As I reflect on the last six months, I can’t help but think about and be appreciative of the support given to the Wildcat Battalion. I am humbled by the generosity of the surrounding communities, Kansas State University Faculty and Administration, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Alumni, and friends of the Cadets and Cadre. The accomplishments achieved by the Battalion can’t be celebrated without first thanking those that make it all happen. As I reach the halfway point in my tour, I can’t think of a school more supportive of its ROTC program than K-State.

During the summer months, 19 of our Cadets (juniors) attended the Leadership and Development Course (LDAC) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State. These Wildcats competed against some 5500 Cadets from over 270 Senior ROTC programs across the country. Their collective performance at camp, 42% overall excellence evaluations, far exceeded the national average of 27%. Not only did 8 out of the 19 receive an excellence, but also they increased their Army Physical Fitness Test average 10 points from 273 to 283. The Battalion’s success at camp, coupled with exceeding commission mission of 23 (25) for FY 2013, increased our standing in 3rd Brigade Cadet Command from 24 the previous year to 4 (out of 43 programs) this year. I am truly proud of the young adults and admire their professionalism and commitment to this country.

I would like to recognize 8 Cadets who recently joined the profession of arms as United States Army Second Lieutenants on 13 December 2013 at Forum Hall, Kansas State University Student Union. Gregory Bremser, Daniel Copeland, Floice Kemp, Robert Kessler, Halston Ladd, Lauren Orr, Thanh Orr, and Mathew Wagner who took their oath of office from BG Dold, Chief of Staff Kansas Army National Guard, and joined the ranks as the US Army’s newest Second Lieutenants. Thank you all for the hard work and dedication demonstrated over the last 4 years.

Finally I’d like to wish all Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! As we gather with friends and family this holiday season please remember those service members and families that remain ready at their post, separated from the ones they love.

Go Cats!

LTC Robert B. Dixon
Professor of Military Science
To the Wildcat Battalion and All of Our Supporters:

With an extremely busy semester wrapping itself up, I would like to take a brief moment to thank all of our Cadets and their families. Dedication and resilience are required in order to reach the high levels of achievement that we strive for, and after a full semester of training, each and every Cadet has earned a well-deserved break.

When new Cadets join the Wildcat Battalion, they are paired up with an upperclassmen mentor with a similar major or background in order to help them assimilate into our program. As the point man on this undertaking, I hosted our first mentorship event at Little Apple Lanes, a local bowling alley where Cadets were free to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere and connect with their upperclassmen mentors. This afforded many of our new Cadets time to ask questions about the world, which they have selflessly agreed to join, as well as general questions about college. The program continues to be successful and new mentorship events will be held next semester.

I sincerely hope that every member of the Wildcat Battalion enjoyed their semester even with all the challenges it presented. After being thrown into a lake during our Fall Training Exercise, I can personally attest to the year’s ups and downs. To all of our supporters, on behalf of the Wildcat Battalion, thank you from the bottom of my heart. We are truly blessed here at Kansas State, thanks to the generous nature of alumni and friends alike. Happy Holidays to everyone, and go Cats!

Cadet LTC Ryan Crosser
Cadet Battalion Commander
Hospitality Management
RECONDO

The Kansas State Recondo Company is a tactically oriented extra-curricular group that focuses on developing leaders who are physically strong and mentally tough by immersing Cadets in hands-on, challenging, dynamic combat scenarios. Recondo participation is open to all Cadets in the Wildcat Battalion and encourages fellow Air Force ROTC Cadets to participate as well. Recondo meetings are held once a week and each meeting focuses on applying lessons learned in the classroom to practical exercises conducted in a tactical environment. Recondo Cadets began their semester of training with two courses in basic skills. Cadets learned the basic skills that they would be expected to perform as both an individual and as a part of a team. These skills focused on tasks such as hand grenade throwing, Claymore mine employment, knot tying, and how to move tactically as an individual and as a unit.

Following a Cadet’s completion of both basic skills courses, they received a black Recondo t-shirt as a sign of their commitment to the program and qualification as being an official Recondo member. This semester saw the addition of over 30 new members earning a Recondo t-shirt with an additional 20 in regular attendance.

The rest of the semester has been focused on practical exercises in which Cadets are given the opportunity to enhance their leadership abilities and improve upon tactical instruction provided during their regular classroom meetings. This training is conducted in the form of Situational Training Exercises (STX) in which a Recondo Cadet takes charge of a squad size element and is given a tactical mission to accomplish with their squad. Cadets this semester have conducted several iterations of STX training and each training exercise has come with new challenges and objectives for the Cadets to experience. STX training provides challenging and dynamic combat scenarios to Cadets and allows for Cadets at all levels to practice their leadership and teamwork abilities while enhancing their tactical knowledge and competency.

Cadets who regularly attend Recondo training are afforded the opportunity to become qualified Recondo Instructors (RIs). This title is given to Cadets following their successful completion of the week long Recondo Indoctrination Program (RIP). RIP Week consists of a physically and mentally demanding series of tasks that the RIP candidates must successfully complete in order to earn the qualification of Recondo Instructor. The candidates complete events consisting of a 5 mile timed run, a 10K timed ruck march, a challenging written test, and several other events designed to push the Cadets to their physical and mental limits. This semester, we are happy to welcome 7 new candidates on to our Recondo staff as qualified instructors.

Our Recondo Company is also responsible for the Ranger Challenge and Ranger Buddy ROTC extracurricular teams. Each of these teams is the competitive embodiment of what the Recondo Company is all about. These events encourage teamwork, extreme physical toughness, mental agility, and many of the same individual skills that
Recondo Cadets learn during basic skills training. Our 9 person male and 5 person female Ranger Challenge teams compete with other programs in our region for the honor of winning the Brigade Ranger Challenge competition. This year, after a modified competition due to the government shutdown, our Male A Team took 2nd in our task force. The Ranger Buddy Competition consists of teams of two Cadets each all competing in events very similar to Ranger Challenge events. We have already had a high level of interest of potential Ranger Buddy teams and look forward to these teams competing for honors at this year’s upcoming Ranger Buddy competition.

This semester of Recondo has been extremely successful and we look forward to carrying the momentum of a productive semester on through Christmas break and into the Spring semester. Recondo Cadets can expect to find themselves both in the classroom and in the challenging scenarios of STX training in order to further refine their leadership abilities and tactical knowledge. Recondo Cadets will also be given another chance at attempting RIP Week next semester for those who may not have earned their instructor qualification yet. Our year in Recondo will end in a culminating training exercise in which the next group to take charge of the Recondo program for next year will lead a weekend long operation against our senior RIs soon to commission. The training we have conducted this semester will ensure that those Cadets choosing to participate in Recondo will continue to rise to a level of excellence expected of a great Cadet and future officer in the U.S. Army.
Ranger Challenge is an annual competition that pushes each individual Cadet to both their physical and mental limits while having the “team” concept being the main focus of the competition. With some major changes being implemented Cadets would have to be at the top of the game in order to do well.

Usually the competition would be held at Camp Dodge, Iowa, but due to the government shutdown universities across the entire brigade did not have the resources to make the trip out to Iowa. Instead, each university held the Ranger Challenge even at their respective school. And while in the past the competition included events such as a grenade assault course, MEDEVAC lane, and land navigation due to the circumstances the competition this year only consisted of an APFT, 10K road march, and a written test.

Kansas State University had four teams compete this year, two 9 man teams and two 5 person female teams. The competition started off with an APFT at 0600. Once the teams completed the APFT they then moved to the road march site. For the road march the teams had to pack their rucksack according to the packing list sent out from Task Force Ranger. Finally, the teams moved back to General Myers Hall in order to complete the written test which was also sent out from Task Force Ranger. The written test included a variety of question relating to patrolling, the history of the Rangers, and general domain knowledge that the Cadets will have to apply in the future.

Our training consisted of morning practices 5 days a week with two-a-days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The members of our teams tried out with a 6 mile ruck march. Combinations of their APFT score, attendance to practice, and how much domain knowledge they had were used to determine who made the final teams.

This year the Alpha male team place 2nd out of 8 teams with an APFT average of 287, a written test score of 130.5, and a road march time of 1:12:27. The female Alpha team finished 3rd out of 5 female teams with an APFT average of 282.6, a written test score of 126, and a road march time of 1:20:14.

This year the teams pushed themselves through adversity that was both mentally and physically challenging, yet they acted as a team and with the overall result being very well hard work definitely pays off. Everyone was able to give 100% and we as a battalion are very excited to see how next year’s team will build off this year’s success and continue to grow as a team.

Cadet 1LT Jacob Wright
Recondo Executive Officer
Athletic Training
ARMY 10 MILER

This past October, the Wildcat Battalion had the opportunity to send two teams of runners to the Association of the United States Army’s (AUSA) Ten Miler race held annually each year in Washington D.C. All proceeds from the race go to support Army Morale, Welfare and Recreational programs. The race follows a very scenic route that takes runners from the Pentagon start point, over the Potomac River, past several monuments on the National Mall and back over the Potomac to the finish line at the Pentagon. This year, a record thirty-five thousand runners participated.

The participating Cadets tried out for one of the two Ten Miler Teams during the first week of school and trained vigorously throughout the fall semester in hopes of placing well in the race. The Wildcat Battalion’s top finisher, freshman Joel Blankenship, ran the race with a total time of seventy-four minutes and eighteen seconds. Cadet Blankenship placed 2074th overall and 92nd in the male 15-19 year old division. Finishing in a close second, Junior Brion Bircher ran the race with a total time of seventy-four minutes and forty seconds. Cadet Bircher placed 2157th overall and 257th in the male 20-24 year old division.

The Cadets left Manhattan early in the morning on October 18, staying for a brief overlay in the barracks at Ft. Knox before arriving in our nation’s capitol on October 19. The two Wildcat Battalion teams ran fast and strong on the morning of the 20th before enjoying the festivities after the race. The following day, the Cadets had the opportunity to attend the annual AUSA convention. There, they were able to meet many of the current day leaders in our Army and gained valuable insight into the future of the Army that they will one day lead. Following the AUSA Convention, everyone enjoyed a fantastic dinner provided by COL (R) Carstensen. During their last day in Washington D.C., the runners were allowed to split up into groups and tour the monuments and Smithsonian’s of their choice. That evening, all were invited to the Ft. Riley/Central Kansas AUSA Chapter reception for good food and great company. Congratulations to Cadets Austin Peterson, Joshua Cox, Brion Bircher, Joel Blankenship, Cesserie Ballou, Amanda McElroy, Minhee Yi, Michael Wells, Chase Kirby, Adam Rosendahl, Terrence Ogren and Tyler Raby and cadre members LTC Patrick Johnson, CPT Thomas Wasner and CPT Christopher Coco for participating. Special thanks is due to Elbert Weese for coordinating the barracks at Ft. Knox, COL (R) Carstensen for the delicious dinner, Adam York for his excellent guided Capitol Tour, Briggs Auto for donating the vans for travel and finally Mr. and Mrs. Schneider and Mr. and Mrs. Leake for allowing the Cadets and cadre members to stay at their homes. All of the Cadets and cadre members are very gracious and the trip could not have been the success it was without the aforementioned people’s help.

Cadet CPT Terrence Ogren
Assistant Operations Officer
Economics
On November 11-13th, the Wildcat Battalion executed a weekend-long field training exercise on Fort Riley. The FTX, which was planned and led by MSIV’s, offered training that would otherwise be impossible to conduct on campus or in a classroom setting. Cadets were finally able to practice what they have been learning in Land Navigation and Squad Training Exercises. MSI and MSII’s were given a basic soldier skills course first while MSIII’s practiced being squad and team leaders in STX lanes. The following day consisted of STX lanes with the MSI and MSII’s filling out the ranks and Day and Night Land Navigation. The third and last day of the FTX involved more STX lanes with an hour-long ruck march for MSI and MSII’s and a 10k ruck march for MSIII and MSIV’s.

The FTX is one of the most important types of training offered to Cadets every semester because it replicates what the juniors in the program will be doing at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) for a month long the summer before their senior year. Field training offers a way for each Cadet to strengthen their leadership skills and to get a hands-on experience in a simulated tactical environment. A high level of confidence is reached after each Cadet faces their fears, whether it may be successfully leading a squad in an ambush or raid, or finding their way around a land navigation course with only a compass, map, and protractor at night. The FTX builds onto the unique and essential leadership qualities that all of the successful 2nd Lieutenants commissioned here at K-State possess.

Cadet CSM Stephani Brooks
Battalion Command Sergeant Major
Public Health Nutrition
On Friday, 13 December 2013 eight Kansas State University Army ROTC Cadets were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the United States Army. Friends and family gathered at Forum Hall in the Kansas State University’s Student Union to watch the new lieutenants raise their right hands and take an oath. The Ceremony was brought to order by Captain Wasner, who requested the colors be posted by the G-7 Pershing Rifles.

Dean Peter Dorhout introduced guest speaker Brigadier General Scott A. Dold who gave the new lieutenants some words of wisdom, as well as some “do and do nots” as a junior officer.

Immediately following General Dold’s remarks, he then proceeded to administer the Oath of Office, where each soldier rose and repeated the historic words. The new lieutenants were then given their certificates, followed by their family and friends pinned on their newly earned “gold bars.” Each lieutenant then gave their first salute to a non-commissioned officer and the exchanging of a silver dollar, a long lasting tradition of the Army.

After the ceremony commenced, family and friends were invited to have refreshments at the reception in the Student Union. It was a great day to be a part of the Wildcat Battalion, as well as seeing the United States Army receive eight new lieutenants. The Wildcat Battalion would like to congratulate the newly commissioned officers, Gregory Bremser, Daniel Copeland, Floice Kemp, Jr., Robert Kessler, Halston Ladd, Lauren Orr, Thanh Orr, and Matthew Wagner.

Cadet Captain Benjamin Gettler
Public Affairs Officer
Fine Arts
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 & 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 Rifles Alumni Excellence Fund** provides financial support for the Cadets of 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](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: KSU Foundation Center, 2323 Anderson Ave, Suite 500, Manhattan Kansas, 66502-2911, Attention Damon Fairchild. If you have any questions, Mr. Fairchild can be reached at 785-532-7524 or damonf@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 all Wildcat Strong!