Combined Leadership Development Exercise

Kansas State Army ROTC Cadets continue putting in hard work as the semester carries on. One of the biggest events we hold each year is the Institute. Joining the Wildcat Battalion were the Jayhawk Battalion and Pony Express Battalion. The MS1’s, 2’s, and 3’s from each university were mixed amongst each other to form two companies. The Cadets performed tactics training that culminated in a final mission to clear Crisis City and recover a captured pilot. Cadets also received hands-on training with many different simulators. Some of those simulators consisted of convoy operations, virtual battlefield training, and a driving simulator. We would like to thank the Soldiers there for allowing us to use their facilities.

Combined Leadership Development Exercise (CLDX), which is a collaboration between multiple schools in the region. It is usually held at Ft. Riley to conduct training activities and smooth over MS3’s leading abilities before Cadet Leadership Course this summer. However, this year the CLDX was held in Salina, KS at the Kansas Regional Training Center.

Combat Water Survival Training

Every semester, Cadets are required to participate in Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) and pass at least once to be able to Commission. The training consisted of five events, which was held at the Kansas State Natatorium. The various events that were tested included a 10 minute swim, 25 meter rifle swim, don and ditch of equipment, 5 minutes of treading water, and lastly the 5 meter drop. Although some Cadets have great fear of water and weak swimming skills, all bravely attempted the task put forth to them. This training ensures that Cadets have the fundamental water survival skills necessary to survive in today’s environment. CWST not only fosters the growth of swimming techniques that save lives, but personal courage as well.
Recondo

The Recondo Company has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Ranger Buddy competition hosted by the University of Kansas on April 9th. The competition consists of a nine mile road march, twenty timed skills events, and a three mile run. The competition is a continuously timed event, meaning there are no breaks in between the ruck, skills stations, and the run. All teams are ready physically and mentally for the competition.

Recondo is also preparing for their Recondo Indoctration Program (RIP) held once every semester which allows Recondo Cadets to earn the coveted Recondo Instructor (RI) status. RIP is a one week grueling test of both physical and mental strength. Each morning the RIP candidates will complete either an obstacle course, five mile run, combat PT test, round robin stations, or a ten kilometer road march. The RIP candidates are not told the order of the events, except for the written test which is conducted during the regular Recondo time on Wednesday evenings. The candidate must meet the standards in all events.

Lastly, Recondo is prepping for the culminating Recondo FTX held at Ft. Riley. Recondo Cadets will conduct a platoon size mission where they are dropped via helicopter at a training village and defend it against an onslaught of enemy forces.

PCC/PCI Lab

The Tuesday before the CLDX, Cadets conducted pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections (PCC/PCI) during lab time. The purpose for doing so is to make sure every single Cadet has the required gear on the packing list and that no one leaves for the training exercise without the proper equipment. In the Army, PCC/PCI’s are conducted not only to inspect each item to confirm it is in proper working order and ready for the mission.

Inventory Lab

This year, we have had several new labs; the inventory lab being one of them. Cadets were taught how to keep accountability of Army property and how to account for lost, damaged, or destroyed Army property.
Pershing Rifles/Color Guard

Pershing Rifles Company G-7 left Manhattan, KS on March 9th in order to attend the national drill competition, NATCON. The road trip encompassed over 1,000 miles and ended in Chantilly, VA. On Friday, March 11th the company toured the Washington D.C area. This included several monuments, memorials, and museums. The group visited the Korean War, WWII, and Vietnam Veterans memorials. The Company also visited the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, and the White House. Many of the riflemen had never been to the US capital.

Finally, the group visited Arlington National Cemetery, where they visited General John Joseph Pershing’s grave and observed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

The NATCON competition began Saturday morning. Company G-7 competed in Squad Regulation, Squad Exhibition, Individual Drill, Color Guard, and Dual Drill competitions. The competition was tougher this year. The final event of NATCON entailed a formal dinner at which former Secretary of State and retired US Army General Colin Powell was the guest speaker. Although company G-7 did not win any trophies, the group enjoyed the experience and looks forward to next year.

Bataan Memorial Death March

On March 20th, twelve Cadets from the Wildcat Battalion completed the annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The event is held every year to honor the sacrifices made by the American service members that were forced to march over sixty miles to Japanese POW camps in the Philippines. They faced unimaginable terror, ranging from starvation to torture and executions. The Bataan Memorial Death March offers participants a small taste of what they endured. Soldiers, Cadets, and civilians from across the country came together to test their intestinal fortitude over the 26.2 miles of rough, sandy terrain. This year, the Wildcat Battalion sent two teams, a Heavy Team and a Light Team. The Heavy Team carried rucksacks weighing an average of 45 pounds for the marathon while the Light Team ran the course like a traditional marathon. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a tough event that offers Cadets a chance to test their mental toughness and physical grit while honoring the veterans who endured so much.

Commander’s Cup Standings

No Commander’s Cup events have been conducted thus far. Alpha Company still holds the lead with 3-2 against Bravo Company.