

The Shamrock

The official newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

Gentlemen, The Professor of Military Science

Notre Dame Army ROTC's new Professor of Military Science offers some words of advice and encouragement.

Welcome to a seminal year in the life of the Fightin' Irish Battalion! Starting with our Freshmen Orientation in August, we began a campaign to achieve success and "Return Army ROTC to Glory!" at the University of Notre Dame during the 2003-2004 School Year. This campaign involves a number of significant changes, and I want to use this opportunity to present and explain some of these changes so that everyone associated with the Fightin' Irish Battalion knows what we are trying to do and where we are headed. We are off to a fantastic start, and I couldn't be happier with the efforts of the cadets and cadre towards this end.

One of the first and most basic changes we have made is to determine, develop, and publish a Battalion mission statement. Our mission is to establish and maintain an effective Army ROTC program at the University of Notre Dame that educates, trains, develops, and inspires participants to become officers and leaders of character for the US Army and the nation. We are working to develop cadets as well as cadre members, and to accomplish this endeavor, we have established a common vision for the future, developed a plan for realizing that vision, and, so far, we are executing the plan aggressively, effectively, and to standard.

We are pursuing a vision of creating the nation's premier Army ROTC program that develops effective leaders at all levels, is fully integrated with and supportive of the Army and the University of Notre Dame, and that provides the participants with challenging and meaningful opportunities to develop themselves and one another into leaders of character for the US Army and the nation. To accomplish

these objectives, we are focusing on developing effective leaders, improving the program, and accomplishing our contracting and commissioning missions by providing the participants with quality education and training, powering down to the cadets, and taking care of the cadre and cadets.



The critical aspects to achieving success are to emphasize the second and fourth elements of the Cadet Leader Development Program: *Cadets*, and *Development*. In perhaps the most significant change enacted to date, this battalion has become an organization that is predominantly run by cadets in the areas of training, leader development, and chain-of-command responsibilities, meaning that cadets conduct the majority of the planning, executing, and assessing for and of battalion activities. In addition, the program has also assumed a developmental focus that emphasizes the process of leadership rather than the outcome of the events. This change has required that the cadre and cadets accept the possibility of failure in certain activities throughout the year and treat such instances as learning opportunities that al-

low leaders to develop instead of merely permitting participants to practice leading.

We are using a Leadership Development Model designed specifically to help us develop the specific leader competencies that will allow the members of the Battalion to grow and become effective leaders of character. Stated briefly, we will provide the cadets with the necessary education and training and then place them into multiple

leadership opportunities that are varied, challenging, and which have the potential for conflict and failure, and then we will provide the cadets with numerous assessments of their performance from both their fellow cadets and the cadre. After making the necessary adjustments and providing them with the requisite education and training, we will place them in another leadership position and repeat the cycle as many times as possible for each cadet. Using this model, we will strive to produce the best possible leaders of character and officers for the US Army and the nation.

We have also adopted a battalion song, "Garry Owen," and a greeting of the day. Cadets now offer the greeting, "Fightin' Irish, Sir," and receive a response of, "Keep Up the Fight!" as a motivational and inspirational challenge. The look and feel of the Battalion has changed significantly, and I believe that the changes are positive and infectious.

I challenge everyone to maintain, extend, and enhance this new and exciting spirit to help the Battalion achieve its objectives and "Return to Glory" by becoming one of the top Army ROTC units in the nation.

Keep Up the Fight!

Kelly C. Jordan, Ph.D.
LTC, IN
PMS

Welcome Back Fightin' Irish Battalion

by Cadet LTC Michael Bielecki

Fightin' Irish Battalion,

First I would like to welcome everyone back for another great year here at the Fightin' Irish Battalion of Notre Dame. Our Battalion has experienced enormous growth in the past six weeks since school started, both in the number of cadets enrolled as well as in the knowledge and experience of each cadet. One of the foremost reasons for this growth has been the addition of our new PMS, LTC Kelly Jordan. LTC Jordan's vision and enthusiasm has empowered and motivated this Battalion towards success and achievement. The actions of each and every one of you are what will keep this momentum flowing.

The achievements of this Battalion began this past summer as many of our cadets trained in some of the best learning environments the Army has to offer. The MSIV class took part in the National Advanced Leadership Camp at Ft. Lewis, WA, with cadets from ROTC programs from across the country. NALC proved to be the culmination of three years worth of hard work as the MSIV's established themselves as some of the nation's best, finishing above the national average on the APFT, land navigation, and BRM. Additional training took cadets across the country. Three cadets attended Ft. Benning, GA, where they completed Airborne training and earned their wings with five successful jumps apiece. One cadet had a successful CTLT experience at Ft. Stewart, GA, shadowing an AG officer for three weeks. Two cadets helped train special

forces at Robin Sage in Ft. Bragg, NC. One cadet flew out to Schofield Barracks, HI, to rappel out of helicopters at the Air Assault School. Most recently, one cadet made the journey up to Ft. Greely, Alaska, to conquer the cold of Northern Warfare.

As the summer drew to an end, a staff of cadets came back to campus a week early to help welcome the new MSI class into the Battalion. Twenty-four new MSI's took place in the Freshman Orientation. Arriving on Monday, these cadets spent the week learning some of the basics of military life such as proper wear of the BDU, basic D&C, customs and courtesies, and how to eat an MRE. Highlights of the week included the rock climbing wall, the Ranger Challenge demo, the scavenger hunt, and the tour of camps in a UH-60. I would like to specifically thank the cadre and the Freshman Orientation staff for their hard work and effort in ensuring that all new cadets received a proper welcome into the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

Already the Fightin' Irish Battalion has been setting itself up to succeed this year. The Army ROTC clubs completely exemplify the work ethic and determination of the cadets. The Ranger Challenge Team has been practicing every morning at 0530 since the beginning of September in preparation for this year's competition at Camp Atterbury. Cadet CPT Miller has been leading the team onto the road of success through his intense training schedule and leadership presence. The Color guard and Drill Team have been meeting each week under the guidance of Cadet MAJ Dean and Cadet 1SG Kane preparing for future competitions in this area, as well as providing special details for sporting events. Cadet 1SG Collins and Cadet 1SG Brown are leading the Rifle Team towards success. Now in its third year back in Army ROTC, the Rifle Team's ultimate goal is the National Competition held this summer.

Over the weekend of October 3-5 the Battalion participated in its first large-scale event, the Fall FTX at Ft. Custer, MI. The weather was cold and damp but spirits were not as cadets received their first opportunity of the year to display their technical and tactical skills. Friday allowed the MSII's and III's to practice day and night land navigation, while the MSI's learned basic squad tactics and were able to join in on the night land navigation. Saturday started off early with day land navigation and Field Leadership Reaction Courses (FLRC) for the MSI's to get their first taste of the "take charge minute." The MSII's and III's participated in squad Situational Training Exercises (STX) where they were able to knock out bunkers and conduct recons, attacks, ambushes and movements to contact. The day ended with a bivouac site that allowed cadets to sleep out under the stars of the chill Michigan night. Sunday concluded the training exercises. The MSI's received their first chance to conduct missions at the STX lanes, while the MSII's and III's completed their own FLRC courses. The weekend culminated as the Battalion flew back to campus on four UH-60 Blackhawks. While the weekend was long, motivation never faltered as the Battalion increased not only in knowledge, but also in esprit de corps.

Over the next two months of the semester there will be multiple events to help build the Battalion into a stronger

unit. Commander's Cup football and soccer will allow Army to flex its muscles and beat up on the Navy and Air Force. Class football will give each class the opportunity to come together in an effort to defeat the other classes in the most competitive inter-Battalion event of the year. On a more sociable note, the Army Ball will take place in mid-November as an entertaining function for all cadets. A formal dinner will be followed by the dance, where all cadets have the opportunity to showcase their moves on the dance floor. The semester will conclude with Dixon Challenge as each Platoon competes for victory through the tactical and technical knowledge that they have learned throughout the semester.

As this year progresses I am poised and ready to lead this Battalion towards success. Those that have preceded me have laid the foundation, and I am now in a position to continue the building process. My staff of MSIV's has been hard at work to formulate the policies and strategies to increase the proficiency of each MS class as well as each individual cadet. While each one of you is a part of the finest Army ROTC program in the country, you are all also students at the best learning institutions in the country. First and foremost, you are students with schoolwork and education being of the utmost importance. My hope is that ROTC will impart the leadership ability and the work ethic onto each of you to ensure you succeed not only here in school, but also in every aspect of your lives. Work hard and play hard. While this year will be filled with many challenges for us to overcome on both an individual and on a Battalion level, it will also be filled with many opportunities for us to come together in friendship and sociability as we strive towards a common mission.

And as always, remember to keep faith in God, Country, Notre Dame!

Freshman Orientation

by Cadet Liam Moran

Every few years, an MS class comes along that forever revolutionizes the world of Army ROTC at the University of Notre Dame. This fall, one such class made its debut at freshman orientation. Needless to say, above-mentioned debut was a smashing success. For many new cadets, arriving on campus was an awkward state of affairs. Quite a few came from families with military backgrounds. Others did not. Regardless, they stepped on campus as dirty, un-coordinated, foolhardy teenagers. They were in dire need of a good squaring-away.

Enter the cadre and cadet cadre of The Fighting Irish Battalion. Under the new leadership of battalion commander LTC Kelly Jordan and cadet battalion commander c/LTC Michael Bielecki, the battalion came in full force to welcome new cadets. Returning cadets sacrificed the precious last days of their summer in order to conduct training. From the start, they did a fantastic job.

The first day was a blur for the cadets. Parents were excited. Cadre were excited. New cadets were excited, but still un-squared away. That would not last for long. After social events and time with parents, cadets returned to temporary billets to prepare their equipment. Of course, by prepare I mean shine

and by equipment I mean boots. The next day, real training began

Returning cadets gave instruction on techniques, equipment, uniform and physical training. This led to the much-anticipated D&C session with kind-hearted drill instructor MSG Scott Shippy. MSG Shippy inspired the cadets to stay motivated by announcing in a loud and thunderous voice, "It's on, it's on like Donkey Kong!" No one knew what it meant, but it sounded cool.

Each night new cadets returned to temporary billets. Living in community allowed new cadets to get to know older cadets and each other. More relaxed events, such as the scavenger hunt, furthered the edification of cadet relationships. By the time they were sworn in by LTC Jordan, the freshmen were a tight unit.

The week came to a climax when new cadets were given the ride of their life aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Spectators watched in awe as the helicopter flew high into the air like a balloon. The doors-open chopper ride gave cadets a hands-on demonstration of the might of the United States Army. It was a ridiculously amusing end to an exciting week.

As the new cadets were released for the weekend, they walked taller, spoke clearer, and said, "Hooah!" a little more often. They were officially squared away for what is to be an incredibly successful four years in The Fighting Irish Battalion.

Ready, Willing and Able!

Air Assault Training in Sunny Hawaii

After three weeks of intensive pre-Airborne/Air assault training last February, I had the honor of being chosen to attend Air Assault School. A month later, I received the news that my training would take place directly following my NALC graduation at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. What better way to spend my post-NALC time than in the sunny state of Hawaii. As I exited the plane my heart was pounding at the amazing mountainous terrain and scenery that surrounded me. Little did I know that my "fun" was only just beginning.

Training started on Friday with Zero-Day. This day is intended to weed out the weak through intensive physical activity. It started with the Air Assault sergeants smoking us for an hour and a half in the "pit" with exercises such as push-ups, flutter kicks, and low crawls to name a few. This session was followed by a strenuous obstacle course containing such obstacles as the weaver, the tower, and the rope climb. After a refreshing jump in a pool of red Hawaii mud, the day ended with a 2 mile run up and down the hills of Hawaii.

After completion of Zero-Day, 10 more training days fol-

Airborne, All the Way!

by Cadet MAJ Colin Moran

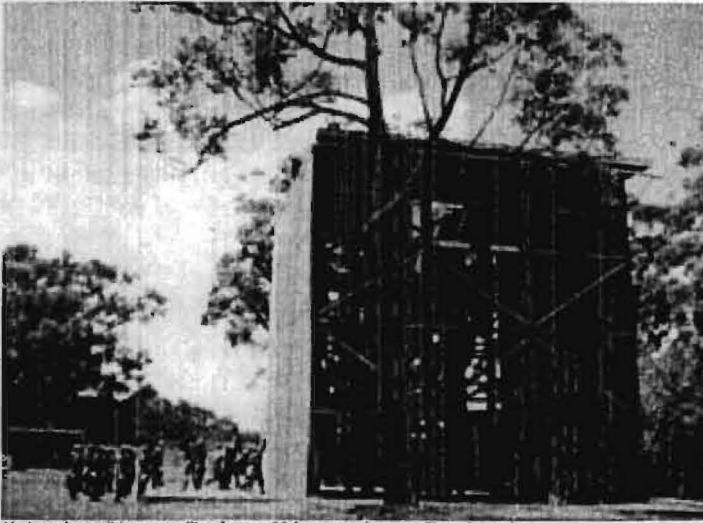
"Airborne, Airborne, all the way, Airborne, Airborne, every day!" That was the theme for three Notre Dame Army ROTC Cadets this summer as they spent three weeks at Ft. Benning, Georgia, earning the coveted silver wings of the Airborne and the title: Paratrooper.

For Cadets Colin Moran, Avery Mortimer, and Sean Pearl, the journey began last February as they participated in the Fightin' Irish Battalion's Pre-Airborne Training. These 15 days full of painful and punishing Physical Training (PT) conditions cadets both mentally and physically for the rigors of Airborne school. The Cadre of this course consists of Airborne qualified MSIVs who train and evaluate each potential candidate for Airborne School. At the end of the course, those who demonstrate the highest levels of mental alertness, physical fitness, and motivation are selected to attend the Basic Airborne Course over the summer.

Airborne School is comprised of three weeks of training: Ground Week, Tower Week, and Jump Week. Ground Week focuses on physical training, orientation to the harness, jump procedures, and the Parachute Landing Fall (PLF). Only the strong survive this week of demanding PT and endless hours of instruction. PT becomes more challenging during Tower Week, where the skills learned during Ground Week are put to the test. The PLF is perfected, jump commands become second nature, and intestinal fortitude is tested as students jump from the 34-foot and 250 foot towers. The weak and faint hearted have dropped from the course, and the strong have survived to face Jump Week.

The five days of Jump Week are dedicated to successfully completing five static line jumps at 1250 feet from military aircraft, and with any luck, graduation. Beginning early in the morning and extend late into the night, these days are filled with pre-jump instruction, inspections, waiting, waiting, more waiting, and finally a jump from either a C-130 Hercules or a C-17 Globemaster. The hot days in the sun, the PT runs, the PLFs, and the long hours in the harness shed are all made worthwhile once a student exits the aircraft and begins his or her journey to earth. "I've never been so scared in my life, I nearly wet myself....Definitely a hoo-ah experience." Says MSII Cadet Avery Motimer. MSII Cadet Sean Pearl adds, "Airborne school: It was hot as hell, but the coolest experience of my life. Airborne!"

If you are interested in becoming a Airborne Paratrooper, talk to those cadets who proudly wear their wings upon their chest....with a little work you too can become one of the best. "Hunters from the sky...Death from above...Airborne all the way!"



Air Assault candidates rappelling from a 50 foot rappel tower. Photo by author.

lowed broken up into three phases. The first phase consisted of Pathfinder operations where we learned how to set up a PZ/LZ as well as hand and arm signals to direct helicopters. The second phase was the Slingload phase. During this phase we learned the proper techniques for slingloading equipment to helicopters and the correct way to inspect these loads. The third and final phase was the rappelling phase, which entailed 15 tower rappels. The capstone event for this phase was the helicopter rappel out of a UH-60 Blackhawk 90 ft above the ground. After the completion of these nine days, the only event that remained was the 12-mile ruck march. Known as one of the hardest courses in the Army, this ruck march consists of many steep hills in the heat of Hawaii. The final three miles are completely uphill and is affectionately termed "the Trail of Tears." After two straight weeks of laborious training and exhaustive studying, it was all worth it as I crossed the finish line and knew what it felt to truly be AIR ASSAULT!



Air Assault candidates executing a "fast rope" from a UH-60 Blackhawk. Photo by author.

God, Country, Notre Dame

Endurance: One Cadet's Expedition to Northern Warfare School

P-Rob's incredible voyage to sunny Alaska

In an attempt to disrupt my summer in addition to the usual school year hassles, the US Army decided to send me off to Alaska. Now, let's get serious, Alaska's not all bad (it did give us Moran after all)—and I guess *anywhere* that the temperature doesn't exceed 40 degrees and you don't see B.O.B. for two weeks straight can be pretty miserable. If it weren't for the weather, though, I wouldn't really have much to complain about. The training was far more entertaining and practical than air assault school; the likelihood of me seeing a mountain while living in Colorado far exceeds that of rappelling from a helicopter ever again.

The Basic Mountaineering Course is what the army calls a "Gentlemen's Course". This means it is directed toward current unit leaders (NCO's and company grade officers) and the instructors are more concerned with what you get out of the course than making you do pushups.

Although I make light of the interruption to my summer full of basking in the sun (and by basking in the sun I mean working sixty hours a week) I do consider myself very lucky to receive this opportunity. The skills I developed will allow me to spend my summers to come climbing mountains and trying not to fall off cliffs.

The learning curve at BMC is about as steep as they come. The day of arrival is mostly spent in-processing and doing the usual get-acquainted-with-your-surroundings activities, but after that you are constantly assimila-



The relatively flat terrain of Alaska. Photo by author.



A Mountain MEDEVAC via OH-60 Blackhawk. Photo by author.

ting information. Beginning with knots and working up to advanced systems that integrate many mountaineering concepts, perfection becomes a standard not the exception.

Land navigation was a new part of the BMC this summer. In past years more emphasis has been placed on skills to aid in moving through mountainous terrain. This year though, land navigation provided students with practical experience in moving across and around elevation and vegetation created obstacles. Paths around alders (thick brush with branches as thick as forearms) and other obstacles become your best friend, even if they don't seem to be heading quite in the right direction. A far cry from Ft. Custer's infamous land navigation course, the Black Rapids Training Site provided opportunities to utilize many previously mastered classroom skills (resection, modified resection) that, for the most part, seemed futile.

The course culminates with an over night field training exercise. This excursion provides students with an opportunity to set up and live the life of a mountain patrol base. Activities here include purifying water, sparking wood, and building hooches—too much fun. A local aviation unit also made the time to come out and put on a MEDEVAC demonstration for the class where students actively participated in hoisting 'casualties'.

All and all the BMC course at the Northern Warfare Training Center provides superior training to all those looking for some extra-hooah fun to have over the summer. Be prepared to carry lots of stuff on your back and stay up late at night practicing installations. Make sure to bring foot powder and lots of beef jerky.

*Hiemes Oppugnamus et Montes Superamus
Battle Cold and Conquer Mountains*

CTLT: A Taste of the Regular Army

So, what are you going to do now that you're at CTLT? "I'm going to Disney World!"

by Cadet MAJ David Dean

After I completed National Advanced Leadership Camp this summer I packed my bags and headed off to Fort Stewart, GA. I participated in Cadet Command's Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) that allows cadets to serve as second lieutenants for a three-week period with an active duty unit.

At Fort Stewart I was assigned to the 3d Soldier Support Battalion, a mixture of Adjutant General and Finance personnel. My sponsoring officer was CPT Kimball, the Personnel Operations Officer for the battalion and an AG officer. I was given a multitude of responsibilities including overseeing redeployment activities of the battalion as they returned from Iraq. I also helped to supervise distribution and compilation of the E7 promotion board results, the largest board of the year. During my time at Stewart I also got the opportunity to listen to talks from the XVIII Airborne Corps commander and the commander of FORSCOM.

In addition to my duties with the 3d SSB I managed to meet a multitude of officers in a variety of branches from Armored Cavalry to Transportation to Engineers. I had an opportunity to spend entire days with other units as well including an MI battalion and one of the division artillery battalions. A few of the highlights of my time included sitting in on training and staff meetings to get a better idea of how the actual Army functions and spending a day in the motor pool of the 3-7th Cavalry.

On the weekends my sponsor encouraged me to explore the surroundings areas of Georgia and Florida. I spent a good deal of time in Savannah, on the beaches of Georgia and even made a weekend trip to Disney World in Orlando.

CTLT was a wonderful experience to see how the real Army functions and trains. I gained insight into the day-to-day life of a second lieutenant, including leadership responsibilities and possible assignments in the AG branch. I was also able to further my own professional development through talks with a variety of officers and learn through their own experiences. CTLT was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to put his or her leadership skills into action in a real world environment.

Hey! Bravo Company

by Cadet CPT Bobby McBride

Well, the year has just begun and I am already impressed with the quality of cadets in Bravo Company. As you should all know by now, I am c/CPT Robert McBride, your Company Commander for the semester. Our company has a lot of good training as well as good times ahead of us in the next few months. The Fall FTX in Ft. Custer will be a great learning experience for all and it will give all of you a chance to put the battle drills you have learned into practice on some complete STX missions. In addition, you will all get a chance to perfect your skills in both day and night land navigation. The Army ball will also give you all a chance to dress up, learn from some quality guest speakers, and dance with all of your long-time or newly-met friends in the Battalion.

Some friendly pieces of advice to set you all up for success this semester are stay in shape, get a good jump on your classes early on this year, and above all, be confident in the skills you have learned in your classes, at labs, and from your fellow cadets. Confidence is one of the keys to success in leadership, and from the training you all will receive in Bravo Company and in the Fightin' Irish Battalion there is no reason you should feel otherwise. I am looking forward to being your Company Commander and witnessing you all grow this semester. Keep working hard Bravo and you will all see that when we train for the worst, we truly become the best!

Go Irish!

Ranger Challenge Team Does Great and Wonderous things at Camp Atterbury

16 hard chargers have what it takes.

In the beginning of the fall semester, 16 cadets trained for about a month and a half in preparation for the Ranger Challenge Competition. The first day of training set the standard. Cadets were required to complete the Ranger PT test-2 minutes of push ups, 2 minutes of sit ups, and a 5 mile run-despite the pouring rain that morning. They were going to train hard, and they were going to train no matter what. During the weeks leading up to the competition, cadets had training 2 hours in the morning 4 days a week. Training consisted of 25 down push up slopes, cadet MAJ Moran ab workouts

(rumor has it that videos of his workouts are being requested), distance runs, 5-6 mile ruck marches every Friday, and skills training—FM 7-8 knowledge, rope bridging, hand grenades, and weapons disassembly/reassembly.

Cadets returned early from fall break to leave for Camp Attebury on 24 October. The three day competition began that Friday evening with the F-M 7-8 test. Saturday morning the Irish Rangers competed in the PT test followed by the rope bridge event, hand grenade course, land navigation, weapons disassembly/reassembly, and the marksmanship competition. It began to rain mid-day but that did not stop the Irish Rangers. The 9 man team faced some problems with technical issues but their motivation never faltered. Sunday was the 10k ruck march. The 5 man team stepped off first and quickly passed any possible competition. Minutes later the 9 man team stepped off strong and determined. Overall the 9 man team finished 7th and the 5 man team took 1st place. The weekend tested the cadets' tactical skills, physical strength, and mental endurance. The Irish Rangers proved that their training, team leadership, and unity were not only superior but would lead though every event no matter what the circumstances.

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Form Follows Function

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