

University of Notre Dame Army ROTC

THE SHAMROCK

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Commander's Address to the Battalion c/ Maggie Lero

Welcome back, Fightin' Irish Battalion! I hope everyone had a safe, restful, and enjoyable winter vacation and is re-energized to begin another semester of school. This semester, I have been given the honor of serving you, my fellow cadets, as your Battalion Commander. c/ LTC Tanner Fleck led by example throughout his term as Battalion Commander and I know his shoes will be hard to fill. However, I am grateful to be given this challenge and I vow to follow his tradition of leading from the front. My last position was as the Battalion c/S1, or personnel officer, and, as a result, I spent a lot of time in the cadet office. This semester, I look forward to spending time with the cadets and getting to know all of you.

Last semester, c/LTC Fleck introduced a new concept to the Battalion's operations placing emphasis on establishing and maintaining a certain quality of life for its cadets. Not only did we have fewer mandatory Battalion events, we also more strictly adhered to the time lines, made the Fall FTX shorter and more enjoyable, and placed a needed focus on academics in addition to ROTC. Many of our Battalion events were more organized, more efficient, and more fun than in the past. (Continued pg 5)



Tri-Military Run c/ Gregory Basset

On November 10, 2005 the Notre Dame ROTC tri-military conducted the first recorded tri-military training event together in the history of the Battalion. From 0630 until 0700 all of Notre Dame's ROTC department completed a two mile run around the eastern part of campus. The Fightin' Irish Battalion was more than happy to show up both the Air Force and Navy while running in company formations with cadets calling cadences.

The new president of Notre Dame, Father John I. Jenkins C.S.C., an avid runner, set the pace on the run. Afterwards we gathered around him for his speech. Father Jenkins expressed his pleasure that Notre Dame has such a strong connection with both its ROTC Department and the military as a whole, a connection that is not present at most other top schools. He talked about the Notre Dame Continental Cadets of 1858 and Father Corby serving with the Irish Brigade in the Civil War. He also spoke about the Naval ROTC program that kept Notre Dame afloat during World War II and how during the Vietnam War 1,600 cadets studied here at Our Lady's campus. He also expressed the gratitude that he, the faculty, and the students have for the sacrifices that the students make to become officers in the United States military in order to defend this nation.

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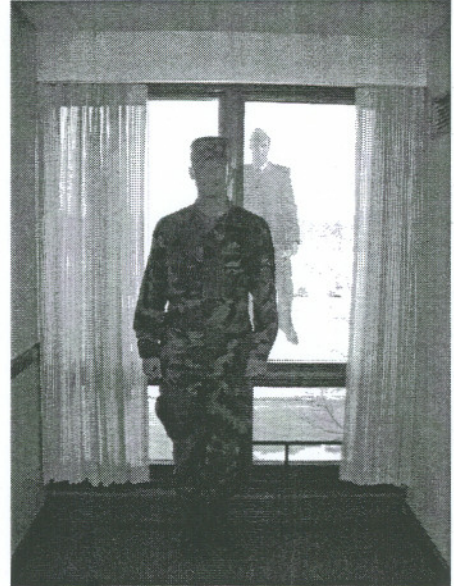
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Crossing Into the Green c/ Russel Fu

As some of you know I was a cadet in the Air Force ROTC program last year. I have been asked several times how I like the Army as opposed to the Air Force and the only answer I can give is, "It is completely different." I can understand how this might not be a fulfilling answer seeing as there is always a healthy competition between the three ROTC programs here at Notre Dame and each wants to be recognized as the best. I will attempt to explain several of the differences and show how it is hard to give a comparison.

While both programs are designed to train and develop cadets into future officers in the armed services, they use different methods. The largest difference I have seen comes during our time at Leadership Lab. In the Army, we use lab as a time to apply what we have learned in the classroom into the physical world. The Air Force on the other hand used lab as an opportunity to focus more on leadership inspiration. Many of the labs last year consisted of an hour long speech from a high-ranking officer about his/her career, followed by an hour of drill and ceremony. While both forms of lab are efficient in training a future officer, I feel that the physical training the Army does builds a higher camaraderie amongst the cadets.

A second disparity is the pre-summer camp training. The Army cadets attend LDAC after being MSIII's, Air Force cadets attend field training after their sophomore year. Therefore, much of the leadership was placed on sophomores with the upperclassmen guiding them. Here in the army, cadets have an extra year to learn how to lead and what is proper doctrine before heading off to LDAC. (Continued on page 8)



Veteran's Day Ceremony c/ Corrie Brisson

As they rise to "wake the echoes" on a golden November morning, it is clear that the spirit of the past is an important aspect of the Notre Dame community, but for the Fightin' Irish Battalion remembering the past became particularly important as they led Notre Dame in honoring America's veterans. Through a series of events leading up to Veteran's Day weekend, the ROTC department celebrated the spirit of all members of the Armed Forces, and especially those men and women who paid the ultimate price for freedom.



The events began on Thursday Nov. 10, with a Veteran's Day Tri-Military Run. Father John Jenkins, University of Notre Dame President, joined members of Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC, in a two and half-mile *esprit de corps* run around the campus. Afterwards he thanked cadets for answering the call to service.

Later that day ROTC cadets began a 24-hour Vigil in front of the Clark Fountain, the University of Notre Dame's memorial to those who served in World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and Korea. During the Vigil, cadets from all three services stood guard at each side of the fountain in honor of America's veterans, prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Cadets from Army ROTC participated in a yellow-ribbon campaign outside the Dining Halls of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College, on Thursday evening and Friday morning of November 11, 2005. Members of the service group Alliance to Lead and Serve (ATLAS) passed out yellow ribbons to students with attached messages reminding them of the importance of Veteran's Day, and encouraging them to come to the Veteran's Day ceremony.

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Where Are They Now? MAJ Dave Wood

Hello Fighting Irish Battalion! It just seems like yesterday I was a part of the best ROTC Battalion in Cadet Command and readying MSIIIs for LDAC at Fort Lewis, WA. That was over two and a half years ago and since, Sara, the cats and I have endured a roller coaster ride of schools and assignments.

In July 03, I left *Our Lady* for the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Upon completion, I was off to Fort Riley, Kansas, my current duty station, for a one-year stint as the G3 Chief of Plans where I spent a majority of my time training and deploying two units for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF): The 42nd Infantry Division from New York and the 48th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from Georgia.

Currently I serve as the Battalion XO for the "Iron Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment (1-16 IN). 1-16 IN is one of the oldest Infantry battalions in the Army and through the years has distinguished itself as one of the best combat units in the force. 1-16 IN is part of 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red 1) and is currently scheduled to deploy a portion of the battalion, and brigade, to Iraq to assist coalition forces in combating the ongoing insurgency. (Continued on page 9)



MSIV Staff Ride c/ Patrick Nagorski

"We must learn history or else we are condemned to repeat it." We have heard those words many times along our path through secondary and higher education onto our military careers. Those words are certainly true. Time moves along and societies and cultures change, but human nature does not. We will tend to do the same things wrong that our forefathers did if we do not learn from their mistakes. And in our business of leading troops into combat against a tough, determined enemy, grave mistakes are an expense that we cannot pay. One of the best ways for all in the military profession to learn from the mistakes and successes of the past is to go on a military staff ride.

The military staff ride is a field trip to a historic battlefield done to learn what was done right and what was done wrong and then integrate that knowledge into one's own professional acumen. Staff ride members each take the part of one leader on either side and then fight the battle all over again in order to get a ground-eye view on what actually occurred and how the battle was fought. It can be as intense as a full-scale reenactment to as leisurely as a tour of different places on the field. Even the very least of these is beneficial to the interested leader.

The MSIV cadets of the **Notre Dame Army ROTC Fightin' Irish Battalion** took a staff ride to the town of Lafayette, Indiana in the Fall of 2005. In this quiet town lies a small piece of ground that holds grand importance in the history of this nation.

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ROTC Battalion Revisits Tradition c/ Kristopher Schmautz

Since the founding of the United States Army in 1775, the idea of fellowship has been prevalent. Soldiers coming together to share their time, discussing a common faith and experiences in service. Last fall, the members of Notre Dame's Army ROTC Battalion got to experience once again, a long standing tradition with a Prayer Breakfast.

Begin the morning with a two mile battalion run in the cool fall morning. Brought together under the banner of personal betterment, camaraderie and of course a little breakfast, the battalion completed the two mile run with high spirits. After grabbing some food for breakfast, the cadets were addressed by a figurehead of the catholic and protestant faith with words of encouragement, and insight to the challenges that they would face in the military. They were told that as men and women of faith leading troops in today's military, they would be looked to for guidance and support.

Father Bill Lies of Alumni Hall, Notre Dame University and Chaplain Jim Brisson of Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, both addressed the battalion. Father Lies counseled the cadets on living their lives as a role model for their troops. To live a life of thoughtful compassion will help lead their troops to being good soldiers.

Chaplain James Brisson discussed the Lord's Prayer and its significance to the cadets getting ready to commission in the Army, but also what it meant to him after his time and experiences in service.

"It allowed the cadets to share in an Army tradition and also celebrate one of the best things about going to Notre Dame, its Catholic faith and heritage," said Cadet Captain Maggie Lero, personnel officer of the ROTC battalion. The hope is that this event will not be the last but rather the beginning of a yearly tradition to bring the cadets back to the traditions of the Army.



Senior Branches c/ Larissa Rodrigues Fugate

Seniors did a great job at camp and made the Fightin' Irish Battalion Proud. Out of all the MSIVs, 15 out of the 19 have received their branches. These 15 assessed all received their first choice component of Active Duty, Reserve Duty, or National Guard. Furthermore, 13 of the 15 seniors received their first choice branch. Here is what some of my classmates have to say about their branches:

Jeff Clarkson - Infantry Corps (Active Duty) "It's just what I always wanted to do."

Tanner Fleck - Finance Corps (Active Duty) "I chose the finance corps because its probably the most hooah branch and chicks dig guys with lots of money, plus the branch insignia is pretty sweet."

Larissa Fugate - Signal Corps branch detail Chemical Corps (Active Duty) "I get to be the ultimate geek working with NBC and communication systems. Go geeks!"

Jeff Golen - Medical Service Corps (National Guard) "I'm in Med Service and I am being reclassified as a Medical Student and transferring to Medical Corps."

Vanessa Hooper-Yan - Ordnance Corps (Active Duty) "It's the best d*** branch out there. I think its great I get to work with cool s*** in the army."

Shawn Kotoske - Military Intelligence (National Guard) "I figured joining the brainy bunch of the military would give me the just cause I've always needed for my nerdy antics."

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Veteran's Day Ceremony (Continued from page 2)

"I think it is important to remind students of what is going on in our community and in the world. Hopefully by honoring the Veterans it will encourage students to remember those who are currently serving in the military," said ATLAS president and Army ROTC senior Margaret Lero. The culminating ROTC event of the week was the Tri-Military Veteran's Day ceremony. Cadets and midshipmen gathered together to honor America's veterans and celebrate the freedom they fought to preserve. "This is an opportunity for the Notre Dame family, and greater South Bend community, to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces of our nation, and especially to remember those who have paid the ultimate price in the name of liberty," said Tri-Military Commander Rachael Walters of Army ROTC.

Father Theodore Hesburgh opened and closed the Ceremony with prayer for the nation, and especially for those who defend its freedom, while USMC MAJ (Ret) Jason Frei, a retired veteran of Desert Storm, addressed the cadets and members of the community, including Indiana Congressman Chris Chicola and members of the Tuskegee Airmen in attendance. MAJ Frei reminded the community that "our country has asked much of these young Americans, in the past and the present, so we can live the way we want to live today." Junior Chrissy Derek attended the ceremony and commented, "it is appropriate to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation, especially when these cadets may go and do the same." ROTC Junior Benjamin Harm, who served for one year in Iraq, said that Veteran's Day is very important to him, and that it is a "privilege and an honor to serve ones country the way they have." He hopes Veteran's Day will help serve as a reminder of those who are currently fighting the nation's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"To me Veteran's Day is about respect," said Army ROTC senior Adam Devereux. "As men and women who want to join their ranks, we should have a deep respect for the veterans who have served our nation, and especially those who have paid the highest price for the freedoms we enjoy." LTC Kelly Jordan wants cadets, as well as the whole community, to remember the significance of the Armed Forces at Notre Dame. "Military training has been a part of this campus since 1858," said Jordan. "It is important that these cadets, who will serve their country in the future, remember that they carry with them the reputation of those who have gone before and that they represent those Veterans to the community." "Veteran's Day is our way of showing respect to those who have come before us. We honor them and celebrate what they have done," stated Jordan. For cadets at the University of Notre Dame, it is clear that the past continues to be an important part of their present, reminding the community that God and Country will always come first for the Fightin' Irish Battalion.

Commander's Address to the Battalion (Continued from page 1)

I would also like to begin a new tradition of each cadet establishing and maintaining a positive attitude. With such an attitude, not only is training more enjoyable, but cadets can motivate themselves and inspire others to achieve and exceed the standard. A positive attitude is what got me through Leadership Development Advanced Course (LDAC) and is what I believe can be the difference between success and mediocrity in ROTC, the Army, and life in general. One of LTC Jordan's most famous sayings is that "there is no place for cynicism in the Army." I would like the entire Battalion to embrace this philosophy and to approach training with a positive attitude and an open mind. Charlie Weis, our beloved football coach, has encouraged his football players to possess a new attitude, one of confidence and passion and this attitude is, in part, responsible for the extreme success of the team. Similarly, Fightin' Irish cadets can embrace a mentality of being a "hard-working, intelligent, and nasty" Army ROTC Battalion. Hopefully, with this positive, confident, enthusiastic attitude, we can ultimately share in each other's individual and the Battalion's successes.

We all have the incredible honor and privilege of serving the Army, our Nation, and each other as cadets and eventually as commissioned officers. We have selected this career path and are in a position to make a difference in the lives of others. We will be responsible for our soldiers and also for helping to establish peace and justice throughout the world. It is a great responsibility and we owe it to ourselves and to our future soldiers to get the most out of our training today to be prepared for whatever we might encounter in the future. Get ready to *keep up the fight!* Go Irish!

Further, Faster, Harder! c/ Hayden Piscal

Ranger Challenge 2005. How do I even begin to describe the experience of Ranger Challenge this year. One of the most physically challenging weekends of my life would more or less sum it up. The culmination of about seven weeks of 0500 mornings, all packed into two days of mental and physical competition.

Rangers is one of my favorite parts of fall semester, as far as ROTC is concerned. Despite the early mornings, intense workouts, and numerous times crossing a rope bridge with the magically comfortable Swiss seat strapped around my body, I keep coming back for more. Perhaps it's the camaraderie, or maybe the fact that it forces me to get in shape, or maybe its even c/Samudio leading workouts in which we are "not supposed to be breathing." I find myself constantly being challenged on a daily basis, pushing my limits even further, faster, and harder than I even thought possible.

The butterflies in my stomach surfaced on the four hour van ride to Camp Atterbury (though songs from the musical *Newsies* soothed them at times), and basically were a constant fixture the entire weekend. I did not actually participate in the Ranger Challenge competition last year, so I knew it was going to be a completely different experience. Definitely not the same as riding around in the van, taking naps while the team did Land Navigation, and getting Burger King while they attacked the Grenade Assault Course. Oh no, this year it would be different.

The format was also a change from last year, the biggest difference being that we had to navigate our way to each event, and that traveling time was added into the final score. The events that we participated in would be night land navigation, the PT test, HMMWV pull, litter carry, rope bridge, obstacle course, weapons assembly/disassembly, and the six mile road march.

We started on Friday with night land navigation, which consisted of five points, one of which was not lit by chem. lights. Which means we found four points quite easily, and then spent the rest of our time looking for a point which in my opinion was either invisible or did not exist. But that's just me. (Continued on page 9)



Senior Branches (Continued from page 4)

Claradith Landry - Military Intelligence branch detail Field Artillery (Active Duty) "It's been my dream to be a Military Intelligence officer and being involved in all that it entails. But I am also excited about being an FA officer because I will be surrounded by soldiers who are tactically proficient."

Shane Larson - Educational Delay "Cadet Ward and myself are headed to four more years of medical school on an educational delay, after which we will choose a medical specialty and begin to serve as captains on active duty.... that's right, at least four more years of school"

Maggie Lero - Aviation (Active Duty) "It also enables officers to actually perform the duties they are requiring of their platoon members instead of solely delegating tasks. For example, aviation PLs can fly WITH their soldiers instead of just telling their soldiers to fly."

Patrick Nagorski - Infantry Corps (National Guard) "Infantry: where else could I get paid to not eat, not sleep, not shower, and not get along with other cultures."

Sean Pearl - Aviation (Active Duty) "I am lucky to have been selected for Army Aviation. I hope, with God's help, to make the most of it and excel for the good of my country and my future soldiers."

Mike Willard - Infantry Corps (National Guard) "I joined the infantry because it is the best way to exercise leadership qualities. I wanted to be able to lead soldiers and to be responsible for their training and welfare. In addition to that, the Infantry also offers the widest range of opportunities for schooling and experience for young officers. It is the branch of the Army which performs the Army's missions in a traditional sense."

Abba Welte - Signal Corps (National Guard) "The Signal Corps are all about communication. Information is the name of the game in modern warfare. In a world of technological changes, it will be imperative for leaders to adapt in order to succeed."

Mortimer - Transportation Corps (Active Duty)

Rachael Walters - Quartermaster Corps (National Guard)

Ian Ward - Educational Delay

Crossing Into the Green (Continued from page 2)

Another difference is the emphasis on physical fitness. While being in top physical shape is an important aspect for anyone entering the military, I feel that this is especially highlighted in the Army ROTC program. Many of the physical training sessions conducted in Air Force ROTC last year focused on team-building activities such as team sports. Working as a group was the main priority, not getting into better shape.

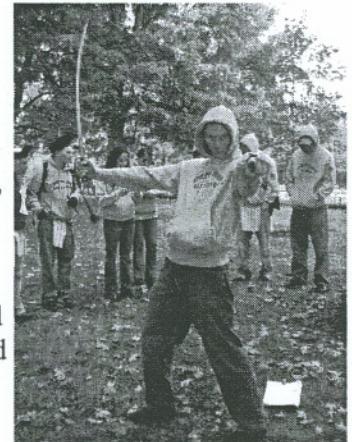
My personal favorite difference between the two programs is the field training exercise (FTX). The fall FTX was held just weeks after I had been contracted and I knew very few cadets and even less about army protocol. However, that weekend allowed me to meet my fellow brothers and sisters in arms and receive a basic understanding of field tactics. On my first squad training exercise (STX) lane I had no clue what to do nor the names of many of the members in my squad. By the final lane, I had learned so much and grown closer to nine other people I would have never known had I not switched ROTC branches.

I do not intend for anyone who reads this article to think I am taking one side over the other. I have enjoyed aspects of each program and feel that both ROTC branches are doing their best to train officers for the military. After all, at the end of the day we are all on the same side.

MSIV Staff Ride (Continued from page 3)

It is here that the Battle of Tippecanoe took place, deciding the fate of the Midwestern Native American tribes and securing the Western expansion of the United States until after the Civil War. General William Henry Harrison and a force of approximately 900 regular infantry and militiamen fought off an attack of about 1,000 Native American warriors under the command of the Prophet. U.S. forces won the battle and effectively destroyed the morale and cohesion of the Indian Confederation. In doing this staff ride, we learned quite a bit about how the Principles of War stay the same no matter the technology at hand and what to do and what not to do as a leader.

The staff ride has three phases: Preparation, Execution, and Integration. To prepare for the staff ride, each one of us MSIVs studied the role of one of the leaders in battle, whether it be Harrison or the Prophet or lesser known leaders such as Major-General Wells of the Kentucky Volunteers or the Native American leaders White Loon and Stone Eater. We then took the 100-mile trip to Lafayette, IN, to visit the battlefield. Close to 2,000 men and their horses fought on a piece of ground the size of a football field. We walked from point to point and talked about what took place in the long night of the battle. We talked about how the Native Americans staged a three-pronged attack without any method of battlefield communication and how Harrison and his subordinate commanders shifted around entire companies and regiments to meet the enemy threat in such a small place. We then visited Prophet's Rock about a quarter mile from the battlefield where the Prophet futilely offered his prayers and chants to the spirits to protect his warriors from American muskets while at the same time beating a drum to drive his men to battle. Matching the information we had researched to the actual place and location where the events took place brought keen insight and great excitement to what we were doing. We were in those leaders shoes and we were realizing that, for the most part, we would've done no differently than our earlier American predecessors even with all that we have learned. We took our knowledge and stewed over it as we ate a fine lunch. We shared what we individually learned and let the Integration phase come to a close. We all got something important out of that staff ride and I certainly look forward to doing another in the future.



The staff ride is something that all Army leaders should do at some point in their career. Short of fighting the battle yourself, it is the best way to learn from the actions of one's forebears. Every ROTC program should be conducting these if they aren't already. American military history is prolific enough for a battlefield to be in

Where Are They Now? (Continued from page 3)

Sara and I look forward when we can return to the South Bend area to rejoin our Notre Dame family as part of the Fightin' Irish Battalion team or for retirement (we still own our home in the area) when that time comes. We cherished our time at Notre Dame and still reminisce of the good times and know there are more to come. This past November, Sara and I were fortunate enough to visit Notre Dame and watch the Irish football team defeat both Navy and Syracuse on the gridiron. There is nothing better than Notre Dame football.....

Remember your times at Notre Dame and keep them close to your heart. All of you are part of the best institution of higher learning in this great nation. Remain in contact with one another and maintain those close friendships and bonds. To date, I still converse with a majority of my cadets, now some of the finest officers in the Army.

Further, Faster, Harder! (Continued from page 6)

Saturday was our busiest day, where we fit the next six events in. The day started bright and early with the PT test, and then we prepared for a day of fun and adventure, Ranger Challenge style. The HMMWV pull was next, and let me tell you, nine people pulling a HMMWV for 400 meters as fast as you can is NOT as easy as it sounds. After treating our simulated casualty with first aid we so diligently practiced, we put on our rucks and moved out to the litter carry. It was as enjoyable as carrying a somewhat large man around the woods can be, and as we left that station we were commended for our teamwork. Ruck up again and head to the rope bridge. Oh the infamous rope bridge. We ran into a few issues which prevented us from going as fast as we might have liked, but overall I think we worked



together well, especially considering the variables thrown at us. Then there was the obstacle course. I had been looking forward to this part of the competition, completely unaware that it would smoke me beyond belief. The Weaver obstacle took my pride and stomped it into the ground, and the only thing I can say is that watch out next year, for you will be conquered. That obstacle course tested our endurance as well as will power, and we gave it our all. The last event, and least physically demanding, thank goodness, was the weapons assembly/disassembly station. We had to "link up" with foreign forces, and our resident Arab speaking team member, c/Janke, helped us tremendously in this department. After a final road march back to the barracks, we enjoyed a long afternoon of regaining our strength back for the road march the next morning.

The road march was probably the biggest test we had as a team. I know that every one of us was physically and mentally exhausted from the past two days, and knowing this was the last thing we had to complete before we could go home was weighing on our minds. The team was pumped up, energized, and ready to show the competition what we were made of. We were in one of the last heats of about thirteen teams, and over the six miles continually passed one weak team after another. As we rounded the corner to the homestretch, I know I was close to my physical limit (and the projectile vomit was telling me the same thing). There was no better feeling than crossing that finish line. We found out soon after that we had ended up second place in the ruck march, which to me spoke volumes for our team, our training, and our determination. To finish that ruck march, as well as the entire competition, as strongly as we did took an incredible amount of teamwork, and motivation. With the support of those eight other people, I felt like I could honestly go further, faster, and harder, and after all, that's what it is really all about.

Character Leads to Success LTC Kelly Jordan

The Army has just begun an advertising campaign focused on getting young people interested in joining ROTC, and part of the campaign's message is that "Character leads to success." We in the Fightin' Irish Battalion have recognized that for some time, as evidenced by our mission statement and our shared desire to become "leaders of character for the Army and the Nation."

Henry G. Gole, a distinguished retired Army officer and prolific author, described what he thought was the quintessence of effective military leadership in a 1999 edition of *Parameters*, and I would like to share with you what he said then and ask you to think about what it means with respect to becoming leaders of character. According to Gole:

"The best leaders get the mission done and care for their soldiers. The essence of military leadership is to understand the mission clearly, plan carefully, train soldiers well, and create a climate in which soldiers willingly subordinate their individual well-being and private wishes to the well-being and mission of the team, crew, or squad. The latter may be the most important and the greatest challenge to [leaders]."

I would add that good leaders are best able to adhere to Gole's guidance if they possess sterling character, as reflected in the Army Values, and are committed to leading in accordance with the dictates of the Army Values. While Gole's challenge is great, doing so while also adhering to the Army Values poses an even more difficult test, but it is a worthy goal for us all to aspire. Being a leader is hard; being a leader of *character* is even harder. Although more difficult, it is a worthy goal because it is the right way to lead, it is what the parents of the young soldiers you will soon have the privilege of leading expect, it is what the Army and your superiors will demand, and it is what the soldiers under your charge deserve.

As we enter the final months of this year, I ask you to reflect on this message and rededicate yourselves to becoming *leaders of character* while you Keep Up the Fight!



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- LTC Kelly Jordan