

THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

October 2023

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GO ARMY!



The Fightin' Irish BN poses for a photo with Fr. Jenkins post-run.

New Cadet Orientation

Starting the year off strong

By CDT Ryan Oesterle ('27)

"They say that in the Army the food is mighty fine..." Like always, New Cadet Orientation (NCO) marked the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year for the Fightin' Irish Battalion. Day 0 began at Pasquerilla Center, where the new Cadets and their families were welcomed into the battalion before moving to Fort Custer, MI, for the following four days. From there, the Cadets had a swift introduction to essential Army skills: drill and ceremony, morning physical readiness training, land navigation, crew-served weapons, obstacle courses, Army Combat Fitness Test, MREs, and many cadences. While the days were long and filled with many classes and training exercises, the new cadets found ample time to form new relationships with their class, squads, and battalion. NCO Culminated with the patching ceremony conducted in front of Touchdown Jesus and a barbecue. NCO helped ease the battalion's newest cadets into ROTC life and college life in general.



From top right, going clockwise: A CDT shoots an M240B; CDT Sean O'Gara ('25) and CDT Estela Ralston ('25) smile for a photo at morning PT; CDT George Goldstein ('25), CDT Luke De La Peña ('25), CDT Kat Mundy ('25), and CDT Karina Savidge ('25) are all smiles during weapons familiarization; CDTs practice Drill & Ceremony; CDT Laney Young ('27) and CDT Alexis Frost ('26) pose for a photo during land navigation; CDTs smile for a photo post PT; CDT Lily Scully ('26) poses for a photo during land navigation.



Cadet Summer Training

By CDT Katherine O'Neal ('24)

This past summer, over 6,000 cadets hailing from all over the country converged on Fort Knox, Kentucky. Our mission? A 35-day capstone training event known as "Advanced Camp," a leadership development opportunity designed to hone cadets' skills and fortify their leadership capabilities between their MSIII and MSIV years before commissioning as U.S. Army Officers. From Notre Dame, myself and twenty-three of my classmates not only graduated from Advanced Camp, but excelled. Over the course of the 35-day training exercise, we passed an Army Combat Fitness Test (with an average score of 553 out of 600), led and motivated others on the Field Leaders' Reaction Course, and successfully plotted and located points on the land navigation course. In addition, we qualified on the M4 rifle and gained training experience with hand grenades and CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear), culminated with the infamous gas chamber.

For the penultimate phase of Advanced Camp known as the FTX (field

training exercise), my fellow cadets and I took to sleeping in the field. During this phase, we were required to formulate offensive, defensive, and stability operation strategies and guide our peers in implementing these plans. After spending thirteen days in the field (some of us drier than others), testing our mental agility and fortitude, our final challenge was the 12-mile ruck march back to the barracks. As the last training exercise, the 12-mile ruck represents the culmination of hard work and training over the course of the past three years; morale was high as our companies marched toward completing one of our biggest ROTC commissioning requirements.

There is no doubt that Notre Dame Army ROTC prepares us for success at Advanced Camp, with 92% of our MSIV class earning an overall score of "Outstanding" or "Excellent," the two highest possible grades. In addition, three of my classmates earned the highly-coveted RECONDO badge - only awarded to the cadets who not only meet, but exceed the standards for

the ACFT, confidence course, land navigation, rifle marksmanship, first aid, CBRN, and the 12-mile foot march. With Advanced Camp successfully completed, I look forward to seeing how the Class of 2024 continues to grow and develop as leaders.



From top to bottom: CDTs pose for a photo while at CST; CDT Lucas Kopp ('24) and CDT Ethan Barhydt ('24) hold up a ND flag at CST; CDT Katherine O'Neal ('24) is all smiles at CST.



General Fenton Visit

By CDT Grace McKenna ('25)

On the morning of 22 September, Notre Dame's Tri-Military ROTC had the honor and privilege to conduct physical training with General Bryan P. Fenton, the Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). A graduate of the University of Notre Dame in 1987, Four Star General Fenton oversees all special operations component commands of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps for the U.S. Department of Defense. However, on this special day, he and his SOCOM team took the time to visit with and inspire current Notre Dame Cadets. Working on strength, agility, and cardio training, Tri-Military Cadets bonded together to challenge each other to grow as both as a team and leaders.

Sarah Mahoney, a current junior in the Fightin' Irish Battalion, explained, "I enjoyed watching the three branches come together in an opportunity to learn from General Fenton and develop camaraderie while pushing each other to our limits." Even more inspiring was General Fenton's participation and encouragement to Cadets and Midshipmen alike, but also his commitment to introduce himself to almost every person who came out for the PT. As the workout concluded, General Fenton imparted advice to the Tri-Military—much of it including the values of a good Cadet, the significance of family, and how to overcome difficulties in the military. However, as an alum, Gen Fenton concluded to never forget how special a place Notre Dame truly is.



CDT Loney ('27) carries CDT Schroder ('27) during the Friday morning PT.



CDT Sarah Mahoney ('25), CDT Grace McKenna ('25), and Mr. Joseph Jeffo display their challenge coins.

General Fenton also presented CDT Sarah Mahoney ('25), CDT Grace McKenna ('25), and Mr. Joseph Jeffo with challenge coins for their hard work and leadership within the BN.



The Tri-Military community poses for a photo with GEN Fenton post PT.



Army Summer Experiences

By CDT Ryan Oesterle ('27)



CDTs Juliet Hare ('24) and Jerry Rullo ('26) at Serengeti National Park during Project GO.



CDT Sami Jorgensen ('26) poses with a camel during Project GO.

The Fightin' Irish Battalion stayed very busy over this past summer. 17 cadets received offers to a variety of internships including those at the Army Cyber Institute, the Army Futures Command, the Army Medical Department (AMEDD), NORAD and USNORTHCOM, the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, the JAG Corps, and a variety of engineering programs. These internships took cadets all across the nation as they gained valuable in-field experience and the ability to apply their skills to a larger mission. CDT Sarah Mima ('26) had the opportunity to work with a neuropsychologist on designing and testing an aided-target recognition system for soldiers. According to Mima, "I learned about the design and data collection processes, and I also learned about visual perception in an applicable way. I enjoyed the friendships I made at the internship, the close connection I had with my mentor, and the awesome research facility I got to work in." CDT Matthew Stewart ('25) completed the Engineering Internship Program (EIP) and stated that "it was very cool to see some of the larger scale projects the army is working on in the engineering sector. It was great to meet new people and get a sense of what day to day life might be like later in my career."

8 more cadets gained valuable cultural immersion and language training through ProjectGO, a DOD-funded program that provides ROTC cadets with language study opportunities both domestically and abroad. Cadets went all across the globe to places like Washington DC, Tanzania and Kenya, Morocco, and Brazil. CDT Sami Jorgensen ('26) stated that "Morocco was an amazing experience, I met new people, experienced a new culture, made life-long friendships, and most importantly learned how to live a completely different way of life." CDT Juliet Hare ('24) said that "Kenya and Tanzania have some of the most genuine, kind people, always letting us practice our Swahili with them even though we were just beginners. The people I met, both locally and cadet-wise, are lifelong relationships, and from this experience I hope to seek out further international experiences." With the intense language and cultural instruction that ProjectGO demands, these cadets are more prepared to be true "Global Officers".



Army Ten Miler

By CDT Sarah Mahoney ('25)

The Army ROTC Running Club trained long and hard throughout the fall in preparation for one of the country's largest road races: the Army Ten Miler. The race weekend proved to be incredible from all fronts, as cadets had not just an opportunity to assert their physical dominance in a large race setting, but also an opportunity to experience our nation's history firsthand. After a day of exploring Washington D.C. and touring many historic landmarks, 22 runners from the Fightin' Irish Battalion toed the line on October 8th to race in the 39th annual Army Ten Miler! Over 26,000 runners competed in this year's race, with a scenic course passing through D.C. landmarks including Arlington, the Pentagon, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and more.

The Fightin' Irish Battalion sent three teams to compete in this race, and our gold team finished 12 out of 68 ROTC teams! All of our runners fought and excelled during the race, as many personal records were set and goal times were crushed. Out of the Notre Dame ROTC runners, CDT James Lindell ('25) finished the course the fastest, with a final time of 1:05:48. After the conclusion of the race, we had the incredible opportunity to reconnect with several Notre Dame Army ROTC alum as well as current leaders in Cadet Command. Overall, it was an incredible weekend to prove our fitness on the highest scale and represent our Battalion with pride!



From top to bottom: The ND ROTC Army Ten Miler team poses for a photo pre-race; CDT PJ Muehlberger ('25) sprints to the finish line; Several MS4 CDTs smile for a photo pre-race.



Cadet Troop Leader Training

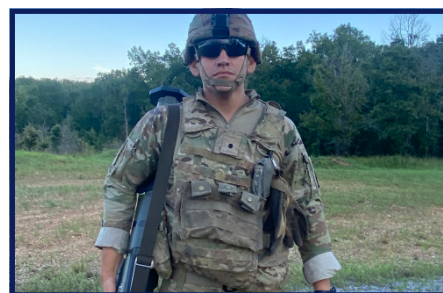
By CDT Sadie Stinson ('25)

This past summer, 4 CDTs from the Fightin' Irish Battalion had the opportunity to participate in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). CTLT provides CDTs the opportunity to shadow active duty units across the United States and learn valuable skills in leadership and the Army profession.

CDT Ethan Barhydt ('24) went to Ft. Stewart, Georgia to shadow Combined Arms BN 3-69, where he spent most of his time with at a gunnery range with M1 Abrams Tanks and Bradleys. He had a great experience learning from his PL, PSG, platoon NCOs, and company 1SG on how to better prepare himself as an LT and officer when he commissions. CDT Barhydt would heavily recommend this experience to anyone that wants to learn more about their future job in the Army.



CDT Sam Martinez ('24) had the opportunity to shadow an infantry Platoon leader the 3-187, "Iron Rakkasans" at Fort Campbell. He was fortunate enough to be there while Operation Lethal Eagle III was happening, a division wide FTX, where he learned a lot about being an infantry platoon leader. CDT Martinez had a great time even while it was pouring rain half of the time!



CDT Conall Nugent ('24) spent three weeks with 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command at Fort Liberty this summer. His experiences included expert soldier badge training, live fire ranges, training meetings, and exploring the different branches. He would like to thank the Notre Dame ROTC alumni that let him shadow them and taught him countless leadership lessons.



CDT Ethan MacMillan ('24) had the unique experience of shadowing several team leaders of ODAs (Operational Detachment Alphas) in 3rd BN, 3SFG(A). Unlike a typical CTLT where one shadows a Platoon Leader, he was afforded the chance to learn from many Green Beret Captains and gain insight into their experience as leaders of small groups of elite soldiers. This experience gave him an appreciation of the Special Forces community and their greater purpose in the Army as a whole.



From top to bottom:

CDT Sam Martinez ('24) at his CTLT.

CDT Ethan Barhydt ('24) at his CTLT.

Headshot of CDT Conall Nugent ('24).

Headshot of CDT Eathan MacMillan ('24).



Zodiac Training

By CDT Sarah Mahoney ('25)



Members of the Ranger Team pose for a photo post zodiac training.



The Ranger team rows across St. Mary's Lake in a zodiac.

Who is gonna carry the boats? In early September, the Fightin' Irish Ranger Team took to Saint Mary's Lake for zodiac boat familiarization and training. Our Ranger Team OIC and Notre Dame senior, CDT Peter Herrmann, reflected on the event saying, "zodiac training was a great opportunity to build team confidence and cohesion as we prepare to defend our title at the brigade competition and move on to Sandhurst." The Ranger Team will compete at the 7th BDE Bold Warrior Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Knox, KY on October 27-29. The first and second place finishers at the Bold Warrior Competition will advance to compete at the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition. Our Ranger Company Cadets are now significantly more confident in both their team and individual skills, and are prepared to compete at a high level and demonstrate their strength. Thank you to the South Bend Fire Department and the Indiana River Rescue School for making this zodiac training possible.



CDT Katherine Hill ('24) paddles the zodiac across St. Mary's Lake.



Fall in Photos



CDT George Goldstein ('25) is all smiles while rappelling.



The Ranger team participates in the annual 9/11 memorial stair climb.



CDTs participate in the annual Tri-Military Fr. Jenkins run.



Members of the Alliance to Lead and Serve (ATLAS) volunteer at Cultivate.



CDT Lily Scully ('26) creates a sector sketch.



Members of the Ranger team participate in a Tri-Military competition.

Thank you for your continued support of Notre Dame's Fightin' Irish Battalion!

