



PATRIOT PRIDE

September 2008



Welcome back, Patriot Battalion!

This is the first edition of the monthly Patriot Pride Newsletter. Each month we will spotlight Cadets, cadre and alumni who represent Army values and demonstrate those skills that have led to their success in the Patriot Battalion and beyond.

Professor of Military Science

Welcome to another school year and a fast-paced training environment in the Patriot Battalion! I am the new Professor of Military Science, having arrived over the summer, and I am thrilled and honored to be a part of this great team. My wife, Kathy, and our three children are also excited to be here in Rhode Island and to be part of the Patriot family. By way of a short introduction, let me just tell you a little about me and my background. I am a native New Englander and an Army ROTC graduate of the University of Maine. I entered the Regular Army Field Artillery upon commissioning and have served in the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, the 1st Cavalry Division and at the National Training Center, among other assignments. Most recently, I served as the Operations Officer (S3) and Executive Officer (XO) for 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, Iraq.

We have a very talented team of Cadre and Cadets in this battalion, and benefit from outstanding support from our partnered colleges and surrounding National Guard and Reserve units. The Patriot Battalion alumni are very active and keep close tabs on the program from the farthest reaches of the globe, as well. My goal with this new round of newsletters is to maintain the connection for Patriot Battalion members, past, present, and future, to include parents, alumni, Cadre, Cadets, and prospects. We have an outstanding program here and want to show off the 90 Cadets and all of their endeavors through this forum. Over the summer, several of our Cadets placed in the top 10% of all Cadets nationwide during the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Ft. Lewis, WA.

I encourage parents and alumni to involve themselves in our program to see these great young men and women in action. We will publish upcoming events that may be of interest, including Ranger Challenge competitions, ceremonies, and weekly training. This may allow parents and alumni to arrange schedules to stop by and see what we're doing. A typical week for us consists of Physical Readiness Training every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 to 7:30 AM, classes on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00 PM and a Leadership Lab from 4:30-6:00 PM. If any parents of alumni would like to join us for those events, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. We look forward to another great year for the Patriot Battalion!

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



Senior Military Instructor

Welcome back Patriot Battalion! This new school year will prove to be the best yet. I am the relatively new Senior Military Instructor. I arrived in February of last school year and spent my summer at Fort Lewis evaluating the next set of leaders from every ROTC program in the country.

I can tell you that I am excited about what that experience will bring to the Patriot Battalion. We have the best Cadets in the Nation in our program and they will be passing along all of their knowledge and skills to create next years best leaders.

Although I am not from New England, I am from the great white north. I am from northern Michigan and come from a hard-working family that is no stranger to service.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to their new family. The Army is unlike any other organization in existence in that you do not just get a career, training, etc., but you join the ranks of over 225 years of family and service to the Nation.

We come together in this profession of arms and our lives intertwine in a way that you will never forget. You will always be a part of it and it a part of you.

The commitment to serve the people of the United States and provide them security so they can sleep at night is the greatest commitment that anyone can undertake.

I assure you that you will be prepared to lead Soldiers when you graduate and commission from the Patriot Battalion. The skills you acquire this year will be second to none, and we will push you to exceed what you think you are capable of every day.

You will start here as a student and leave a leader.

I am always available to talk with you and answer any questions that you may have. Feel free to email me or call.

Dbowman2@providence.edu or 401-865-2023.

David Alan Bowman
MSG, USA
Senior Military Instructor

WHAT HAVE OUR CADETS BEEN UP TO?

Summer 2008

Completed LDAC:

Jeremy Aucoin PC '09
Ryan Allen Bryant '09
Lenora Benson UMass Dartmouth '09
Denis Campbell UMass Dartmouth '09
Eric Charette UMass Dartmouth '09
Dave Devine RIC '09
Derek George JW '09
James Gerardi UMass Dartmouth '09
George Jacome UMass Dartmouth '08
Dan Marusak PC '09
Joe Schneider PC '09
Sara Stowell PC '09
Adam Swartzbaugh Brown '09

Completed LTC:

Ernie Beal RIC '10
Terrence Horne JW '10
Andrew Letarte PC '09
Renaldo Sanchez JW '10

Graduated Airborne:

Terrence Horne JW '10
Dennis Kelly PC '10
Timothy Swanton UMass Dartmouth '10
Ryan Totolo PC '10

Graduated Air Assault:

Derek George JW '09
James Gerardi UMass Dartmouth '09
Mike Kane UMass Dartmouth '10
Andrew Letarte PC '09
Chris Lyon PC '11
Daniel Marusak PC '09
Patrick O'Donnell PC '11
Adam Swartzbaugh Brown '09

Graduated Sapper School:

Denis Campbell PC '09



Cadet Spotlight: S-3 Denis Campbell

Over this past summer, one of our senior Cadets participated in The Sapper Leader Course. Denis Campbell successfully graduated and is recognized for his achievements. Congratulations, Cadet Campbell!

The Sapper Leader Course

The Sapper Leader Course is a 28-day course held at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. The mission of the school is to train “leaders in leadership skills, combat engineer and infantry battle drills, and the specialized engineer and infantry techniques required to perform as members of a Sapper Battalion.” It is a difficult course that demands a lot out of the student and has approximately a 40% graduation rate. The course is broken down into two phases: General Subjects and Patrolling.

In the first phase the following topics are covered: medical, land navigation, demolitions (expedient and conventional), air operations, water operations, mountaineering, enemy threat weapon and mine identification, expedient antennas, and urban operations (including breaching). During this phase I was given the chance to participate in some outstanding training. Some of the most exciting training I participated in was a helocast and urban breaching. During our helocast operations we jumped from a CH-47 Chinook from approximately 20 feet at 20 knots and then swam about 150 meters to the shore to link up with our squads. While conducting Urban Operations we had the opportunity to construct our own demolitions and then go to a training site to actually breach doors and then clear rooms.

The second phase of the course is Patrolling. During this phase you are taught the expectations of the course for the patrolling exercises. This phase begins with a couple days of classroom before we went to the field. While in the field the course aims to increase the level of stress and incorporate a lot of the training from the first phase. During the 3-day STX and 4-day FTX my class averaged about 2 hours of sleep per day and typically 2, but sometimes 1 MRE a day. During this phase you receive evaluations as PL, APL, or SL. This course was the most physically and mentally challenging event in which I have ever participated.

For anyone interested in more information about the school, go to Google and search “Pentagon Channel Recon Sapper” click on the first link and there is a 26 minute documentary about the Sapper Leader Course that was filmed this past summer using content from my class during the water operations phase. This video will give you a highly informational video that is also entertaining.

-- Cadet Denis Campbell

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Captain William G. Cromie
Providence College '05**

The Patriot Battalion is known for commissioning some of the best officers in the country. Many of our alum are or have been engaged in the Global War on Terror and all have made a commitment to serve their country to the best of their ability. In 2005, a PC student named William Cromie graduated and become one of the Army's newest lieutenants. Three years later, the now Captain Cromie has already made a name for himself.

Captain Cromie recently received the esteemed Silver Star in honor of his heroic actions as a platoon leader in Company A, 173rd Special Troops Battalion. On November 16, 2007, Captain Cromie and his platoon were assigned the task of investigating a potential roadside bomb in the Kunar province in eastern Afghanistan. "While traveling down the road, our first vehicle struck an IED [improvised explosive device]," he said. "Immediately, we were ambushed on three sides by heavily armed militants." When two soldiers began taking enemy fire and became trapped with little ammunition "Cromie secured additional rounds and ran through small-arms crossfire to resupply them." For his valor and his leadership the Patriot Battalion would like to offer our gratitude.

We are so very proud to have Captain Cromie as a former Patriot Battalion ROTC cadet.

October Training Highlights

October 3-6 Army Ten-Miler
**October 17-19 Ranger Challenge
Competition**
October 24-26 Fall FTX
**October 31 Halloween Battalion Fun
Run**

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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](mailto:ssowell@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.

If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please email Lorraine Ciorlano at patriot8@providence.edu

