



PATRIOT PRIDE

October 2008



Professor of Military Science

Train to Fight, Fight to Win! The Cadets of the Patriot Battalion selected this phrase as their Battalion motto and now proudly sound off with it at our formations. Cadet developed and Cadet implemented, this motto defines the heart of our efforts here in the Patriot Battalion. Since our last newsletter, our Cadets have continued to excel in training and leader development. Cadets and Cadre participated in the Army 10-miler, the German Proficiency Badge competition, and the Ranger Challenge competition, while also developing and executing some outstanding training here in the Battalion. It has been fast-paced and challenging and the kind of intensity that forges leaders of character who will one day take lead America's Soldiers as commissioned officers in our Army.

In September we had the honor of hosting Mr. George Fisher, an alumnus of the Army Specialized Training Program at Providence College and a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. Mr. Fisher's time with us allowed our Cadets to truly appreciate the lineage and legacy that they carry forward in this Battalion. That same day we also hosted the 2nd ROTC Brigade Commander, COL Charles Hardy, and had the opportunity to show him all of the great things that our Cadets are accomplishing every day. He and his Command Sergeant Major were very impressed with the quality and professionalism of our Cadets.

We received some great news for all of our Seniors this month, as well. All Seniors who competed in the recent Branching board received either their first or second choices! This is truly indicative of the talent in this program and in the current Senior class and we are very proud of them. Well done.

I want to take a moment to thank the many alumni who responded to our last newsletter mailing. Your support for this battalion is incredible and I enjoyed the correspondence from so many of you. LT Ben Dalton, home on leave from Iraq, took us up on the invitation to talk to our Cadets and he presented a class on Joint Security Stations to our MSII's (sophomores). This was a great class and I encourage all alumni to maintain close ties with us so that we can find future opportunities to develop our Cadets.

Coming up on 12 November at 4:30 p.m. we will conduct a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Grotto here at PC and I welcome all who are able to attend this event. This simple, but dignified ceremony will pay respect to all of our veterans and the sacrifices that they have made and are still making for our Nation.

We look forward to another month of tough, realistic training as we lead our Cadets to higher levels of excellence. We can accept nothing less than the best and we must Train to Fight and Fight to Win!

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



Senior Military Instructor

Hello Patriot Battalion and friends,

We have another month under our belts and have just returned from the Ranger Challenge. Some will challenge how well we did by looking at our placement, 12th of 20, but the true testament to this team was the leadership that displayed and learned. We had a team of highly motivated Cadets, all of which are outstanding leaders, and returned with ten of the best Cadets in the nation.

CDT Denis Campbell was the only person to shoot 40 out of 40 targets during Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM). Each event we had Strong Cadets that set the standards for all to follow. CDT Amber Glitz was the second highest female APFT score in the competition. And every member of the team scored well, the APFT score alone moved the team up three positions in the over-all ranking. I challenge every Cadet in the Patriot Battalion to participate next year and exceed the standards. Our team did well and next year we will do better. With our Seniors leaving that will open up a lot of space on the team. Be a leader and lead from the front.

Moving onto to training, The Cadets have been "enjoying" a learning curve that rivals any of any class that they can take. The expectations of reading prior to class and then understanding what they have been taught during the practical applications, or leadership labs, has been exemplary.

Each time I see the Cadets in action I grow prouder of the team of trainers and learners in the Patriot Battalion. Keep the focus, stay to the standards and you will be better leaders than you can ever see right now.

Train to fight, fight to win.

David Alan Bowman, MSG
Senior Military Instructor.

WHAT HAVE OUR CADETS BEEN UP TO?

This month was a busy one for the Patriot Battalion. At the beginning of the month, seniors Denis Campbell, Sara Stowell, Brendan McKeague, Jeremy Aucoin and junior Tom Crescie along with Sgt. Major Fortunato partake in a long held tradition of taking a team to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Army Ten-Miler. All had a great time running the race through the streets of the Capital and spending time touring the city.

Additionally, throughout the months of September and October members of the Patriot Battalion got out of bed five days a week at 5:30 in order to train and prepare for the Ranger Challenge Competition. All who participated worked extremely hard in a variety of physical and technical areas including land navigation, weapons assembly/disassembly and BRM. The team comprised of 8 seniors, 1 sophomore and one 1 freshman led by Major Lafferty and Colonel Houston, ultimately placed 12 out of 22 teams. We are so proud of their efforts and willingness to step up to the plate Congratulations, Ranger Challenge Team!

On October 24th, the entire Battalion loaded up the vans and headed to Ft. Devin's, MA for our fall FTX. We hit the ground running as the MSIII's stepped off the bus and began their first of two night Land Navigation exercises, while the MSI's and II's were instructed on Patrol Base Operations. On Saturday morning, all cadets were given three and half hours in order to complete the day Land Nav standard of seven points. They then moved into Squad STX lanes followed by a night Land Nav course. Cadets rounded out the weekend by spending an incredibly rainy night outside on Saturday and went straight into several STX lanes before heading back to PC. Over all it was an incredibly valuable weekend filled with important training at both fundamentally for the I's and II's as well as a more advanced level for the MS III's preparing for LDAC. Look for more news as the Battalion continues to train and exceed the standard.

As Battalion tradition insists, we ended a very productive month with our annual Halloween Battalion Fun Run. The costumes ranged from outrageous to frightening, but we all had a great time.

Cadet Spotlight: XO Joseph Schneider

Over this past summer, some of our senior Cadets participated in a program tailored to shadowing specific training units throughout the United States. Joe Schneider successfully completed the DCLT program in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Experiences at Drill Cadet Leadership Training (DCLT) vary and make it difficult to recommend without reserve. The company you find yourself in is just as likely to need an Executive Officer (XO) position filled as it is to be short a drill sergeant or two. A number of Cadets I met at Ft. Jackson were suffering through the former: they were office assistants and made only perfunctory visits to training sites with their "sponsors" (the official term for the lieutenants and captains charged with taking care of Cadets). What they went through was not without value so much as it reinforced the common deficiency in Cadets (a deficiency I have as much as any): it kept those Cadets away from Soldiers and away from the way the Army trains.

DCLT lasts approximately three weeks, and if you are not stuck in an office, you will see what it takes for the Army to transform civilians into Soldiers. While that sounds like mere boilerplate (and it is the subject of enough briefings and PowerPoint slides to attract suspicion if not derision), this is the vision at Ft. Jackson and every basic training center. The change is unmistakable and demands attention: if you make it out to see new recruits at in processing and contrast them to the Soldiers at graduation or even at the mid to later phases of Basic Combat Training you will find that the drill sergeants have realized their commands' vision. They are the ones who take a group of wide-eyed teenagers fumbling off a bus and make them into a disciplined unit. If you are fortunate, and if your drill sergeants trust you to not mess it up, at DCLT you will get a chance to lend them a hand here and there. At the very least you can learn some of the things that NCOs expect from officers, and what officers can expect from their NCOs. Of course, they can't help but mess with you a little bit- that's just how they have their fun.

In short, if you are offered a chance to go to Ft. Jackson for DCLT, take it. There is the chance that you will be saddled with odd-jobs and long spans of boredom. But there is just as much of a chance that you will get to interact with some of the Army's best NCOs and see how they operate. Some Cadets have already had their fill of drill sergeants and basic training, but for those of us who have never seen or experienced either, DCLT is an excellent opportunity to gain some idea of how much time, effort, and skill goes into preparing the next generation of Soldiers in America's Army.

-Joe Schneider

Ranger Challenge 2008

By: CDT Lauren Magrane

“Rangers Lead the Way!” Inspired by this Ranger motto, Patriot Battalion Cadets recently competed in the annual 2nd Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition held at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts from October 17-19, 2008. Known as the Army ROTC “varsity sport,” the Ranger Challenge competition ultimately tests Cadets’ physical and mental strength, while also focusing on developing and utilizing leadership skills within a team. In addition, Cadets enhance their technical knowledge and weapons proficiency skills. Any Cadet up for the “challenge” can begin training in early September. With daily workouts, and even additional weekend trainings, Cadets focus on increasing their physical strength, as well as learning and mastering basic infantry skills that will be tested during the competition.

MS IV Cadet Denis Campbell coached and led the 2008 Patriot Battalion Ranger Challenge team, under the guidance and support of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Houston and Major Jason Lafferty. Training began with nearly twenty interested Cadets. A final team consisting of the top-ten most qualified Cadets competed and represent the Patriot Battalion. This year’s team was primarily made up of MS IV Cadets, driven by their experience and motivation to succeed.

Consisting of seven events, the competition required Cadets to either participate as individuals, in which their scores were eventually compiled as a team score, or they competed as a team. The following events made up this year’s Ranger Challenge Competition:

Basic Rifleman Skills (BRM)

Prior to competing, Cadets zeroed their M16 rifles on a 25m still target. During the competition, each competitor received 40 rounds to qualify their M16. In the end, the individual scores were computed to provide an average team BRM score. Success in this event required patience, concentration and technique to fire accurately on the given targets.

Weapons Proficiency

During this timed event, individuals disassembled and assembled an M16, after first running from a start point nearly 50 meters away. After sprinting to the disassembly and assembly area, Cadets gave manual and vocal demonstrations to properly clear their weapons. Cadets then performed a functions test to standard in order to assure the accuracy of the individuals’ efforts. After successfully completing their technical M16 proficiency, competitors sprinted back to the start point where cadre graders assessed their time. The individual times and scores were again tallied and totaled as a team score.

Hand Grenade Assault Course

Overall, this course required buddy teams to utilize proper movement techniques to overcome obstacles, and project simulated hand grenades through targets. Team members demonstrated their movement skills and grenade aim while opposing teams’ “snipers” fired upon them. Teams were awarded points based on the time it took to complete the course and the effectiveness of the grenade thrower’s aim towards each target. The Patriot Battalion earned its highest points in this event, ranking fourth place overall.

Orienteering (Land Navigation)

The competition tested Cadet orienteering skills within three separate phases: written land navigation, day land navigation, and night land navigation. Initially, the team took the written land navigation test. To complete this task, the team separated into two separate skill-set based groups, and divided up the various questions. The questions were based on point level values ranging from either 1, 3 or 5 points. For both day and night land nav, the team again separated into two groups of five and set out to find their points. Aiming to find as many points as possible, members first plotted their given coordinates on a map and then utilized various orienteering strategies and methods to set out and find their points within the allotted time period. For example, the teams used attack points, terrain association, and dead reckoning to help expedite the process so they could continue to find points. After they had returned back to the start point, they received points based on the accuracy of their orienteering skills.

Obstacle Course

The Obstacle Course required eight team members to race through a series of vertical and horizontal obstacles while being timed. The course itself was approximately 2 miles in length. The two remaining team members served as “safeties” while the others worked together to conquer each barrier. With this challenge, the ability to work as a team, as well as one’s individual strength was tested. The course also tested upper and lower body strength, grip, agility, endurance, speed, and confidence.

“Mystery Event” - Field Leader’s Reaction Course (FLRC)

Each year, a mystery event is set aside for teams to participate in without having any prior knowledge of the skill-set required of the completion of the challenge. This year’s mystery event was to complete an FLRC. Essentially, the event was a test of teamwork. The team captain was taken aside and briefed a scenario with a mission-like task to complete. The goal was to complete the FLRC obstacle, which is more intricate than the typical obstacle course, as quickly as possible. For this year’s challenge, team members had to strategically move ammo boxes and personnel successfully across an obstacle.

Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT)

The Army Physical Fitness Test was administered as the last event on Sunday morning. Baring the cold weather, Cadets demonstrated their physical strength and endurance, in a series of three tests. Initially, Cadets had two minutes to perform as many pushups as they could. Next, they were given two minutes to similarly perform as many sit-ups as possible. Finally, the APFT was completed by Cadets with a 2 mile run. Individual scores were tabulated based on the Army scale of 100 points for each event, within the 17-21 age group. This year’s scores greatly surpassed last year’s. Overall, the team APFT score averaged a total of 315 points, with the majority of the team maxing out on their individual scores!

After three full days of challenges, the Patriot Battalion Ranger Challenge Team finished in 12th place overall, out of 20 total teams. If you are interested in competing in the future, contact Patriot Battalion cadre members or former team members and Cadets for additional information!

November Training Highlights

November 7 Record PT Test

November 12 Veteran’s Day Ceremony

November 19 CWST

November 15 MSIII Garrison STX

November 24 TURKEY BOWL :)

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The Patriot Battalion welcomes all contributions and ideas for future editions of the Patriot Pride Newsletter. To submit material, please contact Sara Stowell sstowell@providence.edu

The NEW Patriot Battalion Website can be referenced at:

<http://armyrotc.com/edu/providence/index.htm> As we continue to develop the website, we are seeking Alumni information and updates from *all* of our partnership schools. Please let us know where you are and what you are doing if you would like to be included on our website.