to work. We filled wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow, dumping the contents into a dumpster the size of two or three cars. After fifty or sixty trips to the dumpster, and two and a half hours, we had completed the job. Just five hours after we first arrived at the site, the

workers from Midland had finished installing the new roof.

However, our job wasn't finished yet. Since Cadet Rob Fellrath had to leave, he agreed to drop us off at our second site a few blocks away. The job was the same as the first site, with a few exceptions. We now had four people with no tools to do the same job in half the time. After rounding up a few shovels, we compensated for our lack of a wheelbarrow by filling a sheet of plywood with debris and

"We filled wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow, dumping the contents into a dumpster the size of two or three cars. After fifty or sixty trips to the dumpster, and two and a half hours, we had completed the job."

manually dumping it in a dumpster. Because there was so much to do, and because we couldn't find a ride back to school, we worked at the site for an hour more than we were asked to.

All who worked for Christmas in April agreed, that despite many hours of difficult work, it was a great experience. ✱