A Great Quarter for the Buckeyes

This winter was a great quarter for the Buckeye Battalion. If you are new to the battalion this quarter… Welcome! You have a life changing experience ahead of you. The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is a program in which leadership skills and character are both developed and tested. Everything the platoon does or fails to do. That is quite a lot of responsibility for a student fresh out of college! Be assured that every Cadet receives the training they need to not only meet those expectations, but exceed the standard.

The battalion also had a lot to offer the cadets this quarter with our extra-curricular activities and the mentorship program. Cadets had the chance to participate in Ranger Force, the German Proficiency Badge, Scabbard and Blade, Officer’s Christian Fellowship, and the Buckeye Community Action service learning committee. The new mentorship program paired underclassmen Cadets with seniors in their field of study. The Cadets can benefit from their knowledge of what classes and teachers to get. We are proud to be a part of an organization that takes care of people.
Comments from the Cadet Battalion Commander

Another quarter has flown by for the Cadets and Cadre of the Buckeye Battalion. Army ROTC Cadets at The Ohio State University have completed the “walk” phase of training in the tried and tested “crawl, walk, run” progression. The leadership and learning experiences gained on the infield of French Field House this past quarter have developed confidence in Cadets of all levels in their ability to execute STX lanes on West Campus and in Tuttle Park during spring quarter. For the MSIII’s, those lessons learned here at Ohio State will serve them well at Leadership Development and Assessment Course 2009.

In addition to their weekly leadership labs, OSU Cadets have kept busy representing the Buckeye Battalion and the university in an outstanding fashion. They have filled the ranks on a number of color guards at home basketball games in Value City Arena, volunteered through the Buckeye Community Action Group, competed in the Tri-Service Olympics against the Navy and Air Force ROTC programs (Cadets kept the trophy on the Army floor by dominating in most events!), competed to earn the coveted German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, donated blood for our wounded troops overseas, and put on a spectacular Military Ball at the State House. All these events and more were completed on top of busy class schedules and weekly physical training sessions!

Spring quarter will pose new challenges, but the adaptive leaders being developed here in Converse Hall will be ready to train hard and always exceed the standard. Remember, be team players at all times to ensure the continued success of this great Battalion. Good luck to all of you. BUCKEYES LEAD THE WAY!

-C/LTC Jim Hyman

Remarks from Alpha Company Commander

Winter Quarter was another great ten weeks of training for the cadets in Alpha Co. The quarter started with the Basic Rifle Marksmanship Lab, which is always a favorite. This quarter’s goals were simple: continue to prepare our MSIII’s for Leadership Development and Assessment Course and allow the MSII’s and MSII’s to continue to grow in their leadership abilities as well as their technical and tactical skills. The leadership labs that we did every Tuesday were intended to allow the MSIII’s to practice their Battle Drills by teaching the underclassmen basic tactics and to begin building squad standard operating procedures (SOPs). This way, after coming back from much needed Spring Break, everyone can hit the ground running as we start squad tactical exercises at West Campus.

As always, we had another great quarter of physical training that was modeled after the Ranger Athlete Warrior (RAW) Handbook. It was designed to push Cadets further, faster and harder; but as with any task there were some hiccups. It is always hard to stay motivated when running indoors, but I was excited by the challenge of integrating a new PT program into the Buckeye Battalion and Cadets of Alpha Co did not disappoint me.

On February 27th the battalion held the 100th Annual Military Ball, held this year at the Statehouse. The cadets of Alpha Co held several key roles, helping with the planning and setting up the Statehouse for the dinner. As well as, participating in the color guard, POW/ MIA ceremonies and the customary saber arch held for the seniors. It was a fun, formal evening of dancing and fine dining. As the quarter comes to a close, I am confident not only in the MSIII’s ability to excel at LDAC this summer, but also for the future of the Buckeye Battalion. I know the MSIII’s, II’s, and I’s will continue to be successful in all their endeavors, not because they come from Ohio State; but because of what they chose to do while at Ohio State. Have a safe and blessed spring break.

-C/CPT Matthew Lauber
A Co. CO

Alpha Company Commander enjoys Spring break on the beach.
It has been a busy quarter for the Bravo Company “Terminators” this winter. In addition to their already full academic and scholastic activities, Cadets participated in physical fitness training on Monday, Wednesday and Friday designed to help them excel at the Army Physical Fitness Test, Leadership Labs on Thursdays, which provided skill level specific training commensurate with each military science Class (freshman, sophomore, junior or senior).

This quarter, we implemented a Ranger Athlete Warrior (RAW) physical fitness program that involves circuit training and a well-balanced approach to total health and well-being. The cadets have shown their commitment to service by volunteering for extra-curricular ROTC events such as basketball color guards, Ranger Force, Scabbard and Blade, and the Buckeye Community Action Committee. This is only within ROTC. Many of our cadets are involved in clubs and organizations outside of ROTC, which makes our program more diverse and far-reaching.

We have completed the walk phase of the 2008-2009 school year this winter quarter as we familiarized the Cadets with Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), Battle Drill familiarization, and Variable Lane exercises. The Cadet squads had to develop their standing operating procedures (SOPs) that specify how they will operate in tactical missions. Each week at lab the MSIIIs taught doctrine and how to execute each battle drill as a squad. Then they would rehearse the drills so that each Cadet can learn everyone’s role in completing the mission. The squads will use this knowledge in spring quarter when they begin to execute Squad Tactical Exercises (STX) each week.

Bravo company also had the privilege to have the Newark campus Cadets integrated with them during all lab training this quarter. The Newark Cadets are learning at the same pace as the rest of the Battalion and they will be ready to hit the ground running when they come to main campus next fall.

I have been extremely proud of the Bravo Company Cadets this quarter. Any time we have our payday activity formation, I am overwhelmed by how many Bravo Cadets are being recognized for their outstanding physical training scores, Academic GPA, Cadets of the Month, and are contracting. I know they will continue to do great things in spring quarter and beyond.

C/ CPT Alex Carlier
Bravo Company Commander
Winter Quarter in Pictures
Every year The Ohio State University Army ROTC program holds a Military Ball. This year they celebrated the 100th annual with many honored guests in attendance to share in the festivities. The Cadets and guests entered a receiving line consisting of LTC Farrell Duncombe Professor of Military Science, his wife Toni and C/ LTC Jim Hyman and his fiancé Katherine Wright. The guests and Cadets mingled during social hour making new connections and friends.

Every senior Cadet went through the traditional Sabre Arch, which was formed by the Junior class and led by Cadet Brandon Kurtz. The Senior Cadet’s branch, graduation date and escort were named as they posed for a quick picture in the arch. The posting of the colors was performed by a rank of seniors in dress blues led by C/SGM Fitzsimmons. The invocation was given by CDT Alex Carlier followed by opening comments. The night was emceed by junior, CDT Ryan Devine. Dinner was catered by Catering by Design and the cakes were made by Giant Eagle. It is a long honored tradition for the youngest and oldest persons in attendance to cut the cake together. This year the cake cutters were freshman, CDT Sarah Dewe & Mr. Bob Joseph.

The guest of honor COL(R) Peter Mansoor, graduate of The United States Military Academy gave the speech. He is currently the Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History, a joint appointment between the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Department of History at The Ohio State University. The cadets were given life advice through the eyes of a true leader. Following the speech, the colors were retired and the dancing commenced.

To the left: COL(R) Peter Mansoor, author of Baghdad at Sunrise and guest speaker

To the right from top to bottom:
LTC Duncombe with Distinguished Guests, Bob and Linda Joseph (Members of the OSU Army ROTC Alumni Society), and friends of the Battalion

100th Annual Military Ball

Every quarter, the Army ROTC program participates in events with other service's ROTC programs. This is a great opportunity become involved with the other services and start the practice of a “one team, one fight”.

Air Force, Army and Navy programs coordinate with one another on a variety of events, from Color guards for the basketball games to a blood drive that helps our troops. It is pertinent that as Cadets and Midshipman, we start to develop the habits that will make us successful in our career.

Tri-Service Olympics

Every one of these events is a Tri - Service Olympics. One morning during the quarter, all services gather at French Field House and participate in a variety of athletic events. Some of these events include sprints, pull ups, push ups, sit-ups and a 1 mile relay. This competition is always intense and usually comes down to the wire in deciding the winner. During the winter quarter, the Army ensured the traveling trophy stayed in the Buckeye Battalion by defeating the Navy and Air Force in a convincing fashion.
During winter quarter 2009, Buckeye Battalion’s Ranger Force has been busy conducting labs, learning advanced tactics, and preparing for our spring quarter field training exercise. Ranger Force is an organization that is open to any Cadet in the Battalion who excels both mentally and physically, and is willing to work hard and push themselves. We focus on learning a variety of skills and tactics, as well as the history of the Rangers. Training this quarter has included an in-depth studying of battle drills and operations orders, room clearing exercises and a paintball lab. All of this training is conducted to better prepare Cadets for Leadership Development and Assessment Course and also to prepare for the Ranger Force FTX in the spring.

Ranger Force

The Ranger Force FTX will be a two day exercise in early May where we will conduct daytime and nighttime missions that will mimic real world operations. We will use night vision goggles and real weapons, as well as other equipment that is not available for most training. This advanced training will provide an excellent opportunity to learn and to lead, as well as preparing Cadets for LDAC and the Army.

There will be an informational brief for any Cadet interested in joining Ranger Force at the beginning of spring quarter. If you have any interest in joining, please attend the meeting as we will discuss the history of our organization, the requirements for admissions, and process of becoming a member.

Spring Quarter Joint Field Training Exercise

On April 30th, 2009 the Buckeye Battalion will begin a Joint Field Training Exercise with Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati at Camp Atterbury Joint Forces Maneuver Training Center, Indiana. This exercise is an important step in the train-up for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course because it prepares OSU Cadets to work with Cadets from other Universities who have different military backgrounds, techniques, and experiences. The MSIVs of the Buckeye Battalion have been planning the Squad Situational Tactical Exercise (STX) Lanes for JFTX09, which will train the MSIIIs for their field evaluations at Warrior Forge later this summer. The MSIIIs will conduct Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Field Leadership Reaction Course, Land Navigation, and Squad STX lanes.

Buckeye Community Action

The Buckeye Community Action committee (BCA) has been busy this quarter. The Buckeye Battalion now has over 20 Cadets volunteering weekly at The Boys and Girls Club. At The Boys and Girls Club, Cadets are helping children with homework, playing games, doing crafts, and playing music with the children. They are learning that we are all role models whether we want to be or not. Whether or not we are a positive role model is up to us.

The Cadets of BCA also became familiar with service-learning this quarter and began tracking their progress in service through guided reflection. They met twice at a local restaurant this quarter. During these meetings they spoke about what they are experiencing in their service sites and explored what they can learn from the experience that will make them more effective leaders.

Next quarter the Cadets will have an opportunity to volunteer with the Honor Flight program, which greets World War II veteran’s at the airport upon their return from a trip to D.C. to visit the memorials. Cadets will also be able to serve as camp counselors through Operation: Military Kids.

Everyone can serve, and the Buckeyes have the opportunity.
Promotions

**BG John Mike Murray**

Brigadier General John Mike Murray, class of 1982 from the Ohio State University Army ROTC was promoted from the rank of Colonel to Brigadier General on December 22, 2008 at Fort Hood, Texas. Before his promotion, then COL John M Murray, Infantry, was the Deputy Commanding General for Maneuver for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

Past command responsibilities include commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division. The unit served as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in Iraq from March 2004 to March 2005. During his deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), COL Murray's area of responsibility began at the Green Zone; an area later renamed the International Zone, and then extended essentially into Baghdad proper. His primary duties during this period included escort missions for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and the U.S. Embassy dignitaries. His close working relationship with the CPA allowed him unrestricted access to various advisors and the opportunity to observe the changes in roles and operational behaviors of the CPA and the Embassy, before and after the transfer of sovereignty on 28 June 2004. He was also responsible for training and preparedness of the 302nd Iraqi National Guard Battalion, which was derived from the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. His command set up a leadership academy and developed the concept and importance of an NCO corps. As a result of the training, this Iraqi unit became the first to assume responsibility of an area of operation during OIF II.

BG Murray has now joined an elite group of OSU ROTC alumni who have been promoted to the rank of BG or higher. This should serve as motivation for all of us, current Cadets, and those that will come after us, that we too can rise that high within the ranks.

**MSG Charles Nieding**

Our very own Charles "Hammer" Nieding, the primary MSIII instructor, just received another stripe. He was promoted from the rank of Sergeant First Class to the rank of Master Sergeant (MSG). Master Sergeant Charles Nieding entered military service in 1989 at Ft. Benning, Georgia. After taking a break to pursue a civilian education, MSG Nieding re-enlisted in 1994. MSG Nieding has served as a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Drill Instructor all with meritorious service. Deployed many times, his experience includes Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 1, OIF 2, and OIF 3. MSG Nieding is known for his dedication to his soldiers and fondness for teaching. When asked about his feelings towards his promotion he answers "It’s not about the rank, it’s about taking care of people." MSG Nieding has proven to be a valuable asset to the Buckeye Battalion.
Major General Sherlock Visits OSU

Major General Richard Scherlock is a 1978 graduate of The Ohio State University. His military education includes the Air Defense Officer Basic Course, the Aviation Officer Advanced Course, the Air Command and Staff College, and the Army War College. He has a bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University, a master’s degree from Troy State University, and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the Army War College. Currently MG Sherlock is the Deputy Director for Operational Planning, J3, The Joint Staff. He took time out of his busy life to not only attend our Military Ball, but to speak to the MS IV’s Friday during a class. He answered many tough questions the seniors had for him while giving valuable military career advice. It was truly an honor to have MG Sherlock in attendance at our class.

Next Quarter Spring 2009

Next quarter will be a very busy time for the Buckeye cadets. CDT Kyle Steiner will take over as the battalion commander with the XO being Brian Wilson and the SGM Alex Carlier. There will be a JFTX and Tri-Service Pass in Review on the schedule for Spring quarter. Ohio State will also host the German Proficiency Badge testing during the quarter. To wrap up the quarter the buckeye battalion will commission 23 cadets on June, 14th, 2009.
Greetings Buckeye Battalion!

The Winter Quarter 2009 has been fun, fast-paced and very memorable. Congratulatory remarks for the following highlighted activities are listed below:

High Accolades for the previous Cadet Chain of Command’s (Blanton, Gribben, and King) performance and transition to the Winter Quarter’s Cadet Chain of Command (Hyman, Bunting, and Fitzsimmons)-Outstanding Job!

Congratulations to Cadets Ronald Runyan (Chemical Branch), Benjamin Kedo (Infantry Branch), Matthew Lauber (Armor Branch), Kirkland Requejo (Medical Service Branch) and Mark Zwigdzas (Infantry Branch) for successfully graduating and being commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.

Congratulations to the Cadets that contracted during this quarter: Cadet Hussey, Cadet Ausderan, Cadet Spuzillo, Cadet Tess White, Cadet Kurtz and Cadet Roberts.

Congratulations to the fourteen cadets who participated in the German Proficiency Badge Testing. The Ohio State University ROTC Battalion recorded the highest number of Gold Winners as compared to the 31 participating universities. The following cadets won gold: Armstrong, Baldwin, Conte, Kuhl, McBride, Stipkovich, Staugler, Thibault, White, Yates.

Congratulations to Cadet Meagan Matthews who was selected for participation in the Cadet Culture and Language Immersion Internship to Peru in South America through the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

“Officership” is a profession and culture of service. Therefore, I applaud CPT Favuzzi, Cadet Carlier, the service committee and all of the Cadets who are contributing valuable time and resources to go “above and beyond” and are consistently “paying forward” in order to make the community a better place to live, work, and play. Your contributions and service to multiple community action programs, Boys and Girls Club Mentorship, Tutoring, Clothes and Food Drives are truly remarkable.

Thanks to the Cadre and Cadets for successfully implementing our new Physical Training Exercise Regimen in the Battalion. Your efforts will ensure that our cadets are in top physical shape to meet the daily challenges of campus life, the Leader’s Training Course (LTC), the Leader Development Assessment Course (LDAC), and future endeavors as a commissioned officer.

Congratulations to the Cadets that are promoting our concept of “Each One Reach One!”, and upholding high collegiate scholastic standards, by achieving a minimum 3.5 QPA . During this quarter, we awarded over $6,000 to those cadets who actively participated and achieved the standards established in these programs.

Finally, a very special thanks to CPT Wong, Cadet Seager and the Military Ball Committee and all that contributed their time, monies, and other resources to ensure that The Ohio State University’s Army ROTC 100th Military Ball Celebration, held at The Statehouse, was a successful and memorable occasion. All of your contributions were greatly appreciated by all of the Cadre, Cadets, Alumni, and family members.

Thus, in light of the above highlighted events, your daily contributions to the University, the surrounding community, and your professionalism, you all truly make me proud to be your Battalion Commander.

“GO BUCKS!”
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Address Correction Requested
“Buckeyes Lead the Way!!!”