



# Battalion Bugle

Battalion Bugle Fall 2012; Issue No.1

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## **A Fresh Start for the Bugle**

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the newly revitalized 'Fighting Illini' Battalion *Bugle*!

The *Bugle* is the official newsletter of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Army ROTC 'Fighting Illini' Battalion.

The *Bugle* has been published since 1981, albeit on an inconsistent basis. Going forward that will change.

Reaching out to the community at large, our Alumni, and the Family members of our Cadets is crucial. The *Bugle* is our means of reaching out.

The *Bugle* will seek to provide news about Cadet training and activities, Alumni outreach and news, and various other articles to help those who are no longer active in the Battalion get a feel for the pulse of the 'Fighting Illini' Battalion.

Since the *Bugle's* mission and resolve has been modified we are going to be trying out some new things. We'd greatly appreciate critiques, suggestions, reviews, and questions related to the *Bugle*. You can contact us at [fightingilliniarmyrote1@gmail.com](mailto:fightingilliniarmyrote1@gmail.com)

## **Fall Semester In Review**

Fall 2012 was a busy and exciting semester for the 'Fighting Illini' Battalion!

The MSIV's returned successfully from LDAC (Advanced Camp) at Fort Lewis, Washington ready to take command of the Battalion.

MSII's and MSIII's continued to develop their tactical skills, and leadership abilities through tough, practical training.

A new group of MSI's entered the Battalion ready to take the first steps of their military careers.

Highlights of the semester included the Fall Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury, Indiana where Cadets took part in tough realistic training.

Another highlight was two 'Fighting Illini' Ranger Challenge Teams (a 5-man and a 9-man) taking second place in the 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition.

Those particular events were punctuated by a semester of great Physical Training sessions and Leadership Labs, as well as quality Military Science instruction from the Cadre.



(Above) Pumpkin used for target practice  
(Below) 'Fighting Illini' Ranger Challenge Team



## **PMS Corner**

Greetings!

First, I want to say what an honor and privilege it is to be serving here on campus as Professor of Military Science for the “Fighting Illini!” Battalion. This is my first semester here at the University in the program and I want to thank the many Cadets and Cadre here who have aided in my transition. It was clear to me right away that I had arrived at a solid unit with high performing Cadets and Cadre, a deep history, and a lot of pride in the organization.

Since arriving I have seen Cadets and Cadre continue to build this unit’s legacy through implementation of new programs and events, and through superior performance. This Fall in a departure from the past, the MS4s not only led the Battalion through the Fall Field Training Exercise, they planned, resourced, and synchronized it! Cadre spent minimal time giving guidance or “running” the operation- this was truly a Cadet built and run operation and it was a dynamic training event with tough, realistic training.

The Illini Cadets added new components to the experience like their Torch-Passing ceremony, a motivating experience for all who were present. The Ranger Challenge teams brought home a number of 1st place banners and both took overall 2nd place in the competition – the highest in recent years. Eight Cadets competed for and earned the German Armed Forces Badge at Western Illinois University. Three Cadets scored high marks in our Rifle Marksmanship Team’s first competition of the season. Cadre and support staff made improvements across the board as well, to include our new Rock Club Physi-

cal Fitness training program, upgrading facilities, equipment and our unit’s physical appearance, a re-established supply and stores room with solid property accountability and a facelift on our social media networks. Organizations stay sharp and effective only because of the efforts of the people inside them and I want to thank our Cadets and Cadre for “keeping up the fire”.

I want to say thanks to the many parents out there who are supporting their sons and daughters in a challenging academic and professional development environment; you can be very proud of what your grown children are doing here at the University; they are leading the way academically and by example every day! Last but not least, I want to recognize the efforts of the University’s Military Education Council to support the three ROTC services with funding, guidance and targeted support for program enhancements – it is a real pleasure to work with such a supportive group!

I also want to say a quick congratulations again to Cadets who contracted this semester, earned scholarships, became citizens of the U.S. this year, or are going to receive their commissions as 2LTs in December – well done! You all are achieving important mile-stones in your personal, academic and professional careers and I wish you continued success!

Cadets, continue mission and continue to “Forge the Legacy!” Finish the semester strong and then take a well-earned break. To all, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas! and be safe out there! HOOAH! ILLINI!

Respectfully,

LTC Eric W. Stetson

## **SMI Corner**

To all Alumni, Cadets, and Family,

I am thankful to have received orders to the University of Illinois ROTC Battalion.

As I arrived in the middle of summer things were slow and quiet, which is your typical “Calm before the Storm”. The fall semester kicked off with a bang and we were moving at full speed, teaching, coaching, and mentoring Cadets. We have seen tremendous growth in not only the Cadets, but the program as well.

The Cadet leadership has done an excellent job maintaining quality standards throughout the program. The Cadre developed an effective military decision making process with the Cadet Leadership which has made the MSIV’s path from Cadet to 2LT a little less rocky.

As we move into the holiday season, I want to emphasize the importance of staying fit through the winter break. We all tend to enjoy the holiday festivities and sometimes forget to take care of ourselves while we do that. So, when we eat too many cookies or ham, go for a walk or do some pushups afterwards. The Families of these Cadets and the Alumni of this program should be proud of the fine young Americans who are choosing to serve and follow in the footsteps of the many esteemed graduates of this Battalion.

-MSG Jason A. Staub

LTC Eric Stetson  
Professor of Military Science



MSG Jason Staub  
Senior Military Instructor



# The Cadet Voice

## CADET COMMANDER

It has been a great honor and pleasure to be Battalion Commander this semester.

It began with the introduction of a new PMS, LTC Stetson, who has brought new and challenging things to the table. This has been clear through some of the new elements and traditions that have been brought to the *Fighting Illini* Battalion. During the Fall FTX, Cadets had some fun at the range by shooting at decorated pumpkins. Luckily a piece was saved so it can be included in our Dining In Grog! We (the MS IVs) started a new tradition when we conducted an MS1 initiation ceremony. Tiki torches lit the way as the Battalion recited the Cadet Creed, welcoming the new freshman into the fold. Now, every time a Cadet contracts, we welcome them into our family with the Cadet Creed.



It has been a great semester, and I look forward to seeing the continuation of old traditions and the forming of new ones.

-c/LTC Emily Wedge

## CADET COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of the Cadets and Cadre of the Illini Battalion for a fantastic semester.

It has been full of exciting changes including the addition of LTC Stetson and MSG Staub, who have worked hard, along with the other Cadre, and made many impactful changes to better our program. As Cadets, we have been training with a high level of motivation, both in leading and learning from our fellow Cadets and in developing our skills as Soldiers in preparation to become Officers in the US Army.

It can be challenging to balance a heavy load of ROTC, schoolwork, and other extracurricular activities, but the members of our Battalion have fully embraced the load and performed exceptionally.

This can be clearly seen in the improvement in our physical fitness scores from the beginning of the semester, proof that the numerous hours spent sweating on the Armory floor have paid off. Seeing all of the improvement and enthusiasm is encouraging and promising for the future of our Battalion. I would like to say thank you to our Cadre for your help and guidance, and to all the Cadets for embracing and executing all of our ideas with professionalism and zeal.



## SENIORS



CDT John Long at the Army/Navy Football Game

Senior John Long discusses serving as the Cadet Battalion Operations Officer for the MSIV class.

If I had to sum up the process for getting everything ready for the Fall FTX in two words, they would be “delightfully challenging.” Now to some, those two words really don’t relate at all to each other. But that is the overall feeling I got while working together with the Battalion Staff this past fall.

Was I stressed at times? Definitely. But would I trade this experience for an “easier” job? No! The planning process helped me grow into a better leader because I had little experience in the operations side of the U.S. Army.

Running the FTX was not an easy task, but with the cooperation and coordination of my peers and Cadre we ended up making a difference in the lives of the MS1-MS3 classes. The final “initiation” event that utilized the Cadet Creed as a right of passage into the Fighting Illini Battalion

has now become a new tradition that will endure for years to come in this community. The end result of the Fall FTX was a successfully completed mission.

*“Land Navigation turned out being my favorite experience... Myself and a couple other MS1’s went on a crazy adventure...”*

## FRESHMEN



CDT Taylor Craig after Land Navigation at the Fall FTX

Freshman Taylor Craig discusses his experience on the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) from the perspective of an MS1.

My fall FTX experience was a combination of emotions: excitement, fear, worry, and, of course, nervousness. Luckily, the FTX was nothing to fear, it was, in fact, a lot of fun.

Although the learning curve was steep, I felt that the things I was put through brought me closer to my MS class as well as the other Army ROTC Cadets.

Looking back, Land Navigation, which was difficult at the time, turned out being my favorite experience of the entire FTX. Myself, along with a couple other MS1’s went on a crazy adventure and, with great effort, actually succeeded in finding a number of the points which led to our decoration during the awards ceremony.

All in all, FTX was initially a stressful new experience, but it turned into something great, something I learned from and will remember.

## *The Cadet Voice*



CDT Brydon Albers teaching during the Claymore/AT4 Lab

### *JUNIORS*

*Junior Brydon Albers discusses coming back to campus as an MSIII, and assuming more significant leadership positions for the first time.*

Entering my MSIII year, I was excited for the opportunity to hold more significant leadership positions throughout the semester.

In the first two two-week rotations of the semester, I acted as a Platoon Sergeant (PSG) and Company Commander (CO).

Having only previously acted as a squad leader responsible for eight Cadets, I was unaware of all the duties required of a PSG and CO in charge of thirty-five and seventy Cadets, respectively.

The positions had me constantly working with my chain of command in collecting and disseminating information while also maintaining accountability and control. While these two positions did not allow me much time to interact with individual cadets, I enjoyed the challenges, stress, and responsibility that came with leading a large number of personnel.

During the rest of the semester, I acted as a Squad Leader twice where I was able to focus all of my efforts on developing only seven Cadets. This role, while much different than the PSG and CO positions, was equally rewarding in that I was able to get to know my squad members on a personal level and celebrate in their successes.

“Employment is a huge concern right now... The military is a place I know I can guarantee a job...”

### *SOPHOMORES*

*Sophomore Katie Villagomez discusses coming back to campus for her MSII year and weighing her options about committing to serve after graduation.*

Deciding to contract was a difficult decision I had to make. I considered many things into my decision like my family, friends, my career plans, and the organization. I considered my family and friends because they are my main support system. Their approval and/or support would mean a lot to me.

I also had to consider myself and what I wanted for my future. Employment is a huge concern right now. With the state of the economy, the military is a place



CDT Katie Villagomez taking the contracting oath at a Leadership Lab

I know can guarantee a job for me. The work experience and leadership positions the Army has to offer are unparalleled anywhere else for recent college graduates.

Lastly, I considered the organization. It was important for me to share the same values of the organization I would be committing eight years of my life to.

## **From LDAC to Korea**

This past summer I got the opportunity to take go to Korea after LDAC. The training I took part in is called CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training). CTLT is basically like an internship any college student would participate in, but instead of being an intern, you are instead an intern for particular Army unit. At your particular unit you are usually expected to shadow a Platoon Leader, which is the role most Cadets will find themselves in as Second Lieutenants.

After LDAC at Fort Lewis, Washington, which lasts for 29 days, I flew to South Korea to attend CTLT. I started at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, in Seoul. Before arriving at my assigned unit I also was afforded the opportunity to tour the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. During this tour we got to step foot in North Korea, tour the DMZ on a bus through roads that were surrounded with land mines, walk through an underground tunnel used by the North Koreans, and observe the North and South Korean Soldiers as they went about their daily routines on the most highly militarized border in the world.



In Korea, I was attached to a Military Police unit at Camp Humphreys. I was glad for the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of the Army, in general, and the Military Police Corps, in particular.

I was assigned to shadow a Platoon Leader. I got to partake in training events such as M9 pistol/M4 rifle qualification, ITP ops (international transfer point operations), active shooter scenarios, shoot houses, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) training where I got to walk through a gas chamber filled with CS gas, and got to be a chew toy for the German Shepherds in a canine unit.

Overall, I had one of the best experiences of my life during CTLT. I got to plan some of the training for the platoon I was with, train with all Soldiers in my platoon, observe and converse with the junior enlisted Soldiers, and non-commissioned Officers in the unit, and at the same time got to experience some of the culture in Korea.

I have no doubt that the things I learned and experienced during CTLT will carry over and help me become a better Officer in the U.S. Army. I highly recommend all Cadets go to CTLT if they are given the opportunity.

-MSIV Cadet, Pius Kim



Can you guess which Cadre member wore this for the Halloween Run? Find out below.

## **Forensic Science Internship in Florida**

This summer I participated in a Forensic Science Internship at the National Forensic Science Training Center in Florida. I have never learned so much within two weeks. No experience is required, the basics were covered with every lesson.

Each day of the internship brought something new to learn. We learned how to collect evidence of difference substances and objects and along with that how to document a room photographically. There is a specific way in which to document the room upon entry and a specific way to document the focal point. This day was followed with a whole day on photography. Some of the pictures we took with the camera were done in a macro setting so we could analyze grazing in a bullet and actually see some of the residue left on it.

Later on in the training, there was a class on how to examine and identify unknown substances. Most of what we focused on was drugs and explosives. Another part of the internship covered

the parts of an IED and how to conduct a post-blast investigation. This led into our class on cell phone exploitation, since many IEDs can be detonated with cell phones.



Cadets at the Forensic Science Internship process a 'crime scene'

The second week focused on DNA and how to identify the sources of particular stains. Local law enforcement came in one day to teach us how to collect finger prints off objects and also how to collect finger prints from living and dead subjects.



The two weeks were tied up with a culminating event that tested us on all we had covered on the internship. Something I enjoyed about this internship was the fact that almost everything we covered is becoming more and more relevant in the military, it all had real world implications. I'd highly recommend this internship to anyone given the chance to go.

-MSIV Emily Wedge

**Alumni Corner:**

Greetings to my fellow Alumnus, current Cadets and anyone else interested to read this far into the newsletter! My name is Diane Moncrief and I commissioned and graduated from THE University of Illinois in 2001. Since then, I have been an active member of the Illinois Army National Guard and my "civilian" job is working at UIUC as the Army ROTC Recruiting Operations Officer (or ROO). I am distinctly honored to be back at my alma mater teaching, mentoring and training young, future Officers.



Class A inspection at Lab in '98... See if you can ID other Alumni!

In the National Guard, I am now a MAJ and assigned as the Supply and Services Branch Chief in the 108 Sustainment Brigade Support Operations (SPO) section. I am and always will be a proud logistics Officer and like UPS "we're there when you need us"

A little about this section of the newsletter for future editions—This corner is intended to feature alumni to let everyone know where we are at and a little about what we are

doing now. Think of it as a "reunion" of sorts so you can catch up with those from your class with whom you may have fallen out of touch. If you would like to be featured in a future newsletter, please contact us via any of the links/emails listed below. We love pictures as well, so if you have one of you from your time in the Army after commissioning or as a Cadet here at UIUC, please share! We do have scanner capabilities if you would like to send a picture "hardcopy" (for those that can remember using actual film and having it processed). We have very limited photo albums in the "Library" here in the office and will try to include pictures of featured alumnus from those albums as well as our collections of *ILLIO Yearbooks* and *Advanced Camp* (a.k.a. *LDAC*, a.k.a. *Warrior Forge*) as we can. If you prefer a printed copy of the *Bugle* please let us know and we will send on out! Thanks for taking the time to read and we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

- Diane N. Moncrief ('01)

**Alumni News Blotter:**

-CPT Jean Patry ('09), 1LT Kyle Farver ('11), 2LT Steven Lemler ('11), and 2LT Candice Farney ('11) are currently deployed to Afghanistan.

-Cadet's Nicholas Abell (TC), Nicholas Gillespie (OD), Alex Hossfeld (AD), Mitchell Langan (IN), and Jesus Lopez (IN) will be joining the ranks of the *Fighting Illini* Alumni when they commission as Second Lieutenants on December 22nd. The ceremony is at 4 p.m. at Lincoln Hall on the UIUC Campus.

If you have any information you would like displayed in future editions please email [uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:uiucarmyrotc.alumni@gmail.com)

**Cadet Quote of the Quarter:**

***"He's so old its like he's actually living in the future" -MSV Russell Geschrey***

**Upcoming Events:**

Event:	Date:	Event:	Date:
Dining In	12 December 2012	Dining Out/Honors Day	12-13 April
DAPFT	23-25 January	MSI/II FTX	19-21 April
MSIV Staff Ride	22 February	Illinois Marathon	26-28 April
Bataan Memorial Death March	14-19 March	Record APFT	29 April, 1 May
Spring Break	17-25 march	Final Exams	3-10 May
MSIII Combined FTX	4-7 April	Commissioning	13 May

**Ways to connect with us...**

Official Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/fightingilliniarmyrotc/>  
 Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc>  
 Recruiting Info: [arotc@illinois.edu](mailto:arotc@illinois.edu), 217-244-1407  
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