

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 6, 2000

The purpose of the Shamrock is to be both an informational and enjoyable publication for both current and prospective cadets, cadre, alumni, and friends of the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

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## Battalion Commander's Corner

Fightin' Irish,

The Battalion is off and running with a full head of steam this year! It feels like Freshman Orientation was just last week. As I've been maneuvering around Pasquerilla Center as well as labs and PTs, I'm very pleased with the attitude and the performance that I've witnessed. Above all, I am very proud of the effort that each of you has put forth so far this year. Continue to focus your determination



towards safe mission accomplishment and always keep a positive mental attitude in each of your endeavors, not only in ROTC, but also in your academic and social lives. Having just wrapped up our first PT test, we're progressing very well through our training. I must remind you, however, not to rest on your heels anytime soon. Stay motivated, stay aggressive, and keep putting forth that desire to learn—soak up as much information as you possibly can. No question is a stupid question.

One condition that we all must make a more conscious effort to avoid is, simply put, "screwing your buddy." I certainly will not tolerate that behavior. So, volunteer for details, without the coercion of your 1SGs. Take initiative to help out your fellow cadets with projects that might be occupying their time. Ask to be more involved by perhaps performing small tasks that need to be completed. Of paramount importance—if you've committed yourself to doing something, DO IT!!! If you cannot make a detail that you've signed up to do, find your replacement. Simply not showing up and then giving an excuse to your superior is unsatisfactory and very demonstrative of your inability to take initiative.

Keep up the great work, but always yearn for constant and never ending improvement. Enjoy the FTX; no one should graduate college without going! Be safe and may God continue to watch over each of you and keep you safe.

Yours under the dome,

**Geoffrey J. Heiple**



Survivors of the dreaded CS gas chamber at Advanced Camp share a sigh of relief during NBC training day.

## Ft. Benning in August...

Ft. Benning is not my favorite place to be in August. It gets a little warm down there. Nevertheless, I found myself down there for 3 ½ weeks at the end of this summer. Army Airborne school was a great experience, and I highly recommend it to any cadet who is willing to put in a little work. After a few days of in-processing, class 37-00 of Delta Rock went into Ground week. We learned how to properly don a parachute harness, and we got to do fun stuff like jumping from the 34' tower zip lines. The class also spends a few days bouncing themselves off the ground in sawdust pits learning how to do Parachute Landing Falls (PLF's).

A drop from the 250' Tower highlights tower week. The down side is the Swing Landing Trainer. You just have to experience that one. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, you are ready to take on Jump Week.

Jump Week is full of long days in uncomfortable harnesses. Your first jump makes up for all of it though. There is no feeling like stepping out of the side of a C-130 at 1250 feet and 125 knots. All of my jumps went fairly well, and I made it to Friday's graduation ceremony with no problems. Airborne school is a great experience that I recommend to anyone. Getting your wings pinned on your chest makes all the work you did getting there worth it.

Before you get to Benning, you have to make it through pre-Airborne in February. That's something you can learn about later, though.

**Dan McCoy**

*(more on Airborne on page 5)*

**Questions? Comments?  
Feedback? Write us at  
army@nd.edu**

## **WELCOME !**

Welcome to this year's first edition of *The Shamrock*. We hope that you will find it both informational and enjoyable. As a result of our commander's intent, more attention has been given to this publication, in hopes that it will serve as a source of pride for the Fightin' Irish Battalion. Many things have been changed from years past. Four editions will be printed (yes, printed) this year. Additionally, the newsletter will be mailed home to parents, alumni, and friends of the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

The newsletter would not be a success without the hard work of Jill Clifford. Above all, a special thanks goes out to all of the cadets who contributed to the newsletter. This publication can only be as good as the articles that are submitted. We welcome any articles and article suggestions, comments, and feedback

that you might have. You can reach us at [army@nd.edu](mailto:army@nd.edu).

Finally, I would like to make a quick pitch to you. Another result of our commander's intent is to dramatically improve our web page. As a result, we are working very hard to produce a completely new and revamped web page. It should be uploaded by early November and new pages will be introduced weekly. Please stop by and check it out at [www.nd.edu/~army](http://www.nd.edu/~army). You will know when it has changed!

Again, thank you, and enjoy the newsletter!

**Matt Graziano**  
Battalion S-6

## **Battalion Calendar**

<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Battalion Run (0630)</b>
<b>13-15</b>	<b>Ranger Challenge Competition</b>
<b>14-22</b>	<b>Mid-Semester Break</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>APFT (Halloween)</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Veteran's Day Ceremony / Military Ball</b>
<b>23-26</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Battalion APFT</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Dixon Challenge</b>
<b>7-10</b>	<b>Notre Dame Study Days</b>
<b>11-15</b>	<b>Final Exams</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Winter Break Begins</b>

## Color Guard News



The Irish Marauder Drill Team has grown again this year. We now have a quarter of the battalion participating in the drill team. So far, we have already conducted five practices as well as conducted four color guards. One of those color guards was in front of 80,000 fans packed into Notre

Dame Stadium for the Purdue game. We have also had a very successful concession stand that will enable the drill team to do some different things this year. In sum, the Irish Marauder Drill Team continues to be successful and I am excited about the future.

**Casey Bouton**

*“... value your  
NCOs— especially  
as a new  
Lieutenant.”*

## CTLT at Fort Huachuca

I spent the last three weeks of my summer doing CTLT in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. I had the opportunity to work with a Military Intelligence Aviation unit. Ft. Huachuca is a TRADOC installation, so the focus of the battalion (305th MI Bn) was training. We worked with Unmanned-Aerial vehicles (UAVs)— basically remote control airplanes that can be flown behind enemy lines to gather intelligence, as well as with army fixed-wing aircraft. My sponsor was a 2LT in the Company Executive Officer position, so I

spent part of my time as the assistant XO and the rest of the time as a Platoon Leader for the Operations platoon. I worked more closely with my Platoon Sergeant than anyone else. The most important lesson that I learned was how necessary it is to value your NCOs—especially as a new Lieutenant. Remember, you are in charge, but you are not working alone and your PSG is a huge asset and he/she is really your link to your soldiers.

**Meagan Burton**

**Coming Soon (early Nov.)... brand new web page! Check it out at [www.nd.edu/~army](http://www.nd.edu/~army)**

# AIRBORNE!!

This summer, five Notre Dame ROTC cadets flung their weak and meager bodies out of a perfectly good airplane. Why, you ask? Because Phil Modica ('02), Bill Fusz ('02), Dan McCoy ('02), Lisa Sestile ('02), and Emily "Coolest Senior" Tubay ('01) desired to join an elite class of soldiers known simply as "Paratroopers."

Fort Benning, GA is not only the home of the Infantry, but also houses the only school in the United States Army that trains soldiers to become Airborne. The three week course is designed to teach cadets, officers, NCOs and enlisted personnel the fundamentals of parachuting, including exit of the aircraft, deployment of chute, deployment of reserve, proper jump techniques, and – most importantly – executing a safe landing.

"My blackhat told me that any landing you can walk away from is a good one," says Lisa Sestile. "Luckily all my landings were good, but there were some people who were not as fortunate."

Along with eight hour training days, students of the Airborne School endured vigorous physical training and unbearable heat.

"The first couple of days we were at Airborne school, the heat index was over 110 degrees. I sweat like a pig," claims MSIII Dan McCoy.

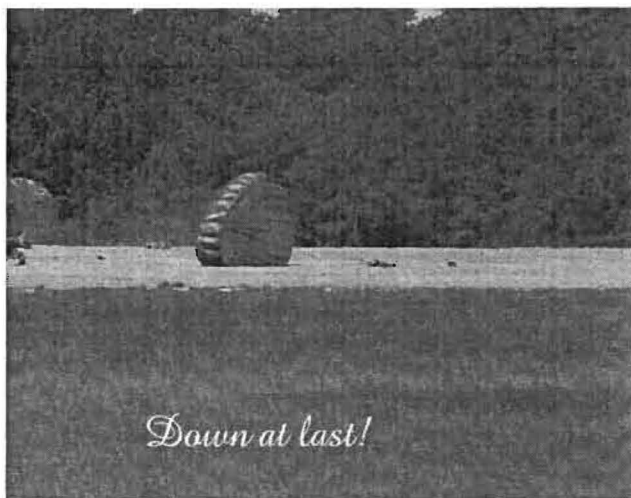
Airborne school consists of three phases: Ground week, Tower week, and Jump week. The first

phase is when students learn the fundamentals of donning the parachute harness, movement inside the aircraft, exiting the aircraft, and executing a proper landing, referred to as parachute landing fall (PLF). Tower week combines all the skills learned in ground week, and students must qualify on their exit and landing from the 34-foot and 250-foot tower. This week is also used to teach pupils how to steer the chute and avoid dangerous situations like collisions and tree landings. The final week, Jump week, consists of five jumps from either a C-131 or C-140 military aircraft. All jumps must be completed successfully to attain the coveted silver wings.

"Was I scared? Heck, yeah! But when you're up there, things just come naturally. After all the training you've received and all the practice you've had, it's not even necessary to think about anything except the scenic ride down," explains Phil Modica.

All in all, the five cadets who traveled to Fort Benning this summer were successful. Of course, this would not have happened without the Airborne Pre-training that cadets must first complete here at the University. Once cadets finish the training program, they are ready for both the physical demands and the technical expertise required at the U.S. Army Airborne School.

DEATH FROM ABOVE!!! That's all I have to say. –  
**Emily Tubay**



# CTLT Anyone?...

## Not in Kansas Anymore

This past summer, following the completely enjoyable experience, better known as ROTC Advanced Camp, I received the opportunity to train with an Armor Battalion at Ft. Riley, Kansas, through the CTLT program. While posted there, I was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment. I assumed the position of Platoon Leader for 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Alpha Company. When I arrived, I was told I was going out to the field—fantastic I thought, that’s just what I wanted to do after 10 days of it at camp. However, I was put in a position to immediately contribute to my platoon through Tank Table Qualifications at the Tank Gunnery Range. Due to my platoon’s shortness on tank crews, I was quickly trained in tank basics and thrust into the spotlight as a loader for Tank Tables VIII and XII. I helped to qualify my tank first run on both tables.

CTLT offered me excitement and challenges at a very quick pace. Besides fulfilling my duties as a loader, I supervised maintenance at the motor pool during off days, practiced the responsibilities of a platoon leader, taught classes to my platoon on various tank tactics, and improved my understanding of how a tank battalion operates by studying specialty platoons and participating

*“As for quotes from camp...you*

*REEEEEEEALY*

*don’t want a quote from me on camp.”*

*Geoffrey Heiple*

in their Officer Development Program. Furthermore, childhood fantasies came alive as I found myself in both the gunner’s seat and the driver’s seat for screening range operations and Platoon Field Training Exercises.

For fun in the sun following camp, I recommend no better opportunity than CTLT. Ft. Riley was a beautiful, historic post (formerly the HQ of Gen. Custer) and being in such close proximity to Kansas State University, the social scene was appealing. I even had the chance to visit with former ND AROTC instructor, 1SG Hagel-Pitt! I received some excellent hands-on training prior to my commissioning and even more importantly, my experience there is what has overwhelmingly convinced me to pursue a career in the armor branch, following graduation. Even if you don’t go to Ft. Riley or decide not to check out armor, seek a worthwhile, exciting opportunity with CTLT.

**Geoff Heiple**

## CTLT at Ft. Carson, CO

CTLT at Ft. Carson was a great learning experience. I worked with an AG officer in a Personnel Service BN. I didn’t really get to do much myself but I was able to observe and learn what a commander of a PSB detachment does on a daily basis.

Ft. Carson is one of the most requested Army bases and I can see why. It is located in the foothills of Colorado, in Colorado Springs and it is close to the Air Force Academy and not too far from Denver either. Given the opportunity, I definitely recommend going there.

**Denise Severns**



# Senior Quotes

Cadets train for Advanced Camp for three years. The camp itself lasts only five weeks, and is often described as being stressful and full of anxiety. This year's graduates (seniors) offer some helpful guidance:

“Bring bug spray or else you will die!!!!”

“Locate, triangulate, annotate....on shot-one kill.”

“Be prepared to listen to prior service people complain that they shot expert a week ago but can't seem to zero now.”

“I had a bad tac, it's all tac-dependent so I got screwed”(sadly enough this is true but everyone who didn't get an “E” will chime away with this) **C.Nash** “Bobcats lead the way”

“It helps to have a good attitude, but I can tell you now that when I arrived at the SEATAC airport, I had 34 days and a wake-up until I left. The countdown helps more.”  
**Jill Clifford**

“Whatever you can learn from this year, don't stress camp. All of the confusion over minor details will all come together once you're there.” **Shenna Bradshaw**

“My advice for current MSIIIs can be summed up in one word: confidence. You are from Notre Dame, you've received excellent training and feedback from cadets and cadre alike. Whether or not you feel like it, you will be prepared by the time you get to Ft. Lewis. Vote Emily Tubay as the Year's Coolest ROTC Senior.” **Emily Tubay**

“You have to gain respect from your fellow cadets; if they can look you in the eye and trust and have confidence in you, they will follow you to the end of the earth; if they look at you and see an idiot, you're screwed.” **Matt Graziano**

“Stay motivated! I know motivation is stressed big

time here on campus, but once you go to advanced camp you will realize how important it really is. As long as you treat everything like a learning experience and keep up a good attitude, you'll do fine and camp will be over before you know it.” **Chris O'Malley** (nicknamed “the axe murderer” at camp)

“Make the most of it—have a good time, be confident in your abilities and the rest will fall in place. Platoon leader in garrison—**DON'T MICROMANAGE**; trust your subordinates.” **Meagan Burton**

“Always remember that relative to most of the other cadets, you will be over-prepared for camp if you use this year wisely. When you get out there, just take things as they come and get through the days one at a time.”  
**John Valainis**

“You will have no privacy and love it, have large quantities of food that you cannot eat, sing cadences when you don't feel like it, make friends with people you do not want to know, receive medical treatment for conditions you do not have, return from the worst experiences in your entire life and absolutely love it!!” **Bob Miske**

“Camp was a great experience because I made it so. Stay positive. Enjoy yourself and the friendships you will begin.” **Casey Bouton**

*“Of all the things you do in life, such as establishing yourself in the military, getting married, having children, buying cars and houses, going on exotic vacations to places like Fiji, Advanced Camp is definitely 10 times more important than all of these put together. So don't screw up, or the rest of your life will go down the drain.”* **Andrew Hennessy**  
\*\*editor's favorite



# Tri-Military Events

Commander's Cup Sports will be kicked off on Sunday September 24th with a round-robin football tournament between the Army, Navy and Air Force followed by volleyball and a possible new addition of soccer to the annual competition. Along with these competitions, the tri-military council is also working to add army, navy and air force teams to the Irish Iron Classic during second semester.

In fund-raising and volunteer activities, the three services will be contributing students to help set up and distribute water for runners at the South Bend Salmon Chase Walk, 5K and 10K on October 1st as well as running a tri-military concession stand and display for the Air Force football game on October 28th.

Finally, the biggest and most anticipated tri-military event of the semester will be the joint Veteran's Day Ceremony and Military Ball during the evening of November 10th. The Military Ball will take place following the ceremony at the Century Center in downtown South Bend. Parents arriving for the Boston College game are cordially invited to attend both the ceremony and the ball. Please make all parent reservations with Cadet Major Miske as soon as their attendance is confirmed.

We look forward to standing out amongst the services this year and putting our best foot forward in all upcoming events.

**Robert Miske**

*"Emboldened, my legs move up and down to the beat of a timeless drum that those before me surely knew and those after me will know in time."*

## Ranger Challenge

I inhale. I exhale. I lend my breath to the crisp morning air as it parts around me, going its own way as I go mine. I wish it well in passing. My heart pumps in time to the ebb and flow of the world around me- I am lost in its designs. As I flounder and sink I hear a whisper: "*Do not fear- we are the same.*" Hearing and seeing and feeling the truth all around me I cease my struggle and fall into the whisper as it falls into me. We are the same, indistinguishable- life from life. Emboldened, my legs move up and down to the beat of a timeless drum that those before me surely knew and those after me will know in time. I am more alive now than I ever will be. I more aware of my body than ever- more aware of the way it moves, the way it feels, the way that is part of something greater than itself. These are the thoughts running through my mind as I run- these and the thought of how good breakfast is going to taste.

Folks, I would introduce you to the Ranger Challenge Team: a month and a half of hardcore training culminating in a weekend competition held at Ft. Custer. I would invite you to actualize your potential: to strengthen your body, bolster your resolve, learn key skills, forge friendships that will last forever, and just have an all-round smashingly good time.

Ranger training involves a combination of physical and skill training. The physical aspect concentrates on upper body strength and cardiovascular fitness. These ends are met mainly through pushups, sit-ups, and running. The running varies between quick, shoe- running to ruck-runs with full gear. However the Ranger trains, be assured he or she will get stronger and faster.

The skills learned in Ranger Challenge are necessary for a cadet to successfully complete ROTC and make the transition to being an officer. Rope bridging, land-navigation, knowledge, weapons assembly/disassembly: you will find all these *cont'd on p. 9*



Rope Bridge Event at the Ranger Challenge Competition



## Bravo Company Commander's Corner

For this issue's BCC, I would merely like to introduce myself. My name is Anton Kems and I am the guy in the picture. As the Bravo Company Commander, I look to lead the company through the perspective of everyone who is not me, I too was once not a senior. It is through this philosophy that I feel the company will achieve its greatest success. If the cadets of Bravo Company don't want to participate in what it is we are doing as an ROTC unit, then it is my job and the job of the company NCOs to spark their intrigue. If a person does not enjoy, or at least look to enjoy what they are doing now in ROTC, then how will they ever enjoy it when it comes time for the real thing? It is



myself, Lt. O'Malley, and 1st Sgt. Day that lead Bravo Company into a semester of lofty goals and continuous improvement.

**Company Commando Kems**



### ***Ranger challenge cont'd...***

skills indispensable in your four years here at Notre Dame and beyond. Be smart and learn these skills early on- don't do tomorrow what can be done today.

The Ranger Challenge Team usually involves fourteen cadets broken down into a five and nine person team along with the involved cadre. On the journey from being 14 cadets to being a *team* you will develop a sense of togetherness that will manifest itself in great friendships and in a great deal of learning. You *will* learn from the best cadets Notre Dame and the US Army ROTC program have to offer. Someday, you may be in a position to impart



Cadet Andrews and her fellow Advanced Camp cadets take a breather after running through the Audie Murphy Assault Course.

the knowledge you have learned along the way.

The culmination of a month and a half of Ranger training is the competition at Ft. Custer. Over the course of three days you will have the opportunity to measure yourself and your team up against other teams from schools like the University of Michigan, Michigan State, and Purdue. If you've trained hard and long enough, and if you have the burning desire to win, you just might come out on top. But don't take my word for it. Find out for yourself.

*Rangers lead the way!*

**Richard Knox**

## Alpha Acorns: We're not your ordinary nuts



*"These Acorns have selflessly volunteered for details and other ROTC necessities, worked hard during lab to understand information challenged themselves at PT, and worked out on their own."*

Alpha company has gotten off to a great start so far this year, and things are only expected to get even better. With 1SG Colin Welch, this year is sure to be an educational and fun year. "I'm so glad that I ended up in Alpha Company. We have really great MSIIIs and our MSIV leadership is fantastic," said Susan Kutz.

Some of the goals for Alpha Company are to be the Honor Company, have a beneficial and helpful FTX, and to bring the PT average up. However, these nuts are not only about winning. An emphasis is placed on training and involvement within the battalion. The Company Commander and XO (Andrews and McNeill, respectively) have high expectations for the MSIIIs and their leadership this year. PTs and labs have been and are sure to continue to be interactive and informative.

The road to these goals has already been paved, as these Acorns have selflessly volunteered for details and other ROTC necessities, worked hard during lab to understand information, challenged themselves at PT, and worked out on their own.



Many cadets have already joined the Ranger Challenge team, and almost 2/3 of the company plans on playing Commander's Cup football. Running buddies have been established and are working hard at improving outside of PT.

The future looks good for these nuts. With hard work, determination, and dedication, Alpha Company will continue to have a great semester. In the words of Nick Anhut, "Wow, I've never seen a company with such potential. I think it is our great leadership that makes us so strong. Andrews and McNeill- Wow, if I can be half the cadets that they are, I'll be happy!"

**Kristi Andrews**

## Freshman Orientation

Freshman orientation this year was a success! Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate as we would have liked. The mass at the grotto, the enlistment oath at Stonehenge, and the rope bridge demonstration were all unable to take place in their intended locations. Part of being a leader is being flexible and we were able to make the necessary changes. However, when I was a freshman the rope bridge demonstration was just incredible and that is why I am involved in Ranger Challenge currently...something I highly recommend to everyone. Never fear though freshman, from what I hear from the seniors returning from camp, you will get more than enough experience with the rope bridge all too soon. I hope that the new MSIs all feel a growing pride at being involved in Notre Dame's Army ROTC program as much as I did when I pledged the oath during Freshman Orientation.

**Susan Kutz**