



## Steel Battalion Newsletter: 2018 Fall & Winter



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# STEEL BN

**Fall 2018**



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## Next Stop, Sandhurst

*By: Cadet Yang*

Balancing class, lab, physical training, and sports is something the members of the Steel Battalion ROTC program have become very accustomed to. However, some Cadets have also made a commitment to represent their schools in a much different way. They try out for the rigorous Ranger Challenge Team. The competition is held at Fort Dix, New Jersey in October.

This years Ranger Challenge Team competed against 42 different schools in the Northeast ROTC programs. Although the other schools were a challenge the Steel Battalion took home second place, and will be competing in the prestigious Sandhurst competition at West Point.

The Ranger Challenge competition is an annual event. The team selected to go competed in various timed and non-timed events. The events in which the team competed in included land navigation, weapon assembly, obstacle course, a hand grenade assault course, ruck march, tactical combat casualty carry, a mystery challenge, and finally the tug of war. All 42 teams are being evaluated on how well they complete said competitions. They must stay physically and mentally ready for the challenges they face.

The Steel Battalions ten week preparation allowed them to adapt and overcome any challenge they were

presented with.

Lehigh University MSIII, CDT Voitek stated, "One of our biggest challenges was during the first event, the fitness event. The second half of the event we had to, as a team, carry a litter with weight and two additional 35 pound kettle bells. Everyone was very tired so we had to work as a team to complete the event."

"The river was double the distance that we expected, making it very hard to get the tension required to get everyone across quickly," CDT Fishbein, MSIII from Lafayette College.

Although the competition requires teams to adapt and overcome; it also requires teammates to rely on each other. Through team work the Steel Battalion was able to complete this section of the competition.

Another instance where teamwork prevailed was during the grenade assault course. "We were given very little information beforehand, so we had to communicate very well in order to complete the event to the standards we were briefed," CDT Matus, MSIII, Lehigh University.



Perhaps the most challenging part of the competition was the defeat at the Tug of War. "Immediately after losing in the first round everyone was pretty upset. Afterwards we quickly huddled together and realized we could either sulk in our defeat or move on to the next event and use that frustration to push us forward on the ruck," states team captain CDT Matus. When asked how he felt about the loss CDT Fishbein said, "we knew that the team that beat us was not only the team that won the event, but also was doing well in the competition. We also knew that we were in first place before the Tug of War event, so regardless of that result we still had an opportunity to win. This knowledge helped us stay motivated through Sunday."

Through consistency and hard work the team was able to bounce back, and take second place overall. "There was not one event that we scored even middle of the pack. Our consistent performance in all events is what got us there," CDT Aversa, MSIII DeSales University.

Through perseverance the team excelled in each event of the competition. The team was able to reach this type of performance through dedication, hard work, and discipline.

"For Land Navigation, we spent time studying the training area and dividing up how we would attack the points beforehand. So as soon as the event started during the competition; we were ready to go," according to CDT Aversa.

The ten week preparation did not only include practice. Cadets spent countless hours outside of practices to ensure they were fully prepared for the upcoming competition. These hours included "dissectinse that plan until it was perfected as a team," CDT Matus.

Ranger Challenge is most comparable to varsity athletics. Cadre's role is similar to that of a coach. They design the overall training to ensure

maximum performance of all Cadets. The roles among the Cadets are divided, and a team captain assures the training is done to standard. "This year a big push I wanted to make was distributing the load of overseeing the team's training. The team leaders, Au and Loughlin, help plan and run our practices. Another massive help was having CPT Wearin, LT McGriff, and LT Piekarz available to run our weekly "min-events" as well as make our strength and conditioning plan. Overall, we focused on getting ourselves into the best shape possible while gaining a strong understanding of each event, and getting in as many reps as possible," CDT Matus, captain.

The training designed by the Cadre aims to improve the team's ability to think in stressful situations, and combat fatigue. Captain Wearin, coach, attended Ranger School for the Army, and used his knowledge, as well as his experiences to design the training plan.

Implementing, and understanding the why behind the training allowed the Steel Battalion to place second among the other 42 schools in the Northeast.

While addressing the Battalion after the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) Captain Wearin recognized the Ranger Challenge team by saying, "it is all about the teamwork, and they are the most competent team out there."

At the start of the season Cadets were asked what initially motivated them to try out. Many of them responded with the answer self-improvement.



*"They are the most competent team out there." - CPT Wearin*





CDT Fishbein, first year participant, said "I participated in Ranger Challenge to challenge myself and offer my abilities to the battalion to try and win the trophy." Shortly after the team was established, the individual way of thinking changed. The new motivation became about improving the team. CDT Matus, three year member of the team, said: "I originally joined my freshman year, because I had heard a lot about the team, and how they were able to do more intense workouts, and did a lot of skill training that the rest of the battalion did not do. A big part of the appeal of Ranger Challenge is that the team itself is a very close group, and with that comes high motivation all around." CDT Voitek, also gave her opinion, "I joined Ranger Challenge because of the physical and mental challenges, the growth as a leader, to be a part of the team, learn more about the Army, and to be a part of a team to compete and represent Lehigh and the Steel Battalion."

Training begins in mid-August, and extends into early October. The team typically begins with a 0400 wake up and trains into the late night. Although the team puts countless hours in they have other commitments outside of ranger challenge. Some are members of varsity athletics for their respective schools, while others work, or actively volunteer in their community.

A Division I shotput thrower from Lafayette College, CDT Fishbein, states, "doing all this was very difficult, and keeping to a strict schedule was very helpful. Ranger Challenge and Division I sports is also very taxing on the body, so in that schedule I had to plan out rest and recovery time, and I took my time off very seriously."

Although this team was very successful they are not satisfied. Their overall goal is to be the best they can be, and they believe they have not met that expectation yet. "I believe we as a team are not done yet. Besides CDT Au, everyone else on the team is returning and everyone of us knows what we can achieve if we keep pushing," team captain, CDT Matus.

Ultimately, the team is always looking for interested participants. "Try out for the team. It is a very valuable experience, and the comradery you have with your teammates is second to none," CDT Fishbein. MSIII, CDT Voitek, "We need more cadets to come out for Ranger Challenge. It's an awesome experience and truly pushes your limits. Even if you do not desire to compete in the competition, committing and joining in the training will make you a better Cadet and better prepare you to be an officer in the United States Army. Many of those returning will be seniors next year and we want the Ranger Challenge Program to continue to grow after we leave."

If you are interested in joining, please contact CDT Matus.



*"Our training was based off of mixing tactics and mental exercises with physical events; to ensure that we had practice thinking and executing fine motor skills while we were gassed. We also emphasized efficiency in our strategy, to make sure that everyone was doing what they were best at, to improve our time. We utilized a lot of what we learned last year in the competition and improved upon the SOPs we set,"*  
CDT Fishbein.



*The Steel Battalion Ranger Challenge team grits their teeth, and digs their heels into the ground as Major Abella shouts encouraging words of determination. As Rutgers endlessly gives their best effort, Cadet Fishbein touches the finish line.*



# Contracting Ceremony - *Cadet Highlights*



My name is Alexandra Hill, I am sophomore at Penn State Berks, and I am a three year scholarship winner. I joined ROTC because I've always wanted to be a doctor, but I also had aspirations to be in the military. I looked into ROTC and realized it was a great way for me to do both, and have ROTC pay for my tuition. I earned my three year scholarship by working my hardest to get good grades and APFT scores. The contracting ceremony is important to me because it is a great way to show friends and family just how hard we have worked.

My name is Jordan Mosco, I'm a Lafayette 2020 Neuroscience major. I decided to join ROTC at the end of my freshman year, because I wanted to challenge myself to learn some new skills. I always honored the profession, and wanted to see if it was a good career path for me. I decided to apply for a scholarship at the end of my sophomore year because I wanted to continue in the program. My family saw me take the oath, and realized that the Army was going to be a part of my life. They were very happy to be able to see that moment.



My name is Dominic Pascucci; I joined ROTC for many reasons. I like the opportunities it provides, the leadership development that you gain, and still having the traditional college experience. I earned a three year scholarship before coming to college. The contracting ceremony was important to my family and me, because it was a step towards becoming a commissioned officer.

My name is Aiden Swearingen, I am freshman from Lafayette College, and I am a 4-year scholarship winner. I wanted to be in the military for much of my life. Both my parents were in the Army, and I respect them very much for it. Knowing I wanted an ROTC scholarship, I had been somewhat prepared for what was needed to get in. I knew I had to have a solid mindset, and I had to be ready to work hard. The ceremony itself solidified what I had worked for up to this point. It was the first step in becoming a soldier and serving my country.







*Veteran Stand Down at Philadelphia VA Hospital*

Nine cadets got the opportunity to assist veterans in need at the Veterans Stand Down in Philadelphia. This organization has been around since 1994, and aims to help all veterans in need become self-sufficient.



*9/11 Memorial at Lehigh University*

In remembrance of 9/11, CDT's Freed, Rothman and Paradise helped place 2,977 flags on the Lehigh University Center lawn. This number is to honor each of the victims of the attack.

# Remember Honor Serve

Selfless Service is not only an Army Value, but it is something the Steel Battalion believes is very important. CDT Jack Baggot, Kutztown University, gives his thoughts on what volunteering means to him. "Volunteering to me is about trying to make a difference in someone else's life. Whether it's a small or large gesture it can change someone's life. It's our responsibility as human beings to look out and care for one another."



The Lehigh ROTC Club and Chi Po Chapter raised money to donate to the Fisher House Foundation. This foundation has been around since 1990. They house families free of charge, while loved ones are in hospital.



This year Major Abella and Mr. Harp had the honor of attending Retired Major Curtis "Hank" Barnette's speech. The speech took place on 9/11 during The Steelworkers Veterans Memorial.



*Wreaths Across America at Fountain Hill Cemetery*

Our Cadets had the privilege of being involved in the National Wreaths Across America Day. During this time they attended the wreath-laying ceremony, and placed wreaths at the Fountain Hill Cemetery.



*Veterans Ceremony at DeSales University*

Members of the community, Vets for Vets program, and ROTC all joined DeSales University to honor the veterans that have served our country!



*Veterans Ceremony at Kutztown University*

Each year Kutztown University recognizes their veterans on 9/11. The Steel Battalion Cadets are grateful for the opportunity to be engaged in such an event.





# Special Olympics



Cadet James DiCocco, MSI, played the lead role in DeSales's production of William Inge's 1953 play, *Picnic*. Outside of ROTC he is involved in theater production at DeSales University.





# Diversity Inclusion Conference

By: CDT Max Miller

My name is Maxwell Miller, and I am a fifth year senior Environmental Engineering student with only one semester remaining at Lehigh University until I receive my diploma. Upon graduating (December 2018), I will pursue the path of serving our country as a commissioned officer in the Army Medical Department (AMEDD), serving as an Environmental Engineering Officer (72DN4). Through my one semester participating with the Lehigh ROTC program, I was able to gain insight on the specific responsibilities of Army Officers, the knowledge necessary to succeed in my BOLC course, as well as a basic understanding of Army procedures/protocol. I truly appreciate all of the knowledge the battalion cadets and cadre shared with me during my time with the program.

One of the most memorable experiences I was able to be a part of during my time with the Steel Battalion was participating in a leadership conference at West Point with CDT Yang, titled 'Leading Inclusive Teams Seminar: Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Conference.' This event gathered students from all military academies, the Coast Guard Academy, and various ROTC programs across the nation, including Howard University and Tuskegee University to name a few. This leadership conference focused on molding young upcoming military officers to become more diverse and inclusive leaders, not only while in uniform, but also in every facet of life.



Probably the most unique event that we experienced while at the conference was called the 'Hot Topics Forum.' This particular event was inspired by a couple highly motivated West Point Cadets that

wanted an open floor for anyone to share their viewpoints on certain 'Hot Topics' that are occurring in the United States, such as Colin Kaepernick kneeling for the National Anthem, or the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Though these topics are polarizing, through the civil, open conversations, and the unique platform that this event provides, all participants were able to have their voice heard and shed light on to why they stood on a particular side of the conversation. This event stood out to me because it was not only organized and run by the West Point Cadets, but it also created a peaceful and respectful manner for people on both sides of an argument to clear the air on such polarizing topics. Through events like the 'Hot Topics Forum,' discussions about topics such as cross-cultural competency, and guest speakers (like Command Sergeant Major (R) Michele Jones), we were able to not only understand the importance of being a diverse and inclusive leader, but we were also able to learn tactics and techniques to implement these important fundamentals into our own leadership traits.

Throughout this conference, all of the participants also had the opportunity to live in the barracks on the historic West Point campus, as well as participate in fun events such as the famous Indoor Obstacle Course Test (IOCT), and a Spirit Dinner for the upcoming Black Knight's home football game. This opportunity to live amongst the West Point Cadets was a once in a lifetime experience that truly opened my eyes to the unique college experience that these young men and women go through. Furthermore, it was not shocking to me that of all universities, West Point was the one organizing an event like this in order to further develop their young officers to meet the demands of



*Cadet Miller and Cadet Yang with West Point Cadets. West Point housed various ROTC programs and other military academies for their annual conference.*

today's United States Army.

I would like to thank MAJ Abella for providing me with the opportunity to not only be a member of such an historic and exemplary ROTC Program, but I would also like to thank him for the opportunity to attend this thought-provoking conference. This conference truly left an impact on me, and I intend on applying many of the tactics and techniques that I learned there as I transition to becoming an Officer in the AMEDD.

If you would like to contact Cadet Miller about his journey, experience, or career path he can be reached at [mamc16@lehigh.edu](mailto:mamc16@lehigh.edu).



*"I feel like this team building exercise helped us to understand the critical components of communication. Which taught us how critical communication can be with or without words."*

*CDT Yang*

**Above Picture:** These were the questions used during the "Hot Topic Forum" previously mentioned.

# Professional Development



Army 10 Miler (ATM) - The Steel Battalion took on Washington D.C. on October 7, 2018 for their first Army ten miler. The team had the opportunity to meet the Chief of Staff, and the Undersecretary of the Army. There were 900 teams from around the world and an estimated 35,000 runners in attendance. Incredibly two of our Cadets, Paradise and Sadvary, placed in the top 100 of the 35,000 runners.



Over the Summer CDT Aversa completed an internship for the Army Cyber Institute at West Point. She was invited back to present her summer project on November 14-15 at the international conference on cyber conflict.



*"I learned that in addition to the Sea, Air, and Land domains of warfare that we are so used to, we now must acknowledge that Cyber is a new domain of warfare. This effects all branches of the Army, not just Cyber"*

*CDT Aversa*



On October 7th Major Abella and Cadets Miller, Yang, and Au attended the annual conference of Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Association, PPLAM. The organizations mission is to create a professional network of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, both military and civilian, committed to serving the nation. They do this by providing leadership, education, mentoring, and fellowship opportunities.



# Eight Step Training Model

By: CDT Gill



Cadets Baggot and Boehm practice qualifying at the pop-up range during a superlab at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The 8-step training model is an exceptional tool for the convenience of planning a training event, but it's also important to start planning early. The first step of planning the training can sometimes be the hardest to overcome but it is the most crucial for setting the pace and tone for the rest of the planning. Ensuring you have a good initial plan is key, you can't gloss over that. Clear training objectives must be established first, the training should then be designed around that, to meet those specific goals. For this lab, it was all about getting multiple iterations on the range. Our limiting factor was time, since we were limited to a day, so we really squeezed in a tight timeline. Additionally, assessing risk management early proved to be vital. The vitality was due to the type of training being conducted. We were working with live weapons and ammunition, which meant we had to mitigate the risk. We had to account for weapon safety, a CCP, CASEVAC, and having multiple medically trained personnel on site who knew what to do in case of an emergency.

Training the trainers was fairly simple for this lab, as we had a weapons oriented lab beforehand, but still made sure to meet prior to the event so everyone knew the plan. This was also important, because a majority of the trainers were safeties. Reconing the site prior to the event allowed us to create an overlay. The overlay pinpointed where we would distribute the ammo and set up the control points for the range

We also did detailed step rehearsals through meetings before the day of execution. We were able to talk through the plan and figure out the key friction points, and then correct them. Through in process reviews, IPRs, and rehearsals we were able to put together a good brief for the Professor of Military Science (PMS) who gave it a go!

As a project manager, you really need to take an active part in both the planning, and execution. You're not only making the plan and driving the 8-step training model, but you also need to figure out risk mitigation and friction points. Thus improving the plan as much as you can up until execution. Furthermore, it's important to have contingency plans. You need to think through what you would do if there's an

injury, if there's inclement

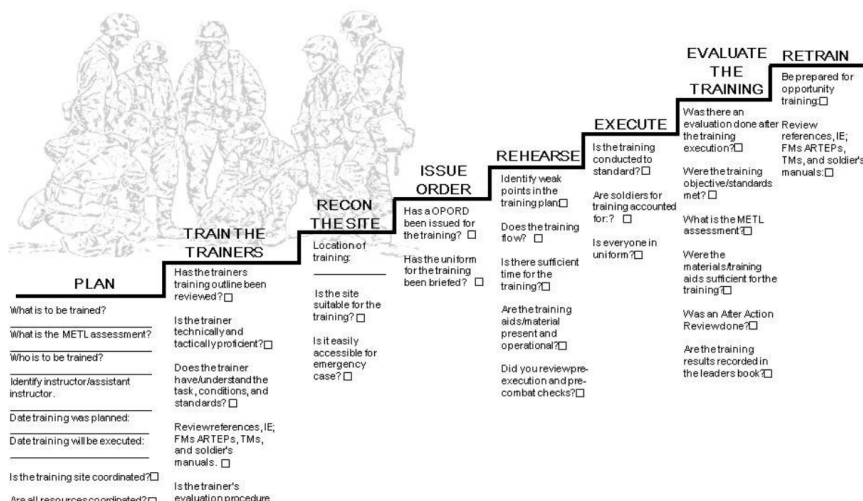
weather, if

a van gets lost en route route to a lab, etc. Risk mitigation and a detailed plan is important, but you also need to be prepared if things \*do\* go wrong. Typically being prepared is tested on the day of execution. Just like a platoon leader (PL) needs to give specific orders to their squad leaders (SL) in a situational training exercise (STX) a project manager must do the same during their execution phase. This ensures everything runs as smoothly as possible. A project manager should play

an active role in the execution of their plan. You can't just be a spectator. For example, I went out and helped deliver ammo to the Cadets at several points during the training, or helped load magazines prior to execution. Although, I assisted the MSIV Cadets in prepping prior to the range going hot; I still maintained control throughout the duration of the exercise.

The last thing is to be decisive if things don't go to plan. This is where thinking through contingency plans comes in handy. The execution of a plan rarely goes perfectly. In the case of this lab, we had quite a few hiccups that could've derailed our training if we weren't prepared. Take according action. Always have extra space built into your timeline for unforeseen events, like a van's battery dying.

CDT Sadvary is instructing a Cadet on sight adjustment, during the last Superlab of the Fall semester.





# A Day on the Range



The day started according to the plan, our ADVON\* team left on time, all cadets arrived and were accounted for, the weapons were loaded, as well as the Cadets, and we were prepared to roll to the GAP. Then the first hitch happened; we were told by our ADVON team that we needed the stretcher from Jordan Hall after we had just left. So we turned around to pick it up, then left again. Luckily we had plenty of space in the timeline, so we made it to the range on time and unloaded everything.

We begun training at the zero range, and everyone zeroed within the ammunition given to them. Then we all loaded up and went over to the pop-up range. We were a little nervous about this, because range control had swapped ranges on us two days earlier, so we hadn't done a reconnaissance, recon, there. Luckily, the site still worked for our purposes, and we got everyone onto the range.

While Cadets were training, the MSIVs were simultaneously loading magazines, mags, to distribute to them. Scores were announced over the loudspeaker after every iteration. As the lab leader, I spoke to various Cadets about the training. I overheard that some needed a break to go to the bathroom and such. This is again where keeping extra space in the timeline comes in handy. I was able to quickly adjust the training so we could give Cadets a break. During this time I was also able to expedite the ammunition distribution process, by having them grab more mags before going back to the range, instead of continuing to run mags out to them as training progressed.

As the training wrapped up, we had a series of mishaps, that again highlight the importance of contingency planning. Range control inspectors came and said we needed to refill a bunch of sandbags that were considered unserviceable. This happened in the past, so we were prepared

for the possibility that they would do it again. We hastily put together a team to refill sandbags, and fixed the range quickly. However, the range safety inspector still wasn't satisfied, so we had Cadets perform multiple police calls. Eventually, we were able to close the range, get everyone into the vans, and get ready to go.

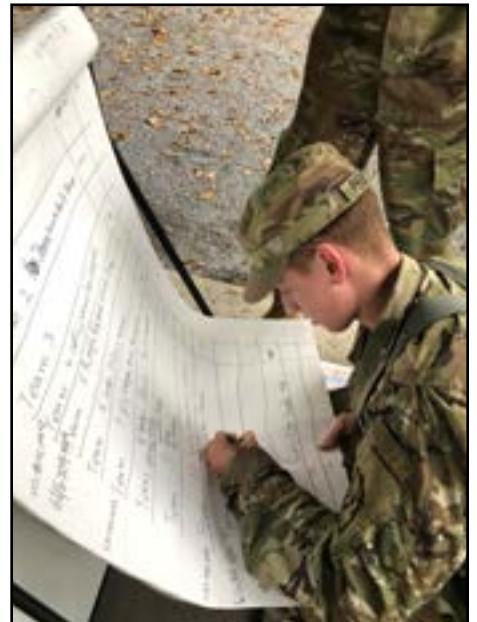
Then yet another mishap occurred; a van failed to start. The battery had died. It took us some time to get it started again, but finally it started, and we all went back to Jordan Hall. We still were, remarkably, on track with the timeline. This was due to giving so much buffer time for friction points. We were able to clean weapons, eat some pizza, and head home to call it a day of great training.

\*ADVON: Advanced Echelon





# LABS

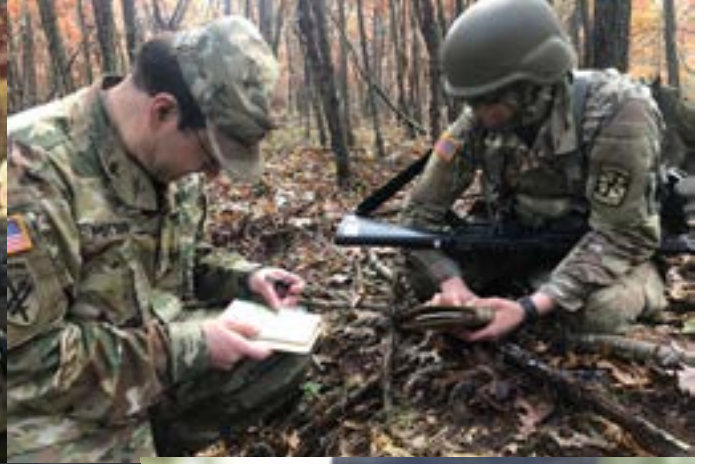


## LAND NAVIGATION















# A Guide Towards a Successful Advanced Camp

By: CDT Miller and MSIV Class

Whether you are an MSIII looking for tips on how to survive Advanced Camp, or a high speed MSI or MSII looking to gain more knowledge, this guide aims to allow the reader to prepare for a successful Advanced Camp Experience. There will be ten general topics that are covered in detail, based on the advice of eleven cadets who graduated from Advanced Camp in the summer of 2018. We are not experts and do not claim to know the secrets to getting ranked first or recondo, but this guide, based on our experiences, will help you to prepare for camp. It is important to note that Advanced Camp changes every year and the information we provide may not reflect the challenges you will face at camp, however, the advice we give can be applied.

## 1. Day to Day

Camp lasts a month or more and can be daunting. We think it's a good idea to start off with what camp is like day by day so that you better understand what it's like. Anticipation can be the worst part for some cadets, so if you don't like surprises this will help you understand what's in store for you. To start off, there are a lot of different types of days at Fort Knox. When you arrive at camp, there will be around three-to-four days in the barracks. These days will be long and drawn out, and the name of the game is patience. During this time, you will still be strangers with the other cadets in your platoon, and probably not quite comfortable with each other yet. Be friendly, but the best advice some of us have is to just wait. There will be Cadets who will want to establish their leadership presence on the first day. This usually backfires, so the idea is to just be friendly and observe. After a few days of observing the platoon, and specifically your squad, and how people interact, then you show yourself

If you have an understanding of how people interact, you can adjust your leadership in order to make it more effective. The best time to show yourself and your leadership capabilities is when there is downtime and you can teach a class. So come prepared to camp with some classes to teach from TCCC to METT-TC. Cadre and other Cadets will notice.

The time in the barracks is mostly spent for inprocessing and briefing, so there is not much happening. When you finally get to the field the fun begins. Your time in the field may vary, but for the most part, it is not hard. There will be some rucking, but that is expected with the Army. You will be tested in individual events from qualifying with the M4 to land navigation.

These days will be long and filled with boredom, so make sure to use the free time you have to establish SOP's with your platoon. Once you have completed the field portion and you're back in the barracks, most days are spent cleaning rifles, weapon systems, MILES gear, and everything else. Enjoy these days because the only physically demanding days remaining are the ruck and graduation, due to heat.

The days in the field before the FTX's are pretty easy, so preparing for the FTX is a good idea. Wolverine was the first phase for camp this year, and it was the crawl stage. There were cadre guided lanes to help the platoon see what the right looks like. Afterwards the lane would be done independently, with Cadet leadership. There would be one to two lanes per day. After the lanes, your platoon would occupy a patrol base at night and commence the priorities of work. The other two FTX's

**“...you are becoming an officer, this is a great test to find out if you can still act like one in unpleasant situations.”**

were the walk and run phase. There was less guidance from cadre and more emphasis on the lane being executed. There were two to three lanes per day and a patrol base at night. The lanes ranged from ambush to setting up a hasty defense. The time in-between the FTX's would be the refit days. You would either ruck or be transported to a rest area. Once there, you would shower, turn in your laundry to be washed/pick up your washed laundry, and rest.

Overall, the day to day activities varied dramatically, so some days felt short while others were extremely long. Taking

advantage of every moment is your best option, but do it at a pace that is reasonable. Don't gas yourself out in the first week. Enjoy camp, it will be an experience you won't forget.

## 2. People

While at Advanced Camp, you will meet a plethora of cadets during your stay at Fort Knox, Kentucky. There are cadets from all 50 states and even some from islands such as Guam and the Virgin Islands. This can influence you both positively and negatively. Each Cadet attending Advanced Camp brings with them a uniqueness that makes each platoon different. They bring the experience and knowledge from their programs and cadre, just as you do. These prior experiences and knowledge of Soldier skills learned over the course of three years may vary slightly or possibly drastically compared to yours. This difference in knowledge and experience creates for an interesting platoon

dynamic, which will ultimately affect the performance, and effectiveness of your platoon.

For example, in one platoon, all the Cadets were incredibly close, and worked very well together. Though the Cadets worked well together, it made way for some shortcomings when it came to staying on timelines and even just staying awake to pull security. On the other hand, there was another platoon that a fellow Cadet was apart of that was incredibly toxic. Knowing this, it is best to keep an open mind when meeting your platoon for the first time. It is a good idea to stay enthusiastic throughout your time at Advanced Camp, because it is easy for people to become negative when things



really start to suck. Negativity spreads so your attitude matters. It is just as much of a mind game as it is a physical marathon. Try not to let other people's negativity bring you down. Instead, turn it around and make a positive spin off it. However, there is a balance, as there are times that people will ultimately stay negative. Tread lightly here, and think before making a decision. Don't complain; everyone is going through the same stuff and cadre will see you as children if you, and the other Cadets begin complaining. You joined the Army to become an officer; this is a great test to determine if you can still act like one in unpleasant situations. An officer will treat everyone equally, even if he or she does not like the person. Knowing this, act professionally and treat everyone with equal fairness.

Be selfless and volunteer all the time. Volunteer for every detail or role, such as RTO and platoon medic if possible carry the extra platoon equipment such as radios, batteries, tripods, and ammo. All of this will be noticed by the cadre and the Cadets in your platoon. If you work hard, it will pay off in the end; do not do things just to be noticed. Do things because it is the right thing to do, even if no one else is looking.

### *3. Equipment*

Equipment at Advanced Camp is a generic topic that includes weapon systems all the way to CLS bags that each platoon will carry. It can only be beneficial if you are familiar with many of these pieces of equipment. If you become proficient with all the equipment, you can pass on your knowledge to others who may not be as proficient as you are. It is important to remember that not everyone has had experience with all the equipment. As a result, be a good teacher and do not be condescending. Do not overstep your boundaries: if the Cadet does not want the assistance, do not help them. Forcing your knowledge on someone will only lead to frustration on both sides.

### *4. STX Lanes*

STX lanes at Advanced Camp are going to be used to evaluate leadership and tactical knowledge under duress. Being well versed with tactics is the most important things as it is used as a medium to grade your leadership. If you do not know how to execute an ambush, you won't be penalized but it will be significantly increases the difficulty to execute a successful mission. If you are unsure about certain tactics, utilize the knowledge of the other members of your platoon and create a plan with their help.

OPORD's (operation order) and FRAGO's (fragmentary order) for the STX lanes will be briefed by cadre to the platoon leadership either in the morning or immediately after a mission for follow-on objectives. The FRAGO or OPORD is typically briefed to the PL, platoon leader, PSG (platoon sergeant) and the RTO (radiotelephone operator) at the PL's request. Squad leaders may also be included in briefs depending on the cadre and platoon leadership. Once the mission is briefed, PL's will need to utilize the troop leading procedures and METT-TC in their planning process in order to execute the mission.

A great idea to implement is the delegation of tasks. One man cannot accomplish the entire mission on their own. As the PL use the cadets in the platoon to accomplish smaller tasks along the way. For the OPORD, one idea may be to task the PSG with writing the 4th paragraph, and the RTO with the 5th paragraph. For the terrain model, you can use the point man or the RTO. All these roles during the planning process can be determined during the early stages of camp, during SOP development time. As the PL, you will need to focus on the 3rd paragraph and to ensure everyone understands the entire mission plan

The lanes generally conducted are: ambush, recon, area defense, raid, and movement to contact. During these lanes, you should have a basic idea of how placement of squads within the platoon formation, and their employment on the objective matters. The issued MILES gear will not be reliable but try to think about the situation from a realistic stand point. The effective range of an M4 is 300m. Knowing this, you can emplace elements at almost 300m away from the kill zone, so long as you remember to backup your decision with your knowledge of the weapon systems at your disposal.

### *5. Graded Events*

Before the lanes, you will be graded and evaluated at camp. These events will include the PT test, the written and practical land navigation test, qualifying on your rifle, obstacle course, rappelling, Call for Fire, First Aid, and CBRN. The PT test is not hard if you properly train for it. If you are selected to be an MSIII trainer prior to camp, you can still work out. Running will be harder, but you can still do push ups and sit ups. The 2 mile course is a mile loop with barely any elevation gain. Start being hard on grading yourself because the standards at camp and in the Army

are higher than the standards at most ROTC programs.

The written land navigation test is not hard if you study for it. Make sure to go over intersection, resection, plotting attack points, and identifying the terrain features. This year it was notorious that the exam would have 5 or 6 of the same terrain features to throw off Cadets. Just be confident with yourself. The practical land navigation test is harder than many Cadets think. Usually land navigation is fairly simple, but you should not underestimate the course. The land navigation course is what caused the most Cadets to get recycled whether it was route planning, the size of the course, the heat, and many other factors. Land navigation can be made easier if you route plan correctly. Not only that, but you should not shoot a straight azimuth from one point to another. Plan your routes off intersections of roads and corners to have a less margin of error, this is colloquially called an attack point. Additionally, do not use trails unless you can confirm where they are going on the map. There are a number of unmapped trails on the land navigation course that have gotten Cadets lost because they followed them.

Basic Rifle Marksmanship is not challenging if you can zero your rifle within the amount of bullets they give you. If you do not zero by then, you will have a hard time qualifying on the pop-ups. During the actual qualifications, count your rounds to ensure you use them all. When aiming, ensure that you keep a constant sight picture (this will be explained at camp). Lastly, when aiming, you need to compensate for the angle of the barrel, so if you're aiming at a 25m target, you need to aim for the base of the target, or the bullet will go over it due to the distance and angle of the barrel. You should adjust on where you aim at a target depending on the distance of the target. The 300m target is the only target you will aim center mass. Once again, this will be explained in more detail at camp.

The obstacle course is just like what you did in the FTX, as long as you show continuous physical effort, you cannot fail the event. Rappelling is probably one of the more fun things you will do at camp, just listen and follow the instructors closely. The call for fire was all about attention to detail, just remember to double check your math and listen to the instruction. TCCC at camp is not too challenging, once again just pay attention to the instructor and you will be fine. Finally, the CBRN is not going to be fun, and it will make you incredibly



uncomfortable. Try to control your breathing.

## 6. Leadership Roles

There are many leadership roles at camp, some are graded while others are just roles taken on by cadets to ensure the success of the platoon. The most obvious role is the Platoon Leader (PL). The PL will be graded both in garrison and in the field. As the PL you need to be able to make decisions in a quick manner. When you make a decision, it is important that you have a reason to why you made that decision. It is okay to be uncomfortable with the PL role during a mission as long as you use your fellow Cadets. There were plenty of Cadets who were not comfortable with the PL role during the FTX, and still were able to get a good grade. The important task is to show competency, whether that means using your Cadets or a handbook, and showing leadership attributes. These can be found in FM 6-22 Army Leadership on page 1-4 in the 2015 version.

The other main role is the Platoon Sergeant (PSG). As the PSG, you are in charge of accountability. You need to know LACE reports, sensitive items and where they are at all times, the welfare of your soldiers, and have the ability to control elements yourself. The PSG needs to ensure that sectors of fire are being sketched, and that the priorities of work are being executed in the correct order during a patrol base.

The Squad Leader, SL, is the person who knows the capabilities of his or her squad. Knowing the capabilities helps ensure the mission can go smoothly because the squads have different responsibilities. If you are a weapons SL, then you need to know how to employ your crew served weapons in the most deadly manner. If you are security squad, you need to know the terrain, and use terrain analysis in order to set your squad in the best position to ensure the safety of the platoon. The Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant can only do so much.

The Team Leaders, TL, are responsible for the individual soldiers. A good team leader will pass up the LACE reports without any instruction in order to hasten things. The team leaders should be able to communicate effectively with one another so adjacent local operations can occur without fratricide. Team Leaders are also in charge of ensuring their Soldiers do their jobs. If a Soldier sleeps while pulling security, the team leader should wake up the Soldier, and ensure the safety of the team. It is an ungraded leadership position that requires a lot of movement and accountability.

The last few leadership roles are also not graded. The Radiotelephone Operator, RTO, of the platoon is the person who is able to keep contact with higher and the PL. The RTO should stay with the PL at all times, and be able to troubleshoot the radios when a problem occurs. The PL will usually pick a Cadet who they trust as the RTO, and seek their guidance during the lane. The RTO can also route plan, and make the terrain model. The next position is the medic: the medic should be able to set up a casualty collection point just in case there is a mass casualty event. The final leadership roles would be the compass and pace people. As the compass and pace person, you are in charge of the route of the whole platoon. You need to be confident in your pace and ability to utilize a compass in a crappy environment. If you mess up, the platoon could end up somewhere they do not want to be.

## 7. Battlebook/ Mapboard

A battlebook or mapboard is a small book shaped object Cadets can use for their time at camp. Personally, many of us can recommend it, because not a lot of Cadets use them at their respective schools.

The great part about these is the ability to use them multiple times in any environment. They are a multipurpose planning tool that will allow the PL, or the SL route plan, copy and flip an OPORD, draw their course of actions sketches, and much more.

## 8. Platoon Book

The platoon book is a book that is passed on from one PL to the next. This platoon book is the book that holds all the answers for anyone who is in a leadership position. As camp goes on, and the platoon establishes a new SOP or changes one everything is recorded in the book. This allows consistency in the platoon, and a reference for anyone who is just getting into leadership. Not only does this platoon book have SOP's, but it should have a record of everyone's rifle number, MILES gear number, and a list of the sensitive items. Along with the sensitive items list should be a layout. Having a detailed sketch of what the sensitive items layout should look like allows the platoon to gain discipline, and the PSG knows where to look for it. The book can also contain an AAR section so the platoon leadership can read, and learn from the last group of



*Here you can see the Cadet had a blank sheet where he used to write down everything he was briefed. He then proceeded to use the OPORD skeleton in order to flip what he wrote, and then brief the OPORD. It was quick, and helped organize his thoughts which allowed him to plan his missions efficiently.*



*You can see there are a lot of different reports, from UXO to a 9-line, so if anything happened, the Cadet could write it down quickly, and call higher up immediately. He/she used the middle panel to draw the most likely, and dangerous course of action sketch. This allowed him to use the TLPs and METT-TC. The right panel was open so that maps could be inserted, and they could use the board for land nav and route planning. This book does not replace a terrain model! This Mapboard took the Cadet about 2 hours to make, and all it was made out of plexiglass and tape. Take your time building one and make a few, this is a long process that has a huge payout in the end.*



Cadets. This allows for collaboration that may not have been able to take place prior to leadership changes. The last thing the book had was how to do various Soldier tasks, such as executing the TLP's, METT-TC, etc.

### 9. Field Craft

This is the ability to utilize your equipment in the best way possible. Field craft includes the knowledge of properly applying face paint all the way to setting up hooches. Face paint is annoying, but is important to the mission. Most Cadets recommend buying an oil based palet to bring to camp. They are very cheap and you should bring about 1-2 palets.

Another thing you should get are bungee cords, as these will really help you when setting up hooches. Instead of using 550 cord every time, you can save time and effort by using bungee cords. Another useful field craft you should learn are knots. Knots are essential when you deal with rope. If you bring 550 cord, it is highly recommended that you know the different knots, to include anchor knots, slip knots, and loop knots. The ability to identify plants can be incredibly useful so you, or your fellow Cadets do not set up in poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac. There are many small things that you should ask your cadre and MSIV's in order to make life in the field easier.

### 10. Hygiene and Health

We cannot stress this enough, hygiene is such an important part of camp. The best feeling for some Cadets is when you can take your baby wipes and wipe off all the facepaint. Not only does this feel good, but it's important to keep your skin healthy. Another important hygiene tip is to wipe off your back. You are carrying a ruck around all day, so wiping the sweat and salt off your back will help prevent rashes from appearing. Other quick tips include not wearing underwear if you are a male. The groin area is an area that produces a lot of sweat. It also creates another item of clothing that needs to be washed and dealt with. By using baby powder to prevent rashes, and keeping everything dry, you make life a lot easier. Take care of your feet, they are the most important body part you have while at camp. If you get blisters that are not getting taken care of, they can spread or get infected to the point where you cannot walk. Dry your feet off and change your socks if possible. It rains a lot at Fort Knox, so keeping dry will help you get

through the long days in the field. Taking care of your body should not be underestimated. If you do not drink enough, then you are at risk of being a heat casualty.

### 11. Conclusion

Advanced Camp is a way for the Army to judge your leadership, and ensure that you are ready to commission as an officer.



Officers need to lead under high stress environments, and be able to make quick decisions. Camp is a great way to test this ability, and more. You will learn a lot about yourself, and that you can handle a lot more than you think you can. It is a rewarding experience that allows ROTC Cadets around the country to bond over. Take advantage and learn as much as possible.



*CDT Freed on Day zero of Advanced Camp. He is conducting a full equipment layout with other Cadets and cadre.*

*CDT Situ, an MSIV from Lafayette College, recently attended the 25th Infantry Division's Jungle School at the Lightning Academy in Hawaii. He attended this past summer after completing Advanced Camp. CDT Situ is one of three Cadets from 2nd Brigade to attend the school.*

"Attending Jungle School, as a Cadet, at the Lightning Academy was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. I learned a plethora of military skills, which included subjects such as: military mountaineering, air assault and waterborne infil's and exfil's, survival skills, guerilla warfare, and much more. In addition to learned skills, I also developed much as a Soldier myself. I learned that I was capable of navigating not only myself but also a 14-man squad through the treacherous and unforgiving terrain in the jungles of Hawaii. Furthermore, I discovered that I was more than capable of enduring and surviving a 36-hour survival practice exercise by creating a hasty shelter, eating guava berries, and collecting water with a canteen cup using moisture from rain on tree leaves. My overall experience at Jungle School was truly rewarding, and I will definitely be using the skills I learned in the future as an Infantry officer." CDT Situ





# Project GO

By: CDT Farbod

Project Go Global Officers is a Department of Defense program that provides scholarships for ROTC Cadets. These scholarships are directly used to pay critical language programs with partner schools across the globe. Critical languages are languages that the Department of Defense deems as in need among our military members. These include languages such as Japanese, Russian, Persian, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Swahili, and Portuguese to name a few. In the past summer CDT Farbod participated in the this program and he would like to share his experience with the rest of the Battalion.

I had the great opportunity to participate in Project Go this past summer. I was in the San Diego University program, which was from May 29th to August 9th, the program has the same timeline this upcoming summer as well. I and another 25 cadets studied either Persian, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, or Arabic. I studied Persian in their 10 week intensive course. Each day was 5-7

hours of classroom studies, and several hours of homework as well. This was equivalent to four semesters of study, and the credits can be brought to your home college. My Persian class often went for group outings and cultural field trips, including Persian restaurants, cultural centers, and religious centers. Beyond my studies I spent the weekends exploring San Diego and California. These included the local naval base, Comic-Con, beaches, national parks, and World Cup soccer games. Now I am an intermediate writer, speaker, and reader of Persian which, depending on my future deployments the language skills I learned will be a valuable skill set for the Army.

If you are interested to apply: Please go on <https://www.rotcprojectgo.org/> Domestic Program applications are due February 22nd 2019, previous knowledge of the languages is not necessary. Applications are already open online in all languages and programs. All cadets who are U.S citizens are eligible to apply.



*CDT Farbod exploring San Diego during Project Go, with his new battle buddies.*

## CST SPOTLIGHT



CDT Au, MSIV, attended Cadet Troop Leading Training, CTLT, this past summer with JAG Corp at Fort Bragg, NC



CDT Gliot (second from left), MSIV, also did extra training. She was a Basic Camp trainer prior to attending Advance Camp at Fort Knox, KY.



CDT Liedtka completes one of many ruck marches during Airborne School.





*Theresa Blumberg, center, has her second lieutenant bar pinned on at her commissioning ceremony by her mother and brother.*

# Journey to Commissioning

*By: CDT Yang and LT Theresa Blumberg*

On October 29th, Lieutenant Blumberg commissioned at Moravian College, and will be entering Transportation Basic Officer Leaders Course. In this article she shares her experiences during her time at the Steel Battalion, the significance of the commissioning ceremony, and advice to Cadets.

Many Cadets have taken a chance and joined an ROTC program. Many are hoping it will be a home away from home, this process can be both exciting and intimidating. Cadets are coming to earn a commission in the United States Army as an Army officer. However, what they gain is much greater. They gain friends that become family, lifelong lessons, and opportunities they wouldn't find anywhere else. This is exactly what 2LT Blumberg found to be true.

As an MSI she benefited from her mentors who were also in the program. The lessons she learned as a freshman continue to help her in her career today. CDT Gonzalez helped her improve upon her weaknesses during their years in the program together. "CDT Molisso continues to mentor me as I approach BOLC. He helped me envision long term processes." Later in her ROTC career she attended Basic Camp, was presented with a scholarship for the Fall of her MSII year, and was awarded the Reserves Officer Award.

Each year LT Blumberg spent in the program her leadership ability improved "I became more confident in myself, and more willing to go out of my comfort zone. I am slowly getting better talking in front of groups. I am become stronger, and adapted healthier life. Learned how to balance a life with school, ROTC, work, volunteering, and whatever activity that I wanted to try. Looking back at it, I don't think I ever imagine my college life like that."

During her senior year LT Blumberg suffered a horrible knee injury. In order to commission all Cadets must pass a final Army Physical Fitness Test, APFT. However, she had to wait for medical clearance from Cadet Command. "The commissioning process felt like it took forever!! I never knew when the date would come, and the day I got cleared by my doctor, I cried of happiness. The day I took my first APFT in a year, I was so nervous. I just wanted to pass, didn't care on my score, which getting 241, was great news for me."

The Steel Battalion showed love and support at each step, "One thing I remember from that was all the cadets who knew me, kept asking how I am doing and be like great you passed you

the next one. In addition, CDT Yang and Sadvary made sure I knew the new running course because they didn't want that to be more nerves. CDT Sadvary ran with me and kept giving me the distance and positively kept giving me update. CDT Kanaskie, who is the grader, would say 3 more times passing me you'll be 2LT, next time I see you, I'll call you 2LT Blumberg' They supported me so much, and wanted me to pass, which showed me that the BN cared and wanted me to succeed."

She had her commissioning ceremony at Moravian College, "Originally I didn't want to do it. I constantly kept telling Mr. Hawkins it wasn't going to happen, but when I talked to other officers, they said like graduation, it doesn't really matter for you, it matter for mom and dad, and your family and friends. So commissioning wasn't for me, it was for the people that helped me get there. I knew my support system was proud, but it was great that some could make it because they finally got to meet each other."

Lastly, she offered inspiring insights to current and future Cadets:

- *Don't focus on the negative, especially if something isn't going your way. If you are constantly trying to work at it, it will work out.*
- *Remember what you were and see what you are now. It's crazy how much you change.*
- *Don't forget about your friends and family. They have been there for the whole thing. Show them they matter. If you are going active duty and are stationed thousands of miles away, show them how much they mean to you.*
- *Make connections with the Battalion. Be a great Cadet and if you meet another Cadet from a different BN, befriend them. You will realize the Army is a small world, but make it a better world.*
- *Learn from Veterans, no matter the branch. They will tell you the times they hated and loved. Give them your time, don't let our past be forgotten, we don't want to make the same mistakes.*
- *I came to appreciate Ana and Mr. Hawkins, especially after my senior year. They might nag you, but they are trying to get you to do things that need to be done! They give you guidance and they want you to succeed.*



# Meet The Staff



**MAJ John Abella**

Major (MAJ) John Abella is the Steel Battalion Professor of Military Science and MSIV instructor. A native of Anaheim, California, he commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps in 2004 through the ROTC program at Niagara University, New York. MAJ Abella holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University, New York.

His initial assignment was as a Platoon Leader in the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion in the Republic of Korea in 2005. Later he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. MAJ Abella served as the Support Operations Transportation Officer, Battalion S4, and Executive Officer to the 29th Chief of Transportation. During command he served as a Distribution Company Commander. MAJ Abella deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, in Afghanistan 2006 and 2008.

MAJ Abella was selected for the Eisenhower Leader Development Program at West Point, NY, where he served as a Company Tactical Officer, and Brigade S4 for the United States Corps of Cadets.

MAJ Abella is married to his wife Dana from Buffalo, New York. They have one son, and two daughters. MAJ Abella is an avid tennis player and enjoys the outdoors.



**MSG Jason Brunhoeber**

Master Sergeant (MSG) Jason Brunhoeber is the Steel Battalion Senior Military Science Instructor and NCO. He was born in Wichita, Kansas. He enlisted in the Army on January 27, 2004. He attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Sill, OK, where he was awarded the MOS of 13F, Fire Support Specialist. Later, he served as a Forward Observer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. He was then assigned to 4th IBCT 1-76 FA. He became a Combat Observation Lasing Team Chief for HHB 1-76 FA, at which time he deployed again to Iraq from 2007-2009. He was then assigned to the 353rd Regiment, 162nd INF as an Observer Controller and Trainer. In 2010 MSG Brunhoeber was reassigned to 4th IBCT as a Targeting NCO for the 6-8 Cav, and as the Fire Support NCO for 3-7 IN, deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan in 2013. In 2015 he was assigned to Bravo Battery 1-78, Fort Sill, OK as an AIT Platoon Sergeant and as the Battery First Sergeant from September 2016 to May 2018.

He is married to the former Melissa Eldridge from Kansas and has five daughters, Breshan, Brooklyn, Bliss, Bella and Harlow and one Grand-son, Benjamin.



**Mr. Doug Hawkins**

Mr. Hawkins is the Steel Battalion Human Resources Assistant. He is originally from Central New York and started working for Cadet Command in June 2007. Prior to this he served in the United States Navy. Mr. Hawkins joined the Navy in May 1996. He attended Boot Camp and Fire Controlman School A at Great Lakes, Illinois from 1996-1997.

From 1998-2003 Mr. Hawkins was assigned to USS Robert G. Bradley FFG49, based out of Mayport Florida, as an MK92 Fire Control Systems Technician. While on board the USS Bradley he held positions such as System Technician up to Division Leading Petty Officer, Ships Self-defense Force Trainer and leader, Combat Officer of the Watch, Combat Support Officer, and Officer of the Deck. During this time he served on three deployments, one being the STANDING NAVAL FORCES ATLANTIC, and the other two being LEOPS (Drug interdiction). In 2003 he transferred to the Philadelphia Naval Ship Yard, NAVSEA, and worked as the on call Military Assist team. In 2004 upon the closing of the shipyard he transferred to the Naval Aviation Support Station in Philadelphia. At NAVSUP he worked as the Personnel Administration Petty Officer to a two-star Admiral.

He has been married to his wife Elizabeth for 22 years. They have two sons, Justin and Nathaniel. Outside of work, Mr. Hawkins enjoys working on classic cars and remodeling his home.

**“I enjoy my job by ensuring that future Army Leaders get the best chance of obtaining their personal and career goals.”**

**Mr. Hawkins**





**CPT (P) Benjamin Wearin**

Captain (CPT) Benjamin Wearin is the Steel Battalion Operations Officer and MSIII instructor. He is originally from Red Oak, Iowa. He graduated with a bachelors in Defense and Strategy from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2008 and is currently an MBA candidate at Lehigh University.

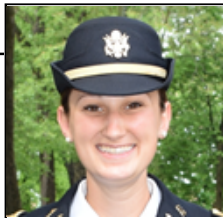
He was commissioned as an Infantry Officer, and has served as a platoon leader, commander and staff officer in the 10th Mountain Division, 82nd Airborne and 75th Ranger Regiment. He has three deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afganistan. CPT Wearin currently resides in Breinigsville, PA with his two sons Jackson (6) and Charlie (3).



**SFC Sean Im**

SFC Sean Im is the Steel Operations NCO and MS I instructor. He is originally from Cerritos, California and enlisted in the Army in June, 2001. He attended basic and advance individual training at Fort Benning, Georgia as an Infantryman.

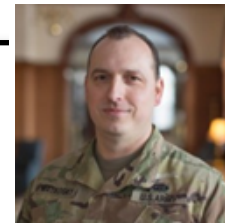
SFC Im has served as an Infantryman in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in the 2nd Infantry division in the Republic of Korea, and most recently the 25th Infantry Division in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He has served as a platoon sergeant and Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor, deploying twice to Afghanistan. He is married with a 5 year old son, Mark.



**2LT Catherine Condly**

2nd Lieutenant (2LT) Condly is a Steel Battalion MS1 instructor and assistant operations officer. She commissioned through the Steel Battalion in 2018, graduating from Moravian College with a B.S in Business Management. 2LT Condly commissioned into the Pennsylvania National guard and Quartermaster Basic Officer Leader Course in November 2018. In addition to her duties in the guard she is a civilian contracted cadre member for Steel Battalion.

"The ROTC program at the Steel Battalion has taken a lot from me, but what it has given me in return I could not be more thankful for. It took my time, hard work, and constant discipline. However, it gave me lifelong connections with extraordinary people, a home away from home, and a sense of direction. "



**MAJ (P) Scott Matkosky**

"Major(P)"Scott Matkosky is the Steel Battalion Executive Officer and MSII instructor. He commissioned as a Chemical officer in St. Lawrence University with Bachelor Degree in Biology in 2001. He holds an Master Degree on Environmental Management at Webster University. He is currently pursuing Lehigh University MBA.

"MAJ Matkosky has served as an Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion S3, Brigade Plans Chief, Division Assistant Planner and United States Army Reserve Command staff Officer. His hobbies includes fly fishing in central PA, hunting, cooking. He is married to his wife Jennifer with a 4 year old daughter, Evelyn and 2 year old son, Harrison.





**Mr. Phil Christensen**

Mr. Phil Christensen is a civilian instructor with the Steel Battalion Army ROTC program. He received a Bachelors Degree for Accounting at Queens College, CUNY, and a Masters Degree at Central Michigan University.

He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army Reserve. He commissioned as an Army Infantry Officer in 1986. His major assignments and duties included Brigade XO, and Company Commander. Mr. Christensen deployed once to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan. He lives in Northeast Pennsylvania with Lois, his wife of 31 years.



**Mr. Harry Harp**

Mr. Harry Harp is the Steel Battalion Recruiting Officer. He resides in the great state of New Jersey and has a diploma from the School of Cadet Command in Recruiting Operations.

Hobbies include breaking accessions, critiquing 104-R's, and setting off on an annual adventure through cyberspace to find the most qualified candidates from the high school national scholarship pool of applicants.



**Ms. Ana Z. Colucci**

Ana Z. Colucci is the Lehigh University Coordinator. She graduated from the University of Santa Barbara, CA. She began working for the Steel Battalion in September 2017. She serves as the Liaison and Events Planning Coordinator.



**MAJ Eric Etter**

MAJ Eric Etter is the Steel Battalion Military History Instructor. MAJ Etter graduated from Wright State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, commissioning through ROTC in 2006.

He has a masters degree for Engineering Management from Missouri University of Science & Technology, and is currently pursuing his Masters at Western New England University. He had previously served as a Platoon Leader, Geospatial (65th EN, Schofield Barracks); Executive Officer, Logistics (COB Speicher, IZ); Company Commander, HHC (14th EN, JB Lewis-McChord); APMS (2ND BDE, UMASS Amherst).

He is married to his wife, and has two children. Outside of the Army profession, he is a Director of Product Engineering (Electro-Chemical Analysis). His hobbies include collecting foreign currency and fine spirit aficionado.





*2LT Paul Piekarz left the Steel Battalion to attend BOLC at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for Field Artillery. His goal is to train hard at BOLC, and attend ranger school. He believes that being a cadre member in the battalion has helped him to prepare for this next assignment. "I am happy to be here, because I had the opportunity to do many different things, and learn first hand from very talented active NCO's and Officers."*

*Lafayette Cadets bid a fond farewell to Second Lieutenant, 2LT, David McGriff. 2LT McGriff commissioned with the class of 2018. He served as Steel Battalion's Gold Bar Recruiter in the beginning of this academic year. He is headed to Basic Officer Leader Course, BOLC, to start his Army career as a Field Artillery Officer.*



*Cadet Wayne Hodge has recently been promoted to Sergeant First Class. He is originally from Breinigsville, PA. He has served in the Army for 9 years as a Military Police non-commissioned officer, NCO. He has worked at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), the Pentagon, and Fort Bragg, NC, with one tour at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and one deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan. His duties have ranged from team leader, Commanding General's Driver, Operations NCO, and Corrections and Detention non-commissioned officer in charge, NCOIC. He is married to his high school sweetheart Ashley with whom he has a daughter, Raina.*

*Captain Etter was recently promoted to Major Etter. He is currently serving in the Army Reserves. He is the Steel Battalions Military History instructor.*



#### Editor's Note:

For readers: I hope you enjoy the pages of the Steel Battalion Newsletter. Each story in this edition expresses various memories, challenges, and some of the processes Cadets must endure in their journey to becoming a future U.S. Army Officer, while enrolled in the Steel Battalion Army ROTC program. As a program we have created a culture of unity, leadership, and learning. Our culture is not only conveyed on these pages, but it is a part of each individual in this program. We are excited to share all these memories with you, the reader, and the transformative power of this program.

I hope you enjoyed reading about the numerous events the Cadets in the Steel Battalion have been able to accomplish throughout the year; from Ranger Challenge beginning to prep in early August for their competition in October, to the field training exercises Cadets are evaluated in, as well as Cadet Gill explaining what the process feels like to have to plan an entire lab. All of this would not have been possible without the help of the finest cadre around. Unfortunately, we said farewell to both Lieutenant McGriff and Lieutenant Piekarsz as they left to attend BOLC. Although, goodbyes are sad we were able to welcome new members to our family.

For all contributors and editors, I would like to say thank you. This newsletter would not be complete without your efforts and dedication. I know the semester can become hectic, and I appreciate all the time you have committed to this project. Major Abella offered his guidance during one of the training meetings, "the challenge for us is not only the decentralization -- the difficulty of conducting and coordinating the training events in multiple locations across 9 different schools--but to bring the Battalion together, to know each other as we work for each other. It's the culture that matters." I hope the production of this newsletter allows our culture to touch those outside of this program, and how through teamwork anything can be accomplished.

For Cadets: As you read this newsletter I hope you reflect on the memories, and friendships you have made throughout the year. As you look over the future events please feel free to share them with friends, family, and alumni. I also encourage you to do some self-reflection on past lessons, and what teamwork means to you. Lastly, I hope you reflect on your future goals.

If you have a story or ideas you'd like to get published in the next edition please contact Cadet Sadvary at [sadvaryd@lafayette.edu](mailto:sadvaryd@lafayette.edu). Pictures are always encouraged, and we can never have too many. They tell a story when there are no words to be said. If you have pictures that you want posted on our media platforms or possibly in the next edition please contact Cadet Katz at [ark219@lehigh.edu](mailto:ark219@lehigh.edu)

Forged In Fire,  
CDT Zeng Zeng Yang

# Future events

## ***Nontactical:***

*Awards Ceremony & Guest Speaker*  
*1700-1900 26APR 2019*

*Military Ball*  
*1800-2000 28MAR 2019*

*Commissioning:*  
*19MAY2019*

***Volunteer Events:***  
*CPT Seifert Memorial Golf Tournament*  
*27APR2019*

*Bataan Death March*  
*17MAR2019*

*Sandhurst Competition*  
*12-14APR 2019*

*NDIA Local Award*  
*17APR2019*

## ***Color Guard:***

*261400JAN2019 (Sat)*  
*041900FEB2019 (Mon)*  
*091630FEB2019 (Sat)*  
*201900FEB2019 (Wed)*  
*241200FEB2019 (Sun)*

***Last day to request component change***  
*01APR2019*

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