



LHUP Soaring Eagle Battalion

EAGLE NEWS

Keeping Cadets, Parents, and Alumni Informed!



Edition 5

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PMS Corner

By LTC Doug Orsi

The fall semester has gone by quickly for the Soaring Eagle Battalion and once again the Cadets have set new standards. The highlight of the semester was the Ranger Challenge Team winning 1st place in the Darby Division of the 2007 2d Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition. Other highlights were the battalion field training exercise at Bald Eagle State Park in October and a Field Leadership Reaction Course / Paintball Situational Training Exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap in November.

We continue to teach leadership skills to our students and are actively preparing our junior students (MS III Cadets) for Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, WA and sophomores for the Leader's Training Course (LTC) at Fort Knox, KY. We currently have 36 contracted Cadets in our program and 31 receiving scholarship benefits. We commissioned 12 students last year and are on track to commission 11 this coming year. Cadet Lisa A. Pilker will be commissioned on 9 December at 10:00 AM in Sloan Auditorium. All are welcome to come to the event.

I encourage each of our Alumni to let us know how you're doing and pass on your experiences to us to share with the Cadets.

Soaring Eagles....Talons Out!



SMSI Corner

By MSG Thomas Abbott

Hooah! Soaring Eagle Cadets, the fall semester has come to a close. First off I would like to congratulate the Ranger Challenge team for winning first place in our division and fourth overall. The captains this year were Cadets Bobby Fales, Doug Wolfe and A. J. Widmeyer.

This fall the Cadet's encountered intensive training on land navigation, weapons familiarization, Leaders Reaction Course, and paintball using the tactics they were taught. We spent two days and one night at Bald Eagle State Park to test all that was learned in the classroom environment.

The Cadets also planned and executed their Dining In at the conference center, where we got together and practice the old tradition of the U.S. military in a military setting. No plan survives first contact and the power at the conference center went out. The Cadet chain of command managed to still execute the dinner under flashlights. The Lock Haven ROTC also had a team in the Paratrooper Challenge and took first place. The members of the team were Cadet Joshua Fette, Cadet Matt McClain, Cadet Travis Joseph and Kevin Raymond. Cadet Dominic DeCarlo and Cadet Travis Joseph ran the Turkey Trot 5K race. Cadet Joseph took first place and Cadet DeCarlo took 30th place out of over 100 runners. ROTC continues to set the example for all others to emulate. I personally want to say how proud both I and the Colonel are of their ability. God speed and God bless.

Lock Haven Soaring Eagles this is Talon 7 out!

Rangers Lead the Way all others follow!!!

“Soaring Eagles!”

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December 09, 2007 Commissioning

Cadet Lisa A. Pilker will be commissioned on 09 December 2007 at 1000 in Sloan Auditorium. All are invited to the event. Cadet Pilker will be branching Finance in the Texas Army National Guard and joining her husband 2LT Chad Pilker, who will be stationed at Fort Hood, TX.

Newly contracted Cadets in the ROTC Program

The Soaring Eagles has a number of new contracted members this semester. The following students contracted this semester into the ROTC program:

MS I

Christopher Heist
Sydney Smith
Brandon Wilson
Robert Hatcher
Jamie Dimartile

MS III

Jonathan Swanger
James Moore
Dominic DeCarlo
Dustin Tagliaboski
Jane Morgan
Timothy Hall
Nathan Hakes
Aaron Johnston
Joshua Fette

Cadets receive branches

The following MS IV Cadets who will commission in Fiscal Year 2008 received their branch assignment on 8 November 2007.

Quentin Cummings	PAANG	Infantry
Amber Sebal	PAANG	Signal Corps
Robert Fales	Active Duty	Military Police
Donald Oechslin	USAR	Engineer
Allen Krotzer	USAR	
Lisa Pilker	TXANG	Finance
Christopher Sebal	Active Duty	Field Artillery /Military Intelligence
Benjamin Smith	Active Duty	Quartermaster
Andrew Widmeyer	Active Duty	Military Police
Douglas Wolfe	Active Duty	Infantry
Lydia Zellers	Active Duty	Medical Service

LHU U.S. Army ROTC excels at Ranger Challenge Competition

LOCK HAVEN, Pa. - The Lock Haven University U.S. Army ROTC capped first place honors in the Darby Division for the 2nd Brigade, Eastern Region at the Ranger Challenge Competition held Oct. 20 and 21 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

The competition pitted teams from 19 universities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York against one another, broken down into three divisions – Darby, denoting small size schools; Rudder, for medium size schools; and Merrill, for large size schools.

The competition included a physical fitness test, obstacle course, single rope bridge over a stream, weapons assembly and disassembly, weapon qualification, orienteering course, hand grenade assault course, and patrolling exam. The competition culminated with a 6.2-mile foot march with 20-pound rucksacks on Sunday morning.

On top of first place divisional honors, the team tied for fourth place overall out of the 19 competing teams.



The Lock Haven University U.S. Army ROTC placed first in the Darby Division as part of the Ranger Challenge Competition held at Fort Indiantown Gap in October. Pictured, from left to right, are: front row - Mathew McClain, A.J. Widmeyer, Quentin Cummings and Paul Ewing; back row - Sydney Smith, Travis Joseph, Jamie Dimartile, Jake Donaldson, Bobby Fales and Doug Wolfe.

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Cadets A.J. Widmeyer and Matt McClain tightening the single rope bridge



Getting ready to pull the last Cadet over



Cadet Widmeyer trying to not get wet!



Cadet Dimartile getting pulled across the stream



Cadet Jamie Dimartile getting ready to get wet



Cadets getting inspected

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Summer DCLT Training

Written by Cadet Andrew Widmeyer

As an MSIII (Junior) I was fortunate enough to attend DCLT (Drill Cadet Leadership Training) at Fort Benning, Georgia. As a Drill Cadet I spent three weeks with a basic training company. During the first week, I spent my time with the Company Executive officer, learning his job, asking questions, attending meetings, and supervising training. The executive officer is in charge of requesting all materials and transportation required to complete training. This includes anything from requesting ammunition, weapons, and HMMWV's to making sure the soldiers are fed, and addressing personnel issues. After the first week, I was then placed as the acting executive officer, and was expected to fulfill all the aforementioned duties, as well as attend Battalion meetings, daily training meetings, and oversee Company training events. Over the three-week training program, I was introduced to the daily workings of the U.S. Army, and learned what it meant to be a successful Executive Officer. I gained invaluable experience and insight while serving under the acting Company Executive Officer. I was also able to see first hand what Basic Training actually looked like, not from the eyes of a private, or through the eyes of the media, but through my own eyes, strictly as an observer.



Cadet A.J. Widmeyer

Air Assault!

Written by Cadet Travis Joseph

This past summer was a thrilling one for me, most notably because I attended the Air Assault School in Fort Campbell Kentucky for an exhilarating eleven days that taught me skills necessary to become a member of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). These skills included: learning about the different aircraft in the army, flight signals, aeromedevac operations, cargo loads, deficiencies, and rappelling.

The first day was named "zero day", in which we completed a grueling obstacle course that tested an individual's agility, strength, and intelligence. Once through the exhausting course, we had to assess our endurance with a two mile run; luckily the training I have had at Lock Haven University prepared me adequately and I thus distinguish myself and my school by winning the race.

The first three days were called Phase 1 where we gained knowledge about the various rotary-winged aircraft used within the army, along with the unique flight signals to coordinate these aircraft. After the completion of that phase a written and hands-on exam on flight signals was prearranged to analyze the knowledge that had been gained during that component of camp.

Phase 2 started with being trained on how to prepare and setup cargo loads while inspecting them for deficiencies found in combat. Another rigorous written exam for that phase was given as well as a hands-on cargo deficiency test examining our knowledge in locating at least 3 deficiencies on 4 of the 5 cargo loads in fewer than two minutes.

The last phase concentrated on rappelling adequately, eventually ending on a test rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Also, we accomplished two road marches while bearing 40 pounds of equipment, one of which was a 12 mile footmarch on the last morning at 3:00am with a mandatory completion in 3 hours. The fact that we were leaving that same day was enough incentive for me to finish. We started with 200 soldiers and ended with 164. It was an experience that I will always remember as I continue my training in the Army.



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Dining-In

On 09 November 2007 the Lock Haven University Army ROTC Battalion conducted its Dining-In at the Seig Conference Center in Lamar. Over 40 students and cadre attended the event. It was the first Dining-In conducted in the dark as an unrelated accident nearby downed a power line. Like any military organization, the Soaring Eagle Battalion continued the mission and good times were had by all. Cadet Jon Angello received the James Ailes – Johnny Rambo Award and the Ranger Challenge Team was recognized for their victory. LTC Orsi was the President of the Mess and Cadet Quentin Cummings was Mr. Vice.

Colonel John Newcomer receives Military Alumni Award

Last June, COL John Newcomer received the LHUP Military Alumni Award from the LHUP Alumni Association during the Annual Alumni Weekend. Colonel Newcomer was commissioned from LHUP in 1983 as an Aviation officer and is currently stationed in the Pentagon as Deputy Deployment Director (Lean Six Sigma), Deputy Chief of Staff - G-8. Colonel Newcomer is a native of Lock Haven and his parents still reside in town.



COL John Newcomer giving his acceptance speech in June 2007 at the Lock Haven Elks Club

MAJ William Shinn donates flag to the LHU Soaring Eagle Battalion

This past summer, MAJ William Shinn stopped by the LHUP ROTC building and donated a framed flag that flew over Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan during his tour of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom. MAJ Shinn is now stationed at Fort Leavenworth, KS.



CPT Ryan Bortnyk provides advice to Cadets

CPT Ryan Bortnyk, a 2000 LHU graduate is currently the 1-9 Cavalry Rear Detachment Commander at Fort Bliss, TX. Ryan recently provided the LHU Cadets a memo entitled, "A Dozen Things I Wish I Knew as a Lieutenant". Thanks to Ryan and all the other alumni who have checked in with the program. Ryan recently switched over from Armor to PSYOPs. His past assignments include 2d BCT, 1AD (Germany) from 2001 to 2004, followed by the Captains Career Course, Cavalry Leaders Course, and a Recon SQDN Assistant S-3.

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