

Fall 2007 News Letter

Clarkson ROTC



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CDT Chris Giovino

Battalion Commander Welcomes Families: By CDT Cavan

Hello Family, friends and fellow cadets of the Golden Knight Battalion. We have had a great start to the semester but the best is yet to come. I would like to take a moment and thank all of the parents who attended the freshman orientation BBQ. It was great to meet all of you and we are all so excited to have your sons and daughters part of our great battalion. Our welcome back BBQ for all of the cadets was a success as well. Our battalion has grown so much since last year. It was a great opportunity for the cadets to get to know one another outside of the ROTC classroom. Thank you to all of the cadets who showed up and supported the Golden Knights. I also want to congratulate the ROTC running team on a great performance on their first race which was done in preparation for the Army 10 miler in October. The Running team competed in the Lake Placid Half marathon this September. And one of our cadets, Amada Crosley, finished 3rd in her age group. We have such an exciting semester ahead of us. Our Ranger Challenge team has been working tirelessly in preparation for their competition in October. We also have our first field training exercise in November. This is where the cadets will sleep out in the field for 2 nights. During this FTX, cadets will work on their day/ night land navigation, OPODS, STX lanes, and many other skills that they have been working on in the classroom and during ROTC labs. This will be **Alumni Picnic Huge Success:**

This summer while most of the Cadre and Cadets was away, a hearty band of stay behinds hosted an Alumni Picnic on the 14th of July. This was the first year in a while that the Golden Knight Battalion decided to do anything out of the ordinary for Alumni Weekend. With the help of LT Lynch and the Goldbar Recruiter, LT Williams, class of 06, and Cadet Dalton, Shirley, Dilys and Major Toth planned a BBQ and prepared the ROTC house for guests. Cadet Janaro used some of his Summer Reserve Annual Training time to help sort the pictures that had accumulated over the years in the attic and put them out for the Alumni to look at. Early on that Saturday the grill was fired up and we were prepared to see what the turnout would be. Earlier in the Spring mailings had gone out to all the ROTC alumni on the list provided by Alumni Affairs and that helped create a good turnout. Much to our surprise the event was a resounding success. One of the highlights of the day was the arrival of Clarkson Alum Tom Burton of the class of 1941. Mr. Burton, although not an ROTC alum, was a member of the cadre in the 40's and 50's. He recounted how he had been a driving force in

Oh Air Assault: By: CDT Burgess

Oo, Ah, Air Assault! The Sabalauski Air Assault School is located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, which is also the home of the famous 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). This is the only Air Assault division in the United States Army.

The grueling two-week school is known as the *Gate to the 101st*. Air Assault familiarizes all students with the basic operations of helicopters. The school is eleven days long including Zero Day.

Zero Day is the first time you step onto school ground and the training begins. This day is used to evaluate a student's ability to complete the course. The evaluation consists of an obstacle course that contains two mandatory obstacles. You are allowed one no-go during the obstacle course. Following the obstacle course is a two-mile run. Failure to complete these two events means that you will not return to school on Day One. A couple briefings are given and then the Air Assault Sergeants (Black Shirts) begin to turn up the heat. The PT sessions have now begun on a gravel driveway. This was the most physically demanding portion of the course.

Phase One, days 1-3 dealt with basic operations and identification of common helicopters of the 101st. Since the academic demands began to build up, there was a mandatory study hall everyday after school. During this phase, aircraft specifications and capabilities. Also, hand and arm signals to control aircraft were taught.

Phase Two, days 4-6 involved the infamous sling load operations. This was the most academically challenging phase. Students are required to memorize inspection sequences that contained as many as 40 steps. There are six common loads that are included in the inspection, cargo net, A-22 cargo bag, M19A2 Howitzer, M1097 HMMWV, M149A2 Water Trailer and the 500 gallon fuel blivets. Because these loads are flying through the air, attention to detail is crucial during the inspections. At the end of this phase students are tested on any four of the six loads taught. It is possible that on test day, you could be done with school by 1200. Once this phase is over the fun really begins.

Phase Three, days 7-9, was the exciting part of the



"We will not
tire, We will
not falter,
We will not
fail."
-President
George W.
Bush

Cadet Hanley goes to Hawaii: By CDT Hanley

Once most cadets near the end of LDAC, all they can think about is going home and avoiding the Army for the remainder of their summer. Personally, I couldn't wait to keep going. Immediately following graduation from LDAC, I was off to the airport to catch a plane to Hawaii, where I would spend the next three weeks working in a hospital, learning about many aspects of the Army and Medical Service, and of course enjoying the beautiful island of Oahu. During my stay, I shadowed a Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Thomas Curry, who was the chief of vascular surgery at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). I was able to scrub in with him and a number of other doctors during multiple cases, and observed numerous more from the sidelines. I saw many different procedures throughout the hospital, including an open brain surgery, the repairing of an aorta, wound cleaning for a soldier who had been hit by an RPG, and I was able to observe the intricacies of the OB/GYN, radiology, pediatric, interventional radiology, Operating Room, and Intensive Care Unit departments among others.

Throughout the three weeks, I also spent a large amount of time around the island, being "a tourist." I went to a number of famous beaches, visited Pearl Harbor (both monument and base), snorkeled with a sea turtle, learned how to surf and boogieboard, climbed a volcanic crater, hiked a jungle mountain ridge, explored Waikiki, visited the Dole plantation, went to a luau, ate at very high end restaurants, as well as generally seeing a number of additional areas on the island. I worked with 9



Seniors Have Fun on the Black River: By: CDT Regan

Just before the start of the Fall semester this year, the senior cadets and cadre of the Golden Knight Battalion took a little break from getting things ready for another year of training and set out for a little fun and adventure. We traveled down to the Watertown area to raft down seven miles of Black River. The rafting was hosted by B.O.B. Rafting, led by several guides and Big Bob himself. The day started early with the gathering of oars, safety equipment, and instructions for the trip. We moved to the water, got in the rafts with our guides, and were off. The water was a little low and slow-moving that day, but we still encountered Class III and IV rapids with names like "3 Rocks", "Zig Zag", "Knife's Edge", and "Rocket Ride". Our three boats of cadets competed here and there in the form of splashing, raft bumping, and control through the rapids. The trip ended with everyone jumping into the water and letting the current take us downstream. We topped off the experience with a big meal supplied by Bob, and the trading of an R.O.T.C. shirt for one of Bob's rafting shirts. Our shirt

*“I recommend
LTC for
anyone who
wants to
learn more
about
themselves!.”*



Cadet Herman Reflects on LTC: By: CDT Herman

The Leader's Training Course (LTC) at Fort Knox Kentucky taught me things about the Army that I otherwise wouldn't have learned at Clarkson University. "Hurry Up and Wait" was the name of the game, and if you were not fast enough you received more attention. I was in Bravo Company, 4th Platoon Mad Dogs. The first week was the hardest phase because personal time started around 10pm, and that was after lights out so one had to prepare for the next day in the dark using flash lights. Getting our cell phones and I-Pods back after the first week was like Christmas because everyone was eager to finally call family and girlfriends during personal time. Mail call was also an upbeat time, especially when parents sent food packages to share with the platoon.

I was surprised to see Lt Cox at the high ropes course since I had no idea he was working there for LTC. I also saw CDT Cook and CDT Crosley near the PX on my day off, so it was fun seeing friendly faces from Potsdam. Luckily the weather was dry since it rained maybe five times the entire four weeks. The temperatures were hot in the eighties and nineties. Drink water was the slogan of the day, and we wore camel backs and canteens to carry enough of it during the day.

1st LT Peters in Iraq: www.stlawu.edu/magazine/iraq.html

Where were you after graduating from St. Lawrence? Some alumni see the real world very quickly. U.S. Army Lt. Justine Peters '05 leads a platoon of 37 soldiers in Iraq.

As an undergraduate, Lt. Peters, who is from Cape Vincent, N.Y., enrolled in ROTC through Clarkson University; she considers herself lucky to have been a part of that program, calling it one of the best in the country.

She can tell you that going from living with 30 of her tri-Delta sorority sisters at St. Lawrence to her present all-male surrounding is something of a transition! But she is no stranger to changes and challenges. She studied for a semester in Spain as a student, and attributes her success as a member of the United States Army to that experience. "There is something very fulfilling about being surrounded by so many cultures [in

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Liberty to Liberty Triathlon : 2LT Ryan Brown

The last semester of your senior year of college is very busy. Between the school work and exams, planning for the Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX), preparing for your new Army career, and let's not forget your social life, there really isn't a lot of time for anything else. That is why when I told my friends and family I planned to train for and complete a triathlon to take place two weeks after graduation they all thought I was crazy, unrealistic, or both. Now I was never in horrible shape physically, but I never really considered myself a PT stud either, so when people asked why I decided to dedicate the time and effort into training for a triathlon my answer came in two parts; I wanted to challenge myself and I also wanted a reason to raise money for a charity. The first reason got me to start training, and the second reason helped to keep me training. The event that I chose was called the Liberty to Liberty Triathlon because it began in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty with a 1 mile swim up the Hudson, continued with a 91 mile bike ride across New Jersey, and concluded in Philadelphia (home of the Liberty Bell) with a 10k run ending at the foot of the Philadelphia Art Museum, or as many refer to it as, "the Rocky Steps".

Before my race back in January I didn't even own a bike, and I soon discovered that the equipment needed to accomplish this goal wasn't the only thing I lacked; I also didn't have a clue what I was doing. As with most goals of mine, the end is a lot clearer than the means to get there, so the learning curve was a steep one. Despite my lack of expertise, I found a training program online that had me working out six times a week (in addition to PT three mornings a week) for about one to three hours at a time and I stuck to the schedule. Sometimes that meant riding my bike outside when the temperature was in the single digits, but my determination to take training seriously was aided by my ongoing efforts to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. I chose this charity as the one I would donate all of the money I raised because of its efforts in helping disabled veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It is a remarkable charity and I would urge you to consider them for any future fund raising event you might have. Through generous donations from friends and family, I was able to raise over \$2,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project and was pleasantly surprised by their eagerness to donate for this cause.

Twenty weeks to the day later I was squeezing into my wet suite in New York City's Battery Park as the sun came up to the backdrop of the Statue of Liberty. Being



“Through generous donations from friends and family, I was able to raise over \$2,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project.”

Freshmen Enjoy ROTC: By: CDT Rugg

“Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.”
- General George Patton

Upon arriving at Clarkson University I had heard a lot about what the Army ROTC program would entail and how much fun it would be but I never thought I would be enjoying it this much, this early. So far my favorite things have been the Land Navigation course at seven springs and training with the Ranger Challenge Team. It's amazing to come back to my dorm after being physical challenged at PT and no one else on my floor is up, or to come back in from a day out at seven springs after just having completed

1st LT Morse Competes in Biathlon:

Greetings Golden Knight Battalion from BOLCII here at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. This summer I had the unique opportunity to join the National Guard Biathlon Team in Jericho, VT. Many Olympians have come from this program, so it's pretty well known in the skiing world. For those of you who don't know biathlon is the sport of cross country skiing combined with rifle marksmanship. Each competitor skis a loop and then gets 5 targets to hit. For every miss you have to ski a penalty loop, so it pays to be accurate! I spent about half of the summer in Jericho training with the team, we work out twice a day consisting of roller skiing, running, biking and shooting. The team consists of all enlisted people except for two of us who are officers. But there is no rank system on the team, only athletes and coaches, so I just get paid a little more than the rest of the athletes. I was on orders for all of the training so I was paid accordingly which was very nice. The highlight of the summer was skiing in Chile, South America as part of a military biathlon competition. We stayed at the Chilean Mountain School barracks up at Portillo, Chile, at an altitude of 9,000 ft nestled in the Andes Mountains. Needless to say the scenery was amazing! There were 4 teams participating this year: Chile, Brazil, Argentina and the US. Spain also sends a team every few years, but not this year. There were 3 races during the competition, an individual race, relay and patrol. I was



LDAC in the Eyes of Cadet Toft:

When I arrived in Seattle in late June within minutes of being outside it was raining. My initial thoughts were a very sarcastic 'This is going to be great' and overall it was. It did rain a couple of times but that's part of life. The 33 days of training at LDAC were fun but the people were even better. I was a member of 1st PLT A Troop 7th Regt, we were sponsored by the 7th Cav. 'Gerry Owen' and we embraced it, saying our motto during pull-ups and just about everywhere else we went. The progression of LDAC is to evaluate you in the beginning with an APFT, Written, Day and Night Land Navigation. Following this phase we began practical training, from hand grenades to shooting M16's and other US Weapons. Each day had a different event, and each event would tie in to the upcoming field training exercise. The field was probably the part of LDAC I enjoyed the most. Within the ten days I was in the field it rained for at least five, which made it even better. My

Ranger Challenge Prepares for Competition: By CDT McLaughlin

It's been a great start to the Ranger Challenge season with 29 cadets trying out for the team competition in October. Morning PT sessions have been exhausting and tiresome but we are making ground to take on other teams in the competition like Norwich, RIT, and Syracuse just to name a few. Most recently we have been focusing on PT and land navigation. Upcoming events for the team include the range at Fort Drum, preparation for the hand grenade assault course, and continual work on the assembly/disassembly of the M-16 A2. The team camaraderie

"Part of the American dream is to live long and die young. Only those Americans who are willing to die for their country are fit to live "



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US Army Airborne School: By: CDT Martin

From 11May till 2June, I attended the U.S. Army Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. 11May consisted of a long day of in-processing. 14May would be the first official day of training. This started out at 0400 with the APFT consisting of pushups, sit-ups, and a 2 mile run that would determine if we were officially in the Basic Airborne Course or not. After the PT test was over, I was officially in Bravo Company and Ground Week started.

During Ground Week, we were first introduced to the T-10D parachute and how we were to put on the parachute harness & reserve parachute. We also learned how to exit both the C-130 and C-17 aircraft which would be used for Jump Week. We also would jump from the 34ft tower. Anyone who had a fear of heights seemed to have conquered that by the end of the training. During this week we were also introduced to the PLF (Parachute Landing Fall). We would practice these for many hours over a couple of days. Using what we learned during PLF training, we now had to qualify on the LDA (Lateral Drift Apparatus). The LDA allowed us to execute a PLF while moving instead of from a stationary position like we practiced prior.

During Tower Week, we again use the mock fuselages to learn the mass exit technique. After this, we used the mass exit technique in the 34ft tower with both Hollywood (no combat load) and combat jumps. We practiced more PLF's, but this time on the SLT (Swing Landing Trainer) which gives you an idea of what it would feel like hitting the ground from a jump out of a plane. It is also during this time that you are supposed to jump from the 250ft tower but due to weather, only a number of people went off of it. We were introduced to one last lesson that would help us greatly on our jumps. We

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