Cultural Understanding & Language Proficiency  By: MS II Alec Goodwin

I will be attending the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program. This allows ROTC Cadets the opportunity to travel with a small team of Cadets from around the country to foreign countries to experience other cultures. It is a great experience for Cadets and I am excited for the opportunity. I am fortunate enough to get to visit the Philippines this summer. While I am there I will get to work with the Philippine Army and their ROTC Cadets. I am excited to get the chance to go and see another country and learn about their culture; experience their military life and see the differences and similarities of cultures and military lifestyles.

Leader Development & Assessment Course  By: MS III Joel Natalie

As the school year comes to a close the MSIII’s minds are focused on the most important evaluation of our careers this far, Leader Development and Assessment Course 2014. The entire MSIII year we have been preparing for our training this summer at Fort Knox, KY. CPT McCrillis created a lesson plan for the year that focused mainly on Operation Orders; as he would say that is the key to an Excellent grade. The structure of our Battalion puts each MSIII in a leadership position for a three week cycle so that we can experience the evaluation process that will take place at LDAC. At LDAC study hall we dove into the tactics of Platoon sized missions. Overall with the guidance of our MSIV counterparts and the Cadre’s experience we have been set up for success this summer at Ft. Knox. LDAC this summer is one more step forward into our pursuit of Officership in the United States Army.
The 2014 Ranger Challenge season was filled with highs and lows. The team and training started off better than any previous year. Due to the large commitment and competitive nature of our team, everyone was confident in our ability to compete at the highest level possible. With the looming threat cancelation of the competition and the final date being pushed back, our original team became prone to injury. After three cycles of replacement cadets, we finally had our competition team. Our team was comprised of 4 MSI’s (Allender, Adelizzio, Houck, and Fuller); 2 MSII’s (Goodwin, and Staaf); 1 MSIII Filbert; and lastly 2 MSIV’s (Crowe, and Yu).

When it came time for the competition, our team was focused. Although the youth of the team would pose a disadvantage, they made up for it with heart. There were times throughout the competition where I could see the wear start to set on the team. I tried my best to motivate everyone, especially during the second days 10K ruck march. Through this constant struggle we adopted a team motto that we used for short bursts of encouragement and drive. In all, I would not change the way the 2014 Ranger Challenge season played out. With this young team, we had obtained the best placement in Edinboro’s history at Ranger Challenge, 27 of 42 teams. Although my senior year is coming to an end, my one wish for future teams is to continue pushing for Edinboro’s dominance within 2nd Brigade.

“The best aspect of ROTC is the camaraderie.”
-Cadet Allender
Physical training, more commonly referred to as PT, is conducted five mornings a week and is an integral part of the Cadet experience. PT is utilized to strengthen Cadets by pushing them to their physical and mental limits. These Cadet led and planned workouts are characterized by a broad variation of physical activities, including everything from company runs and rope climbing to cross-fit ladders and ruck marches.

Through PT, Cadets are not only prepared to excel in physical fitness tests, but develop a lifestyle routine beneficial to a future Army Officer. Leadership Labs are conducted one Saturday a month in order to give Cadets an opportunity to apply the skills they learn in the classroom. Upper classmen embrace the role of mentor as they instruct under classmen Cadets in a variety of topics, to include first aid, weapons maintenance, and camouflage. Cadets at all levels exercise practical leadership by conducting troop leading procedures, tactical exercises, and battle drills. These hands-on experiences are essential in preparing cadets for important training events, such as LDAC.

Freshman Experience

The ROTC program caught my eye when I first started looking at entering the military. I can easily say that ROTC, as a whole, has made the transition from high school to college a lot less painful. Every member of the program, especially leadership, including the Cadre and upper classman are a great help in every way possible such as: building confidence, leadership abilities, and maintaining high motivation through each semester. Myself and many other freshman received room and board scholarships to help with the cost of living and food expenses. I currently reside at Rose Hall, 3rd floor which is predominately where ROTC Cadets live. I have received a 4 year national scholarship, which means I am contracted and I receive monthly stipends to help with books and other fees. I was also lucky enough to have the opportunity to be part of the Ranger Challenge team which was a very grueling and humbling experience. I can easily say that I have never trained so hard for an event. Overall one of the best aspects of ROTC is the camaraderie between everyone; it is present with everything we conduct, it is always a team effort and everyone has some part in every event.
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