

FEB 2013
Monthly
Newsletter



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Freshman Orientation 2012: *Vince Spinelli*

I joined the program because the Army always meant excellence to me. Certainly my military family galvanized my interest in military service and ROTC, but I feel like I have always been called by something deeper than that. Only a few students can handle the commitment that ROTC entails, both physically and mentally, which all begin at Fort Custer, the site of a weeklong



Freshman Orientation, also called "Frosh-O".

While there is a great deal of hands-on help from the upper-classmen, for the most

part Frosh-O was a sink or swim situation. I found it the expectations intimidating and

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DMG MSIV Cadets
(Distinguished Military Graduate -Top 20% of Senior Cadets Nationwide)

- John Dieckman
- Ted Spinelli
- Garrett Quick
- Michael Dompierre
- Dan Courtney
- Kurt Wilson
- Joseph Mannor
- Abigail Nichols
- Kathleen Frechette
- Kelli Davis

Warrior Forge 2012: *Michael Dompierre*

When I finally received word of my LDAC regiment and departure date in March, it hit me for the first time that *yes* I would be going to LDAC and that the day I would set out for Ft. Lewis would come faster than I could expect. LDAC, or

Leadership Development and Assessment Course, is the "final test" for MS3s across the country in their preparation to become 2LTs. The 29-day course challenges Cadets physically, tests their domain knowledge, and gives

Cadets excellent feedback on how well they work as a team with complete strangers. Over the first few days, I maxed the APFT, and found all of my points

Continued on page 3, see: LDAC

Cadet of the Month: CDT Ray Donovan

Year: MSII **School:** IUSB

I served one enlistment in the United States Marines Corps as a 0331 Infantry Machine gunner. In early 2008, I was deployed as a member of Battalion Landing Team 2/4 and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this time I was chosen as the Alpha Boat Coxswain, responsible for leading all of the company's small boats during amphibious operations in the Philippines and Indonesia.

I graduated from the Machine Gun Leaders Course in November of 2008 and was meritoriously promoted to Corporal



CDT Ray Donovan with the BN Guidon

in March of 2009. I became a Green Belt Instructor in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program in July of 2009 and deployed on September 18th of 2009 on the 11th MEU. Returning from the 11th MEU in April of 2010 I vol-

unteered to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed to Afghanistan in late May. I was awarded the Non Article 5 NATO Medal for service with NATO in relation to the ISAF operation during the period of 26 May 2010- 15 September 2010. My active duty enlistment ended January of 2011 and I was promoted to Sergeant in the Reserve of the United States Marine Corps in April of 2011.

I did voluntarily re-enlist in the Indiana Army National Guard in March of 2012 and am currently serving as a cadet in the Fighting Irish ROTC Battalion.

Alumni of the Month: 2LT Kyle Hanratty

Army Experience

- 4 months as Assistant S2
- 9 months as Intel Platoon Leader
- Currently training for a Summer/Fall deployment to AFG as S2 for an Security Force Advising Team under 2-35 IN BN

Quick Facts

Hometown: Bel Air, MD
Age: 24
Academic: ND Class of '11
Majors: Chinese/Poli Sci
Post: Schofield Barracks, HI
Branch: Military Intelligence

Hobbies

- Beer Connoisseur
- Scuba Diving/Surfing
- Golf
- Baltimore Ravens and Orioles fandom
- All things Notre Dame

Fightin' Irish BN Upcoming Events

- 22-24 March: CFTX (Combined Field Training Exercise) with 5 other Michigan schools
- 5-7 April: INCFTX (Indiana Combined Field Training Exercise) with 5 other Indiana schools focusing on MSI and MSII level training

“Frosh-O” Continued from page 1:

From Pg. 1: it was challenging to absorb so much information. At the same time it was great way for us new MS1s to get our feet wet and test our adaptability under pressure. It allowed us to get a basic understanding of our strengths and weaknesses in what we now would consider fairly routine exercises.

The week was full of memorable experiences. Of these I vividly recall being the first new cadet eliminated from the drill movements competition by failing to come to attention, getting back from land navigation 30 minutes late after a long and futile search for a lost objective, and trying to sleep when

the guy a couple bunks down snored the entire night. Qualifying with an M4 at the range was a load of fun, so it all worked out.

At the end of the week, I was proud to be part of a program founded in excellence, and looked forward to polishing my skills down the road.

“LDAC” Continued from page 1:

From Pg. 1: during Day and Night Land Navigation. I attribute my success to sticking with the fundamentals: I practiced my push-up form in the mirror before I left, took extra time to plot my points to ensure accuracy, and verified my pace count three separate times before heading out on the course. After this training my PLT transitioned to the tactical phase, which focused on STX and patrolling evaluations. The lanes were essential leadership and tactical training.

The final days of LDAC included the 6 mile ruck march, gas chamber, and branch orientation. Once we returned back to the barracks, a feeling of elation overcame my squad, as finally, the end was in sight.

After some final out-processing, graduation day had arrived and it felt great to have LDAC behind me. I had met some great people who I may even work with some day, and I learned a lot about myself. The MS4 class did exceptionally well at Warrior Forge and to me it was hardly a surprise.



Clockwise from top left: c/Griffin carries a platoon guidon for the regimental run, c/Kershaw poses with his squad, c/Spinelli struts his stuff as the Alpha CO during the last week of training.



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www.nd.edu/~army



Facebook page includes
weekly updates and photos
from training exercises!



MSIV Branch Assignments

The current seniors in the Fightin' Irish BN recently received their branch selections. After commissioning in May, the MSIVs will head to branch specific Basic Officer Leadership Courses (BOLC) classes at a wide variety of posts and times.

RESERVE/NATIONAL GUARD

Atkins, Nate: Reserves - Military Intel
Casey, Katelyn: Nat'l Guard - Unknown
Colter, Brad: Nat'l Guard - Aviation
Colter, Bryan: Nat'l Guard - Field Artillery
Frechette, Kathleen: Reserves - Military Intel
Kostendt, Arthur: Nat'l Guard - Armor
Osborne, Matt: Nat'l Guard - Quartermaster
Roitz, Beth: Reserves - Quartermaster
Simms, Andrew: Nat'l Guard - Unknown

ACTIVE DUTY

Courtney, Dan: Military Intelligence,
Branch Detailed Armor
Dieckman, Jonathan: Infantry
Dompierre, Michael: Military Intelligence
Dowdey, Eric: Engineers
Griffin, Kyle: Adjunct General,
Branch Detailed Armor
Kershaw, Alan: Signal Corp,
Branch Detailed Infantry
Mannor, Joseph: Quartermaster
Nichols, Abigail: Military Intelligence
Quick, Garrett: Engineers
Rushford, Michael: Aviation
Spinelli, Edward: Engineers
Wilson, Kurt: Military Intelligence