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PMS Corner

Spring Commissioning

Commissioning in the United States Army is an achievement that comes from years of focus, hard work, and determination. The WMU Army ROTC Program is proud to announce the commissioning of 11 Second Lieutenants. During their time at WMU they have displayed the ability to lead soldiers, work efficient and effectively as a team, and coordinate training. All of their abilities, including innovation and the ability to adapt, will be put to the test in the upcoming months when they enter their Basic Officer Leadership Course for each of their respective branches. These lieutenants will be serving in all three components of the Army: the Regular Army, Reserve, and National Guard.

The new officers are listed below. The WMU ROTC program looks forward to sending these Lieutenants out into their respective branches and can say with confidence that every one of them will perform their duties and responsibilities as Army Officers with excellence.

♦ 2LT Emilio M. Baker
   Infantry
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT Seth J. Beduhn
   Corps of Engineers
   National Guard Duty
♦ 2LT Adam R. Bolton
   Infantry
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT John D. Dansfield
   Military Intelligence
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT James B. Hutchinson
   Medical Service Corps
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT Christopher R. Jordan
   Military Police
   Reserve Duty
♦ 2LT Austin D. Kobs
   Military Intelligence
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT Hong B. Tang
   Medical Service Corps
   Reserve Duty
♦ 2LT Kevin M. Wise
   Military Intelligence
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT Seth J. Beduhn
   Medical Service Corps
   Active Duty
♦ 2LT Heavenly Raines
   Nurses Corps
   Reserve Duty

Staff Ride

On April 4th, we conducted our Cadet Staff Ride at the Grand Valley Armory in Grand Rapids. The Cadets read *The Ghost Mountain Boys* by James Campbell (2007) and were treated to a discussion with COL (Ret) Harry Sobotka and Paul Simons, both WWII veterans who served with the 126th Infantry Regiment and 32nd Infantry Division. Paul Simons fought on New Guinea and shared vivid details of the fighting in the jungles.

Mike Petrie, the 126th Infantry Regiment historian and museum curator, opened to display cases to allow our Cadets to handle the artifacts. Cadets also shared presentations from their research on various aspects of the operations on New Guinea. It was an exceptional staff ride that we will surely conduct again next year.

Alumni Golf Outing

Date/Time: 22 August, 2014 at 3 PM

Location: The Prairies Golf Club, 5303 W. Main, Kalamazoo MI

Cost: $50—includes a round of golf, cart and late BBQ. Cash bar available

POC: 2LT Seth Beduhn, sbeduhn7@gmail.com
Record Breaking Military Ball

On the 8th of February the Western Michigan University Army ROTC Department had a record breaking number of guests which included service members from nearly all components of the military as well as numerous civilian supporters. Last year’s record was again broken with well-over 300 guests in attendance.

A larger ballroom was utilized this year at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites in downtown Kalamazoo with high ceilings and elegant decorations which made for a memorable atmosphere. The success of the Military Ball was due to the senior Cadets’ excellent planning, preparation and execution.

The guest speaker for the event was retired CW4 (Ret.) Herbert Kenz, who is also a Bronco Battalion Alumni and a WWII and Korean War veteran. Mr. Kenz spoke on his experiences through his numerous years in the Army and how it related to building the careers of our Cadets. He emphasized that we are one unit and that there must be one mission and one goal that we all must work to together. It was an honor and privilege to have Herb Kenz as our guest speaker.

End of Camp/Summer Commissionees

The following will commission after completion of Leader Development and Assessment Course and other requirements over the summer.

- **July, 2014, Fort Knox, KY**
  2LT Eric T. Meyer  
  End of Camp Commissionee
  2LT Stephen M. Miller  
  End of Camp Commissionee

- **August, 2014, Calvin College Chapel, Grand Rapids MI**
  2LT Jacob Kim  
  Finance Corps  
  Reserve Duty
Spring 2014 Field Training Exercise
By Cadet Timothy Drahokoupil

The Spring FTX was anything but ordinary compared to other Spring FTXs due to the lack of “spring” weather. Despite knee deep snow and sub-freezing weather conditions, the battalion ensured Cadets received the best training possible. Cadets were shuttled to Fort Custer Training Center on the Battalion’s Battle Bus and dropped off to participate in a live M4 rifle range.

All Cadets, some firing a weapon for the very first time, took part in the rifle range. Following the rifle range, the Cadets ruck marched to a second training area where they were able to create Standard Operating Procedures and rehearse battle drills for the next day’s mission.

The next morning, Cadets were up by 0530 for an accountability formation in near zero temperatures. The Cadets refused to be deterred from continuing their mission. By 0630 hours, the platoons stepped off for a 3 mil ruck march and occupied the assembly area for their patrolling lanes.

Along the patrols, Cadets waded through knee deep snow, scanning the tree lines around them for the Opposing Force that was intent on preventing the Cadets from accomplishing their mission. Upon reaching their objectives, the Cadets took cover and camouflaged themselves and waited for the OPFOR to wander into their kill zone. The patrol lanes ended in mission success.

The FTX resulted in all the Cadets of Bronco Battalion becoming more familiar and comfortable with the M4 rifle and the completion of successful patrol lanes.

April 2014 Wounded Warrior Run
By Cadet Emilio Baker

The Annual WMU Wounded Warrior 5k Run/Walk is organized by Western Michigan University's Army and Air Force ROTC Departments. All proceeds benefit the national Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project is a non-profit organization that provides care for wounded veterans and their families. It specializes in offering assistance to wounded veterans returning home from overseas.

This year, at the 5th annual Wounded Warrior Run, there were more than 500 participants in the run along with local support from the community, businesses, and organizations. The donations helped Western Michigan University's ROTC Departments raise more than $25,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project, which was more than the previous four years combined.

The 5th annual Wounded Warrior Run almost doubled its participation goal of 300 participants and raised five times the goal of $5,000 set by organizers. To put this in perspective, the run had raised a combined total of about $15,000 in the previous four years combined.

Cadets said that they put a lot of work into the event and were very pleased with the large turnout. The Cadets started planning the event, reaching out to potential participants and tracking donations in the fall.

The run serves two purposes: 1) to raise money for the nationwide Wounded Warrior Project and 2) to raise awareness of what the organization does in the community.

For information about next year’s event, please visit www.wmuwoundedwarrior.com

2015 Military Ball

Date: Saturday, 7 February 2014

Location: Radisson Plaza Hotel, 100 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo Michigan

Cost: $50 (parking and beverages not included)

Call Cris for more information at 269-387-8120 or email her at cris.obreiter@wmich.edu
As I close in on two years as the PMS, I am continually impressed by all of the great things our Cadets and cadre do every day. We are truly one of the very best ROTC programs in the country and during the Spring Semester we continued to shine. Over 25% of our commissioning class earned the distinction of being Distinguished Military Graduates which is awarded to the top 20% of 5300 Cadets in the Accessions FY14 group.

With the upcoming changes at LDAC this summer, our focus for leadership labs changed from squad level leadership and tactics to more platoon level training. Our MSIV Cadets effectively made the transition and planned, resourced and executed great leadership labs and training despite challenging weather conditions. We had to adjust the environment for numerous labs and conduct them indoors on the tennis courts at the Student Recreation Center. Nonetheless, we conducted our Spring FTX at Fort Custer including rifle range and patrolling operations.

The Military Ball on February 8th was a truly phenomenal evening in the Grand Ballroom at the Radisson with a record attendance. The MSIV Cadets “adopted” CW4 (Ret) Herb Kenz, WMU Class of 1952, and asked him to be the guest speaker for the event as a part of the “mail call” on the Talons Out Flight in October and in true fashion, Herb hand-delivered his reply to the Cadets at the Veteran’s Day Dining-in. We cannot thank Herb enough for his words of wisdom at the ball.

Our Cadets also set a new standard for the Wounded Warrior Run with over 500 participants and more significantly, raising over $25,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. On their own initiative, the Cadets contacted far more potential sponsors than in previous years and engaged the local media. FOX 17 News from Grand Rapids picked up on the story and WMU alum, Kelly Smith, joined us for PT the Friday morning before the event for a live broadcast. At least 4 companies have already contacted us about sponsorship next year.

The program also features amazing leadership and support from our cadre. In recognition of his exceptional support to our program and Cadets, Mr. Brian Jones, our outstanding Human Resources Assistant, was named the winner of the Student Support Staff Award for 2013-2014 by the Haworth College of Business at the annual awards ceremony. Our Recruiting Operations Officer, Mr. Brett Johnson, was named the ROO of Year in 7th Brigade. Congratulations to both for their superb work in supporting the program!

We bid farewell to two outstanding Cadre members and will welcome three more this summer and fall. CPT Anthony Strong was selected to command the 1001st QM Co. (Petroleum Support) in Chillicothe, OH beginning this summer. MSG Benjamin Carter, who spent the entire academic year as our Senior Military Instructor, is moving to Ft Stewart, GA where he will take the reigns as the 1SG for HHC, 2nd BDE, 3rd ID. We sincerely appreciate all of their hard work and dedication developing the next generation of leaders. We look forward to the arrival of MSG Robert Ryder, our new Senior Military Instructor, and CPT Solaita, our new Assistant Professor of Military Science, in June. SFC Ivan Youngblood will join the team as a Military Science Instructor in September.

Throughout the summer, Brett will be meeting prospective Cadets during Freshman Orientation and following summer training, we will conduct Welcome Week from 25-29 August with BBQ lunches at the BN HQs on the 25th and 27th.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!