

April-May 2013  
Monthly  
Newsletter



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**Spring Field Training Exercises:** *By Chris Croushore*

The weekend after Spring Break, the MSIII's (Juniors) attended the annual Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTC) at Fort Custer with schools from Michigan. The Fightin' Irish Battalion organized Area of Operations (AO) Irish, and was in charge five different training lanes, which usually require an enemy to engage. This duty was left to the MSI and MSII classes, allowing younger cadets to participate. A group of my classmates decided that we would go be the "bad guys" for a weekend, also known as the "opposing forces" or OPFOR.

My expectations were high, because it's not every day that you get to be the enemy, shoot blanks at unprepared MSIII's, relax, and then repeat four more times. Naturally, I was excited.



Cadets plot and plan their land navigation routes during a field training exercise.

However, at the advice of one of our seniors, I took the weekend more seriously than planned. He told my classmates and I that when he was a sophomore, this was the most effective way he learned how to lead and conduct lanes. We were told to pay close attention to how the squads moved, attacked,

communicated, and reacted. He wanted us to learn from the mistakes that would happen over the course of the weekend. This changed my view entirely; I can say that as an MSII I have not had a better hands-on learning experience than I did that weekend.

Every cadet in

**Summer Training Slots:**  
After completing an intense 3-week preparation program, the following cadets earned spots:

**Airborne**  
Jack Pearl  
Michael Loftus

**Air Assault**  
Ray Donovan

## Cadet of the Month: Jack Pearl

My name is Cadet Pearl. I am originally from Dover, New Hampshire, where I was born and raised. I am a sophomore Finance major at Notre Dame and in the MSII class in Army ROTC.

As my fellow cadets already know, I am one in a very long line of Pearls who have not only attended the University of Notre Dame, but who have also gone through an ROTC program here. My father was in Navy ROTC and became a naval pilot, as did a few of my uncles. In addition, I have three older brothers who did Army ROTC here and are currently serving as officers.

On top of that, I have about a half dozen cousins representing Army, Navy, and Air Force who are either already serving as officers or who are currently in those respective branches' ROTC programs here, including Cadet Frechette, who will be an commissioned Army officer in a few short weeks. Basically, I have a ludicrous amount of relatives who have come through here and there will probably

### Quick Facts

- **Hometown: Dover, NH**
- **Age: 20, MSII Level CDT**
- **School: Notre Dame**
- **Major: Finance**
- **Fun Fact: Headed to Fort Benning to complete Airborne school this summer**

continue to be more in the future.

Some of my hobbies include skiing, football, lacrosse, movies, and just hanging out with friends. I also enjoy placing well-timed movie/TV quotes in everyday conversations. I've even been known to throw in a few Peter Griffin or Kermit the Frog impressions from time to time (I would show you how good they are, but in this case I guess you'll have to take my word for it).

I decided to join Army ROTC at Notre Dame because of the examples set by my family members, who have grown into great leaders and even better men and women as a result of their time in ROTC and the military. Army ROTC afforded me the great opportunity to study at the University of Notre Dame, the university I have always wanted to attend since I was young. As an added bonus, I have formed several great relationships and made many life-long friends as result of joining Army ROTC.



## Fightin' Irish BN Upcoming Events

- 18 May: Commissioning ceremony for graduating MSIV cadets held on Notre Dame's campus
- June-July: ND ROTC sends 16 MSIII/IV level cadets to Warrior Forge at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to complete summer training

## Alum of the Month: Colin Welch

Colin Welch, a 2002 graduate of Notre Dame Army ROTC, recently completed an interview with me for a MSIV military science assignment. During the interviews, I learned about Mr. Welch's background and heard some key advice for cadets about to commission.

Mr. Welch branched Armor after his commissioning, and ended his service as a Captain after five years. He currently works for Service

### Quick Facts

- **Hometown:** Hannibal, MO
- **Graduating Year:** 2002
- **School:** Notre Dame
- **Branch:** Armor, first stationed in Germany
- **Hobbies:** International traveling, hiking, mountain biking

Engineering as a Survivability Analyst in Alexandria, VA. During his

active duty time, Mr. Welch deployed to Iraq twice for a total of 29 months. He said his most valuable leadership time in the military came as a platoon leader in Iraq.

His best advice for MSIVs about to receive their butter bars: listen to your NCOs and "Your job as a young LT is to show up in shape with your ears and eyes open and your mouth shut."

## "FTXs" Continued from page 1:

the battalion attends a Field Training Exercise (FTX) per semester. Typically, there are two exercises completed, but due to the scope of training, each MSIII or below cadet will complete only one opportunity every four months. However, this spring semester I was lucky enough to attend both of our battalion's best training events.

Thus, a mere ten days later, I was back on a bus heading to Camp Atterbury, southern Indiana, for the battalion's second major training exercise. This time, every MSI and MSII attended as the primary trainees, and the Fighting Irish Battalion worked in unison with six other Indiana programs. This training events, known as the Indiana Combined Field Training Exercise (INCFTX) was our required FTX for the semester.

Much like the CFTX two weeks prior, the weekend surpassed our expectations. There were nearly 300 cadets in the Basic Cadet Course in which we were enrolled. Instead of being team leaders or pulling security on an hour and a half lane, the normal role for a younger cadet, some of us were given leadership positions such as the Company Commander, Platoon Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Squad Leader. On top of that, we did not complete STX lanes, which was a nice change of pace. Instead, we learned to rappel, learned first-aid techniques, learned how to clear a room/building, conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training, and everybody's all time favorite, land navigation. Out of all the

training, the best learning experience of the four days was learning how to lead, follow, and interact with cadets from schools all over Indiana and Ohio. We learned how to create unit cohesion with cadets we had never met, and establish effective unit standards of operation. We are used to our battalion and the people we see every day, so this FTX introduced a whole new element to our training.

Attending both of these FTX's taught me valuable military and social lessons that we cannot learn in a two-hour lab on Wednesdays. The training definitely helped prepare my classmates and me to lead next year as MSIII's, and I will highly encourage sophomore cadets in the coming years to seize the opportunity.

**See CFTX and INCFTX  
Photos on the back page!**

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Facebook page includes weekly updates and photos from training exercises!

## Spring FTX Photos

Photos clockwise from top left: CDT Matt Jozwiak delivers his mission plan, CDT S-5 Garret Quick supervises and refines at the INCFTX, resulting in the Land Navigation Terrain Model below, and CDT Goheen delivers a WARNO to her team in the field.

