



THE WILDCAT POST

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 2016



Battalion Commander Letter

By: William Small MSIV

Wildcats,

First off I would like to welcome you call back from summer vacation! I hope you all had the chance to relax a bit, enjoy some family and friends, and hopefully were able to go on a vacation or two. As summer winds down to an end it is important to start refocusing on school and the exciting yet challenging year that lies ahead of you. For those of you that were able to complete some summer training this year I encourage you to share your experiences and stories with your fellow cadets in the program. Take the lessons and ideas you learned out there and bring them back to our program to help make it better. And for those that are just joining us welcome! The Wildcat family is pleased to welcome you and we are excited to help you along the path to achieving your goals whatever they be!

While the year is just getting started that doesn't mean there isn't a shortage of events we are participating in, the big two being Freshmen Orientation and Movers & Shakers. These events are excellent opportunities to get our name out there and help out around the CWU Campus. This will be many peoples first experience with ROTC Cadets so make sure you are out there actively participating and representing the program to the best of your ability!

I can't wait for this year to kick into full gear and I am looking forward to working with all of you. It is going to be a challenging year though, we are going to expect a lot out of you both physically and mentally. But with the Cadre and MSIV class teaching you along the way there will be no obstacle faced you won't be able to overcome. Prepare to hit the ground running but most of all prepare to have fun!

“Wildcats Lead the Way!”

-William S. Small
C/LTC BN CMDR
CWU Army ROTC

<u>Content</u>	<u>Pg.</u>
BC Letter	1
Progress on Lind Hall CTLT Advanced Camp	2
Basic Camp Air Assault Airborne	3
Mountain Warfare	4
CULP Slovakia Guyana	5
Commissioning Class of 2016	6



ARMY ROTC



Lind Hall

Progress on Lind Hall

By: Tagan Rapp-Stieler MSIV

Central Washington University ROTC program will be changing location from Peterson Hall to Lind Hall. The new time frame for Lind Hall to be occupied will now be spring quarter of this year. Lind Hall is located on the corner of Chestnut Street and University Way on the front side of campus. “Out in front we come across to students and visitors as presentable. That we are involved with Central and that we represent the Army and ourselves,” quote from Cadet Aiyana Homer about changing locations. The reason for the move is in part due to Peterson Hall is becoming old and outdated, as well as new classrooms for the cadets and cadre members. There has been recent discussions of making structural changes to accommodate the ROTC program and communications department while still keeping security and utilizing shared classroom space. The movement of the programs to Lind Hall was to be in the winter but was pushed back due to the new renovations to the structure. This is in part from a state legislation approval of a \$4.5 million renovation of the building to house the ROTC program and the communications department.

The ROTC program will occupy the second floor of Lind hall while the communications department will occupy the first floor. In Lind the ROTC department will have a miniature museum. If there are any pieces of a uniform, patches, or something you would wish to donate: contact CWU ROTC at armyrotc@cwu.edu. Provide a photo and description of what it went through with you!

Advanced Camp

By Joshua Goodsell MSIV

Advanced Camp was a great comprehensive test of my mental and physical endurance, and especially my leadership skills. In the span of four weeks, we endured several physical challenges including a rappelling tower, obstacle course, and a 6-mile ruck march. It was really rewarding to conquer these challenges. Likewise, my mental determination was put to the test during the CBRN training. It was surprisingly motivating to endure the CS chamber. Once I was out of there and watching my friends go through after me, I realized that it was actually a lot of fun!

Two of the four weeks of training were spent in the field. During this time, we conducted missions in the woods on Fort Knox. This was an opportunity to sharpen our leadership skills by planning and executing these missions. I learned a lot about my own abilities and was able to improve my personal leadership skills. It was exciting to be able to lead a platoon of soldiers through the challenges we faced.



CTLT

By: Joey Knight MSIV

This past summer from July 21st until August 10th, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at Fort Stewart, home of the 3rd Infantry Division. During my stay at Fort Stewart I was provided a room at the on-base hotel and worked typical working hours with PT being conducted from 0630 until 0800, and the work day usually lasting from 0930 until 1700.

A highlight of CTLT was my time spent with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield. Since Aviation is my first branch choice it was awesome to have the opportunity to interact with Aviators, sit in on mission briefs, and even have the chance to fly along with the Company Commander! During the flight I spent time observing the aviators from the jump seat of the CH-47 chinook while they performed flight maneuvers and practiced limited visibility “dust landings”, then for the second half of the flight we toured the scenic Tybee Island while I flew seated on the back of the ramp with my feet dangling off the edge, all while appreciating the incredible beauty of the Georgia coastline. The Aviators offered a great learning environment, and were more than willing to help answer all of my questions and provide insider tips concerning the aviation branch.

I was truly blessed to be afforded the opportunity to spend part of my summer at Fort Stewart with the 3rd infantry Division. I would not trade this experience for anything, as the valuable lessons and insights I’ve learned will help me at all levels of my professional career. I highly recommend CTLT to any other interested cadets, the lessons learned, valuable training experience, and the opportunity to become familiar with an active unit are just several of the many benefits that my time at CTLT has provided.



Basic Camp

By: Rachel Ford MSIII

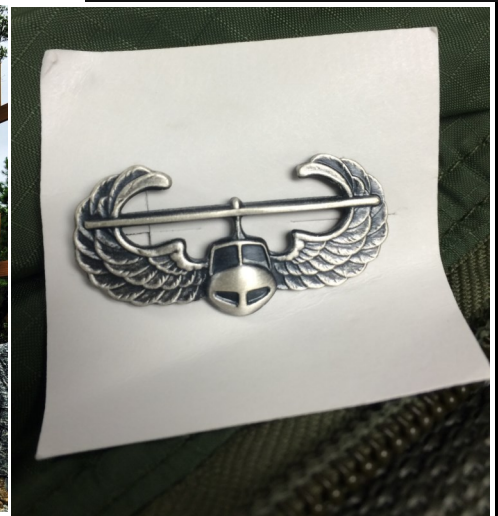
Basic Camp, formally known as CIET, was a great experience for those of us who attended. For me, it was a great opportunity to practice the things I have learned over my years in ROTC, in addition, to gaining new knowledge and experience that will help me in years to come. Cadets from all over the country, and in some cases the world, attended the camp with varying backgrounds of experience. Our training included obstacle courses, the gas chamber, medical and first aid, weapons safety and maintenance, and field tactics and much more. During our time there, my drill sergeant and lieutenant focused heavily on the leader traits and developing our character as Army leaders throughout our exercises. The comradery and confidence we developed was one of my biggest take-aways; I guess enduring tornados and lightning storms, lost bags, tick bites and CIF confusion really brings people together. Overall, my time in Fort Knox was really fun and I'm glad I got the chance to go.



ARMY ROTC



CDT Wilkinson with CWU Alumni 2LT Charest



Air Assault

By: Andrew Wilkinson MSIII



I received an incredible opportunity this summer to attend Air Assault School at the Warrior Training Center in Ft. Benning, Georgia. It was my first "real Army" experience, therefore very chaotic and challenging for the most part but not without its share of fun. From 0300 on day zero, to rappelling out of a Black Hawk, to the 12 mile ruck it was an amazing experience.

The hardest part for me was the hands on testing at the end of phase two. You are tested on your capability to inspect four different sling loads, and successfully find 4 out of 5 deficiencies in two minutes. The M1025 Humvee threw me for a loop, on the first test I was only able to find three deficiencies and flew through the other tests in under a minute. When I was re-tested on the Humvee I was approaching the end of my sequence and the SGT yelled "30 seconds" which meant I was 30 seconds away from being sent home. I stuck to my sequence and found the last deficiency and was lucky enough to graduate with my wings. One of the proudest days of my life.



CDT Peerson with CWU Alumni 2LT Harfst



Airborne

By: Jadin Peerson MSIII



Airborne school was a unique and challenging experience. The school took place at Fort Benning, Georgia in the middle of July. I went through two weeks of vigorous training and instruction to be allowed to jump out of a C-130 by the third week of Airborne school. Learning how to exit an aircraft and land properly was a tedious, but well needed process. When the third week finally came around I knew everything I needed to know, to be able to properly exit the aircraft and land without any problems. Overall jumping out of a perfectly good aircraft five times at 1250ft was one of the most fun and enjoyable experiences I have ever had.



Trainees navigating a rock climb

Mountain Warfare

By: Jens Clarke MSIII

The Army Mountain Warfare School, Basic Military Mountaineer Course is a course designed to train students to be able to navigate small units through difficult terrain. It also encourages the students to pass on their knowledge to soldiers in their units. The class begins by teaching the basics of movement in mountainous terrain. Soldier load management is always a vital aspect of any march, weight must be properly dispersed to avoid injury and improve endurance. There are certain ways to walk that keep weight on the skeletal frame instead of the muscular system, which will invariably tire first. Route planning is also extremely important, as there are very few roads available and have canalizing effects as well as a high risk of falls and few medevac locations. These concepts were driven home through classes, daily use and practical exercises.

Students, who were a mix of ROTC cadets, National Guardsmen and SOF personnel, were led on daily marches to a training area where we would practice different skills. The knots test was the most difficult test that sent home the most people. There are 15 knots that must be tied in a certain amount of time while explaining the purpose of each. We also learned different rope systems: a CASEVAC lowering system, a 3:1 hauling system, a high line system, and a fixed rope system. These combined the different knots we learned to create ways of safely moving in mountainous terrain. We also learned techniques for rappelling, climbing and ascending. All of these skills were tested formally, and in practical exercises, including a night climb, and rappel without night vision or any light sources.

The mountains are an exceptionally dangerous area for anyone in them. At this school, soldiers are taught how to predict weather patterns, find safe passage through difficult routes, and plan accordingly to be successful in mounted and dismounted operations in steep terrain. All of the instructors at the school had real world experience to pass on to us with extensive combat experience in eastern Afghanistan, where the majority of the mountains are that US military personnel have encountered. The class is made to increase our mobility in the mountains and in the mountains, mobility equals lethality.



The Army Mountain Warfare Badge, It is only wearable by the Vermont National Guard.

CULP



CDT Meyers with friends (Top)
Cadets at a pistol range



CDT Manning with fellow cadets and Guyanese

Slovakia

By: Lacey Meyers MSIII

My experiences from this CULP mission have been very enriching and will benefit my career in the military as well as my life afterwards. In looking at the Slovak Army as a whole, it can be somewhat difficult to compare to the United States Army simply because of size and age. Our military organization is much more involved with NATO and large scale operations because we have the structure, money and capabilities to do so. We have more cadets than they have soldiers; they have roughly 55 commissionees per year compared to our thousands. The promotion process also differs widely. In America, soldiers traditionally move up the ranks according to their time in service. In contrast, the Slovaks can only be promoted if a spot opens up, which may take years to occur.

One area where remnants of communism can be found is in the customer service of Slovakia. It wasn't very prevalent in Bratislava due to the mass appeal to tourism but as we traveled East, the idea of "the customer is always right" became less prevalent. I had to keep reminding myself that this is a young government in an old country. When communism was in full swing, the government had extreme control over the people so shop and restaurant workers got paid the same wages regardless of the amount of business they received. In turn, workers didn't have an incentive to be helpful to their customers or to go out of their way for a sale, because it wouldn't benefit them directly. Even after the change of government, these ideas haven't changed all that much. I saw this play out on our fourth day in country while having lunch. At a restaurant where we had been waiting for multiple hours, the waiter barely acknowledged us and then somewhat argued with a cadet when he didn't receive what he ordered. The cadet let the disagreement go, as it didn't look like they would come to a resolution.

About halfway through our trip, we had what would be considered a more humanitarian style of day; which I believe should be a part of every CULP mission. We went to the Sisters of St. Mary's Monastery with some of the CBRN Battalion soldiers to help stack wood and clear brush. The sisters were very welcoming and grateful for our assistance. For many of us, this was the most rewarding experience of the trip; for we were able to show service to people and build relationships with some of the local populous.

Guyana

By: Joely Manning MSIII

I was lucky enough to partake in CULP, meaning Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency a program offered through Army ROTC. The country I was assigned to was Guyana, located in the north east corner of South America. Through this program I was able to train with the Guyanese Defense Force (GDF), we specifically trained with their version of OCS cadets. We learned all about their SOPs for their military and we were able to share ours and teach their cadets about the importance of leadership in our military. As well as working with their military we were able to get out into the local community and work with a local school called Lusignan Good Hope Learning Center. This schools main goal is to fight poverty through education, so we had the awesome opportunity to spend a week teaching, playing, and learning with the kids, and most importantly encouraging the poverty stricken children to focus on their education in hopes for a brighter future. CULP Guyana was an opportunity of a lifetime and I would do it again and again if I had the chance to! Strongly recommend CULP to any cadet who has the interest in bettering themselves as a leader, and emerging themselves completely into a different culture!

Wildcats Lead The Way!



ARMY ROTC

Address: Peterson Hall 400 E. University Way Ellensburg, WA, 98926

Phone: (509) 963 – 3518

Email: armyrotc@cwu.edu **Website:** <http://www.cwu.edu/army>

Like us on Facebook for more!



www.facebook.com/cwu.w.bn
(or search "CWU Wildcat BN")

Wildcat Alumni are encouraged to join the Central Washington University Alumni Association. To join go to

www.cwu.edu/alumni/membership

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016 AND THEIR FAMILIES.



Commissioning Class of 2016

- 2LT Nolin Bare
- 2LT Joseph Bauer
- 2LT Kenner Eliason
- 2LT Cristine Fetzer
- 2LT Olivia Halsne
- 2LT Hauke Harfst
- 2LT Danielle Johntston
- 2LT Tyler Jutte
- 2LT Kyung Kim
- 2LT Christopher Meyers
- 2LT Jared Paddock
- 2LT Christopher Scott
- 2LT Gabriel Vallderes

We know here at CWU ROTC that these young men and women will do great things in the future and make great impacts on the lives of the people around them.

Wildcats Lead the Way!