



# PATRIOT PRIDE

## March 2009



### Professor of Military Science

March madness is here in the Patriot Battalion! The semester is in full swing, even in the midst of overlapping Spring Breaks from our 7 partnership schools. The steady pace of training and leader development keeps an air of excitement in the program. Already this semester we have seen great training opportunities at Camp Fogarty and Bryant University under our new extended Leadership Lab model, and we have begun to build a solid base of basic Soldier Skills in our military science classroom periods. As a result, we have seen the quality of training and Cadet performance increase significantly. And most importantly, in each event, whether it's Physical Readiness Training, class, or Leadership Lab, we are placing increasing emphasis on mentoring and developing leaders of character.

Along the way, our battalion continues to recognize the many outstanding performers in our ranks. Congratulations to MAJ Jason Lafferty for his selection as one of the top 3 Military Science instructors nationwide, out of over 273 colleges and universities. We know his talent because we see it every day, and now the rest of Cadet Command is aware of this premier trainer and leader developer. We also promoted Cody Montelo to Cadet Staff Sergeant in recognition of his tireless work ethic and selflessness as a leader on campus at UMASS-D and as a member of this battalion. Well done, Montelo! In addition to these top performers, we also took some time with a team-building battalion run on the East Bay bike path followed by the recognition of several of our Cadets who earned the coveted Army Physical Fitness badge. These Cadets are leading from the front and set an example that all of us should strive to emulate!

We have also had some fun this month while we learn and develop. On 27 and 28 February, the Seniors, along with MSG Bowman, COL McNamara, and I, conducted a battle analysis at Lexington-Concord. We enjoyed some good social time as well as discussing the battle through the eyes of insurgents and counter-insurgents as it relates to current operations. And perhaps even more fun than that, but less known due to its occurring during Spring Break was the inaugural Patriot Battalion "Human Curling" intermission event at the Friar's hockey game on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to 2LT Sinclair and MAJ Porter, along with Cadets Campbell, Letarte, Kelly, Glitz, and the McKinley kids for their participation. This was a great event and is surely just the first of many that our battalion will host over the coming months and years.

So the semester is off to a great start and we have plenty of great events left to do: Battalion Decathlon, Military Ball, Blackhawk helicopter training, and the Spring Field Training Exercise, just to name a few.

Stay focused and maintain excellence in academics, physical fitness, and leadership!

Matthew R. McKinley, "Patriot 6"  
Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery  
Professor of Military Science



### Senior Military Instructor

Hello Patriot Battalion. I hope that spring break was a good and restful time for all of you. I am looking forward to the return to class and the training of the battalion. Just before the schools started the break we completed some first rate training on map reading and land navigation at Bryant University. I hope that each of you learned something, even if you did not find all the points that you went looking for.

One of the big projects that I have been working on for the battalion is coming to fruition as we all return. The Patriot Battalion's awards policy has been written and will be published before the end of March. I hope that you will all read it and see how the policy will start to recognize each of you and your contributions mission of creating effective leaders.

If you look at the awards policy it is tying into some areas that the MS I, II, and IIIs need to have for accessions points. LTC McKinley and I want to be able to stand in front of the battalion and recognize each of you for your hard work and determination to take the mantle of leadership in the US Army.

I have spent some time looking at our leadership development program and we will be placing more effort on connecting the dots between actions and the 16 dimensions of leadership for you. There will be more Cadre oversight and more Cadre level assessment of the leadership performance in the battalion.

I challenge each one of you to improve on your APFT, raise your GPA, give more of yourself after school to charities and other organizations that will build your abilities and make you feel good about what you do.

We will always be focused on training, but in that focus we will also ensure that you are recognized for the great achievements that you do. The Patriot Battalion is a leader producing entity, and to have good leaders you must be well rounded in your personal and professional life.

Train to fight, fight to win.

David Alan Bowman "Patriot 7"  
MSG, USA  
Senior Military Instructor

## PC ROTC Instructor receives Col. Leo A. Codd Memorial Award

MAJ Jason Laffery, a Military Science Instructor for the Patriot Battalion at Providence College recently received national recognition as one of the top three ROTC Instructors in the nation.

The Col. Leo A. Codd Memorial Award recognizes ROTC Instructors who have created imaginative and interesting approaches to accomplish core learning objectives, and have also demonstrated exemplary classroom skills.

MAJ Laffery, who is also pursuing a Masters degree in education at PC, is described by Cadets in the Battalion as having energy and zeal for teaching. MAJ Laffery's co-workers in the Military Science department describe him as being a true asset to the military science program. MAJ Laffery works one-on-one mentoring Cadets and has helped the Patriot Battalion produce leaders whose excellence has been noted by ROTC Cadet Command. MAJ Laffery has been able to apply techniques he has learned as a PC graduate student to become a better classroom Instructor.

MAJ Laffery is a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is currently the Operations and Training Officer for the Patriot Battalion.

## Major Upcoming Events

15 April: Leadership Lab at Bryant University

22 April: Leadership Lab at Bryant University

24-26 April: Spring FTX

15 May: Commissioning Ceremony

## The Patriot Battalion Presents: Human Curling

On March 6<sup>th</sup> the Patriot Battalion sponsored the first every HUMAN CURLING event at the Friar's hockey game versus Boston University. 2LT Alex Sinclair with help from cadets; Denis Campbell, Andrew Letarte, Denis Kelly, and Amberly Glitz lead the event which turned out to be a big hit in between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods.

By using six snow tubes on top of plastic flyers ("pucks"), 4 brooms, and two teams with 5 players on each the whacky event entailed pushing your puck (where LTC McKinley's kids sat upon) and trying to get it into the center dot atop the Friar. The winning team which consisted of PC students won by a score of 5-4 and received a small prize package and a free ride on a UH-60 Blackhawk on April 22nd.

Even though the game was on the first day of spring break and most of the fans were from BU everyone was into the event. No matter which team you were rooting for everyone was cheering. People wanted to know more about the event and how they could get involved. It was such a hit that the Schneider arena advisers hope that the Patriot Battalion will continue this event into next year's season and hopes to start this into a trend for hockey games.



## Outside of ROTC

I was selected as one of 16 Army ROTC female cadets nationwide to attend a woman's conference in Washington D.C. on March 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>. Cadets were chosen from 16 states having female congresswoman or senators. The conference is a new step toward recognizing women's accomplishments in the military and building relationships between political leaders and the military. The conference was also part of an opportunity to raise awareness about Women's History Month and all of the strides women have made in male professions over the past few decades. We stayed at Ft. Myer in Arlington and spent the first day touring the Congressional offices and meeting with representatives from each of our state legislatures. The environment proved to be very pro-military and the women we interacted with provided valuable information as to the services and opportunities available to all women through their persistence and dedication to equal rights for women.

On the second day of the conference, we sat through two panel discussions. The first was facilitated by Major General Ferrasi and dealt with the Army's Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program as well as the "I Am Strong" sexual response program. We were educated on the Army's current policies such as the "restricted and unrestricted" report policy, punitive action, and the responsibilities of those who are approached by a victim of sexual assault or harassment. In addition, another panel was conducted of all female soldiers discussing women's influence and careers within the Army. They each shared their experiences and the importance of breaking through the barriers women are so often confronted with in primarily male environments. The regulation concerning women in the Combat Arms branches was debated, as well as the issue of balancing a family/personal life with the demands of a military career. While the individual responses varied the honesty of the women helped us as female cadets gain a more accurate perspective as to what we can expect in our futures. Several male soldiers spoke as well, and commended the two female Sergeant Majors and three female Generals for their efforts in breaking down the barriers for women in the future. They also spoke about the impact women have made on the military, and the Dean of West Point went on to insist that "women improve almost any area of life they are associated with."

After the panel discussion we had a chance to visit the Women's History Memorial and view the images of the women who paved the way before us, offering their service to our country, and some paying the final sacrifice in times of war. The overall experience opened my eyes to services available and the doors that are open to me because of the hard work and perseverance of the generations of women before me. On a daily basis it becomes clear that "many firsts are falling, and they are falling particularly by and for women." The overall experience opened my eyes to services available and the doors that are open to me because of the hard work and perseverance of the generations of women before me. After the panel discussion we had a chance to visit the Women's History Memorial and view the images of the women who paved the way before us, offering their service to our country, and some paying the final sacrifice in times of war. The overall experience opened my eyes to services available and the doors that are open to me because of the hard work and perseverance of the generations of women before me.

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-Cadet Stowell

### **The Theater**

The theatre department at Providence College is one of the most fun and interesting places on campus. Each production is definitely time-consuming work, but they are also incredibly rewarding!

When I performed in PC's *Waiting for Lefty*, I had rehearsal every night—no matter what else was going on. There were lines and songs to learn, and every member of the team was expected to not only make the commitment, but to know their job inside and out. If nothing else, being a part of a play is a huge lesson in teamwork; unless the entire cast and crew work together to fix or hide any flaws that occur, an audience always knows when someone or something is not working the way it is supposed to.

A production is really a labor of love, though, and there is something remarkable about each play and the people involved in it. Certainly, being involved with the theatre department has been a different and exciting way to supplement the values I learn in ROTC. -Cadet McNamara

When I auditioned for *Baby with the Bathwater*, I really had no expectation of getting anything more than a call-back out of the experience, let alone actually being cast. As a result, I was a little apprehensive about the idea of joining the cast of five as the only person without previous involvement in PC Theater. By the end of the first rehearsal, though, I realized I had made the right choice in going out for this play. As Liz has already pointed out, the time commitment was impressive; as opening night approached, rehearsals could last up to six hours at a time. However, it was without question worth it: staying busy kept me focused, and required me to manage my time. Most importantly, I was introduced to an entirely new world of amazing people and experiences I would never have encountered had I limited myself to ROTC and academics. I feel that my experience with PC drama was a wonderful complement to the incredible opportunities open to me in the Patriot Battalion.

-Cadet Glitz

# What Have Our Cadets Been Up To?

## Air Assault School

This past summer, I had the opportunity to attend the ten-day Air Assault School at Camp Edwards in Sandwich, MA. I would like to share my experiences with you so that you can have an idea of what it is all about. Air Assault School consists of three 3-day phases: Combat Assault, Slingload Operations, and Rappelling.

Before the three phases begin, candidates must in-process and make it through zero-day. On zero-day, students were required to complete the obstacle course, 2 mile run, and pass an inspection of all the required items on the packing list. The instructors smoked us the whole time. It was a fun day.

During the first phase, Combat Assault, students learned about: aircraft safety, orientation of Army aircraft, aero MEDEVAC, pathfinder operations, hand and arm signals, close combat attacks, and combat assault operations. During this phase you will spend a lot of time in the class room so be sure to take good notes. Towards the end of this phase, we got to do a simulated combat assault which included flying over Cape Cod in a UH-60. To cap off this phase, students must pass a written test followed by a hands-on test of the hand and arm signals we learned.

During the second phase, Slingload Operations, we learned how to prepare, rig, and inspect six different loads including an M998 HMMWV and an M119 Howitzer. We also did an actual hook-up of a load under a UH-60 and used the hand and arm signals we learned in phase 1 to direct the aircraft. This phase concludes with another written exam and a hands-on test. For the hands-on test, we had to inspect 4 out of 6 slingloads that we learned about and find 3 out of 4 deficiencies in each load in fewer than two minutes. For this stage it is really important that you establish a sequence of inspecting each load so that it is easy to pick out the deficiencies.

The third phase is Rappelling. In this fun phase, students learn how to tie a Swiss seat and hook-up to a rappel rope. We practiced rappelling off a 50 foot tower several times both with and without combat equipment. We then moved on to rappelling out of the UH-60 at 100 feet. Since nearly 30 % of our class didn't pass phase 2, we had some free time down at the rappel tower on the last day of phase 3. We surviving students had a chance to try out the "Aussie" rappel. For the "Aussie" rappel, you clip into the rappel rope at your back and go down face first. This was the highlight of Air Assault School for me.

Finally, on the last day everyone gets up before sunrise to conduct a 12 mile foot march. In order to pass, everyone must carry all inspectable items and complete the march within three hours. After the march, everyone cleans up for the graduation ceremony. The graduates are awarded the Air Assault badge.

Air Assault School was a great learning experience for me and I recommend it for anyone who has the chance to go.

Here are a few things that I got out of my experience at Air Assault School and want to pass on to cadets planning to attend this school:

- Be determined (never accept anything less than your best; you can always push yourself further)
- Be motivated (everything seems easier if you have the right motivation to do it!)
- Study hard for the tests
- Have everything on the packing list with you for random inspections
- When someone tells you to do something, do it right the first time

If you have any further interest in learning more about the Army's Air Assault School, go to <http://www.campbell.army.mil/aas/>

-Cadet Lyon

