As Spring Semester comes to a close and the Wildcat Battalion commissions the Army’s newest 2nd Lieutenants I would personally like to thank all those who made it possible. Without the support of the Faculty and Administration at Kansas State University, 1st Infantry Division and Ft. Riley, the surrounding communities, and friends and alumni the successes of the Battalion wouldn’t be possible. A special recognition is warranted for LTC(R) Albert E. Hylton and family for their generous donation in the establishment of the Albert E. Hylton Excellence Fund. Though LTC(R) Hylton is no longer with us his legacy will live-on with the Wildcat Battalion for years to come. 16 May 2014 the Wildcat Battalion commissioned the Army’s newest 2nd Lieutenants in Forum Hall, K-State Students Union. These 17 Lieutenants include Andrew Bucchin, Ryan Crosser, Andrew Davis, Alexis Filippo, Kyle Fitch, Benjamin Gettler, Kyle Kegley, Aivaras Kulokas, Bryan Miller, Terrence Ogren, Ian Otting, William Raymond, Adam Rosendahl, Lizmarie Sanchez, Derek Schnitker, Byron Wheeler, and Jacob Wright. Presiding over the Joint Ceremony with Air Force ROTC Detachment 270 was GEN(R) Richard Myers, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff. Congratulations to both Army and Air Force 2LTs.

During the summer months the Wildcat Battalion sends its Juniors to participate in Cadet Summer Training competing against 5000 Cadets from around the country. The 29-day camp assesses leadership skills and represents the culmination of 3 years training. This year the Battalion will send 36 Cadets to Ft. Knox, KY to participate in Warrior Forge 2014. Another 8 Cadets will represent the Battalion participating in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program. Additionally we have one Cadet each attending Airborne and Air Assault Schools at Ft. Benning, GA. 7 Cadre will also travel to Ft. Knox this summer serving as Staff for Warrior Forge. Please keep those in mind during this busy summer.

On a final note I’d like to thank all the Cadre and Cadets of the Wildcat Battalion for their hard work and professionalism over the last 6 months. The Battalion continues to set the bar high, exceeding the standard time and time again. Special consideration is given to the Pershing Rifles’ Company G-7 for their overall runner-up finish at the National Competition held in Richmond, VA. Have a safe summer and we look forward to the Battalion coming back together for Fall Semester.
To Wildcat Battalion Friends and Family,

The 2013-2014 school year is over, but for our MSIII cadets, a very important summer lies ahead. Our MSIII cadets will be part of the inaugural LDAC class to go to Ft. Knox, Kentucky—quite a departure from Ft. Lewis, Washington that cadets have gone to in years past.

It has been a long year and the Wildcat Battalion has worked hard. From Ranger Buddy and Bataan, to Pershing Rifles and Color Guards, almost all cadets have found an extracurricular group within ROTC to be a part of.

This year we hosted our first Joint Military Ball at the Hilton Garden Inn with Air Force ROTC Wing Detachment 270. It was a very elegant evening with good food and good friends. Army and Air Force took fun filled jabs at each other throughout the night and enjoyed drinking from the “Grog” together. The Joint Ball is a tradition we hope to carry on for years to come.

Now that my time at Kansas State University is nearing its end, I can’t help but getting a little nostalgic. Four years goes by fast, and I have been incredibly privileged to have been a part of the Wildcat Battalion. It is an organization that stands above its peer institutions thanks to the cadre, civilian contractors, and generous supporters of the program. We are incredibly blessed here at KSU, and that directly contributes to the high caliber of young men and women that this program attracts.

Thank you Wildcat Battalion for the incredible experiences you gave me. I would like to wish the best of luck to our newly commissioned 2LTs, and to our MSIIIs as they go to Ft. Knox and represent Kansas State University. For all the underclassmen, thank you for your hard work this year. Be smart, be safe, and enjoy a well-deserved break this summer! We look forward to seeing you all next year.
The Recondo Company’s 2014 spring training schedule was a busy one full of Wildcat Battalion training events, the annual Ranger Buddy Competition held in Lawrence, Kansas, and our culminating Recondo Field Training Exercise. The cadets involved in Recondo performed exceptionally well this semester and demonstrated their proficiency in all of the tactical training conducted by the Recondo Company. Our training schedule began in January with many classes being held in the Military Science building due to the winter weather. Recondo Cadets received several classes on subjects such as First Aid, mission analysis, operations orders, and Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT). As the weather improved, the Recondo Company was able to move training outdoors where a majority of the training was focused on effective actions on an objective for both squad and platoon sized elements. Wildcat Battalion cadets of all levels participated in the Recondo Company training events throughout the semester and their motivation and commitment to the program has helped Freshman and Sophomore cadets prepare to move on to the next level of their cadet careers and ensured that Junior year cadets are ready to excel in their upcoming summer at Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Recondo Indoctrination Program (RIP) Week was held early in the semester to evaluate potential Recondo Instructor (RI) Candidates on their tactical proficiency. 14 RI Candidates participated in a week of physically and mentally demanding tactical events to test their knowledge and fitness in stressful conditions. The events held for RIP Week ranged from timed workouts in full combat gear, a timed 5 mile run, the Recondo written test, an obstacle course of physical and knowledge based events, and a 10 kilometer ruck march. The RI Candidates were asked to complete these events to their best of their abilities while dealing with physical stress, extremely cold weather, and other adverse conditions during the events. The candidates worked hard and performed well throughout the week. Following the completion of RIP Week, the board of Recondo Instructors accepted two candidates who had performed to the standard of each event throughout the week. We are happy to welcome Army Cadets Freshman Travis Reed and Sophomore Steven Verespej to our Recondo Instructor Staff.

Recondo Company also trained and participated in the annual Ranger Buddy Competition hosted by the University of Kansas Army ROTC in Lawrence, Kansas. Six buddy teams were selected from the Recondo Company to compete in this national ROTC event of more mental and physical tests. The buddy teams trained on the Kansas State campus performing weightlifting workouts, going on long runs, doing Crossfit workouts, and ruck marching for varying distances. This dynamic and rigorous cross-training program prepared buddy teams to meet the demands of any task they were to perform at the competition. The Wildcat Battalion teams competed hard...
and made significant improvements from Kansas State teams in the past. All of our K-State teams qualified to compete by finishing in the designated number of teams in the morning’s 10 kilometer ruck march event and continued to perform very well in the rest of the day’s competition events. All of our K-State teams finished in the top halves of their respective divisions after a long day of hard work in the events of this year’s Ranger Buddy Competition.

Recondo’s culminating training event, the Recondo Field Training Exercise (FTX), was held in early May and was our final training event of the spring semester. Volunteer Recondo cadets were organized into a platoon sized element and were tasked with conducting patrolling operations for two days and one night at Fort Riley, Kansas. The platoon was flown in to their training area by Blackhawk helicopters after three hours of planning and mission preparation done prior to take off. The platoon executed their mission that evening very well and was treated to a barbeque that night. The following morning, the platoon was given an update to their mission and told that they would need to clear a village of enemy forces. Senior Wildcat Battalion cadets and the Recondo platoon then fought against each other in a game of paintball in a training village at Fort Riley. The paintball game was meant to be fun but also provided the Recondo cadets with a sense of realism in their mission planning and execution with the added effect of the need to move under cover from the paintballs and the effect that the limited range capabilities of their paintball guns had on their tactics when clearing the village.

The tactical training that the Recondo cadets received this semester has prepared each individual to perform above and beyond in any task under any conditions. Their hard work and dedication to the Recondo Company made for a productive and effective semester’s worth of training. The foundation of tactical knowledge and performance laid by Recondo Company training is one that Wildcat Battalion cadets will continue to build from as they continue on in their futures as cadets and Army Officers. The Recondo Company had an excellent semester of training this spring and will continue to uphold the standard of excellence of Kansas State Army ROTC in the years to come.

*Cadet CPT Andrew Davis*
*Recondo Commander*
*Political Science*
BATAAN DEATH MARCH

On 23 March 2014, Kansas State University ROTC sent a light and heavy team to New Mexico to participate in the 25th annual Bataan death march. This grueling 26.2 mile race started in White Sands Missile Range base and went straight up into the mountains. The march was to help foster the esprit de corps of our school, for recognition of those who died on the death march during WWII, and to compete with other ROTC schools. There are still a few to date that survived the death march which was utilized by the Japanese for prisoners in the Philippines and much to the excitement of those competing, the survivors stood at the finish line of the race to welcome each competitor as they finish the march.

For the Kansas State University ROTC program, there were 2 captains who helped the cadet’s train for the Bataan Death March: one captain for the light team and one for the heavy team. Each captain trained their team months in advance for this race. Compared to New Mexico, Kansas is nearly flat and there are no mountains/high elevations to train on and thusly giving the other school an advantage. Yet, the ROTC cadets at Kansas State University still trained and on race day, pushed themselves to commemorate the fallen and show their endurance and camaraderie in New Mexico.

Right before the race, a ceremony took place to ensure the participants knew the reason why they participated in this march. At the first gunshot the heavy teams went first carrying 35lbs or more while the light runners proceed afterwards. The light team kept together for 8 miles then broke off into two pairs of two teammates. Just under 4 hours the first Wildcat passed through the finish line while the rest of the team followed suit. Even while all teams were physically and mentally challenged by the race, the teams congratulated one another and headed back home to Manhattan. Though no placement and trophies were won, the Wildcat battalion still had a positive attitude and enjoyed the experience of the Bataan Death March.
NATCON

Pershing Rifles is a military fraternal organization for college-level students founded in 1894 by John Joseph Pershing at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Each year, we compete against companies from all across the nation at a national drill convention known as NATCON.

Typically, we begin practice for NATCON January, but we started preparations in late October. We even had a four-hour practice the morning of Fake Patty's Day! After all of that hard work that all cadets did to ensure success for Pershing Rifles and the Kansas State University ROTC program, we took 3rd place in Platoon Regulation, 2nd in Duet Exhibition, 1st in Solo Exhibition, 1st in Squad Exhibition, 1st in Platoon Exhibition, and 2nd place overall as well as the "Most Improved Regiment" award. We are proud to have brought these awards home to our school, and to have given our cadets, both Army and Air Force, more time to work together and build a stronger relationship so we all could reach a common goal.

Cadet Samuel Felts
Pershing Rifles Captain
Air Force ROTC
Going into the planning phase of the Kansas State University Joint Army/Air Force Ball, there was no thought in my mind the challenge that was headed my way. The challenge of planning such a huge event was beyond anything that I have done, and without the help from my partner in crime Cadet Erica Iversen from the Air Force, and Ms. Ashley Layton, our great administrative specialist, this event could have not been done.

The site of our Military Ball was by far the highlight of the final project, The Hilton Garden Inn and the corroboration of Jill Mason allowed for all personnel to experience a type of class of ball that has not been seen by the Wildcat Battalion. Ms. Iversen and I wanted this ball to be something special for our seniors that would be an event that would highlight our senior year.

The highlights of our Joint Military Ball was the location, the unmatched performance of the singing of the National Anthem by a quartet performed by our very own Wildcat Battalion Wildcats, a seemingly chill giving ceremony of the POW/MIA Table, an outright entertaining grog bowl ceremony, and a very humorous performance by the MC and VICE. All these events came together and were topped off with the class videos that portrayed the leadership and cadre of the Battalion and Wildcat Wing.

Over all, what the Kansas State University ROTC programs experienced was the traditional ceremonies held by both the Army and the Air Force combined. The overall consensus of the experiences held by the Cadets were that they had a great time, with a ton of laughs.

Cadet CPT Kyle Kegley
Officer in Charge of Military Ball
Criminology
**SPRING COMMISSIONING**

On Friday, 16 May 2014, 16 Kansas State University Army ROTC cadets were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the United States Army. The commissioning ceremony was held at Forum Hall at 10 a.m. in the Kansas State University student union, family and friends gathered there to watch the new lieutenants raise their right hand and take the oath. The ceremony and the colors were posted by the G-7 Pershing Rifles. President Kirk Schultz introduced guest speaker General Richard B. Myers who, following General Myers, told the cadets how superb the K-State cadre have set them up for success and informed them of how the ARMY needed thinkers. General Myers proceeded to administer the Oath of Office, where each soldier repeated the historic oath. The new lieutenants were then given their certificates, followed by having chosen family members and friends pin on their newly earned “gold bars.” Then, each lieutenant gave their first salute to the noncommissioned officer of their choice and the executed the exchanging of a silver dollar, a long standing tradition of the Army.

After the ceremony commenced, family and friends were invited to have refreshments and cake to celebrate the newly commissioned officers. The United States ARMY received 16 new great Lieutenants and it was great to be able to be involved in celebrating such a momentous occasion.

The Wildcat Battalion would like to congratulate the new 2nd Lieutenants, Andrew C. Bucchin, Andrew M. Davis, Kyle Fitch, Benjamin Gettler, Aivaras Kulokas, Ryan Crosser, Alexis Filippo, Kyle Kegley, Bryan Miller, Ian Otting, Adam Rosendahl, Lizmarie Sanchez, Jacob Wright, Terrence Ogren, William Raymond, Derek Schnitker, and Bryon Wheeler. Wildcat strong!

Cadet Captain Morgan Moxley  
Public Affairs Officer  
Public Relations
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.

5. 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 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 Shelia Walker. If you have any questions, Mrs. Walker can be reached at 785-532-7511 or sheliaw@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!