WORDS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

As this semester comes to a close, I would like to first off say thank you to all of the fantastic cadets of the Wildcat battalion and their families. These Cadets sacrifice a lot in order to prepare themselves physically and mentally for their road ahead, for which I am truly grateful. This year has brought tremendous changes to the ROTC curriculum and focus from Cadet Command.

The Wildcat Battalion has moved away from tactics and towards critical thinking ability, which has added great challenges that have been taken in stride. Our new mentorship program has allowed for familiar upperclassmen faces as well as small unit cohesion through assigning upperclassmen to individual squads. Our first mentorship event of the semester was held at Wildcat creek, this afforded the new cadets to have the opportunity to meet cadets outside of their direct chain of command in a relaxing and fun environment.

As we continue on our mission for creating exceptional leaders, next semester will consist of more mentorship opportunities and chances to further enhance the cohesion of the Wildcat Battalion. I would also like to extend my sincerest appreciation from our generous alumni and friends of Kansas State. I am grateful of being apart this wonderful Family and go CATS!

- C/LTC Andrew Stoafers, Battalion Commander
  Senior, Kinesiology
On 19OCT14, the Wildcat Battalion sent two teams to Washington D.C for the Association of the United States Army’s (AUSA) Ten Miler race held each year. This race commemorates those who have served or still serve in ARMY; however, other branches are welcomed to participate too. The Wildcat Battalion has been joining in this race for many years and still plans to continue to do so in the future.

The cadets interested in going on this trip had to conduct a 5-mile trial run to qualify and reserve a spot on the team. The cadets trained every day on a demanding schedule throughout the fall semester. When it came time to leave, the cadets and cadre left a couple days before the race. They were able to spend the night in barracks at Fort Knox and arrive at the Capitol the next day for a tour.

The day before the race, Cadets had the opportunity to go to the annual AUSA meeting & Exposition takes place where military equipment and technology are brought from all over the world to D.C. On race day there were 26,348 runners that partook in the race. Cadets worked hard to finish the 10 miles in varying time from sixty-three minutes to the high 70’s. The next day, the cadets traveled in groups around the city and were able to visit monuments and the Smithsonian museums. After they had free time to roam The Mall area, cadets were able to talk with past and present leaders for the U.S Army at the Fort Riley Chapter Party. The cadets were able to gain valuable knowledge and good times with experienced Army personnel, one of the many benefits of partaking in this Washington D.C race weekend.

Congratulations to Cadets; Noah Stallbaumer, Katie Morris, Jacob Colver, Ashley Oelschlaeger, Benjamin Cox, Alex Trumble, Raleigh Clark, Joe Blankenship, Zachary Clonts, Daniel Ruiz, Travis Reed, Chanel Coyne, Cal Ballou, Luke Ranum, CPT Waster, and SFC Noble on finishing the ARMY Ten-Miler! Also, the Wildcat Battalion would like to thank; CPT Coco and his family for opening their home to the team and Briggs Auto, Mr. Young, for coordinating vehicles for us for the trip. We would not be able to do this trip without your help, Thank you!

-CPT Luke Ranum, Master of Fitness
Senior, Kinesiology
On 12DEC2014 in the Student Union, 5 ARMY cadets raised their right hand and repeated the oath of Office to become 2nd lieutenants in the United States Army. Family, friends and colleagues gathered at Forum Hall, in anticipation and excitement, for their loved ones to take the next step in their military career.

The G-7 Pershing Rifles posted the colors and then Senior Cadets, Amanda McElroy, Melissa Graves, Jake Colver and Miguel Powell started the ceremony by singing the National Anthem.

The cadets rose and the oath was repeated, then each of the lieutenants were handed their certificate, followed by family or friends pinning on their new shoulder boards. Then, as part of a long lasting tradition in the ARMY they had an enlisted soldier salute them in exchange for a silver dollar.

The reception for the ceremony was held at General Myers Hall where they served cake and punch. During the reception, a lot of pictures were taken to remember and celebrate the Lieutenants and all of the hard work they put in to become commissioned officers.

The Kansas State Wildcat Battalion would like to congratulate the newly commissioned officers; Cody Loose, Jim Mikaloff, Michael Calhoun, Megan Walden and Joshua Reed.
Cadets new to the program were given instruction on basic soldier skills, weapons familiarization, and an introduction to tactics at our first meeting. Skills covered included basic first aid, individual movement techniques, and knot tying. Veteran cadets were refreshed in these skills and helped teach the new cadets. The next six weeks of training heavily involved squad-level tactical training held at various sites such as Victory Field (K-State ropes course) and training areas at Fort Riley. Training situations included attack missions, reconnaissance, ambushes, and key-leader engagements. Cadets were challenged in these situations to involve critical thinking and organizational skills while leading their respective squads to complete the mission.

As the weather turned colder, we shifted our training focus to MOUT held at General Myers Hall and the Manhattan Fire Department north of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Cadets were instructed on the basic principles of MOUT and close-quarter combat and applied these skills for the next three weeks of training.

“Roughly 35 cadets regularly attend weekly and I saw major improvement in the leadership skills of these cadets over the course of the semester.” – Wendt, Senior, RECONDO RC
Following MOUT, we conducted the Recondo Indoctrination Program (RIP). Every day of the week candidates would report to the designated training site at 5:00 A.M. where they would execute assigned tasks both individually and as a team. Tasks included a forced 10-kilometer march with 35 lbs rucksacks and full kit, five-mile run, and challenge course involving application of basic skills while under physical distress. I was extremely proud of the dedication and heart of our RIP class this semester as all 20 candidates started and finished the week. While all candidates completed the week of training, only six successfully met each standard and were promoted to RI status. I am confident in stating that those who fell short of meeting the requirements will compete in RIP again this upcoming Spring semester with the same gumption and motivation. Our Fall semester training concluded with a MOUT operation at the Manhattan Fire Station following RIP week.

I look forward to another successful semester this upcoming Spring. Training will begin right where we left off and continue to escalate in pace and greater challenges presented to Recondo cadets in order to enhance their development. Training will culminate in our annual two-day FTX on Fort Riley in April in which we will execute a force-on-force mission. Recondo will continue to develop these young leaders and better prepare them as future officers and I am confident in the abilities of each young man and woman who regularly attends our meetings.

-C/ CPT Dylan Wendt, Recondo Commander
Senior, History
Kansas State sent three teams this fall to compete at the Annual Task Force Dodge Ranger Challenge held at Camp Dodge, Iowa on the weekend of October 17. The teams consisted of two 9-male teams and one 5-female team. The challenge consists of a number of events such as a 10-kilometer ruck march, Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), land navigation, and one-rope bridge construction over an obstacle all oriented towards teamwork and collective mental and physical capabilities. The events were spread throughout three days with competition beginning shortly after registration and ending early Sunday morning. There were about 20 other teams from schools across 3rd brigade that also competed in the challenge.

Tryouts were held as soon as the Battalion began regular PT in late August. Tryouts consisted of a timed 5-mile run, 10-Kilometer ruck march, and weightlifting combine. Teams were formulated by compiling individual results, experience, and motivation throughout the week of tryouts. Following tryouts we immediately began training with physical fitness training five days a week and one to two evening skills practices each week.

Upon arrival and registration, competition began Friday afternoon with One-rope bridge construction in which all teams were timed in their ability to properly setup a one-rope bridge, maneuver across a sand pit, and deconstruct the one-rope bridge. We then had to maneuver the Crucible, a winding obstacle course with challenges such as balance beams, sand pit low crawls, and wall climbs all while carrying equipment and 5-gallon water jugs. Following the Crucible we were sent to run the hand-grenade assault course. This was a timed event in which a team was challenged to run through a designated route and test accuracy at throwing simulated grenades at various targets.

The next morning began before sunrise with the APFT with each team’s average APFT score taken. We then proceeded to weapons assembly/disassembly of a standard M-4 in which each team was collectively timed in its ability to properly disassemble and reassemble the rifle. We then moved to the Conway Challenge, in which team’s were tasked with memorization of certain military concepts and proper simulation of a situational report. The final exercise of the day was the first aid lane in which team’s had to properly evaluate a casualty, submit a 9-line MEDEVAC report, and transport the casualty by liter to the designated MEDEVAC site. Finally, the challenge concluded with a 10-Kilometer ruck march early Sunday morning.

**HOW DID OUR TEAMS DO?**

Overall, our male Alpha team performed very well and finished third overall while also placing first in the hand-grenade course, placing second on the APFT, and third in the One-rope bridge and First-aid station. The male Bravo team and female teams were young and I am certain the cadets from those respective teams will return next year and build off where this year’s team left off. Most importantly, the cadets who competed gained better confidence in their leadership abilities and teamwork skills necessary to be successful officers in the Army.
My CULP mission was Military to Military. I spent almost four weeks in Guyana, and worked with the Guyanese military the entire time. I was trained how to operate the AKM weapon system and participated in the official Guyanese Jungle Amphibious Training School. Even though it was one of the most challenging experiences of my entire life, I would go back in a heartbeat. Two years ago, as a K-State Freshman, I would have never imagined where the ROTC program sent me last summer. I am now a Junior and feel that CULP has made me a better cadet, and has given me an experience that most other students will never face in college.

“Kansas State Army ROTC provided me with the greatest adventure of my life.”– Tom Moloney, Junior
On 21SEP14, the Wildcat Battalion sent a group of cadets to Appleton, Wisconsin, for a half or full marathon of their choice. The Battalion tries to remain active and give cadets opportunities to challenge themselves and meet new goals throughout the year. LTC Dixon, the K-State ROTC PMS, has participated in many marathons in different states and has spread his passion for running in our Battalion.

The team had 12 positions open for cadets who were brave enough to tackle on the challenge. Out of the twelve spots, 3 cadets completed the half marathon and the rest decided to train for the full marathon. Cadets used their own time to train, which showed self-dedication because they sometimes had to train outside of PT time.

The team left for Appleton a day before the race because Cadet Schmidt’s father helped them with getting a tour of a Cheese Factory in Wisconsin. The tour lasted a few hours and everybody who went learned a lot and thought it was a very cool experience. The cadets were able to see how cheese is produced and they were able to taste different varieties of the well-known Wisconsin cheese.

On race day, the morning started off cold and misty but it ended up being the perfect weather for a long run. Through hard work and training, the twelve cadets, LTC Dixon and CPT Wasner accomplished the Wisconsin half and full marathon.

The Battalion wants to thank; Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt for letting the team stay at the house, to Cadet Schmidt who informed the Battalion about his hometown marathon. Congratulations to Cadets; Alex Northrup, Alexander Ly, and Josh Cox for completing the half marathon. For the full marathon, congratulations to Cadets; Donald Wright, Travis Reed, Daniel Schmidt, Brandon Runyan, Tom Moloney, Dylan Wendt, Cheri Mahoney Katie Morris, Luke Ranum, CPT Wasner, and LTC Dixon.

-C/CPT Luke Ranum, Master of Fitness
Senior, Kinesiology
HOW YOU CAN HELP?

1. THE MILITARY SCIENCE EXCELLENCE FUND provides financial support of the overall Wildcat Battalion Army ROTC program. Donations can be made payable to the KSU Foundation — please indicate Foundation Account F32725—Military Science Excellence Fund on your gift and pledge form.

2. THE ARMY ROTC ROOM AND BOARD EXCELLENCE FUND provides financial assistance in offsetting the cost of room and board for enrolled cadets in good standing in the Wildcat Battalion. Donations can be made payable to the KSU Foundation — please indicate Foundation Account F02110—Army ROTC Room & Board Excellence Fund on your gift and pledge form.

3. THE LORA MARIETTA MENTORSHIP EXCELLENCE FUND provides financial support for the Wildcat Battalion mentorship activities and programs. Donations can be made payable to the KSU Foundation — please indicate Foundation Account F31300—Lora Marietta Mentorship Excellence Fund on your gift and pledge form.

4. THE PERSHING RIFLE ALUMNI EXCELLENCE FUND provides financial support for the cadets of the Company G-7 Pershing Rifles activities and overall program. Donations can be made payable to the KSU Foundation — please indicate Foundation Account F35520—Pershing Rifles Alumni Excellence Fund on your gift and pledge form.

Your donations to any of the great programs listed will ensure that the Wildcat Battalion cadets carry on your legacy and that K-State Army ROTC remains Wildcat strong!

To access the KSU Foundation gift or pledge form please visit the Kansas State University Foundation website at http://www.found.k-state.edu and click on “Give Now”, go to giving options then click #2, pledge/gift form. Once you have completed the form, mail it to:

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If you have any questions, Mrs. Mahoney can be reached at 785-532-7980 or emilym@found.k-state.edu.
FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING ANY OF THESE FUNDS OR HOW YOU CAN ASSIST THE WILDCAT BATTALION IN ANY OTHER WAY, CONTACT US AT ARMYROTC@KSU.EDU OR 785-532-6754—THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO—YOU MAKE US WILDCAT STRONG!

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