What is the Buckeye Battalion?
The Ohio State Army ROTC Bi-weekly Newsletter


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The Future Cadet Mentorship Team

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A Brief Introduction

BY ADAM MANGEN

The Buckeye Battalion

Today’s students, tomorrow’s leaders

The students of The Ohio State University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program make up the Buckeye Battalion. These Cadets come from many different backgrounds and study many different degree programs but all have the same desire; to become a future leader of the United States Army. While completing their degree program as a normal college student, these Cadets simultaneously participate in military science classes, physical training, and leadership labs designed to enhance Soldier skills. The Buckeye Battalion has over 100 Cadets enrolled and consistently performs above ROTC standards and outcompetes many of the other Army ROTC programs in the country; academically and physically.

These Cadets will graduate with a degree in the field of their choice and, on the same day, commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. These new Lieutenants will go on to perform a vast array of jobs for the army from Quartermaster to Military Intelligence to Infantry and Nurses. These future lieutenants wear their scarlet and grey with pride and, while graduating from one of the top universities in the country, they realize they are a part of one of the top ROTC programs in the country as well and continue to uphold the prestige of this storied organization.

What is that screaming running mob on campus in the morning? Who are those students in fatigues outside of Converse Hall? Here’s where you can find out.

The Future Cadet Mentorship Team

Leader mentors instilling confidence and service in future Soldiers

The Future Cadet Mentorship Team is a new face in the Buckeye Battalion. As an advocate for community involvement, student mentorship, and building confident leaders, the Future Cadet Mentorship Team (FCMT) has created a new direction for Cadet leadership. While engaging members in service and mentor opportunities, this organization focuses heavily on building confident future leaders. Interpersonal communication and public speaking ability are important characteristics for any successful military officer. Cadets do not get enough practice in these aspects through their regular curriculum and that is where the FCMT comes in. Although new, this organization has a bright future and will continue to further the cause of the Buckeye Battalion and area youth and community service organizations.
Inside Converse

BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

Zero dark thirty alarms, workouts, uniforms, and the essential morning coffee. Not much changes for the Army Cadet here at The Ohio State University. After all, we live the regimented life of U.S. soldiers while also being college students and the first undisputed National Champions. Besides the usual organized chaos, our battalion has many events throughout the semester. If you have ever found yourself wondering what we “Army guys & girls” are up to, here is a small taste:

Up until now, our Cadets have been getting back into the swing of things. We literally hit the ground running but I can’t complain—PT, or physical training, is great. It wakes you up, gets you in shape, and brings everyone together. You might have heard us yelling “Buckeyes Lead the Way” at some point in the year. If that is the case, we whole heartedly apologize. That also goes for the amount of space we take up at the RPAC. Who wants a quiet workout alone anyways?

All jokes aside, those Cadets who wish to get a little more out of PT are currently training for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency or GPB for short. This is a foreign German award that can be obtained by members of the U.S. Armed Forces. To achieve the badge, participants must complete specific timed events: 11x10-meter sprint, chin-ups, 1000 meter run, 100 meter swim in uniform, first aid test, NBC MOPP test, pistol qualification, and a road march. It is a very sought-after award, and our Cadets will soon travel to OU and Indiana to earn their badges.

In other news, our battalion has been actively training on the topic of sexual assault & harassment prevention. As both college students and future officers of a diverse Army, it is an issue we must be aware of and ready to stop. We have required training, but we have recently also been involved with Buckeyes Got Your Back here on campus. Both programs teach methods to prevent these crimes and the ways to handle and help in the unfortunate cases when they occur. As Buckeyes, we take pride in our school and community. Although this training gives us a break from hours spent in the cold woods of Ohio State, it’s something we take very seriously something we hope to prevent.

There will be more to come from the Buckeye Battalion. Be on the lookout for the upcoming Military Ball and future events, specifically those of the Future Cadet Mentorship Team. It is our desire to inform future Cadets as well as other students what our program has to offer, both for the Army and Ohio State. If you see a Cadet and you have questions, do not hesitate to ask. Enjoy the week, and as always Go Bucks!
My Travels in Greece

BY KYLE BARGER

In the summer of 2014 I was chosen to take part in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program. This program is run by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and used to strengthen relations between the United States and other countries. ROTC Cadets are sent for military-to-military training, English language teaching, and humanitarian work. Some of the countries Cadets have visited this summer include Spain, Gabon, Germany, Thailand and many others. Some Cadets are tasked with teaching English in African schools, others still get to jump out of airplanes above Spain and earn Spanish jump wings. I travelled to Greece and conducted military-to-military training with Greek Cadets at their Military Academy.

When we first arrived in Greece, we had three days of acclimating to the new time zone, view some sights around Athens and start to experience Greek culture and customs. After these first few days we made our way to Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece and an important landmark due to the mythological belief that it was home to the Greek gods. Our base camp for training was at the base of the mountain. We looked up to its peak every morning for PT and every night before we went to bed in our comfy tents. During the week we stayed in these tents and on the weekend, travelled around Greece to see the sights. At the camp we were paired with a Greek Cadet counterpart who would act as our translator and guide during the stay. We were completely immersed in the Greek training life; we were put into one of their platoons and slept next to other Greek Cadets.

Almost every morning we would wake up and conduct Physical Training which consisted of running up and down Mount Olympus until we arrived back at our base camp. We then would get changed into our uniform and get ready for the training of the day. During training we were issued the standard G3 rifle of the Greek army. We were able to shoot this weapon on a couple of different occasions and learned how to handle it. Some of the other training included everything from learning about their tanks and armored personnel carriers, their mounted assaults, and even marching up Mount Olympus itself.

One of the most notable training days we had was the Zodiac training day. A Zodiac is a small boat used for fast insertion and used primarily by Special Forces and Marine units. We were lucky enough to get to ride in some of these and even conducted a live landing scenario where we were inserted on to a beach. There we took charge of securing the beach and eventually traveled inland to secure a possible hostile safe house.

This was one of my most memorable moments and something I had never experienced before. Overall my time spent in Greece was one of the best experiences in my life. I was lucky enough to do so many different types of training with the Greek military and the Greek Cadets. For anyone thinking about participating in CULP, I would highly suggest it. It will change your entire view on how other countries work and operate.

If you would like to learn more about my trip, search “U.S. Army Cadets in Greece” on YouTube.com, or go to: http://www.Cadetcommand.army.mil/culp/
ON THE HOME FRONT

News from Home

BY ANTHONY DAVIS

THE ARMY’S NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

On January 30, 2015, the Army saw Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Daniel A. Dailey become the 15th sergeant major of the U.S. Army, the highest enlisted rank. Until now, he was the CSM for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) which ROTC falls under. Originally from Palmerton, Pennsylvania, CSM Dailey has had four deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom and one to Operation Desert Storm. His duties now will consist of serving the Army Chief of Staff as an advisor on enlisted affairs and making decisions that affect enlisted Soldiers and their families. Additionally, he will serve as the face of the NCO Corps to the American public. He is succeeding SMA Raymond F. Chandler, III. SMA Chandler has said: “I’m confident Command Sgt. Maj. Dailey will provide good counsel to the Secretary and Chief as he has a track record of being a steadfast advocate for Soldiers and families. Throughout my tenure, I have counted on his support and advice, especially in the areas of leader development and the Army profession (www.army.mil).”

THE INVESTIGATION OF BERGDAHL

In other news; Fox News has reported that a decision has been made regarding Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl and his alleged desertion in 2009. Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby has dispelled these rumors, saying, “No decision has been made with respect to the case of Sgt. Bergdahl... There is no timeline to make that decision, and Gen. [Mark] Milley is being put under no pressure to make a decision.” General Milley is the commanding general of Forces Command and is continuing to review the facts to determine the next steps in this difficult situation.

IRAQ AGAIN

The 82nd Airborne’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team will soon be mobilizing to deploy to Iraq. This is surprising after the recent full withdrawal of combat troops from Iraq in 2011. However, “[They] will not be conducting offensive ground combat operations,” Col. Curtis Buzzard has said, the commander of the BCT. “Anything we do will still be in an advise and assist role (with the Iraqi military). We’re helping them plan and execute these operations.” Their deployment is part of an offensive to regain territory in Northern Iraq, particularly the city of Mosul, after they were lost to Islamic State fighters last summer.

THE NEW ARMY LOOK

Starting this summer, new combat uniforms will be available for sale. The new camo is called the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP), and looks very similar to MultiCam, which has been often worn in Afghanistan. The current Universal Camouflage Pattern (UCP) will be gradually phased out in an effort to be fiscally responsible. Soldiers will eventually be expected to have new boots, belts, and T-shirts, in addition to the blouse and trousers. It is not clear, however, when the changes will be mandatory. OCP will not be universal like UCP, meaning there are plans to have jungle and desert variants. Other important changes to the uniform include the removal of the internal knee and elbow pads, the removal of the cargo pocket cord-and-barrel lock, and the replacement of several Velcro flaps with zippers and buttons.
The global reach and influence of the United States has greatly increased over the last few decades. This can be seen in the number of diplomatic stations we have worldwide, the popularity of American-made entertainment products and services, and the exportation and imitation of our traditions and style.

As our troops come home and combat operations slow down, our military is changing to be better equipped to provide peace and stability in many regions around the world. These assignments outside the continental United States (OCONUS) are quite common in today's military. Although there is no way to be fully prepared for such assignments; a few tips can make your transition into an OCONUS duty station less stressful.

Google your destination
This may seem trivial but you will be surprised by how much researching your destination can offer a smoother transition. Find out what the weather is like during different seasons, what kind of currency is used; is the U.S dollar accepted in country? What means of transportation are available? What are good eating spots? Are there dangerous parts of the area? This is just some of the information you can gain just by researching the destination.

Get in touch with your point of contact (POC)
It is quite common for the military to provide you with a point of contact when you are moving to a different country. POCs are crucial for your transition and will assist you with many things you may need at the start of your new assignment. If travelling with family, this is also a good source to ask about schools and other family related issues. They are knowledgeable about lodging or living areas if you choose to live off post and will direct you to the necessary offices and stations during your reception period. These tips and tricks they can offer are vital.

Find out what the basic allowance for housing (BAH) rate for that country is
Different duty stations have differing BAH rates. If possible, avoid living in areas where the rent is higher than the BAH. This will prevent you from adding extra money on to your rent to supplement the BAH.

Have your affairs in order before you leave
With OCONUS assignments being outside the U.S., there are financial and logistical issues to worry about before you leave. Having your affairs in order prior to departure will help you to avoid impractical unnecessary trips back state side and give you better peace of mind. These tips alone will not guarantee you a smooth transition, hiccups are bound to happen. In any case, pack up, say your good byes, embrace the suck and look forward to your new assignment.
What’s Coming Up

BY JOHN GEANEY

In the Battalion

1. An Ohio State Army ROTC Alumni Tailgate will be held on 2 February before the Ohio State Women’s Basketball game. Cadets and guests are encouraged to attend.
2. On 6 February, MSIVs from all units in the 7th “Bold Warrior” Brigade will travel to Fort Knox, Kentucky for a leadership conference.
3. On 20 February 2015, the Buckeye Battalion will hold its annual Military Ball, a ceremony in which Cadets, cadre, and their guests participate in some of the U.S. Army’s time-honored traditions during a formal dining-in. The admittance fee is $20 per person.
4. During the week of 23 February, the Buckeye Battalion will participate in the annual Tri-Services Olympics, in which Cadets and midshipmen of all three Ohio State ROTC detachments will compete in a series of athletic challenges.
5. On 27 February the Buckeye Battalion will conduct a Battalion Run.
6. The Buckeye Battalion is in the process of establishing the Cadets Against Sexual Harassment/Assault organization, an organization modeled on the West Point Cadet organization of the same name. Selection of applicants for staff positions is currently underway.
7. Select Cadets have had the opportunity to train for a competition that will be held at both Indiana University and Ohio University in order to earn the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP). Cadets must pass all components of the test which includes pistol marksmanship, ruck-marching, swimming, sprinting, and more.

In the Army ROTC Organizations

Scabbard and Blade
Scabbard and Blade will be receiving instruction in close quarters combat from F.B.I. agents. Cadets will also enjoy a lecture on Army leadership given by Master Sergeant Clifton.

Pershing Rifles
During the Arnold Classic, Pershing Rifles members will host a table. The organization is also training for the National Rifle Drill Convention in Richmond, Virginia.

Ranger Force
Ranger Force Cadets will be conducting Squad Training Exercises on the weekends, honing critical tactical and navigational skills.

Officers’ Christian Fellowship (OCF)
On 20 February, the Cadets and midshipmen of OCF will go to White Sulfur Springs, Pennsylvania on an outdoors retreat with active and retired military officers.

Converse Guard
Converse Guard will be conducting color guard ceremonies at Ohio State Women’s Basketball games and will be forming a Saber Arch and a Color Guard at the Buckeye Battalion Military Ball on 20 February.
The Ohio State Army ROTC is one of the largest ROTCs in the nation and requires a dedicated staff to ensure the production of quality officers. The Commander’s Corner was created in order to give an inside look on who the cadre are. The Battalion is broken into Military Science classes ranging from the MSI (Freshmen) to the MSIV (Senior). At each level there is a head military instructor who is an officer and an assistant military instructor who is a noncommissioned officer. The Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Bunyak and the Senior Military Instructor Master Sergeant Petty teach the MSIV class as well as run the Battalion. Today Commander’s Corner gives an interview with MSG Petty.

Why did you want to join the military?
I joined because I needed stability for my family. I was 19 years old, married, with a two-year old son. I remember the Army Recruiter was always trying to get me to join when I was in high school, but at the time, I was not interested. Once my wife and I were living on our own and seeing how hard it was to get by, I decided that it was the right thing to do for my family.

Why did you join the Army in particular?
Because the Army Recruiter reached me first.

How long have you been in?
15 years as of 1 Oct 2014

What is your MOS and why did you choose it?
I joined the Army as a 19K, Armor Crewman (Tanker). I originally wanted to be an MP (Military Police) because my plan was to do 3 years in the Army and then transition back to San Antonio to be a police officer. The only problem was that I would have to wait almost 6 months before I could leave for Military Police OSUT (Basic Training). The Army Career Counselor asked me if I would like to be a Tanker, showed me a video, and that was that. At the time, I really didn’t care what the job was. I was more concerned with getting the ball rolling.

What is one of your most memorable moments in your career?
I would say two moments: 1) Deploying to Iraq in 03-04. That was during the initial invasion and that was difficult to leave the family and not know when we were coming home. 2) Graduating from Ranger School as an enlisted 19K, which is rare.

How did you end up here?
Armor Branch sent me here. It is the way the Army works. Once I had completed my 2 years as a 1SG, branch told me it was time to move onto something else. It is the way the Army gets you more experience. This assignment would be called a broadening assignment.

Why should a prospective Cadet or college student join ROTC?
For leadership! ROTC will benefit any college student by instilling in them a set of values and skills that can transition in both their Army careers and civilian careers.

What tips could you give current Cadets to help them decide what they want to do?
Do some research on each branch and ask the Cadre about their experiences in their branches. The great thing about the Army, is that we all work to accomplish the same goal and that is successful accomplishment of any mission that is thrown at us. Every branch has their part, so you can’t really make a wrong decision if you look at it like that.

What tips could you give Cadets to get the most of their training during ROTC?
Listen to the advice of your Cadre. We are a little bit older, wiser, probably have more responsibilities, and most importantly have made mistakes. We don’t want to see our Cadets make the same mistakes, so we try and set you up for success. I feel a Cadet has to grow up a little faster than the average college student because you are going to be a role model for America.

What tips could you give for 2Lts getting to their first platoons?
Be a sponge! Listen to your Platoon Sergeant. Overall, you are responsible, but always consult your enlisted counterpart before making a decision. Also, keep your Platoon ethically and morally sound. They don’t have to like you, but they will respect you.

Any other advice for future officers?
If I had to sum it up in one word: care. As long as you truly care about your Soldiers, they will bend over backwards for you. Train them hard in everything, not just PT. Help them get an education. Listen to their problems and give them good advice or get them help. Lastly, get to know who they really are and who their family is.
MSG Waylon Petty