



# BISON PRIDE

Howard University Army ROTC Newsletter

November 2008

Volume 3, Issue 3



## ~COMMANDER'S CORNER

### Upcoming events :

- 5-NOV-Ruck March
- 11-NOV- Veterans Day Soldiers' Home Visit
- 15 NOV-LandNav QMCB
- 18-NOV-ROTC Thanksgiving Potluck



Upfront, I would like to personally thank our Army ROTC Company President Roy Montgomery and his entire teams for helping our program win the most active AUSA ROTC Company in the nation during their annual AUSA Convention. This prestigious AUSA award recognizes the ROTC Company that provides the most support on campus and in their community. Bison's you should be extremely proud of your accomplishment; and the outstanding service and unwavering support you provide to our community at large.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge and congratulate our Ranger Challenge Team for placing second in both land navigation/orienteering and the 6-Mile Road March. This feat was even more impressive when you compare our team composition and makeup. Our team was led by Junior/MS III Ciera Hopewell, with four freshmen, and four females. No other ranger challenge team had more than one female Cadet. The team has gotten better and better each year since my arrival June 2006. Sergeant First Class Kenneth Norris has been very instrumental over the past two years in much of our success. His hands-on and direct involvement, coaching, teaching, training, preparation and oversight were nothing short of amazing.

Finally, in a joint effort with the Air Force ROTC program, the Bison helped plan and execute our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual ROTC Day. I would like to commend both Army and Air Force SROTC Cadets for putting on another first-class drill and ceremony competition for 15 JROTC Teams from the Nation's Capital. In addition, a special thank you goes out to the George Washington Chapter of AUSA for their continued support and sponsorship. Again, this year's ROTC Day provided local JROTC student-cadets an opportunity to compete in a friendly environment and help our program fulfill the second part of our mission; which is to motivate young people to be better citizens. The ROTC Day culminated on a high; as the US Army Drill Team performed for the JROTC Cadets; they demonstrated drill, precision and professionalism at the highest level.

~Leadership and Pride! *LTC Bobbie L. Williams Sr.*

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Greetings to my fearless Bison,

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." When I think of the Howard University Bison Battalion, I think of Dr. King's vision of this "ultimate measure of a man."

As the horrific season of mid-terms slowly dissipates, each of you have displayed the diligence and discipline to balance being an Army ROTC Cadet, while keeping in mind that you are always a STUDENT FIRST. There is one essential element you all must remember in this journey to officer ship, and that is, with any great reward comes great sacrifice. You all have witnessed within the course of this past month, that weekends are virtually non-existent and that ROTC is not only an extra-curricular activity, but it is a lifestyle. However, do not think for once that your efforts have been in vain.

I would like to personally commend the Bison Battalion on the following accomplishments: 1) being honored in September's Edition of *Ebony Magazine*, 2) receiving the AUSA Ribbon as the MOST ACTIVE COMPANY IN THE NATION and 3) successfully completing the 2008 Ranger Challenge competition. I am extremely proud of each and every one of you. As the holiday season slowly approaches and finals are within arms reach, I challenge you all to stay focused on your goals. Remember, THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!  
~LEADERSHIP AND PRIDE! C/LTC George Johnson III

## ~BISON HEADLINERS

- ◆ Congratulations to the "Bison Battalion" Ranger Challenge Team for an outstanding performance at this years Brigade Ranger Challenge competition
- ◆ Special thanks go the "Bison Battalion" Cadets for participating in the 2008 HU Homecoming Parade
- ◆ A job well done to both Army and Air Force ROTC volunteers for the Annual JROTC Day. More than 15 JROTC schools participated and the event culminated with a performance by the Army Drill team.
- ◆ A special thanks to our Alumni who made our Alumni Homecoming Luncheon a memorable event for all of us!
- ◆ HU ROTC Company 220193 was recognized at the AUSA Convention for being the most active company in the nation.
- ◆ Bison Battalion welcomes the new Recruiting Operations Officer, CPT Cameron Smith and his family to the team
- ◆ Bison Battalion welcomes the new Gold Bar Recruiter 2LT Peter Samuel to the team

...Education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't ..

~ Anatole France  
844-1924



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[www.armyrotc.com/edu/](http://www.armyrotc.com/edu/)

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## ~BISON IN ACTION

More Bison in action Photos in our album at <http://www.coas.howard.edu/departments/#army>



BISON BATTALION  
SY 2008-2009

*...Don't tell people  
how to do things, tell  
them what to do and  
let them surprise you  
with their results. ...  
~George S. Patton*



Bison Leadership w/ MG (R) Gaskill at the AUSA  
ROTC Luncheon



C/CPT Young and MS II Cadet Hicks pre-  
pares to rappell off the tower



2008 Bison Ranger Challenge Team moves to the  
next event



1st up to cross the rope-bridge



C/CSM Morgan VP for ROTC Company 220193 accepts a  
streamer for the most active company in the nation



TOP: Bison Cadets negotiate the  
obstacle course  
BOTTOM: C/CPT Beckford waits her  
turn to rappell



US Army Drill Team closed the 15th Annual ROTC  
day with a magnificent performance



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## ~ ARMY ROTC RANGER CHALLENGE - "Cant Smoke a Rock"



It's 5:50am, where are you? No, this is not a political article, but if you are a member of Howard Army ROTC Ranger Challenge Team, you are not just getting home from the club or sleeping--- you're getting in formation to begin the days training. Part of Cadet Life here at Howard University involves many activities, but one of the most competitive is Ranger Challenge. Ranger Challenge is a competition created by Cadet Command to promote esprit de corp, team building and to push Cadets out of their comfort zones. Ranger Challenge is conducted by Brigades, which can range

from 15-20 schools. Howard University falls under Eastern Region 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, which includes school from the DC Metro area as well as schools from Delaware and West Virginia. The events for Ranger Challenge include: an Army Physical Fitness Test (2 mile run, push-ups and sit-ups), Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Orienteering, Rope Bridge (across water), grenade toss and ends with an exciting 10k (6 mile) Ruck March--- all in one day. Competition is always strong and Howard wasted no time in putting together an all volunteer team--- which consisted of incoming freshmen, transfer students, cross town affiliation Cadets and a few brave senior ranking Cadets. While the rest of Howard's Army ROTC program worked on traditional PT, the Ranger challenge team worked on pushing the limits through various means--- 35 minute interval runs, 6 mile Ruck march (45 pound minimum) and motivating "smoke sessions" which were a sampler of various calisthenics with a hint of Greene Stadium Stairs. This went on for 6 weeks and would end on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> when the team departed Howard for one of the Army's Premier Training Sites: Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Congratulations to the 2008 RC Team. It was history in the making as they placed second in the Orienteering Course and the 10 Km Roadmarch.

## ~ALUMNI CORNER~Harry Robinson, PhD



In the heady days of the end of the 1950s I entered Howard University and began a journey that I could not have imagined. Those Thursdays on the drill field would become the vessel that formed my core values on leadership - and, life. In the long shadows and watchful eyes of Professors of Military Science Colonel Hyman Y. Chase and Major Arthur Fearing, the Cadet battalion drilled and became steeped in chain of command thinking. I was a graduate of Washington, DC public schools and had three years of Army JROTC training "under my belt." Very quickly, I found myself acting squad leader.

It was on that drill field that I developed my lifelong connection with the military mind and the many lessons that have sustained me to this day. It was, also, on that drill field and in Army ROTC classes that I was engaged with classmates who were committed to becoming leaders. The ROTC program was, I believe, the only environment in the University focused exclusively on *leadership*. The power of this commitment was palpable and ever present in all that we did as students and later in life. We talked about it, were surrounded by it and lived it - we looked forward to starting our lives as Army officers, to wearing the gold bars of 2nd Lieutenants.

My second TDY assignment after Engineer Officer basic Course was Ft. Benning, Georgia - the Army Ranger School. Everything that I ever needed to know I learned in Ranger School... not nursery school. Well, actually, it was about applying what I knew in very special ways and to quite different ends. It didn't hurt that I was a graduate of Howard's architecture program and could build models. Those hastily assembled landforms came in handy when I led patrols and needed to brief my teams on what the terrain looked like and how we would use it to complete successful operations. It was the ranger experience, during the tenure of Colonel Charles Beckwith as commander of that school that was a catalyst for how I approach my life. "Rangers lead the way."

A brief tour in Vietnam in 1967, a longer period in Walter Reed and I was at the end of my 2-year commitment to military service. I often wonder if I had not been MEDEVAC from that field outside An Loc on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1967 what my life may have been. When I entered active duty in 1966, slightly more than a year earlier, my plans were to have a career as an Army officer as had other members of my family.

Instead, I found myself back in civilian life at a time when our Nation was embroiled in a struggle for civil rights and justice for all and our major American cities were sustaining citizen unrest and disorders. My ability to adapt to the changing urban environments in which I was, then, practicing and teaching city planning was grounded in my military experience and the lessons that I learned during those two years on active duty and during my ROTC training. Cumulatively, those experiences prepared me for responding to the unknown and leading when the way was not defined. Or, as the great military leader Hannibal wrote: *Inveniam Viam Aut Faciam*, find a way or make a way.

~Dr. Robinson is currently a professor in the Architectural Department at the Howard University School of Engineering



TOP: Joint Color Guard at the 15th Annual ROTC day.

BOTTOM: A recruiting opportunity



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.....In life we don't get what we want, we get in life what we are. If we want more we have to be able to be more, in order to be more you have to face rejection.....

~Farrah Gray

## ~Bison Battalion Upholds the Four Tenets of Warrior Ethos



**T**he lazy Sunday morning was interrupted by a bellowing "HU, YOU KNOW!" from the mouths of the mighty Bison Battalion as they prepare to conquer the obstacle course on their FTX at Ft. AP Hill. As the determined company of University of Maryland had their thoughts focused on completing the obstacle course in a record fast time, the Mighty Bison Battalion had a different but more so clever strategy in mind; remember and uphold the Four Tenets of the Warrior Ethos.

The Bison Battalion meditated their objective to complete the course in record time. In order to achieve their goal, the Bison Battalion was quiet in respect to preparing for the greatest challenge of the FTX. As each squad charged for the first obstacle, they chanted "ARMY, STRONG" to motivate one another. This course had to be completed regardless of how tired they may have felt from their excellent performance on the shooting range, land navigation, and repelling. Some of the Cadets struggled over some of the obstacles in the course. Neither members of the team quit for they were steadfast in achieving their goal which was completing the mission of the obstacle course.

University of Maryland came in with a record time of 6:05 in completion of the course. Bison Battalion came in second. "We made sure our whole squad was together. All of us at one time struggled with one obstacle, but we never left a fallen comrade. That's the way the Army trained us. Never leave a fallen comrade," Bison Cadet Cashia Thomas stated. So the University Maryland may have been the fast and the swift individually, but the Mighty Bison Battalion won together as one unit. Hooah!

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POSTAGE



## ~ALUMNI SPONSORSHIP MILITARY BALL 2009- C/CPT Roy Montgomery



**E**ach year Army ROTC Cadets, their guests and numerous Alumni from the "Bison Battalion" converge on the Renaissance Hotel in Washington DC for an evening of fun, excitement, and learning. As the population nearly doubled for the SY 2008-2009, we are working hard to exceed last year's venue.

The 2009 Ball will be a very special bitter sweet event as we will honor our Senior Military Instructor, MSG Graves in a retirement ceremony and to bid farewell to the Professor of Military Science, LTC Bobbie Williams and the Executive Officer MAJ Lezlie Shackell. The Big 3, as we call them have done a tremendous job with the program as all of you can attest. Their passion and commitment to the Battalion and Cadets were simply overwhelming and have made the difference for the good of the organization. Reconnecting with the Alumni with the publication of newsletters; establishing the Program as an ROTC Company under a sub-chapter of AUSA who by the way won the most active company in the nation, and establishing the Battalion as a recognized student organization on campus were a few of their many contributions. Many of you who have visited the Battalion in the past 2 years have seen the change.

The Cadet Leadership Team of the "Bison Battalion" are hard at work preparing for the 2009 Military Ball. This year's event entitled "Legendary Service: 90 Years of Commitment."

In this process, we ask for assistance from our Alumni. We understand that many of you will not be able to attend the event scheduled for March 7th, 2009, but your assistance and support is always appreciated. We are asking all of our Alumni to help us celebrate this special event through a monetary gift. Our goal is to ensure that each of our Cadets can enjoy the evening's events at a reduced cost. As I am sure you are aware, college expenses can be overbearing at times and many of our Cadets cannot cover the cost of the event. Your support will ensure that the entire "Bison Battalion" family can take part in the event.

If you would like to make a contribution to this year's military ball, please mail to Howard University Army ROTC, MSC 590520, 2400 6th Street NW, Washington, DC 20059 and you can make your check payable to "Howard University Army ROTC"

Thank You!!! -C/CPT Roy Montgomery, Bn S-5/President ROTC Company 220193