



The Bison *battalion*

NDSU Army ROTC
Bi-Annual Newsletter
The Bison battalion

Cadets Help in FM-Flood Fight '09

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When a Cadet enters into the world of serving their country by enrolling and contracting with the Army ROTC Program at NDSU their obligation to serve does not wait until commissioning. Cadets in the ROTC Program will answer a call to service at any time. This was proven to be true in late March and throughout the month of April when the City of Fargo experienced record breaking water levels in the Red River Valley.

There was no requirement, no orders process, no evaluations given, there was only the moral obligation to serve and protect their community that drove students in the ROTC Program to get out and help the City of Fargo and surrounding community to overcome the flood waters. "It was the right thing to do, ROTC helped me to become a leader and I figured this was a real-life opportunity to use those skills and make a



ROTC Cadets work along side National Guard members, students, and local citizens to fight Fargo flood waters.

real difference." said CDT Satrang, an MS III in the program.

"It was hard work, but I really enjoyed it. The time passed very quickly and there were so many people around helping."

Due to the flood classes at NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia were canceled for two weeks while the first flood prevention efforts

were going on which put training on hold for a little while.

"We were pushed back just a little bit, but I think that we will be able to pick up where we left off and still do a fine job at training our force and prepare our cadets for things like LDAC and LTC." said CDT Battalion Commander Ben Tester. *CDT Greg Heller*

A Word from the CDT Commander

It has been a fast paced year for all of us in the ROTC program. I would like to start by saying that I appreciate all the hard work and commitment from each cadet in our ROTC program. It is because of the cadets that our program is the success it has become. We have almost doubled in size by the efforts of the cadre and also a big part to everyone that referred a new cadet to our program.

I have seen the knowledge and confidence in all cadets from freshman to seniors increase over the past two semesters in a way that speaks very

highly on each cadet, cadre member, our great support staff.

Some cadets were met with new and very challenging obstacles to include the rappel tower, combat water survival test, land navigation, and numerous leadership lanes and scenarios that were meant both to challenge and to help growth as a confident person and leader.

It was interesting to see how each cadet handled the challenges put in front of them, but also uplifting to see all cadets meet or exceed the standards. Everyone should be proud of

their accomplishments thus far and leave this academic year with a better understanding of themselves, the Army, and what it means to be a future leader in our armed forces.

Some cadets will continue to learn as the years go on and some will be commissioned very soon, no matter where you are in the program, each of us have the responsibility to keep learning to guarantee a high state of readiness and to help ensure the safety of our future soldiers.



CDT LTC Ben Tester

A Fond Farewell



LTC David Oberlander. We'll miss you sir, Good Luck!

What a great year! The Bison Battalion continues to grow, not only in the number of Cadets that we have added to the program, but also in the number of nursing Cadets. We now have six nursing Cadets in the program, where only two years ago we did not have any. Our Military Science 102 class this semester had 32 students, many who will return next year. We currently have 53 contracted Cadets and a total of 80 Cadets that are contracted, enrolled or participating in the program. This year, for only the second time in the last ten years, the Bison Battalion will meet and exceed our commission mission. So how did we do it? I would have to say it was the Cadets. They are the ones that believe in making the program the best in Cadet Command and bring in new prospects with the goal of becoming officers in the U.S. Army. The Cadets run the Battalion and have made

“The Cadets run the Battalion and have made it what it is today through hard work and dedication.”

it what it is today through hard work and dedication. Don't get me wrong, we also have the best Cadre and staff in Cadet Command, but it is the Cadets that make the program.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say farewell to everyone and thank you for supporting me, my family, and the NDSU ROTC program. The last three years have been the best in my military career. There is no greater honor than having been given the opportunity to coach, teach, train, and mentor the future leaders of the Army; it has been a true pleasure.

I would like to introduce the new Professor of Military Science, LTC Shawn Stroud. He is coming to us from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he has been the Strategic Communications Officer for the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center Commander, LTG William Caldwell. Please give LTC Stroud and his wife Amy the same warm welcome that you gave to me and Nancy.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be part of this program. Best wishes for continuing the tradition of excellence here at the Bison Battalion.

LTC David Oberlander



Cadet News...

George C. Marshall Award



CDT Tester receives the George C. Marshall Award from LTC Oberlander at the Spring Awards Ceremony held in April.

On April 14-17, 2009, CDT Ben Tester was selected to join hundreds of other Cadets from University and College ROTC programs around the country and West Point Military Academy in Lexington, VA to attend the George C. Marshall Army ROTC Award Seminar.

The agenda for the week included seminars and roundtable discussions about homeland security, peace-keeping, and other national security issues presented by expert veterans in those fields.

One of the special treats of this event was a lunch and dinner seminar with Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and General George Casey, US Army Chief of Staff.

Cadets selected to receive the Marshall ROTC Award and participate in the Marshall Seminar on the National Security of the United States are selected by the cadre of their college or university Army ROTC Detachment as the outstanding Army ROTC cadet for the year.



Cadets Participate in MS Walk

On April 25, 2009 Cadets from the Bison Battalion showed their commitment to service by volunteering their time to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Cadets Jonathan Lunde,

Dan Faulkner, Chad Hansen, Steven Jaskowiak, Broc Morgan, Matt Piram, Jeff Pulford, and MAJ Stanley Carigan participated in the six mile walk with ruck sacks on their backs.

The team not only supported the MS Society by showing up and walking, they were also active in raising money for the society and event set up the course the night prior to the event.



Bison Grads Prepare for First Deployment



Kosovo Force

In the largest deployment of its kind since the Vietnam War, some 700 North Dakota Army National Guard

soldiers will be sent later this year to Kosovo to help keep the peace in the Balkans region.

Some recently commissioned 2nd Lieutenants and a couple very soon to be commissioned Cadets from the Bison Battalion will have their first chance to exercise what they have been trained to do as officers on their first deployment as officers to a foreign country.

2nd LTs Ryan Boom, Jamer Morrow, and Chol Mayom, along with soon-to-be commissioned Cadets Beth Simek, and Greg

Heller will be deploying with the North Dakota National Guard to Kosovo as part of Task Force Falcon.

During their tour in Kosovo, the North Dakota soldiers will join a U.S. task force of about 700 Guard soldiers from up to 20 states.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February 2008. Serbia refuses to accept the separation of the predominantly ethnic-Albanian region.

ROTC Program Perspective

Fascinating Fresh First Year: CDT Katie Troxell



CDT Katie Troxell receives an award from LTC Oberlander

I joined ROTC because of the financial benefits to help pay for college and also because I wanted to someday be able to serve in the US Army. I started the program in the fall and didn't know anybody in the battalion, it certainly did not take long to feel I was part of a family. After a couple of months I knew everybody.

Throughout the year I have learned a lot about myself and the military. I was tested in every domain

and to my surprise, with the support of my fellow cadets, I succeeded. I was faced with many obstacles and had to overcome most of my fears. ROTC gave me the opportunity to grow stronger physically and also mentally.

I participated in the Ranger Challenge competition in October and found out that I could complete a 10K ruck run! Being on the Ranger Challenge team also gave me the chance to learn how to fire an M4, which I had never done before joining ROTC. I learned how to do night land navigation with minimal light at the fall Field Training Exercise and to my surprise I did a great job! The hardest obstacle that I had to overcome was completing the rappel tower. I had a hard time stepping off of the ledge at first due to my fear of heights but I knew it was the only way

down so I did it and it wasn't as bad as I thought.

Throughout every obstacle that I have faced I have had the support of my fellow cadets to help me get through them. This first year I have learned how to be a leader. I learned a lot of things about the military that I hadn't known before. I learned how to move in a squad and the different ways of getting to an objective.

Without ROTC I would be stuck trying to find a way to pay for college, but most importantly I would still be thinking that I was incapable of completing things that I now know I can. I would be missing out on the camaraderie I have experienced while being in the program.

Just one year of ROTC has changed who I am physically and mentally. I challenged myself in ways I never would have otherwise.

CDT Katie Troxell



Did you know?

ROTC originated at Norwich University in Northfield, VM in 1862



Cadets Train for Success at FTX



CDT Joey Troxell puts on his war face and prepares for battle at this years FTX.

Every spring semester Cadets from the Bison Battalion travel to Camp Ripley, MN to test their skills and further train themselves for success in their future training opportunities, whether it is LTC or LDAC.

445 Cadets participated in this years Spring FTX from regional ROTC Programs. Schools included NDSU, UND, University of Minnesota-Mankato, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and St. Johns University.

Training at these events include day and night land navigation, patrol base operations, Field Leaders Reaction Course, Situational Training Exercises and even a final "Victory March" coming in from the field at the end of a long weekend.

Alumni News

Alumni gather at the Command and General

The Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) is the central institution for training the Army's new Field Grade Officers. The institution is conveniently located at the center of Army Doctrine: Fort Leavenworth, KS – the home of the Combined Arms Center. But CGSC is more than just a school, it is a place where officers study their craft and prepare for future assignments, where families can rejuvenate, but most importantly CGSC is where old friends can reconnect and new friendships are formed. That has been the case for this past year for me at CGSC, and particularly for NDSU Bison Battalion Alumni.

My family and I arrived at sunny Fort Leavenworth at the end of June intent on settling into a house on post and preparing for the upcoming school year. Little did we know that we would soon be crossing paths with six former classmates from NDSU. Almost immediately I bumped into MAJ Cory Mack (NDSU '96). He attended the winter class, which overlapped my summer class by about 4 months. Cory, of course, was headed to the golf course which he claims is the best place to study. Unfortunately, Cory's wife Teresa (Marto) (NDSU '97) did not attend with him, but preceded him on his follow on assignment to 3rd ID at Ft. Stewart.

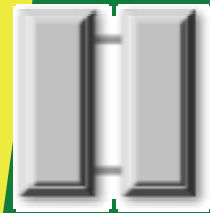
Similarly, as I was walking to class one morning I ran into MAJ Tamara Hedberg (NDSU '94). She was enrolled in the same summer course. MAJ's Troy Parrish (NDSU '98) and Karen Pietila (NDSU '95) were also in the course. Troy and I were placed in the same staff section while Tamara and I will be assigned to Fort Drum this coming summer. Just recently, MAJ's Scott Lenzmier (NDSU '94) and Karen Fagerholt (attended NDSU in '94 then went on to West Point) arrived with the winter class for 2009. Additionally, I have reconnected with friends and acquaintances from unit assignments, basic and advanced courses, schools, and deployments.

My tour through the halls of the Lewis & Clark Center and the Combined Arms Research Library have been very fulfilling this past year. I have polished my staff planning skills, expanded my strategic and operational horizons, and had the opportunity to listen to key leaders and guest speakers from a wide variety of national and international positions. But most importantly, I have expanded my list of friends and acquaintances as well as reforged the bonds with old friends, especially those from the Bison Battalion. So for all those preparing for their Intermediate Level Education, seriously consider the one year tour at Fort Leavenworth. You'll be glad you did!!

MAJ VALENT P. BERNAT III



MAJ Bernat III and his lovely family!



Alumni Updates: LaMotte Get's Promotion!



MAJ Josh LaMotte and his family at Ft. Riley, KS.

MAJ Josh LaMotte received his promotion and his new title in February. The family celebrated with a big ceremony and party in March, blessed by the presence of a lot of family and friends. MAJ LaMotte graduated with a master's in Military Logistics from NDSU in the spring. During the summer, he took one last class and played some softball before leaving West Fargo for his new assignment back at Ft. Riley. He now works at the division headquarters in the G4 (logistics department). He is getting back into a regular running program and is glad to be back at work serving y'all & this great nation.



Attention ALUMNI!!!

If you would like your information posted in The Bison battalion newsletter.

Please send requests to:
**Dept. of Military Science
Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse
Dept 2495. PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108**

Commissioning

Commissioning Ceremony

May 15, 2009

10:00a.m.

Beckwith Recital Hall

Reineke Fine Arts Center

North Dakota State University

Cadets to be Commissioned:

Beth Simek

Andrew Weber

Eliud Feliciano

Greg Heller

Christian Gehrels

Steven Weber

Newly Commissioned!



**2nd LT
Jamer Morrow**

**Branch:
Quartermaster**

**North Dakota
National Guard**



**2nd LT
Chol Mayom**

**Branch:
Military Intelligence**

**North Dakota
National Guard**



**2nd LT
Erjok Erjok**

**Branch:
Chemical**

Active Duty



**2nd LT
Daniel Geau**

**Branch:
Adjutant General Corp.**

Active Duty

