



Fall 2013
Army ROTC 'Fighting Illini'
Battalion Bugle

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Welcome Back!

The Fighting Illini Battalion is back for a brand new year to take on the challenges in developing future leaders of the United States Army.

Coming back from Leadership Development Assessment Course this past summer, the MS 4 class, is ready to train and develop younger cadets to be leaders, scholars, and athletes. Less than a year remaining until they commission, the MS 4 class is excited and anxious about what lies ahead for them in the U.S. Army Officer Corps. The juniors are picking up the pace of their training in order to prepare for LDAC this coming summer. Sophomores will gradually take on more leadership roles with greater responsibility in

contrast to their first year. The freshmen are learning basic military knowledge and Soldier skills to build a solid foundation for future semesters in the program.



Cadets listen to a helicopter safety brief during the Cadet Orientation Program

Recent Events

In the interim between our last publication and this newest addition, The *Fighting Illini* Battalion participated in abundant training events and had highlighted events.

A week prior to school started, The *Fighting Illini* Battalion conducted a Cadet Orientation Program for the incoming freshmen cadets. During the COP, new cadets were able to learn basic skills of being a cadet as well as a small taste of what it was going to be like as a cadet in the Fighting Illini Battalion.

Following the week of COP, the *Fighting Illini* contracted four new cadets, Cadets Jozefczak,

Maisch, Rice, and Cordry became officially contracted cadets. From then on they committed to the program as well as took an oath to become an Army Officer defending our constitution. We are proud to call them our very own!

Soon after the *Fighting Illini* Battalion coordinated a parade and a memorial with the 1544th Transportation Company and the 144th Army Band on September 8, 2013 in memory of Sergeant Shawna Morrison, the first female Illinois National Guardsmen that was killed in combat. Thank you for your service, Sergeant Shawna Morrison.



Cadets Jozefczak, Maisch, Rice and Cordry reciting the contracting oath after PT with the Battalion



Major Hible leads a parade with the "Doughboy" Color Guard, the Fighting Illini Battalion, 1544th Transportation Company, and the 144th Army band as part of the SGT Morrison Memorial Ceremony

PMS Corner

Hello Cadets, Alumni, Cadre, Family and Friends!

Wow! First I want to say thank you to the Cadets, Cadre and Alumni who have helped shape and execute this Fall semester's training plan! In the space of 5 weeks the Battalion planned, executed or participated in, the Cadet Orientation Program, a Memorial Parade and Ceremony for SGT Shawna Morrison, the Fall FTX and Dad's Day 5k race! The team managed all this in addition to regular classes, PT, and execution of weekly Leadership Labs – no small feat! Our MS4 leaders deserve a lot of credit for excellent planning and execution of the Cadet Orientation Program and the Fall FTX where they replicated and improved on last year's model. A special thanks to Secretary Sam Skinner – a 1960 graduate of the Illini Battalion – for coming in to talk about ROTC and leadership opportunities during the Cadet Orientation Program. Our Battalion executed a military parade in conjunction with the Illinois National Guard's Band and the 1544th Transportation Company to honor SGT Morrison and her Family on the 8th of September, to the best of our knowledge a parade such as this one has not happened here since the 1960s! On that day we were also blessed with an extraordinary gift from a Patriot Alumnus, Mr. Mark Neuman. He presented us with a replica set of "Corps of Cadet" Colors made from silk to replace the aged set from the 1950s. With this gesture he has preserved an important part of our unit history. I also want to recognize the freshman class this year for an outstanding performance thus far as new Cadets – you all are setting a high standard for following classes and will soon

find yourselves leading the Battalion, so strap in and hang on for a great ride! Congratulations also go to Cadet Alexander Kim who earned the coveted RECONDO badge at LDAC this summer and Cadet Gray who was ranked in the top 5 of his Platoon. In every unit Soldiers come and go and so with a certain degree of sadness we bid farewell to Mr. Stenzel who is moving on to another job in the military after 13 years of service here at UIUC – you are already missed, best of fortune in your new job at Fort Leavenworth, you will always have a home here at UIUC! And with change comes new faces; welcome to CPT Jason Nachowicz and his wife Megan, CPT Nachowicz is a 2006 UIUC grad and an Armor officer who deployed twice to combat in recent years and now joins us as the MS2 instructor and Ranger Challenge Team mentor. He is already making a large impact on the program and we are glad to have him back on campus!

As we take a few breaths after a busy start to the semester we are still gearing up for our Inaugural Hall of Fame and Alumni BBQ event on the 25th of October. This is shaping up to be an extraordinary event and I hope all our Alumni seriously consider making the effort to attend as they will not be disappointed. We have some very special guests for this event including the distinguished Inductees, the University President and Chancellor, multiple Deans of Colleges and other local leaders. Check out the unit website link or face book page for more details, don't miss this history making event!

I remain incredibly proud to serve here in this historic unit and of our Cadets accomplishments thus far this year! Thanks to all those who have supported the Cadets and this program and thanks to our Cadets for continuing to "Forge the Legacy"!

Hooah!

SMI Corner

I am happy to report the morale of this Battalion is high. The Battalion's Cadets have been excelling in all areas of personal and professional growth. As the Senior Military Sciences Instructor, I am extremely pleased at the determination each and every Cadet has shown to succeed at all assigned tasks. This program is not easy and as each year goes by it gets more challenging. Most of our Cadets have risen to that challenge. We accomplished a very fast paced and challenging Field Training Exercise (FTX) culminating in a motivating induction ceremony. As we look forward into this year we have several initiatives; one of them is very important, yet over looked too often. With the kickoff of our Hall of Fame, we are embarking on a journey of discovery. Cadre are dedicating countless hours to uncovering the stories of many of our Alumni. There are thousands of individuals who have been a part of this Battalion, many who are no longer with us, but their lifelong examples of leadership need to be told. The most important reason for this journey is to create a solid connection between the Cadets of today with the Cadets of years gone by. We as a Battalion gain strength and knowledge through our history. We should be proud of this program and the fine young Americans who are choosing to serve. I am personally asking you to get involved with this process of discovery. Tell us your story, send us your pictures, be a part of the development of these future leaders.

LTC Eric Stetson

Professor of Military Science



MSG Jason Staub

Senior Military Instructor



The Cadet Voice

CADET COMMANDER

Cadet Taylor Carmichael serves as the Cadet Battalion Commander this semester, Taylor plans to commission in May of next year with a Global Studies Degree.

Each year cadets step into a new role that builds off the year before with the end goal of becoming Officers. Our freshman, the MSI's, are being introduced to customs and courtesies, basic Soldier skills, and tactics. It is vital for them to be attentive and engaged this year—building competency in the profession is the first step to leadership. It is difficult to lead others if a cadet does not first learn and master the necessary basic skills. While their leadership role may be limited, great followership and learning are the prerequisite to leadership, which many of the freshmen have already demonstrated. I have high hopes for our MSI class due to their dedication and motivation.

The sophomore class, the MSII's, have a similar role to the MSI's this semester in mastering the basic skills. However, they are preparing to take charge next semester, so paying attention to detail and developing the skills correctly are essential. This is their last chance to really affirm what they know before taking on formal leadership roles. Next semester, they will take charge of the MSI's in a separate unit and will be introduced to the troop leading procedures expected from a

typical MSIII class. I encourage our sophomores to be patient and vigilant until this opportunity arrives. Focusing on club participation, training physically, and studying in school now will also ease the strains of MSIII year when the expectations are higher.

One of the most important development opportunities in ROTC is called Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), which is what the MSIII's are primarily preparing for. Determining each cadet's branch, first duty station, and active duty status after commissioning is largely based on the scholarly, athletic, and leadership performance of an MSIII cadet. It is crucial for the MSIII's to work hard, set the example, come willing to learn, and not be distraught at setbacks. Failure itself may be a good thing if there is a positive lesson learned. The mark of a good leader is not one who is perfect, but the one who is not phased by set-backs and who is willing to push forward.

The MSIV's are now in the operational phase of planning. As the battalion staff and TACs, we assemble the majority of the training plans and mentor the younger cadets. We give them guidance on their tasks and give them feedback on their leadership abilities. As a class, we realize that 1) Our job is primarily pouring into the younger cadets and developing them



CDT Taylor Carmichael
Fall Semester Cadet Battalion Commander

and 2) That we need to be proactive about developing ourselves as well before we finally go to our duty assignments and have much greater responsibility. This year, we have the potential to learn the most about the Army leader and also how we can fulfill our role in this profession.



CDT Matthew Ives
Fall Semester Cadet Command Sergeant Major

CADET COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Cadet Matthew Ives serves as the Cadet Command Sergeant Major this semester, Matthew plans to commission in May of next year with an Electrical Engineer Degree.

As Cadet Command Sergeant Major of the Fighting Illini Battalion I am responsible for upholding the standards for all cadets. It is my duty to ensure all cadets maintain their appearance, equipment, and learn the correct army procedures for all tasks. If a cadet fails to uphold the standards there is a system in place that provides corrective training and allows the cadet to learn from their mistakes.

Last year the Battalion had a problem with underclassmen attendance. This year we have implemented a new system that focuses specifically on unexcused absences from Army ROTC events. For the first time a

cadet is unexcused there is a simple verbal warning. After the warning the penalty for unexcused absence rapidly escalates into extra duty in the ROTC supply room, counseling and negative spot reports. If a cadet misses enough required ROTC events their respective cadre member will be notified. The system has harsh penalties but is necessary in order for the Battalion to continue to produce excellent and motivated individuals who maintain the high standard of a United States Army Officer.

The Cadet Voice

FRESHMEN



Cadet Cordry talks about his experience on campus as a freshmen and a newly contracted cadet in the program

As I write this I have been on the campus for just about three weeks total, and already I would wager that a majority of my time here was spent either participating in Army ROTC, talking about Army ROTC, or thinking about Army ROTC in one way or another. From the beginning I knew that I was going to have high expectations to meet despite only being an MSI and being very new to the program. High expectations that I put on myself and high expectations that I believe come with being a federal scholarship recipient. I expect to be proficient in the new skills, maneuvers, and drills I've learned but not immediately. I've got a year to make it to that point, and I highly intend on making it there by participating in various clubs, keeping good grades, and improving my overall physical fitness.

Being in the process of learning many of the basic skills that the Army values really gives me a good opportunity to try many new things. For example I've already learned to handle, disassemble, and assemble an M4 Assault Rifle, and that was just in the first three weeks. I especially look forward to all the training we do to improve our ability to lead. I definitely expect to gain more leadership skills that I will not only be able to use while serving in the Army but also as civilian. I can already see that the program is going to make me a more organized and focused individual too, because with all the training and labs, I'm forced to manage my time and distribute my efforts much more efficiently than I ever was required before. So essentially, the program is making me a better student on top of everything else. I think it's fairly clear that I made the right choice picking this program.

Cadet Cordry during the Fall Field Training Exercise participating in a Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC)

— [*From the beginning I knew that I was going to have high expectations to meet despite only being an MSI ...*] —
— [*-Cadet Cordry*] —

SOPHOMORES

Cadet Craig talks about the expectations he has of himself for this semester as a second year cadet



Cadet Craig holds the target for a "shadow boxing" exercise during the Marksmanship Lab.

As an MS2 in the Fighting Illini AROTC Battalion this semester, I am looking forward to enriching my skills and leadership and beginning to take on the responsibilities as a leader in the battalion. During this first semester, I am glad that my transition into a leadership role is being developed gradually. This will allow me to focus and hone in on my physical development without the pressures of a lot of responsibility. As an MS2, I feel that I should be able to be a leader in the battalion in regards to fitness. With one year of experience already under my belt, along with my participation in Ranger Challenge, I have high expectations for myself.

that will come with the rest of the year. Along with the development of my physical abilities, I look forward to the chance to enhance my academics. The increased discipline I will gain from working my body tougher will allow me to focus in on my grades as well. Being able to reduce distractions and lock into my classes and assignments will really go a long way on my path towards a better GPA. This improvement on my academics will not only benefit me in the future, but will help me keep up with managing the increased responsibility that comes along with being an MS2.

As the semester proceeds and my physical abilities expand, I feel that I will be more than able to take on the responsibilities

The Cadet Voice

JUNIORS

Cadet Wiegand talks about his experience at Airborne School and expectations he has of himself as a third year cadet

After completion of my sophomore year I was given the rare opportunity to attend the three-week Basic Airborne Course located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Ever since their beginnings in World War II, paratroopers have been considered elite because of their ability to be placed anywhere on the battlefield. I was extremely honored to be given the opportunity to join the ranks of these prestigious paratroopers. I began my three-week training course with ground week. During ground week we learned the basic types of parachutes and the proper techniques on how to land. Next we jumped into tower week where we began to exit on zip lines and learn actions performed in the air and aircraft. Finally I finished my training with jump week where I completed five successful jumps from a high performance aircraft using the T-10 and T-11 parachutes. Airborne school was a great training experience for me because I was training with a whole variety of soldiers

to include: National Guard Army, Active Army, Active Navy, Active Marines, Active Air force, West Point cadets, and even Soldiers from other countries. If given the opportunity I highly recommend going to Airborne School because it is a great way to develop your soldier skills and become a member of the AIRBORNE family.

I am very excited that my MS3 year is finally beginning. Being an MS3 brings more responsibility and leadership roles. I know that a lot more will be expected of me and I am ready to rise up and meet the challenge of leading the MS1s and MS2s. Junior year is very exciting because you are another year closer to graduation and commission. The main goal of graduating college and commissioning as an Officer in the United States Army motivates me every day to push harder and study longer. I cannot wait for LDAC this summer and I believe that my fellow MS3s and myself will have no trouble passing the course.



Cadet Wiegand waits in formation during preparations for the Sergeant Shawna Morrison Memorial Ceremony,

I am ready to rise up and meet the challenge of leading...

-Cadet Wiegand

SENIORS

Cadet Waters talks about his experience at Leadership Development Assessment Course this past summer as well as being a fourth year cadet.



Cadet Waters teaches a class on the four fundamentals of marksmanship

This past summer I went to the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC). At LDAC, I was able to see how my training throughout college for ROTC compared to that of other cadets. Not only was I able to see where I excelled, I was also able to see areas that I could improve upon as an overall leader. The experience taught me a lot about how to critically analyze my own leadership styles and the value of collaboration.

Starting into my MSIV year, I was unsure of what to expect. I was surprised at the amount of autonomy that the MSIVs had over training the other cadets. It proved to be quite a challenge to balance the workload of ROTC as well as that of

school, work, and home life. However, using the time management skills, along with the ability to work in stressful environments I had learned in ROTC training, allowed me to handle all of it.

One of the biggest things I am looking forward to this year is the end of it. I do not mean that I am ready for school to be over. I mean that I am looking forward to the fruition of my training with ROTC and with the University. I will finally be able to start a real career and be able to look back on the goals I will have achieved at this early point in my life. As a 2nd Lieutenant, I will have great opportunities awaiting me as well.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Senior Cadet Jason Ofodile discusses his experience in Germany for the Army Medical Department Internship Program after attending LDAC this past summer. Jason plans to commission in May with a Kinesiology Degree.



Guten tag! My name is Cadet Captain Jason Ofodile. Last summer after completing the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), I traveled to Landstuhl, Germany for follow-on training. Through the Army Medical Department Internship Program, I received the opportunity to work with Medical officers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. This hospital serves as the primary facility for wounded, friendly combatants who deploy to Iraq and Af-

ghanistan. As an aspiring Army Physical Therapist, I spent 100 working hours in 12A – Physical Therapy. No cadet should hesitate to take this opportunity if it is presented to them, especially if stationed in Landstuhl!

I could write a novel about my experiences, but overall I have two take away messages: first, expect the unexpected. Everything looks good on paper, but the execution phase can quickly go south if you do not have the mental agility and resilience to respond to the situation. You never know when you will need to step up and take on a role bigger than your rank. Lastly, develop

your interpersonal tact. Show genuine concern for the Soldiers around you and your job will become easier. You will want to do your best for those you care about.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center



FALL 2013 FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE



Cadets climbing the rope on the Tough One

The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted its annual Fall Field Training Exercise from 19-22 SEPT at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The four day training was well planned and executed in a professional manner by the MSIVs.

The first event of the Fall FTX was the confidence course. Here, some of the cadets were able to face their fear of heights and compete against other squads for the fastest time through the course.

Following the confidence course, we moved on to the night land navigation site in order to have

the Battalion practice dead reckoning skills. During this event, designated MSIVs went along with groups of MSIs in order to help them plot points and guide them through the brush.

On the second day, the MSIII cadets went to the range to group, zero, and qualify on M4 rifles. Then the MSIs and MSIIIs had the chance to shoot at pumpkins while practicing Close Quarter Marksmanship skills. The day ended with night land navigation to give the Battalion more practice.

Day three consisted of a Leadership Reaction Course and another chance at Day and Night Land Navigation to fully prepare cadets for Land Navigation at



Cadets Lebow and Sullivan keep a steady pace for the 6 mile road march

the Leadership Development Assessment Course.

On the fourth and final day, the cadets were awakened before the sun rose to go on a road march. The Ranger Challenge teams and the MSIIIs completed a 6 mile road march while the MSIs and MSIIIs met them halfway through the course and completed 3 miles.

As the sun was rising, an Initiation Ceremony was held for the MSIs to fully recognize them as our very own with the passing of the torch and the chanting of the Cadet Creed.



New Cadets recite the Cadet Creed during the Initiation Ceremony

Upcoming Alumni Events:

Here is your latest update for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Army ROTC Alumni Hall of Fame event:

Facts about the event:

Number of Cadet work hours preparing for the event: 200

Number of locations viewed for ceremony site: 4

Number of expected alumni inductees: 12

Number of seats at the ceremony: 100

Number of seat that the unveiling location: Standing room only

Pounds of meat for the "after ceremony" BBQ: 100

Pounds of ice for the Homecoming tailgate: 160

Location of the Ceremony: Huff Hall (Khan Annex)

Location of the unveiling site: SW lobby of the Armory Building (Army ROTC side)

Location of the post-ceremony BBQ: Armory floor

Location of the Tailgate: TBD and announced by 22October

And now a note from one of the inductees to the Corps of Cadets that was written on 26 February 2012:

"I had the honor of being in ROTC at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1964-1968. The day prior to graduation in June 1968, I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

My parents were on hand at the commissioning ceremony at Lincoln Hall. My Dad was a MSgt in the U.S. Air Force and gave me my first salute. As a part of this tradition I gave him a \$1.00 bill. It was a great moment and memory for both of us. Although I only intended to serve two years, I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and completed a wonderful 23-year active duty career in the Army with service in Vietnam, Italy, Korea, Germany, and multiple U.S. locations. Along the way I married and had five daughters. For more than 20 years, I have been working as a DOD contractor in Stuttgart, Germany and expect to retire soon to Hawaii with my wife Gretchen.

My Cadet years at Illinois were interesting on multiple levels. I was a Theater major which often demanded that I let my hair grow for various stage productions...but long hair was not especially welcome in ROTC. And the fact I was in ROTC was not particularly welcome among many of my contemporaries in Theater (and elsewhere on the campus). Remember, this was

the 1960s, Vietnam was in full gear, and protests were common. ROTC drills in the Armory sometimes had to tolerate a few vocal protesters and there were frequent demonstrations with signs in and around the Armory area.

However, with rare exception, these events were peaceful and I do not ever remember any episodes involving violence. I particularly recall one major protest which took place on the Quad immediately behind the Illini Union. There were probably about 5,000 or so in attendance and I was simply walking by between classes. Some anti-war speaker had everyone's attention...but then said something about the U.S. bombing grandmothers at prayer. Almost universally, everyone started laughing at this guy and it proved to be more entertainment than drama. But that's the way things pretty much were.

There was a general tolerance and respect among the majority of students and faculty (unlike other areas of the country where protests often got out of hand). Those times were, without doubt, some of the best years of my life. Dick Butkus was a senior my freshman year and I remember seeing him one day at Newman Hall where I lived. In those days, he was one of the biggest and meanest looking guys I've ever seen...and I'm from the South Side of Chicago. Another senior that year was a fellow named Roger Ebert. Best wishes to all past, present, and future Illinois Army ROTC alumni."



Current photo of Dr. Page and college pictures of Dick Butkus and Roger Ebert