

University of Notre Dame Army ROTC

THE SHAMROCK

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ATLAS Prayer Service c/ Shane Larson

On a cold, windy night amidst the hectic energy of midterm examinations, the ATLAS (Alliance to Lead and Serve) participated in a prayer service at the grotto. MSI Allie Carrick led the service, with the help of her friends and members of her residence hall, Pangborn. An interesting aspect of the service was that students selected everything from the speakers to the programs. The event was highlighted by prayers and reflections led by cadets and cadre alike. Some of these words revolved around scripture, while others offered personal sentiments, thoughts, actions, and prayers.

The keynote reflection was led by Capt. J.R. Reynolds and consisted of insight into his experiences during Operation Enduring Freedom and a deployment to Afghanistan. Reynolds informed his audience that his faith allowed him to conquer the trials and tribulations associated with deployment of nearly a year in duration. Perhaps the most unique aspect of his monologue was his reading of a small book which he had carried throughout his deployment, which enclosed the prayers, and words of encouragement of his coworkers. With several marked passages, Reynolds was able to ascertain strength to persevere and remain motivated throughout his tenure in Afghanistan. (Continue on page 5)



Drill Competition c/ Tara O'Brien

On March 4th, the Irish marauders Drill Team held a competition in Stepan Center. Members of the drill team put forth much effort into making the competition a success, and numerous schools were invited to participate. Unfortunately, none of the teams were able to attend this year. After putting so much hard work into the competition over the course of the past semester the Drill Team was determined to put their skills to the test despite the lack of competition from other schools. As a result, we improvised by breaking up into two teams one led by Cadet Samudio, the other led by Cadet Henebery. The two teams proceeded into a heated competition against one another.

Although they were competing against fellow Irish Marauders, everybody put forth their best effort. The competition was a success allowing all members of the Drill Team to understand how the process of drill competitions would normally progress. The competition between the teams had a close finish. However, Cadet Samudio's team managed to pull through at the end and become the overall winners. In the end, regardless of who won and lost the competition, the important part was that each member of the drill team demonstrated **their ability to compete in a drill competition** along with showing how much they had improved over the past year.

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MSIIIs Prepare for LDAC c/ Philip Mauro

There are only a few more months left until the MSIIIs attend Warrior Forge this summer. The close proximity of Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) has certainly been in the minds of the junior class as we hasten to prepare ourselves. The Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) left us with a good feel for what LDAC will be like, and where we need to improve. First of all, each of us is working hard to improve our level physical fitness, not only for the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) but also to gain the endurance which will be needed for continual training and operations.

Simulated Squad Training Exercises (SSTX) are an important part of LDAC, and each MSIII has been meeting with his or her MSIV mentor to go over the Operations Order (OPORD) and the battle drills processes. The mentors have been providing us with OPORDs to practice, and continually offer advice as to how we can improve both our leadership and our tactical proficiency. The MSIIIs are also working on garrison OPORDs, with which we have had little exposure to. For five weeks during the semester, the MSIIIs were given one OPORD per lab. We had to compose and brief a Warning Order (WARNO) immediately, and then execute the mission the subsequent week at lab. This provided the MSIIIs an opportunity to participate in each battle drill, as well as an occasion to speak to their mentors about that particular drill. The culmination of this process was the CFTX, which allowed the MSIIIs to put into practice what we had learned by conducting SSTX with cadets from other schools. The CFTX confirmed that the ability of Fightin' Irish Battalion cadets to lead missions is superior to that of most other schools. (Continue on page 5)



Fightin' Irish Battalion Recruiting c/ Jason Richter

This semester the Fighting Irish Battalion has rolled out a new, innovative battalion recruiting mission with the purpose of maintaining and growing our cadet population. The recruiting mission is being spearheaded by cadets throughout the battalion with the support and guidance of the Fighting Irish cadre. In particular c/CPT Welte, the cadet battalion recruiting operations officer, has developed a unique system that fosters competition both individually and amongst member units of the Fighting Irish Battalion. This new Recruiting Incentive Program (RIP) is the vehicle in which to deliver both leads and new contracted cadets to the battalion. It is powered by the competition of individual, platoon, and company recruiting efforts.

Each company within the battalion has developed their own unique unit plans in order to aid in the successful accomplishment of overall recruiting mission. In particular cadets are scheduled to volunteer at recruiting informational tables at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and IUSB. Also cadets have taken an active role in placing recruiting posters or "table tents" in dorms, dining halls and student activity centers. There was a recruiting event organized as a paintball competition between the MSIs and MSIIIs, where the members of each class were encouraged to invite possible recruits to the event. The competition was during one of the labs, in which the MSIIIs were learning the garrison OPORD process. (Continue on page 5)



Dooley-White c/ Elaine Kamykowski

Dooley-White is an organization founded last school year in order to address the needs of a growing female population of ROTC cadets in all branches of the military. The club was named for Patricia Dooley, a current Colonel who teaches chemistry at West Point, and Belinda White, a retired Lieutenant Colonel. Both these women were the first Army ROTC cadets to graduate from Notre Dame in 1978. Through their example, female ROTC members learn how to be better leaders and future officers.

The Dooley-White organization meets monthly and has done a wide variety of activities to promote leadership and awareness of a variety of issues in the military. We have been fortunate this year to see an increase in attendance from last year, and hope for a great turnout for our final meeting of the year. All cadets, male or female, are encouraged to participate, and usually, food will be provided as an incentive.

For our first meeting this year, we had a barbeque and were able to meet cadets from Air Force ROTC and Navy ROTC. The casual atmosphere and good food allowed us to enjoy each other's company and learn a few things about the other ROTC programs. In October, we received one hour block of instruction on self-defense. Besides a few minor bruises, everybody seemed to have a great time and learn some important techniques if one is ever placed in an uncomfortable situation. In November, we were able to teach our new self-defense skills to a local Girl Scout troop of middle school aged girls. We were able to pass on our knowledge, and hopefully, benefit some younger girls in the community. In February, we watched GI Jane and ate snacks and soda. After the movie, we discussed what issues were pertinent to us as cadets and what our reactions were to the movie. The year has gone well, and we plan to finish the year with an interesting guest speaker. (Continue on pg. 5)



MSIV Trip To Ft. Knox, Kentucky c/ Douglas Purucker

The adventure began with the commander's intent to obtain commissioning uniforms for the senior class, but fate had another idea. Most of the senior class embarked on a long journey to Ft. Knox, for about 7 hours in the Battalion vans, intent upon purchasing their class A uniforms, but most were not able to meet the goal. Only a few cadets were able to find assistance and their correct size. The Clothing Sales was not prepared to handle the number of cadets despite the efforts made to warn them when we would be arriving and the approximate sizes we would need.

We arrived the night before the shopping spree began. We had an excellent meal at Applebee's and had the honor of visiting the home of c/CPT Nagorski. His knowledge of the post led us to one of the many bonding experiences the trip provided. He directed us to the only all ranks club on post. It was country night so several of us felt at home, and we were able to show our excellent skills on the dance floor. Most of the cadets shot darts while a few others enjoyed displaying their talent on the pool table. Some of us chose to stay at the billets for a relaxing bonding experience, where they spent time reflecting on their four years in the ROTC program. (Continue on page 7)



Combined Field Training Exercise c/ Peter DeMoss

The MSIIIs ventured off to the beautiful Fort Custer this past week to participate in the Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX), along with cadets from the University of Michigan, Michigan State, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, and Western Michigan. Notre Dame cadets gave a good showing in the field, and learned a great deal from their TACs, their MSIV evaluators, and from their fellow cadets. In addition to sleeping little and dining on only the finest of MREs and exquisite catered lasagna, the MSIIIs also conducted garrison operations, night land navigation and Squad STX lanes.

The weekend began on Friday, the 31st of March, and continued until April 2nd. MSIII cadets from all the schools involved quickly assumed their roles, as squad leaders up through regimental commander, and took charge of the over 329 participating cadets. After the regimental activation ceremony, which proceeded smoothly despite some earlier rains, the various squads went on to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the remainder of the weekend, and a few lucky souls even managed to get some sleep that night. A few cracks before dawn, cadets were up and moving to meet the strict timeline and get to training areas in time to conduct five two-hour STX lanes. The STX training allowed Notre Dame MSIIIs, as well as the MSIIIs from the other schools, to practice leading squads in a tactical environment. Missions for the STX lanes ranged from recons to ambushes, and squad attacks to movements to contact. All cadets, from the various levels of expertise received valuable training.

After ten hours of STX lanes, chow was served, and religious services were held. After this brief respite, night land navigation training was held. As soon as land navigation training was complete, cadets hustled back to the barracks to get some much needed fireguard duty before another busy day. Sunday morning held another two STX lanes, as well as cleaning up the barracks before leaving. By 1300, the regiment was deactivated, and clocks were moved forward with Daylight Savings time. A quick van ride, the Fightin' Irish Battalion MSIIIs and some MSIVs returned to Pasquerilla Center, where the rest of the MSIVs were awaiting with the weapons cleaning equipment. After a one hour of cleaning weapons, the MSIIIs and MSIVs were dismissed. The CFTX was a valuable learning experience for all the cadets involved, and provided a valuable learning experience before the MSIIIs head off to LDAC this summer.



Food and Merriment c/ Perryn White

The Fightin' Irish Battalion is able to see each other without the grime of the field, the sleek shine of matted down hair, or the unique scent of weapons cleaning only once each year during the Army Ball. The Army Ball was on a cold night in February 24, 2006. The ball was held in the unique and celebrated Monogram room of the Joyce Arts and Crafts Center (JACC), something that's normally only reserved for the elite. There were more unfamiliar faces mingling in the crowd this year than in years past, because our Battalion was graced by the presence of many parents of our ROTC cadets.

The author of the commended book *Platoon Leader* was another important guest at the ball. Colonel McDonough, ret. gave a riveting speech that inspired many for their journey that lay ahead. The senior class triumphantly entered through the saber arch, proving to all the threes in the crowd that junior year and the training that goes with it really are possible. The small, vacant table at the back of the room was a reminder to all, of our many fallen comrades. New members of the Order of the Holy Cross were Knighted or Dammed in a unique ceremony involving a sword used by the Fightin' Irish Battalion in the civil war. Sean Pearl reached the highest level of the Order of the Holy Cross, being elevated to Grand Master for his excellent participation during his three years in the Fightin Irish Battalion at Notre Dame.

The gold bar recruiter acquired another job that evening, adding to the long and varying job description as a staff member in the Battalion. Lieutenant Brown did a stunning job as DJ. The cadets danced the night away. Once all energy was spent dancing, grooving, moving, or flopping about on the dance floor, the tuckered out cadets soon retreated back to their dorms.



ATLAS Prayer Service (Continued from page 1)

With nearly twenty-five participants, the event started with every individual holding a prayer candle, listening to the words of ROTC Chaplain and Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Father Peter Rocca. Cadets attended the event from every service and civilians, as well. Songs of praise emanated from these students throughout the prayer service, adding to the sense of communal reverence and intention for the Armed Forces abroad and a lasting peace. The prayer service lasted nearly half an hour and was culminated by the playing of taps on two bugles, as the participants looked upon Saint Mary, the patron saint of Notre Dame who adorns the grotto. Student reaction to the service was very positive; the prayer service personifies the mission of ATLAS, which is to foster leadership through community service.

MSIIs Prepare for LDAC (Continued from page 2)

In a few weeks, the MSIIs will be qualifying on the M16, so this week most will attend a marksmanship course taught by MSG Shippy. The qualification shoot marks the first opportunity this year for the MSIIs to fire live rounds, and each of us is looking forward to the opportunity to get out on the range.

SFC Gibbs, one of the MSII instructors, has served as a wellspring for our class. He brings his years of combat experience to class, and initializes tactical thinking by encouraging the MSIIs to put themselves in the minds of their enemy. In addition, CPT Dukeman taught the MSIIs how to call for indirect fire, a skill which is not only useful but can put Notre Dame cadets a step above their peers at LDAC. Also, every two weeks the MSIIs conducts ruck marches for junior training. These marches help us to gain endurance, as well as acclimate ourselves to ruck marching, as we will conduct numerous marches during our time at LDAC. Some MSIIs will be working to improve their Land Navigation Skills, and all of us will be fervently reading our Field Manuals, FM7-8 in particular.

Our class has a lot of preparation to do, but we are determined to make our battalion proud. The CFTX showed us that we can succeed at LDAC, and now we must hone our skills to exceed the standards set last year. We are, as always, "Willing and Able."

Fightin' Irish Battalion Recruiting (Continued from page 2)

However, the most successfully aspect of the new recruiting drive has been made by the efforts of individual cadets generating leads. HHC was glad to lay claim to c/MSG Henebery, who single handedly brought in 5 solid leads for the month of March. Our recruiting message emphasizes our leadership development aspects, service opportunities, the fun and support available to members of the cadet battalion. With this message and the involvement of all cadets through the competitive and pro-active RIP, the Fighting Irish Battalion has received a significant surge in interested prospective students or leads. With the continued support of the Fighting Irish Battalion cadets, our battalion will continue to grow, and serve the community, while at the same time producing leaders of character. We look forward to the continued support of the friends and families who support the battalion in welcoming all of the new cadets sure to join our proud Fighting Irish Battalion!

Dooley-White (Continued from page 3)

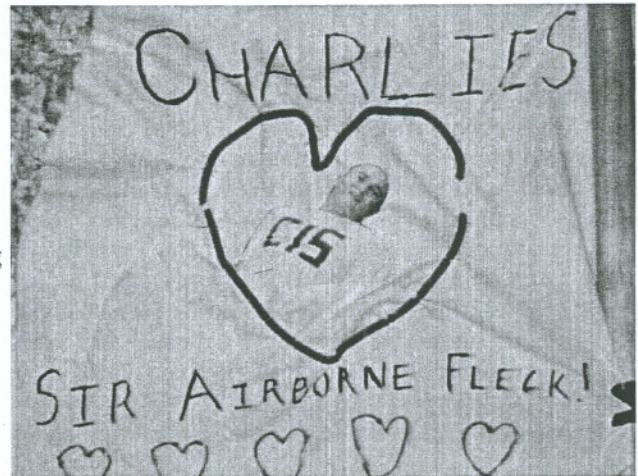
On April 6th, Colonel Pearl, Laura and Meghan Frechettes' mother, will come and talk about balancing a military career while having a family and compare Army reserves to Army active duty. The speaker provided a beneficial lesson filled with some interesting statistics on the number of women in the service comparing both reserve and active duty numbers. She also commented on her personal struggle of juggling a family with her career life, where she felt that she could not master either life. I hope that there will be a better turnout for next year's Dooley-White, both males and females in the Fightin' Irish Battalion can gain some knowledge and have fun!

Rock These Britches c/ Hayden Piscal

I figured I would know what to expect coming into Summer Training Program (affectionately known as Pre-Airborne) this year. However, once I was informed I was class leader, all expectations were thrown out the window and the butterflies commenced. Memories of last year's class leader being constantly berated flooded my mind, and the mental preparation began. I was not even worried about the physical pain anymore, but simply wondering how I was going to perform as the leader of this class.

Looking back on those three grueling weeks, I can honestly say I have had an absolute blast serving as class leader. There has been pain, and multitudes of it in the form of sprints, ruck marches, and the "day of 1000 push-ups," just to name a few. But there have also been some amazingly priceless moments that made it all worthwhile. Ask anyone in STP to perform the "Nature Anthem" and you are sure to be entertained, and I gladly did extra push-ups every morning just to hear whatever came out of Jim Bramanti's mouth. The cadre has been tough, yet extremely motivational, and I know they have gotten amusement out of some of our antics in the morning. SGT Mountain/You Guys/Computer/Balthazar/John Jacob Jingle Heimer Schmidt/George Foreman/Rikki Tikki Tabi in particular seemed to get great enjoyment out of asking us ridiculous random questions in addition to our Airborne/Air Assault knowledge every morning.

I cannot begin to express how much I have learned and grown over those last two weeks. This was my first experience in a real leadership position, and I learned so much from it. For example, it is much harder than most believe to arrive somewhere at EXACTLY 0545, a feat I'm pretty sure we only achieved once in two weeks; and no matter how many times you remind people, someone is going to forget their BDU top before the ruck march. But in all seriousness, I am very thankful for this opportunity, and went through the training this year with an entirely different perspective from last year. I am extremely proud of every single one of the other seven people who went through it this year, and could not have asked for better support when I was trying to figure things out. I feel as though we have bonded as a class, from the changing of our motto (the black hats were not a fan of our vulgarity), to the stories and commiserating at breakfast, the push-ups we did for each other, and the support that was present throughout the entirety of the training. STP '06, we Rocked These Britches!



MSIV Trip To Ft. Knox, Kentucky (Continued from page 3)

There were even some makeshift potato sack races, when the rest of the cadets returned to the billets. The championship race was between our current XO, c/MAJ Hooper-Yan and BC, c/LTC Lero. However, the race was never finished, because of interruptions by people walking in the halls. It was refreshing to see my classmates in a different setting, since they're usual obligations to school and ROTC seem to keep them from bonding in this manner.

Overall the Ft. Knox trip provided the senior class with a bonding experience. Even though, some were not able to purchase their Class As that day, we were able to buy their branch insignias, berets, and various other equipment that we will need after graduation.



Once is Good; Twice is a Pattern; and the Third Time Will Be the Charm! LTC Kelly Jordan

For the second year in a row, the Fightin' Irish Battalion has again been named the best large battalion in the brigade and ranked in the top 15 percent in the Nation as one of the 40 Best Programs in the country. This is quite an accomplishment, and you all should be justifiably proud of your performance. We have not received these types of ratings consistently in more than a decade, and they are indicative of our own (along with the football team's) "Return to Glory."

Things were looking up for the battalion after receiving this type of recognition the first time, but it could have simply been the result of a particularly talented class of MS IIIs, or luck, or any number of other reasons. All of us can recall "One Hit Wonders" that did something remarkable once and were never heard from again. They are regarded as oddities that showed a flash of brilliance and then faded ignominiously from view and are remembered as little more than answers to obscure trivia questions. By repeating, we have shown that this program has substance and is capable of sustaining excellence. It also demonstrates that, "The Fight Is Back!" in the Fightin' Irish Battalion!

I want to caution us against, however, rushing to judgment and declaring "Mission Accomplished" too soon; we still have a lot of work to do to maintain this standard of excellence we have set for ourselves and solidify our reputation as one of the Nation's finest Army ROTC programs. Our MS IIIs have the majority of the responsibility to go to LDAC and perform as well or better than the previous two classes, which means having a majority earn "E"s, having at least 6 cadets earn the coveted RECONDO badge, and having a combined APFT average of 275 or higher with no cadet scoring lower than 250. That is a tall order to fill, but I believe that our training program has prepared our MS IIIs well to achieve this objective, and I am confident that they will succeed.

Those cadets participating in other forms of summer training have a stake in helping us achieve this goal as well. Every cadet who attends a school needs to graduate, and those participating in other types of programs (CTLT, etc.) need to represent our battalion in the best possible fashion. Remember, you may be the only cadet that someone meets from the Fightin' Irish Battalion, so your performance will establish the program's reputation completely for that individual. Take care to represent us well! For those not participating in training this summer, you can contribute by working out hard and returning to campus in the best possible physical condition and ready to function as effective leaders of character.

With the large class of MS IVs we will have next year, we have the opportunity to "Play for the National Championship" of Army ROTC and receive a rating as the best large battalion in the country. This is an awesome opportunity, as very few college students ever have the opportunity to be on a competitive team ranked first in the nation, and it would be a superb way to solidify our reputation as one of the country's top Army ROTC programs and leave a meaningful legacy of your time in the battalion. This program received such a distinction once before, in 1996, and it would be a real feather in our cap if we were able to earn that distinction again.

I urge all of you to revel in the glory of your accomplishment and rededicate yourselves to doing your very best to contribute to the Battalion's future success and **Keep Up the Fight!**



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- LTC Kelly Jordan