

The MILLINI



A publication from
THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Military Science

Message from the Professor of Military Science

by LTC Randall M. Smith

I would like to start by wishing both the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion and its Alumni a very warm welcome. It is truly an honor to serve as the Professor of Military Science at one of the most prestigious programs in the United States.

As most of you know, LTC Christopher Leung will not be returning as the Professor of Military Science. He was selected for Battalion Command and is currently the base commander of Camp Buehring, the forward US staging base in northwestern Kuwait. He also serves as the Brigade Special Troops Battalion Commander. He and I passed in Kuwait as I redeployed from Iraq to come here.

I arrived on campus in early August, so there's not much time to prepare before the semester commences. LTC Leung briefed me extensively during several Skype sessions. I'm excited to watch the Fighting Illini Cadets in action.

I hope everyone had a great summer! Over the summer, many Fighting Illini Battalion Cadets completed Army training, including: Cadet Initial Entry Training, Cadet Summer Training, professional internships, internships with foreign militaries, and Air Assault School. I look forward to hearing all the interesting and wonderful stories from their journeys.

To all alumni, thank you for your continued support to this program. We couldn't do this without you. I look forward to meeting many of you during our alumni events this year, including Hall of Fame and Dining Out. My door is always open to you.

It is a great privilege to represent this historic battalion. I have no doubt that we will continue to forge strong leaders at this wonderful University, as this program has done since 1868.



On the Front Cover: Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets hold up a banner during the Spring 2016 Open House (top). On the bottom: the American flag is stretched across the Memorial Stadium field during a Veteran's Day Ceremony last fall.

Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by MSG Bruce Hutcherson

First of all, I would like to say that it is an honor for me to have been selected to serve you and the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion. Welcome back – I hope that each of you had a relaxing and interesting summer as we prepare for a new school year.

During the spring, MSG Staub PCS'd to Germany to serve as a Battalion Operations Sergeant; he previously spent the last few years as the Senior Military Instructor at the University. MSG Price, who was selected to attend the Sergeants Major Academy, is currently stationed at Fort Bliss, TX, enjoying the nice sandy weather. MSG Price was only here for one semester, but he went out of his way to ensure that he passed as much knowledge of the University and the ROTC program to me prior to his departure.

I left Shaw Air Force Base, SC and arrived on campus towards the end of June. I was originally scheduled to arrive in August; however, I wanted to ensure that I had enough time to prepare for the upcoming school year. I know that we will have an exciting time and I look forward to watching the Fighting Illini Cadets grow into highly-trained officers in the United States Army.

Cadets, this program will challenge you, both physically and mentally - and it shouldn't be anything less. You're preparing to one day lead our sons and daughters in the Army further into the 21st

Century and a lot will be expected of you. This program will ensure that you have the tools you need to lead Soldiers and apply the lessons you learned. Let's continue to make the US Army the finest fighting force ever.



Above: Fighting Illini Cadets conduct Physical Readiness Training on an early weekday morning. MSG Hutcherson, the Senior Military Instructor, serves as the Cadre Overseer for all PRT sessions.



ARMY ROTC

THE BATTALION BUGLE

Embracing Our History

The Departure of the Battalion Bugle

by Second Lieutenant Dylan T. Blaha

Gold Bar Recruiter

In June 2016, Fighting Illini Army ROTC re-introduced the historic *Millini* title for its periodic publication chronicling news, accomplishments, and items of interest to Cadets, alumni, and supporters. Original publication of *The Millini* began in 1931 as a program for Military Day events at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Distribution of *The Millini* continued until at least 1956 and typically included photos, lists of awards received by ROTC-affiliated organizations, and advertisements from local business supporting Military Day activities.

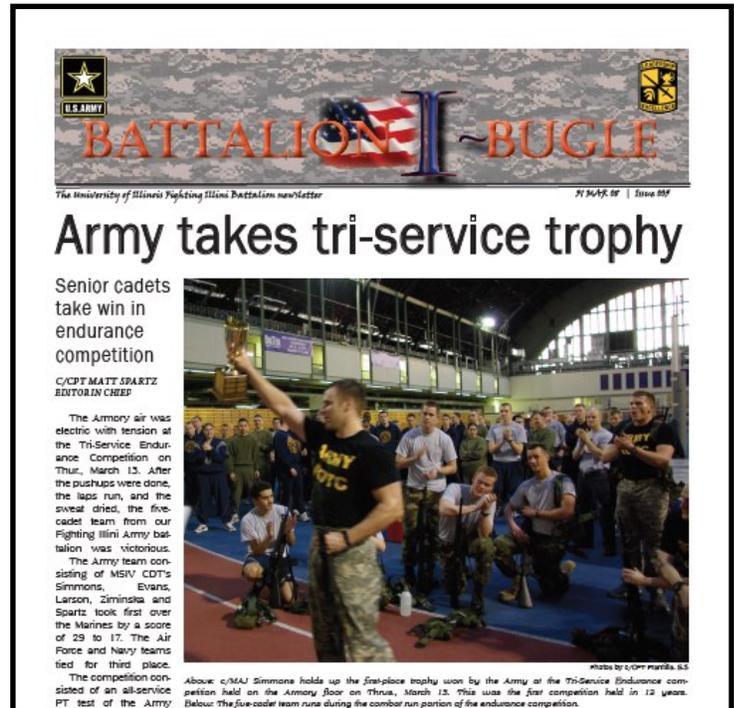
Following the retirement of *The Millini*, Fighting Illini Army ROTC published several replacement newsletters, including the *Illini Bugler*. CPT Matthew R. Spartz, a 2008 UIUC graduate and commissionee, recently contacted Fighting Illini Army ROTC with information about the most recent newsletter, the *Battalion Bugle*. While at UIUC, CPT Spartz served as an Editor/Reporter at the University's *Daily Illini*, and created the *Battalion I-Bugle*. He served for three years with the 101st Airborne Division before switching to the Army Reserves, where he currently serves as a Battalion S3, Operations Officer.

"At the time, [the Fighting Illini battalion] did not have any type of newsletter, internal or external," CPT Spartz told *The Millini*. "We started the *Bugle* as more of an internal communication to keep Cadets updated on weekly events and to publish around the Armory. My friends and I did short stints as Gold Bar Recruiters in fall 2008... I think that is when we started sending the *Bugle* out externally, specifically to alumni."

From 2008 to 2015, the *Bugle* ranged in length from 1-5 pages; it began as a weekly publication, but eventually became an end-of-semester newsletter. It contained statements from the Professor of Military Science, Senior Military Instructor, and Cadet battalion leadership, as well as stories from Fighting Illini alumni. While Cadre provided oversight and guidance, the Cadet S-5 served as OIC, copy editor, and designer of the newsletter.

"As bittersweet as it is to see the *Bugle* retired, I'm glad to see it take on its previous and more prestigious, historical form," CPT Spartz finished. He sent *The Millini* several issues of the *Battalion Bugle* from 2008, which will be preserved as a historical reference.

The Millini will publish three issues per year, which will be distributed electronically to alumni, former Cadre and current Cadets. The May and January editions will review the spring and fall semesters, respectively, while the September issue will review summer training and preview the upcoming fall semester.



Above: The front page of an issue of the *Battalion I-Bugle* from March 2008. Spartz served as Editor in Chief for the Newsletter during his senior year.

THE MILLINI

Embracing Our History

Hi Millini, I am Happy to See You Back

By Gordon Williams

Edited by Second Lieutenant Erin O'Neil

As one of the editors of the old *The Millini* more than half a century ago, I am delighted to be a part of the new *The Millini*.

I began at the University in February of 1951, with the Korean War still raging. All male students had to take two years of ROTC, which meant a two-year deferment from the draft. The Korean War still had not ended by the end of my second year, which gave me a choice: apply for the advanced ROTC or face imminent draft.

Being the newly-minted editor of *The Millini* made the choice easy. I was a working journalist, an assistant sports editor for the *Daily Illini* and central Illinois sports stringer for a Chicago daily newspaper, which was enough experience to win me the job. I was then made a Cadet Captain, earned a seat on the Military Council and was quickly accepted for Advanced ROTC.

We had classes three days a week at the Armory and drill one day. One perk of sitting on the Military Council was that it got me out of drill. I even earned money for being in the advanced ROTC. It was only 90 cents a day, which was better than it sounds, since at the time my tuition was only \$50 a semester, and room and board at my fraternity house was \$80 a month. I also received a uniform allowance, which I used to buy a set of officer's pinks-and-greens and a trench coat. Pinks-and-greens were easily the best looking uniform of any Army, but they were soon to be replaced by the all-green uniform.

The social highlight of the year was the Military Ball – held as were all dances of the day, in the George Huff Gym. Because I had done some broadcasting on WILL, I was picked to MC the ball. As MC, my date for the evening was Martha Sanford, the charming and most attractive Miss Army ROTC. I cannot say my girlfriend was pleased with my going out with someone else, but I certainly was.

It was a very strange time for the military. The Korean War had ended with a truce, not a clear-cut victory, and that was hard for anyone in the Army to accept. A number of American POWs refused to return home and stayed in North Korea after the truce. They were said to have been “brain-washed” by their captors. To make sure no more American Soldiers succumbed to brain-washing, we all had to take an oath which began, “I am an American fighting man...”

Our tactics in Korea were called into question and so were our weapons. What we mostly used in Korea were World War II vintage weapons. The standard infantry rifle was the M1, weighing around 10 pounds and firing a 10-round clip. Our tactic was slow, but accurate fire from a long distance away. In Korea, the enemy mostly used automatic weapons – rapid, not very accurate fire from close up. Time after time enemy fires featuring mass fire-power overran our lines.

The standard-issue pistol was a true relic – the Colt .45 automatic – called the Model of 1911 because that was when it was adopted. Even the garments our Soldiers wore in battle failed the test. They simply failed to keep men warm in the frigid winters of North Korea.



The 1955 Army ROTC Military Council where Gordon Williams (front left) serves as Cadet Captain and *The Millini* editor.

THE MILLINI

Embracing Our History

Hi *Millini*, I am Happy to See You Back (Continued)

Obviously the Army would have to change dramatically and our textbook lessons turned into free-wheeling discussions about the form that change might take. What might have been dry classroom lectures became gripping because suddenly everything about the Army was up for discussion. To make it even more compelling, more and more younger instructors had actually seen action in Korea.

I saw and felt that even more keenly at summer camp at Fort Lee, Virginia. Virtually all our instructors had been in Korea and were a pretty critical bunch. I commissioned into the Quartermaster Corp, which operates huge rear-echelon food and petroleum, depots. The old doctrine, in the days of fixed front lines, was that such depots were safe from attack and did not have to worry much about being defended. However, the lines were seldom fixed in Korea and raiders destroyed many QM depots with considerable loss of both life and precious supplies. At summer camp and later on active duty, we received training in combat infantry tactics and in setting defensive perimeters.

I finished my schooling in January 1955, and commissioned in February. My commissioning ceremony served as my graduation with my mother pinning on my gold bars and the senior NCO earning a silver dollar by delivering my first salute as an officer. I reported to Fort Lee before the end of the month and spent 13 weeks going through the Basic Officer Course and then got my own platoon in a Quartermaster field bakery company. In mid-1955, I received unfortunate news that my company was moving from Fort Lee to Camp Polk, Louisiana. All we had to know about Polk was that each of our platoons was issued a shotgun to help us fend off snakes. Then for reasons I still don't understand, I received new orders sending me to Germany. Three young officers – all our names beginning with "WIL" – were picked to go to Germany. I have no idea how or why we were picked, but I swapped Polk and the snakes for 16 wonderful months in Germany.



Gordon Williams in Frankfurt, Germany, 1956.

I served as a staff officer in Frankfurt subarea of Northern Area Command, I went to work in my beloved pinks-and-greens each day, I had my car, and a nice room in a BOQ near the 97th General Hospital, where there were many awesome nurses who had served in combat in Korea and had some chilling war stories to tell. They earned more than I did and were gracious about buying a drink or two late in the month when my salary (all of \$240 a month) was gone. Most of my senior officers had served in World War II and their war stories were captivating. Many of the younger officers had received battlefield commissions in Korea and would soon revert to their pre-commission ranks. My boss was a captain until the day he reverted to corporal. Instead of me saluting him, he had to salute me.

I was released from active duty at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn in January 1957 and picked up my career as a journalist. I worked for two newspapers and a big magazine. Then I spent 13 years on TV and radio as a correspondent for ABC News. But I still remember my ROTC days fondly. It taught me lessons about leadership and responsibility that have proven valuable through my whole life. I only commanded troops for six months, but I still consider it one of the most important things I ever did. I was never in combat, but I was conscious that someday the lives of my Soldiers might depend on a decision I made. You become very mature very quickly.

So, as a veteran of *The Millini* of yesterday, I welcome *The Millini* of today.

HISTORY OF THE FIGHTING ILLINI

Embracing Our History

*by Cadet Christopher Kerasotes
Cadet Historian and Alumni Outreach Officer*

On the first days of classes, Spring Semester 1868, students at the Illinois Industrial University, currently named the University of Illinois, were formed into ranks before an instructor. This first class consisted of 75 young men.

It wasn't long before these Cadets were serving with distinction. In 1871, the University's Corps of Cadets was sent to Chicago to assist in maintaining order following the "Great Chicago Fire".

The present Armory building was built in 1914 and when construction finished in November, the Armory was considered the largest structure in the world without a center support. The armory received a major renovation in 1926.

During WWI the University had 1,159 Illini see combat service overseas in Europe. During the war 30 men were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre (Cross of War). In the end, 189 Illini paid the ultimate sacrifice in WWI, their names are found on the columns of Memorial Stadium today. General "Blackjack" Pershing, the commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force during the war referred to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as the "West Point of the West" due to its excellent officer development program and sheer number of Cadets.

The National Defense Act of 1916 created ROTC and full operations on the UIUC campus began in 1919. All able bodied males were required to take at least basic military training in ROTC. The instruction encompassed drill regulations, ceremonies, field service regulations, target practice, calisthenics, bayonet practice, guard duty, signaling, and minor tactics.

The University of Illinois established Naval ROTC in 1945 and Air force ROTC in 1949. This made it one of the few Universities in the Nation with tri-service ROTC, which still holds true today.

In 1964, the ROTC Revitalization Act added flexibility and incentives to the program. This Act created the 2-year ROTC program, increased pay, and created new scholarships. This Act also changed ROTC from mandatory to optional training on campuses across the Nation.

With the entrance of women into ROTC in 1973, the Fighting Illini Battalion commissioned one of the first women in the Nation through Army ROTC. In 1976, UIUC's LTC (Ret) Christine Wolfram McGuffey became the first female Battalion Commander in Army ROTC.

Since the turn of the century Illini ROTC grads have found themselves leading Soldiers in combat operations against terrorism. Over 230 officers have been commissioned through this ROTC Battalion since 2001. Two Illini Officers have fallen in battle serving our country; 1LT Brain Slavenas in 2003 and MAJ David L. Audo in 2009. Our Cadets remember their history and honors those who have served their country. They look forward to their commission and filling the ranks of the next generation of Fighting Illini.



The hallways of the Armory remind us of our rich heritage with several lists of the many cadets that served as Cadet Battalion Commander, the Command Sergeant Major and the winner of the annual Hazelton Award.

Summer Training Highlights

Fighting Illini Shine at Cadet Summer Training

by *Second Lieutenant Dylan Blaha*

Gold Bar Recruiter

In addition to summer classes and part-time jobs, many Fighting Illini Cadets completed various summer training opportunities, including Basic and Advanced Camp, Cadet Troop Leader Training, Summer Internships, the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program, and Air Assault School. *The Millini* asked several of these Cadets to shed some light on their summer experiences.

Basic Camp (Cadet Initial Entry Training)

According to Cadet Command, Basic Camp, formerly known as Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET), serves as “an intense four-week introduction to Army life and leadership training of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.” The main purpose of CIET is to qualify Cadets for entry into the Senior ROTC program; it fulfills all basic course requirements of Military Science I and II year.

Basic Camp instills confidence and decision-making skills—qualities necessary for any leader in both the Army and civilian life. Cadets participate in various training events over the 30-day period, including: physical readiness training, field training exercises, and Leader Reaction and Confidence Courses.

Cadets Alex Rachesky, Kurt Kuzur, Dylan Shearer, Ziggy Zamora, Craig Muncaster, Alex Kim and Sushruth Pattekar participated in Basic Camp, while Chris Kerasotes served as a Basic Camp Platoon Leader.

Advanced Camp (Cadet Leadership Course)

Advanced Camp, formerly known as the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC), is a 30-day exercise conducted at Fort Knox, KY which serves as the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s capstone training event. The key tasks of Advanced Camp are to train Cadets to Army standards, to develop leadership characteristics and attributes and to evaluate officer potential.

Successful completion of this program is a requirement for becoming an Army officer through ROTC. Cadets conduct individual and collective training, including weapons qualification, tactical combat casualty care and key leader engagements. Cadet Brandon Ortiz offered his thoughts: “It was hot and humid, but the best progress I made was through the mentoring I received and the lessons I learned from the officers and non-commissioned officers.”

Along with Ortiz, Cadets Nicholas Freeze, Paul Genchanok, Jonathan Rodriguez, Courtney Thompson, Jason Marshall, Luis Pantoja, Samuel Eickstedt, Anthony Earll, Jun Lee, Corey Maisch, Christopher Kerasotes, Tyler Cordry, Albert Huston, and Cole Murray completed Advanced Camp this summer.



Cadet Dylan Shearer, who trained with the 3rd Regiment, participates in a Field Training Exercise during Basic Camp.

Summer Training Highlights

Fighting Illini Cadets Complete Engineering Internships

by *Second Lieutenant Dylan Blaha*

Gold Bar Recruiter



Cadet Corey Maisch inspects the fire suppression pump system at the Grundy National Bank site in Grundy, Virginia.

In the summer of 2015, two Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets completed Cadet Command Internships; one of the two, current 2LT William Ripka, participated in the Engineering Internship Program (EIP) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This summer, two Fighting Illini Cadets completed the program. Cadet Corey Maisch attended EIP for four weeks in Huntington, WV and Martin, KY, while Cadet Samuel Chung spent three weeks in Ft. Benning, GA with USACE.

“My training consisted primarily of quality control and enforcing safety regulations,” stated Maisch, the fall 2016

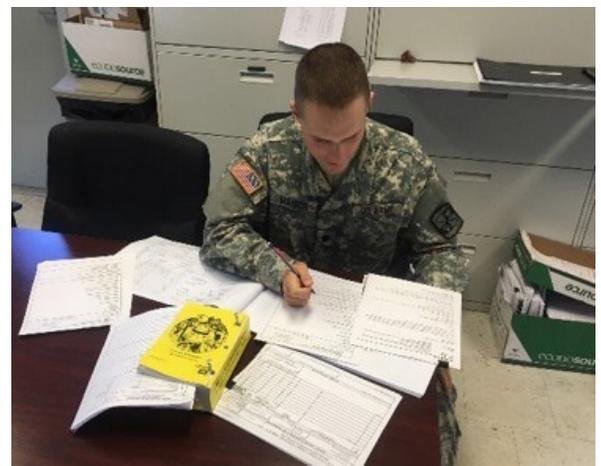
Cadet Battalion Operations Officer. “I met with the contractor Site Safety and Health Officer (SSHO) to discuss their equivalent of a Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet (DRAW) and address safety concerns.”

Maisch learned the Army plays a major role in maintaining water avenues for commerce and helping remote locations with flood risk mitigation. “I also learned a significant amount about construction management, my focus within my future civil engineering degree.”

Chung had a similarly beneficial experience at Ft. Benning, GA. “Overall, the experience was great, as I learned a lot about the technical aspects of engineering and met lots of new people,” Chung told *Millini*. “I learned a lot about the civilian aspect of engineering, instead of the Army aspect.”

While in EIP, Chung was mentored by a First Lieutenant Engineer Officer. “[My mentor] is a project engineer in the Army Corps of Engineers. He gave me insight about Engineering BOLC, the wide opportunities the branch provides, and what it’s like to be a platoon leader.”

“I would recommend this internship to other Cadets, if they want to know what real-life engineering is like,” Chung finished. “This internship opened up my view on what engineers do.”



Cadet Corey Maisch reviews plans, safety regulations and quality assurance documents.

Summer Training Highlights

Cadets Complete Cadet Troop Leader Training

by Cadet Christopher Kerasotes

Historian and Alumni Outreach Officer



Cadet Nick Freeze joins the Air Defense unit for a safety brief by Lieutenant Colonel Dedmond after a successful Battalion PRT session.

systems and supporting hardware, briefed Battalion-

“While at CTLT, I learned what it was like to be an actual Lieutenant from the administrative, tactical and leadership side,” Freeze told *Millini*. “The most rewarding part was interacting constantly with the platoon in both formal and informal environments. My Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and Battery Commander were not only extremely proficient at their jobs—they exercised leadership on a daily basis.

Cadet Jun Lee, like Cadet Freeze, spent four weeks being with an Air Defense Artillery platoon. Lee served as a launcher platoon leader in Alpha Battery 6-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion in Suwon, South Korea. Upon asking Lee what his responsibilities as a platoon leader were he told *Millini* “I was responsible for managing sophisticated equipment pertaining to the MIM-104 Patriot surface to air missile system and training and motivating soldiers to reach top performance as a team”.

Lee as a first generation Korean was glad to be able to see the historical sights, but more importantly visit his family. Thanks to CTLT “this training has brought new perspectives and eye opening experiences to my life” Lee told *Millini* and “I highly recommend this training”.

This summer, five Fighting Illini Cadets completed Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) in various locations throughout the world. The three-to-four week CTLT program provides Cadets a chance to experience lieutenant-level leadership in active duty units located CONUS or OCONUS. This program is exclusively offered to MS III Cadets who attend Advanced Camp in the same summer.

Cadet Nicholas Freeze spent four weeks at Camp Carroll in South Korea with an Air Defense Artillery unit. He described the overall experience as “excellent,” due to “incredible leadership within my CTLT unit.” He learned about ADA equipment, such as Patriot

Missile sys-

level leader-



Cadet Jun Lee stands in front of one of the Patriot Missile systems he had the pleasure of overseeing during his time in Suwon, South Korea.

Summer Training Highlights

Cadet Troop Leader Training (Continued)

Cadet Luis Pantoja had the opportunity to shadow a Captain from the United States Special Operations Command, Psychological Operations. The unit was Bravo Company 9th Military Information Support Battalion located in Ft. Bragg, NC. Pantoja clearly remembers his first day there as he told *Millini* “the moment I stepped in they told me we were going on an exercise”. The mission was to raid a mock village and gather intelligence on a high value target. “I was excited, but this was just the beginning” says Pan-



Cadet Luis Pantoja enjoying one of his many flights in a C-27.

toja “In order to get to the mission site we had to get transported by a UH-60 Blackhawk to a small clearing in the middle of the night. From there we had to walk 5 clicks or 3.1 miles through vegetated forest and limited visibility in order to remain undetected before reaching the village where the mission would take place.” This was just one of the many exciting training opportunities Pantoja had with Bravo Co.

Cadet Jason Marshall spent his summer down in Fort Hood, Texas. There he shadowed a 2LT Langhauser in an Armored Platoon learning about the M1A1 Abrams tank and how to be an armored officer.

“Some of the events I participated in were tactical road march, night driver’s training, call for fires training, simulated maneuvers training, and preparing the platoon for dismounted STX training” Marshall told *Millini*. According to Marshall he was familiar with most of the training thanks to the instruction here at the University of Illinois, but as Marshall explained “the only difference is instead of on foot, your riding on a 63-ton, death dealing, high explosive round delivering, M1A1 Abrams tank”.

Our last Cadet to partake in the CTLT program was Cadet Samuel Eickstedt spending his time in Vilseck, Germany. During his time there he shadowed an Engineering Lieutenant who was a platoon leader for a sapper platoon. Eickstedt learned what it meant to work on the administration side of the military spending his days taking inventory and engaging in conversation with the S-1 and S-3 (personal and operations officer). Since Eickstedt was with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment he got to experience a little bit of a cavalry tradition and go through a spur ride “which was a challenging but ultimately rewarding experience”. In addition, Eickstedt enjoyed his weekends travelling to multiple places in the Bavarian region such as Nuremburg, Bamberg, and Regensburg.

Summer Training Highlights

My Trip to Nepal

by Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Tyler Cordry

Cadet Battalion Commander



Cadet Cordry observes Nepalese Rangers demonstrate an extraction method used to rescue earthquake victims stuck in ravines.

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Nepal for three weeks for the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP). The program began for me on May 22nd with in-processing at Fort Knox, KY. Five days later, we travelled to the airport and flew to Kathmandu, Nepal after a quick layover in Doha, Qatar.

Over these three weeks, we performed missions involving humanitarian assistance, military-to-military, and cultural immersion. We began by taking a bus from our hotel in central Kathmandu to a small village in the province of Dolakha, located approximately 100 miles east of Kathmandu. Despite the short distance, it took our bus over seven hours to reach our destination due to single lane dirt roads and switchbacks that went on for miles up the sides of the Himalaya foothills.

Once in Dolakha, we spent four days clearing rubble from the foundation of a schoolhouse that was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. After we had worked for several hours each day, we played soccer with the local kids in the village. They were terrifyingly good for having no shoes, being half our age, and used to playing with a flat volleyball. Every day we ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the very small home of a family in the village. We had the same meal cooked for us every day for every meal, Dhal Bhat, which is white rice with a sauce and some greens mixed in. Spending time in the remote village was an experience I will never forget. It gave me the perspective I needed to understand the vast difference between the life I live, and the lives others live around the world.

Once we returned to Kathmandu, we spent the next week meeting with several different military, paramilitary, and police organizations in the Nepalese Government. We met with the Nepalese Army, Nepalese Ranger Battalion, Nepalese Police Force, Armed Police Force, Nepalese Military Academy, and the Nepalese Army Medical Corps. Over the course of this week, I had conversations with Lieutenants and Generals in many of these organizations, who also provided us with tours and briefs and answered all of our many questions.

We spent the last week roaming the streets of Kathmandu, soaking in as much culture as we possibly could. We visited a cultural show, museums showing the history of the Nepalese Army, Hindu temples, Buddhist monasteries, and local shops and stores around the city.

Visiting Nepal on my CULP mission will likely be the greatest trip of my life. I saw more, did more, and learned more than I would have in Nepal under any other circumstances. I made friends and acquaintances that I will never forget. The things I learned and the perspective I gained in Nepal will follow me for the rest of my life. I am a better person, student, and Soldier because of this trip. Any other Cadet who wants to do any traveling, language practice, or cultural perspective broadening should absolutely apply for CULP.

Summer Training Highlights

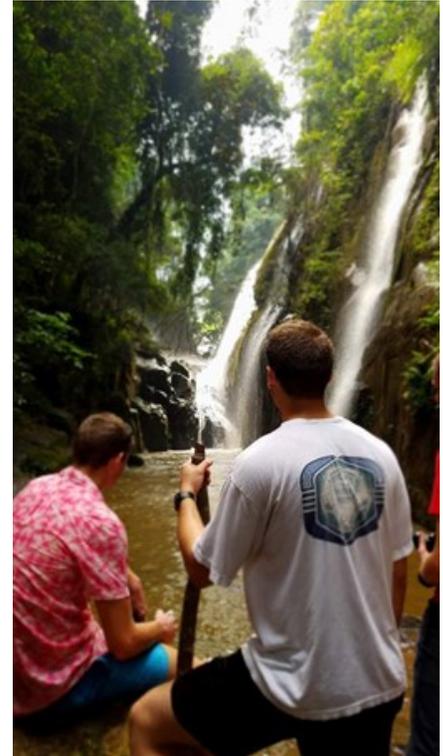
Democratic Republic of Congo

By Cadet Anthony Earll

Cadet Company Commander

This summer, I was granted the opportunity to travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist in humanitarian operations, interact with the Congolese military, and teach English to Congolese citizens. As part of the State Department’s mission to improve relations with African countries, I acted as a “cultural ambassador”, building rapport among the Congolese. My team first began our mission in the capital city of Kinshasa, where we worked closely with the Congolese American Language Institute. There, we worked closely with the students to perfect their English in the hopes that they may immigrate to the United States for school and work opportunities. Next, we shadowed representatives from the United States Agency for International Development. They granted us permission to tour one of the many self-sustainable rice farms they helped construct along the Congo River to better feed the local population.

Finally, my team interacted with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or FARDC. We were given permission by the commanding generals to tour their logistics school and see the many improvements that the US and her allies have made to their army logistics program. The trip was not all work, however, as the Congolese were eager to show us what the word “fun” meant to them. We visited beautiful Zongo Falls, camped out in their historic state park, Bombo Lumene, and played soccer with the CALI students and soldiers of their Armed Forces. This was an exciting opportunity and I am so thankful that ROTC granted me the ability to visit a country that I thought I would never go to.



Cadet Anthony Earll enjoying the scenery in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Cadet Anthony Earll stands with other CULP Cadets and members of the Army Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Summer Training Highlights

My Experiences at Air Assault School

by Isaac Choi

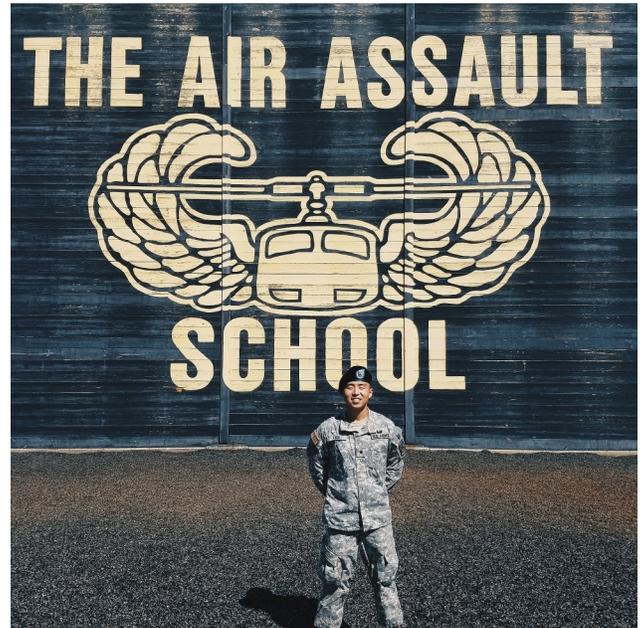
Ranger Club Commander

This year, the Fighting Illini Battalion secured Air Assault slots for two advanced course Cadets, Samuel Chung and Isaac Choi. Choi went to Ft. Campbell, KY this summer, while Chung will go during this fall semester. Cadet Choi shared his story with the Millini.

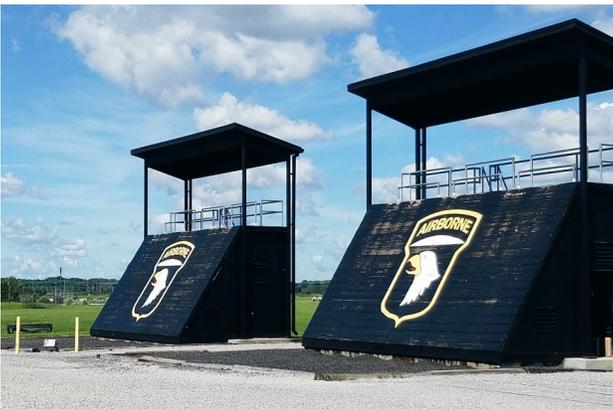
This summer, I had the honor and privilege of attending the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Ft. Campbell, KY from 4 to 22 August. My overall experience was mostly a positive one; there were many challenges, but I would not have traded this experience for anything else. As a Cadet, training and interacting with Soldiers in the 101st Airborne Division was both inspiring and humbling. Beginning on Day Zero, it was obvious that I was a Cadet; however, the Soldiers in my squad always looked out for me and never failed to try to answer my questions. Though the actual training itself was valuable, the lessons I took away were mostly from learning and suffering together with the Soldiers.

The biggest lesson I learned from the school was when I almost failed a sling load inspection during Phase II. In the end, I passed. However, there was a brief moment in limbo where I thought I was going to be dropped from the course because of my lack of attention to detail. The entire training program emphasizes how important details are – from the precise equipment layouts, to having your casualty feeder card folded in a very specific way, attention to detail was drilled into my head. Being in the military, perhaps unlike any other profession, requires that its Soldiers see with absolute clarity both the forest and the trees. Any missed detail could risk a mission, or worse, a casualty. As a future leader in the US Army and in a profession in which lives are at stake, only perfection is acceptable.

I would definitely recommend this training to other cadets. Not only do you get to interact with Soldiers from all over the country and learn about sling load operations, you have the opportunity to rappel fast rope out of a UH-60 Blackhawk; this was, by far, the coolest experience I've ever had. The feeling of riding in a Blackhawk and fast roping to the ground from 50 to 60 feet in the air is something I will never forget.



Cadet Isaac Choi graduated from the Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, KY on 22 August 2016. He will serve as the fall 2016 Ranger Club Commander.



Above: Two practice Air Assault rappel towers.

Fall Preview

Fighting Illini Battalion Looks Ahead to Event-Filled Fall Semester

by *Second Lieutenant Erin O’Neil*

Gold Bar Recruiter



Above: the Fall 2015 Fighting Illini Ranger Challenge Team; this year’s team will compete in the Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Marseilles Training Center from 14-16 October 2016.

This fall, Fighting Illini Army ROTC will welcome over fifty new Cadets to the Battalion (the largest recruiting class since 2003). Cadre and the MS IV Battalion staff planned numerous events and training opportunities for this upcoming semester, which aim to develop these young leaders into Army Officers.

In addition to the program’s normal morning Physical Training sessions, Thursday Leadership Lab, and the Cadets’ respective Military Science courses, the fall calendar includes the 9/11 Memorial Run, the Fall Leadership Development Exercise, the Ranger Challenge Competition, the POW/MIA Vigil, the Veterans Day Ceremony, and Dining In.

The 9/11 Memorial Run, the POW/MIA Vigil, and the Veteran’s Day Ceremony are all Tri-Service events that the Fighting Illini Army ROTC conducts with the UIUC

Naval and Air Force ROTC programs. These three commemorative events serve to remember the heroics of Soldiers, Officers, Police Officers, and First Responders —those who never came home, and those who have made the final sacrifice in an attempt to serve their country.

One of our biggest Cadet leadership opportunities this semester is the Fall Leadership Development Exercise (LDX). The LDX is conducted at the Army National Guard Training base at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The LDX provides a unique planning experience for seniors in the Military Science IV Class, who coordinate, collaborate and organize, with Cadre guidance and oversight, all training events. The LDX is designed to challenge all Cadets’ leadership and problem solving skills; some events include the land navigation course, the Leader’s Reaction Course, the Air Assault Confidence Course, learning to shoot an M16 rifle, and Key Leader Engagement scenarios.

At the end of the semester, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC will have a formal dinner, known as Dining In. This dinner is a chance for the Cadets to learn about Army traditions, including the infamous “Grog” ceremony, and to recognize Cadets who excelled in academics, physical fitness, and leadership. Dining In is an event designed to help build esprit de corps within the Battalion.

We are very excited for these events this upcoming fall, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with you in our December *Millini* issue.



Army and Air Force Cadets, and Navy Midshipmen, conduct a Tri-Service Color Guard routine during the 2015 Veteran’s Day Ceremony. This ceremony occurs every Veteran’s Day on the UIUC Armory floor.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

University of Illinois Pershing Rifle Color Guard

by J. Neil Jednoralski (John Stevens)

Edited by Second Lieutenant Erin O'Neil, Gold Bar Recruiter

Starting in September of 1964, I attended the University of Illinois pursuing a bachelor's degree in Soil and Water Conservation Engineering from both the College of Agriculture and the College of Engineering. During my tenure at the U of I, I competed on an intermural touch football team for my dorm floor, Carr 1, or Carr Cave (as we were called), in the Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Hall (PAR). We were the number one independent team, but we un-



These are the Pershing Rifle Actives in 1965. Cadet John Stevens sits in the second row from the bottom, third seat from the left.

fortunately lost to a fraternity team in the championship. After my first year at the U of I, I became more involved with the ROTC program and other organizations on campus. The busier I became, the better I seemed to do at everything.

In the fall of 1965, I became involved with the University of Illinois Pershing Rifle Color Guard. Pershing Rifles is a national tri-service society that aims to improve military skills, comradeship, and cooperation among the various branches of the services. We also learned about elements of security, tactical movement, communications, personal weapons handling, and eventually the art of leadership. During our

inspections, I always seemed to battle with Bob Kirby, a peer of mine, for 'top freshman.' I was the right rifle bearer of the four man color guard for the Homecoming Parade where we lead the parade in our fatigues and harnesses. After this experience, I began attending all of the home football and basketball games as part of the Color Guard.

In March of the spring semesters, Pershing Rifles held their Annual Invitational Drill Meet at Assembly Hall. We brought over several stacks of M-1s from the Armory Friday morning for the drill teams to use, but since the storage area did not meet military standards, someone was required to stay at Assembly Hall overnight until the end of the drill meet on Saturday. I volunteered! Since I worked at the drill meet, I had a written excusal to miss Friday classes. This did not go over well for my Rhetoric instructor, who failed me second semester. After the drill meet in March, we decided to assemble a drill team for the Pershing Rifle National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. The meet was to be held at Navy Pier and we had less than a month to practice. Our team was a Tri-Service team and we were proud to be able to have Army, Navy, and Air Force members compete in their service's Class 'A's. During our inspection, we were docked points for having three different uniforms, however after we performed, we were sky-high, because we placed third even with the inspection deductions. As we left the Armory drill floor, we started a cadence count, "Everywhere we go, people want to know, who we are, we are Company C-3, University of Illinois."

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

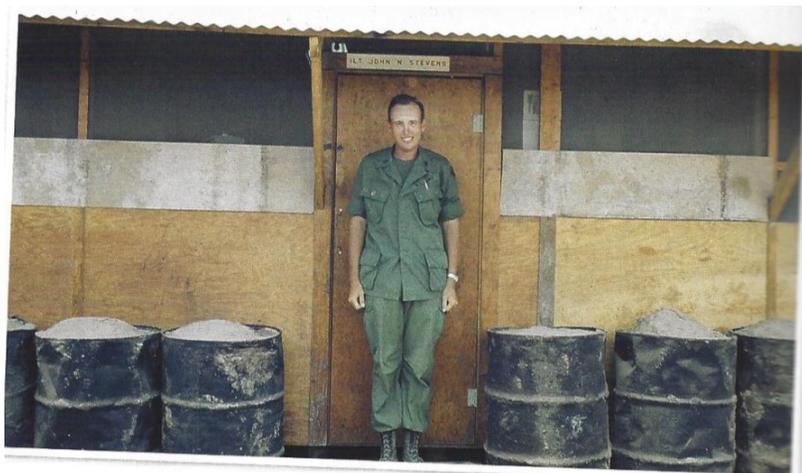
University of Illinois Pershing Rifles Color Guard (continued)

In the fall of 1966, I was the Cadet Brigade Sergeant Major and the commander of the University of Illinois Pershing Rifle Color Guard. At that time, it was a 10-man Color Guard for football games. The front row was made up of two rifle bearers and two guards holding the National and State Colors, and the second row also had two rifle bearers with four guards holding the Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force Colors. The basketball Color Guard was only a four-man guard with two rifle bearers and two guards holding the National and State Colors.

In December of 1966, Colonel Harold Dorsett, the Army ROTC Professor of Military Science, decided that the Army could no longer support the Pershing Rifle Drill Meet with a Military Advisor and had prepared a letter for the Pershing Rifle Commander, Captain John Wallace, to sign and cancel the Illinois Invitational Drill Meet for spring 1967. When I heard of this, I was livid. Our meets were supported by the Champaign City Council, the American Legion, the VFW, and local Urbana-Champaign Hotel and Restaurant Businesses because we brought in over 70 drill teams to the community from across the country. I thought, "Maybe the Army Command Sergeant Major had made a mistake..." When I was finally allowed into Colonel Dorsett's office, I was less than polite. I said to him, "Sir, the Pershing Rifles is a Tri-Service Fraternity, which runs the drill meet; not the Army PMS." After our encounter and seeing my desire and dedication to keep the Pershing Rifles Drill Meet alive, he gave me until the end of Christmas break to find a new Military Advisor for the drill meet. I desperately asked the other service's ROTC instructors for their support. The Air Force said "NO." The Navy Captain turned it down as well, but then gave me a Marine Major to advise the drill meet.

After receiving a new Military Advisor, Pershing Rifles continued to compete and to hold the Annual Illinois Invitational Drill Meet at Assembly Hall. The Pershing Rifles Team had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC and compete in the National Pershing Rifle Convention. It was the first time we had competed there, and it was certainly not the last.

Upon completing my five-year program at the University of Illinois in February of 1970, I also commissioned into the Army Corps of Engineers, and worked for two months for the State of Illinois Department of Public Buildings and Highways, Division of Waterways, so that I would have an engineering position once I left Active Duty. I later served on the S-3 Staff of the 36th Engineer Battalion at Vinh Long Airfield, Mekong Delta, South Vietnam.



Lieutenant Stevens stands outside his barrack in Mekong Delta, South Korea.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Illini Alumni Continue to Support the Cadet Battalion by Mr. Eric Ashworth, Cadre Sponsor for Alumni Outreach

With the new fall 2016 semester comes new opportunities for the alumni to support the Cadet Battalion. Our alumni have assisted the Cadets in numerous events in the past and it is safe to say that we would not be able to conduct the majority of training events without our alumni. Most alumni support through their generous contributions throughout the year but others have willingly supported us as guest speakers and guest instructors for class. So, thank you for all that you have done and all that you continue to do for us.

To keep you informed on these training events, the Army ROTC has dedicated two MS-IV Cadets to manage our social media. These events which include many photographs of the cadets in action can be found by visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc/>. If you have a Facebook account, we hope you would “Like” our page so you will get notified when new information is posted.



Newly commissioned Second Lieutenants Dylan Blaha, Paul Kim, Erin O'Neil and William Ripka all graduated in the top 10% of the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society.

For our new alumni, we like to hear what you are currently doing and we also want to provide a means for former and current Cadets to interact. A popular page has been our historical perspective page where alumni describe to us what it was like to be a Cadet while they attended UIUC. If you want to be added to our growing list of supporters, or wish to stay in touch, please forward us your ideas and your e-mail address to arotc@illinois.edu or phone us at 217-244-1407.

For those who are willing to support us with your experience or financially, here is the list of events that the Cadets could use your support for during this semester:

- **Ranger Challenge Team:** This year we have two teams that will compete at Camp Marseilles from 14-16 October. We have the funds for this event but many of these Cadets will also compete in the Spring Ranger Buddy competition. That event is 100% supported by donations as we receive no financial support for training, transportation or lodging during the 3-day event.
- **Scabbard and Blade:** This renewed Military Honor Society and Senior Society still needs funding to meet all the charter fees.
- **Guest Speaker for any Military Science class.** We have a guest speaker for this year's Dining-In but each year we offer alumni to speak to specific military science classes on their experience. If this would be an interest to you, please let us know the topic so that we can coordinate a class for you.



Cadet Kathrine Kezon practices throwing grenades in preparation for the Ranger Buddy Competition.

THE STORE

“The Store” has been an ever-growing success among our alumni and supporters. A portion of the price (\$3-5) of each item will be allocated to supporting Cadet training, development, and related activities. All funding will be used for cadet activities.



5015 Polo \$35.00

5091 Polo \$35.00



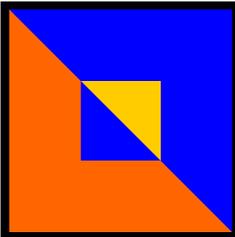
5013 Polo \$35.00

5092 Polo \$35.00



If interested in purchasing any of these items, fill out an order form by going to the following website: teshurt.com/uiucrotc You will pay and receive your order straight from the vendor. If you have questions, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu.

Thank you for your support, and we welcome suggestions for future products.



Support The Fighting Illini Battalion

University of Illinois Foundation
 Recruiting, Donations
 Visits, Expertise

Much of what we accomplish in the Fighting Illini program to develop our Cadets' leadership and Army knowledge is not funded by the Army. Donations from Alumni directly impact and make it possible for the program to continue to provide quality development and strong esprit de corps of the Battalion. We are thankful for the support of our Alumni to the development of these young leaders.

For those wishing to support any of the Cadet ventures through financial means, we currently have five levels of financial support. If you are willing to contribute at one of these levels, please earmark your gift it to your favorite event or club of choice.

Visit <http://www.giving.illinois.edu/> for the certified University link or call us at 217-244-1407. Some of our more popular clubs and projects aided by alumni in the past are the Rifle Team, Ruck Club, Annual Dining-In/Out, Ranger Challenge Team, the Ranger Buddy Competition, and the Norwegian Ruck March. You may also contribute to the general fund. Whatever your choice, 100% of donations go to support Cadet activities.

1		Platoon Level Donor: \$100
		Company Level Donor: \$250
		Battalion Level Donor: \$500
		Brigade Level Donor: \$1000
		Division Level Donor: \$2500

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