
THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

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Seniors Visit Gettysburg Battlesite

By C/1LT Jeremy Lingenfelter

I put the last chocolate bar into my bag and then stuffed in my sleeping bag. At last we were on our way to Gettysburg. The trip sounded like a good time, but I was wary about the report that we had to do.

The bus ride must have been slightly more than a 10 hour trip. This was a good bonding experience for our class. We exchanged camp stories, watched movies, did homework, or just slept. We also did AAR of advanced camp. This raised a few emotions. After the Battalion Commander heard from everybody, we settled in and waited to arrive at Gettysburg.

Upon arrival we claimed a bunk and prepared to sleep. It was quite late when we arrived, but we all got to our bunks quickly and went to sleep.

Bright and early the next day we were awake. We were out and about looking over the great Gettysburg museum. The first great excitement of our trip was the electric map. The lights lit up

the little round top all the way to cemetery ridge. The battles were being waged right in front of us in the colored lights.

Next we were given a guided tour of the entire Gettysburg area. It was nice to now put the electric map presentation on real soil. You could almost hear the muskets fire as the bus drove past the sights that just minutes ago were only little Christmas lights on an electric map.

Finally came the meat and potatoes of our trip. Each senior was assigned a particular aspect of the battle for study. We all gave our presentations on different sites of the battle-

field. The highlight of all the presentations must have been when a man, dressed in Union garb, sat in on Megan Cavanaugh's presentation. He then added tidbits of information to tell more about the battle.

After a long day of presentations we were all just a little ramshackled. So, after a quick barbeque we headed off to sleep.

The next morning we woke up and Father King said a mass for us at the statue of Father Corby. After the mass we got back on the bus and came back to Notre Dame. It was great experience for all.



Old meets new on Senior staff ride to Gettysburg.

From The Desk of the Professor of Military Science

It's difficult to believe that one-fourth of academic year 97-98 has passed by already. Look at your successful accomplishments thus far--freshman orientation, Senior's accessions, battalion FTX, Ranger Challenge and probably countless academic challenges to name but a few. All accomplished with the enthusiasm and professionalism I've come to expect from you as individuals and a unit.

I'm blessed to be back at Notre Dame and the Fightin' Irish Battalion. While much has changed since I left in 1989, one thing has not - the quality and commitment of our cadets. Our Army needs your special talents and I'm proud to be associated with you.

Welcome to our new Freshmen. I'm pleased to see so many of you volunteering to participate in our activities, like Ranger Challenge. As I said to your parents during Freshman Orientation and I'll reiterate to you--*keep academics as your first priority*. You have all the prerequisites to be a great class, both academically and in Military Science. I hope that you find the Notre Dame and Army experience to be both challenging and rewarding. Be assured that the Cadre and the upperclassmen and women are here to help you through the first year as best we can--don't hesitate to ask.

A special thanks to our Seniors for the superb manner in which they have assumed responsibility for this unit's training. Early on I asked you to step forward and take responsibility for the battalion's training plan and share your experience and expertise with our underclassmen and women. Along with all of the other demands on your time, I know that this is no small task. You've accomplished this in an exemplary manner. As we finish this semester and move into the next, it is even more important that you continue to provide quality training for your battalion efficiently while maintaining high standards.

Soon, Christmas break will be upon us. You have some objectives to seize and secure before that, however--Dixon Challenge and final exams are to name but two. I challenge each of you to maintain your academic focus and continue to do the best you can in each of your courses. Quality study time and working in study groups are two ways to achieve success. Above all, maintain a proper perspective. I'm confident you will succeed.

Once again, I'm glad to be a part of the Fightin' Irish Battalion again and I wish each of you continuing success.

GO IRISH!!

LTC EDWARDS

Irish Battalion Welcomes LTC Edwards

By C/SSG Dan Arney

The 1997 summer brought many changes to the Fighting Irish Battalion. The Battalion started the '97 fall semester with a new Professor of Military Science, and without three Non-Commissioned Officers and one Commissioned Officer. Last Spring the Battalion witnessed the retirements of SFC Murphy and SFC McCullogh, while over the summer the colorful SGM Mier retired. CPT Walsh, last year's MSIII class instructor transferred to Fort Drum and LTC O'Brien, last year's PMS, is now teaching at the United States Military Academy. Even with all of these losses, the battalion is not left shorthanded. CPT Ward and MAJ Luker still have two years on their current tour at Notre Dame.

CPT Link is one of the new faces this year around the office in Pasquerilla Center. He is the new MSIII instructor this year. His previous position was an instructor at the Armor officer training school in Ft. Knox. CPT Link brings a tremendous amount of military and teaching experience to the MSIIIs in their

preparation for camp.

The 1997 Fall semester marks a big change of command for the Fighting Irish. After five years under the tutelage of LTC O'Brien, the battalion has received a new Professor of Military Science. Cadet Command has assigned LTC Michael Edwards to the position of Professor of Military Science at the University of Notre Dame. This is not LTC Edwards' first assignment with the battalion. He was a professor of Military Science during 1986-1989. He also obtained his masters degree from Notre Dame during that time.

LTC Edwards, the son of a fireman, grew up in Philadelphia with two older brothers. His father enlisted in World War II and one of his brothers served as a Commissioned Officer in the Army. For him and his family, serving in the Army was something he would do as a service to his country. LTC Edwards graduated from Xavier University with a BSBA in Management. In 1977 he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army. Throughout his Army career, LTC Edwards has been stationed in a variety of places. He has been to Ft. Polk, Ft.

Levenworth, Ft. Myer, and Camp Smith. He lived in Hawaii, Europe and all over the United States. He has a lot of experience with many different types of jobs and positions in the Army. "All of the jobs have been great jobs. Each one has presented new challenges," said LTC Edwards.

LTC Edwards brings with him many expectations and goals for the battalion in the coming years. He states that his main goal is to "make the transition of commanders as seamless as possible." To do this, he says that he will use the seniors' knowledge and experience as much as possible. He urges all cadets "to make maximum effective use of the seniors' experience at camp. They are the ones that know what is expected to excel over the summer."

LTC Edwards wants to be a commander who successfully completes his mission while continually looking out for the well-being of the cadets. His door is always open for any questions or complaints, for he is always looking for feedback. He looks forward to a successful year where the battalion will excel as a unit and individually.

Freshman Experience

1997

By MS I Emily Tubay

Midway through the Fall '97 semester, this year's Fightin' Irish Battalion freshmen have gotten their first taste of the ARMY way of life. From rappelling at Howe Military Academy and the M-16 exercise at Fort Custer to participating in the Ranger Challenge and Irish Marauder Drill team, the class of 2001 has already racked up quite a list of military experiences.

The individuals who make those experiences possible include not only the Cadre, but the upperclassmen, too. From the opening pizza party at freshman orientation to the weekly labs and classes, the sophomore, junior, and senior cadets have provided guidance, encouragement, and sometimes criticism to the "inexperienced" freshmen.

"I'm really impressed with the organization and leadership of both the upperclassmen and the Cadre. They have been patient and understanding, and helped to make the freshman cadets' transition to Notre Dame and ROTC a success," commented Kara Hamby, MSI.

MSI Chris Marvin adds, "The leadership provided

by the juniors and seniors, along with the Cadre, is great. They really know what they're doing."

That leadership carried over to the September 14 rappelling exercise and, two weeks later, the September 28 excursion to Fort Custer, Michigan. These two trips, taking the place of the battalion's usual Fall FTX, provided many freshmen with first-time experiences in both rappelling and firing a weapon.

"I know it sounds funny, but it really hit home that I was actually in the ARMY when we went on our rappelling and M-16 exercises. The rappelling was fun, but it was also scary. It's

something I'd probably never get to do without ROTC," said Hamby.

After a hard day of firing M-16s and participating in supplementary instruction--land navigation, movement techniques--MSI Casey Bouton got his first taste of marching a platoon.

"I wasn't really nervous about taking control of the freshmen. I went to a military high school so I've been doing that stuff for the last four years. When Capt. Ward asked for a volunteer, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to use my leadership knowledge," Bouton commented.

Overall, the first quarter of the year has provided the Fightin' Irish Battalion class of 2001 with an exciting and challenging introduction to both the university's ROTC program, and the Army in general.



Emily and fellow freshman at orientation.

Ranger Challenge Completes Competition

By C/CPL Elena Raspitha

Another fall semester, another Ranger Challenge competition. This year the Rangers left for Fort Custer training center after an impromptu packing list check revealing that almost every Ranger was missing socks of one color or another (what was that they say about high speed high drag?). After correcting the packing mishap, there was yet another incident. It seems that a dyslexic designer created the Ranger team T-shirts, which sported a backwards ND. This of course adds a whole new meaning to the phrase Ranger CHALLENGED. After a rousing van ride up to Fort Custer, the gear was unloaded. We then realized that our team captain, C/CPT Alice Caruso had lost her voice. For the rest of the weekend she gave orders through whichever cadet happened to be within earshot.

After the test, the Rangers hit the racks for the night. The next morning they were up at 0500 for the PT test. Despite the crowded room the test was conducted in, the Rangers put forth a strong showing on both the Alpha and Bravo teams. Next came the individual events broken up by

road marches ranging from just short of a mile to a mile and a half between each event. The Alpha team started out at weapons assembly/disassembly after the first leg of the road march. Most of the team scored perfectly at that event, partially because of lessons learned last year about avoiding weapons abuse. Bravo team, the all male team, not only scored perfectly on the weapons, but later that afternoon tied for first place with a perfect score at the grenade assault course. As the two Irish Ranger teams advanced through the events, they ran into another obstacle...the rain. Both teams spent the rest of the day in the pouring rain, but successfully completed the remaining events: rope bridge, ranger stakes, and land navigation. At the end of the day both teams were in high spirits after finishing the competition.

The weekend ended early the next morning when all eleven teams assembled to be recognized at the closing ceremonies. However, the Irish Rangers had to overcome one more obstacle before they could leave—the constant heckling from the Michigan teams over Notre Dame's losing football streak. After we had taken all the insults we could tolerate,

we finally changed our team motto. When the Rangers came to attention during the awards ceremony, the entire formation laughed as we sounded off with "Irish Rangers, at least we're better than our football team, Hooah!" After the insults stopped, the Irish were recognized with silver pennants for their respectable sixth and seventh place finishes Overall. All things considered, the weekend ended on a good note. Congratulations to each team member: Alpha team: Alice Caruso, Tanja Roy, Elena Raspitha, Jenn Hinkle, Naomi Freeman, Meagan Burton, Katie Cook, Anton Kemps, and Brendan Burns. Bravo team: Richard Schwartz, Kevin Jinks, Jay Boggs, Brian Sykes, Rob Menz, Kyle Kerrigan, John Valainis, Andrew Hennesey, and Michael Swift.

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Fall FTX

By C/SSG Amanda Dodd &
C/SSG Amanda Fitzsimmons

On the morning of October 5, MSIIIs and IIIIs gathered at various places to 'camo up' and then proceeded to march down St. Mary's Road to be in formation by 0700. Seniors conducted PCIs and rated each squad on the quality of their camouflage. As squad members drew their weapons, one member was required to procure a PRC-77.

Once both platoons were formed up and ready to go, each squad marched to a block of instruction given by the MSIVs. The classes informed cadets on how to cross a linear danger area, actions at the assembly area, actions on the objective, assaulting a bunker, and how to radio to "higher" (which included learning the 9-line MEDIVAC). Each block of instruction lasted 40 minutes and one station even provided candy for highly-motivated cadets. The MSIVs continually emphasized what really happens "at camp." The point of this was to better prepare the juniors for this coming summer.

Cadets were given almost an hour to eat MREs and establish SOPs for the

STX Lanes. Tension was high among the MSIIIs as instructors announced who would be squad leaders and team leaders for the particular lanes. MSIIIs learned how to issue a warning order, write and give an OPOD and conduct rehearsals in 18 minutes. They also got experience establishing ORPs, troop movement techniques, and POW searches. MSIIIs got a chance to be team leaders as well. All cadets were evaluated on the 16 leadership dimensions.

The lanes consisted of the following battle drills: Area Reconnaissance (including an LDA), Hasty Ambush (setting up Claymore Mines), Movement to Contact, Assaulting a Bunker, and a Raid. The OP-4 or Stanford Liberation Force got creative with their attire. Some variations included "Biggie" hats from Wendy's.

For the most part cadets were successful, despite environmental factors out of their control. One cadet's alarm did not go off, causing his whole squad to be late (don't worry - it happens to the best of us). One squad low-crawled across poison ivy and into a hostile beehive, causing much agony for one member who got "bees in his pants." "I got five bee stings on my hands," confessed a surly Lisa Konitzer. Another

squad left their radio at the AAR at the end of the lane, only to have the OP-4 confiscate it and acquire the "friendly" frequency. One cadet had no choice but to abandon her bag while low-crawling toward the enemy (it's still there).

At 1930 squads returned their weapons and radios and formed back into two platoons. LTC Edwards gave a "Hooah" speech to wrap-up the day. He was confident that the "learning curve" would increase as juniors headed towards camp. LTC Edwards thanked the seniors for all their time and effort in planning the event and encouraged the MSIIIs and IIIIs to use what they learned "for next time." Upon dismissal, squad leaders marched their squads over to wash their hands and get in line for Papa John's pizza. The hungry cadets gratefully 'chowed down' the hot food and cold soda, cleaned up the area and headed home.

Remember:

Army Ball - NOV. 14

Find A date **NOW!!!!**

tlfsmc97

ROTC Joe - Home At Last

By C/2LT Paul Grim

Well, the summer is over, and everyone has their own memories that they will take with them from this past summer. But I am not going to write about the hardships that these soldiers had to endure during Advanced Camp, rather about the difficulty that many of them had readjusting to civilian life after graduation. The following is an example of a typical cadet struggling with the transition from camp to civilian life.

ROTC Joe had finally graduated and was set to leave Ft. Lewis, WA and return home for the remainder of the summer. Instead of packing all of his gear in bags the way he did on his way to camp, he just stuffed everything into his cargo pockets for the trip home. Once he arrived at the airport he double-timed over to his departure gate and set up a hasty fighting position with some luggage carts that were nearby. When it was his turn to board, he stood at parade rest in line and wondered to himself why there wasn't a person counting everyone as they boarded the plane. Soon after they were in the air the food arrived. When asked if he

wanted a meal, Joe responded with a hoooaah and told the passenger next to him that she could eat first and he would maintain security. She looked at him sort of funny but decided he was harmless. When he had to go to the bathroom during the flight he asked the passenger next to him if she would be his buddy and go with him, but she just slapped him, so he figured he should wait until he got off the plane to find someone to go with him. A nearby passenger asked him if he had the time, so Joe stood up and stated his name and what school he went to before responding with "1345, sir."

Once he was off the plane he "took charge" and got 12 people, including their luggage, into a single taxi and ordered them not to touch the doors or stick anything out of the windows. After the taxi dropped him off at his house he went around to the side door (because he figured the front was probably for parents only) and saluted his parents. He wanted to take a shower, so, standing at parade rest, he asked his parents when the males in the household had the bathrooms. They told him that he could take a shower when-

ever he wanted. Still a little confused about this freedom he had, he went and took a nice cold shower (assuming that they must already be out of hot water) and changed into his PT shorts and T-shirt without his bare feet ever touching the bathroom floor. Joe asked his parents if there was going to be a platoon lor suad OPOD tonight, but they just respnded by telling him that he should get some sleep. He woke up in the middle of the night and walked around the house for an hour to make sure that it didn't catch on fire, and then he went back to his hooch in the backyard to sleep with the ants and mosquitoes until about 0500.

Things went on pretty much like this for a few weeks for ROTC Joe, until he bacame more adjusted to civilian life. His friends didn't like the idea of marching around everywhere they went (unless they were double-timing because there was only two of them), and his girlfriend found it kind of strange that he insisted on calling his mom at the beginning of one of their dates because he forgot to leave a GOTWA with her. However, they all decided to give him the benefit of the doubt. By the time ROTC Joe returned to his university, he was back to his old self and no longer said "over" every time he was done speaking to someone on the phone.