



Fall 2017 Wildcat Post

CWU Army ROTC

11/28/2017

Fall 2017



ARMY ROTC

Ranger Challenge



Over the weekend of November 2nd through 5th, a team of 10 CWU Army ROTC cadets traveled to Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon to compete in the annual Ranger Challenge competition. Schools from Washington State, Oregon State, Hawaii, and Guam were put to the test both order to be selected to represent Task Force West within 8th Brigade. The events included a 5.5 mile ruck march, rope bridge over a body of water, grandees, AT4 preparation, 9-line medevac, range card, knot tying, a commander's physical challenge, and a

Army Physical Fitness Test. The Army ROTC team showed tremendous resilience through the day's events as well a high morale, allowing them to place 2nd out of 9 other ROTC programs. Their hard work and dedication to be the best team paid off this weekend and we are excited to see them take home the win next year, great work Wildcats! Special shout out to CWU Air Force ROTC who had the opportunity to compete this year for the first time ever, and they perform very well!

-Cadet Homer

RECONDO



RECONDO is an event based on physical and mental challenges, condensing similar conditions as Advanced Camp. It gives cadets the opportunity to test themselves in physical events like the APFT, CWST, 5 mile ACU run, a timed local hike, and finishing with a 12 mile ruck in under 3 hours. In addition to testing skills such as base army knowledge, land nav, and accumulative college GPA. This year 31 cadets attempted to get their Wildcat Battalion Recondo Badge. Of those 31 only 7 cadets remain in the running after phase 1 and 2.

-Cadet Manning



Veterans Day

"Most students see this time of year as a free three-day weekend with time to relax and party,



as a break from their normative schedule. However, this three-day weekend is a time to honor just how free we truly are, attributing to the reason of why. We owe this ideology of freedom to the brave

men and women who have shown distinct gumption to withstand true sacrifice so that we (The American People) retain the ability to remain truly free. Each year we have the pleasure of celebrating Veterans in our community through many different events and honorary functions that show our love and appreciation for those men and women who take up the mantle of defending this great nation. The Wildcat Battalion had the privilege to participate in placing American flags throughout the Central Washington Campus in coordination with the Veterans Center and the Air force ROTC

program as well. This event was a very critical and genuine notion to show our thanks to all the men and women in each service, and to initiate the start of events to follow for the week commemorating Veterans. As students and faculty make their way to classes, meetings, and day-to-day activities, the hope and idea of setting up these flags along a main avenue of foot traffic on campus, is to reintroduce the severity and presence of why this weekend and beautiful nation is so very much free. As George Orwell so eloquently put,

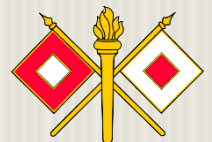
"People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."



-c/CPT Payne

Senior Branches:

- Myers – Education delay – Chaplain
- Wilkinson – Armor
- Ferris – Infantry
- Homer – Corps of Engineers
- Laszlo – Military Intelligence, with branch detail Infantry
- Jantaas – Transportation
- Peerson – Quartermaster
- McFarland – Aviation
- Manning – Quartermaster
- Clark- Signal Corps



Fall 2017 Field Training Exercise:

The MS1 Experience:

“This year’s Fall FTX was my first experience at the Yakama training center. As a first year MS1, it was the first time I applied the knowledge that I learned in the classroom, into a tactical environment. The MS1 class learned the importance of accountability of our people and weapons which we had a 24 hour fire watch throughout the weekend. I was scheduled on the first night from 4-5am where I walked up and down the barracks with a flashlight to make sure everything was accounted for. Throughout the first full day of FTX the battalion was split into groups where the MS1 class was able to meet and interact with a special unit at YTC, their job is to answer distress calls and rescue soldiers and civilians give them the proper first aid care. This unit took time to teach us more about their jobs and tasks while also giving us the opportunity to put what we learned to practice in a tactical situation. We were able to put a cadet on a stretcher and run them into a helicopter that was powered up and waiting to “take off”. Cadets received in-depth information about aviation and medical military careers, and personally this was extremely interesting and beneficial because I never really knew what went into the aviation part of the army. As the weekend went on it was challenging but I learned how to be comfortable with being uncomfortable and to always push myself to do better than I ever knew possible.”

- Cadet Parada



The MSII Experience:

"This year's Fall FTX consisted of classes, day and night land navigation, lanes, and the road march. The MSII's had more responsibility than last year, some were team leaders throughout the whole weekend and some got a turn during lanes. I was challenged with carrying the M249 SAW the whole weekend, it was a great experience and was fun during lanes. During day land navigation, the IIs were paired up and were sent out to get six points in a few hours. My group was able to find all six and head back a little early to eat our MREs. During the night land navigation part of the day, my group consisted of one III, one II, and two Is. We found four out of the five points we were given and tried to practice light discipline when going from point to point. After night land navigation, we started the road march and about three quarters of the way through, we were ambushed, which was a surprise that taught us to be ready for anything at any time. What I loved about this weekend was that we could put to test everything we have learned over this last quarter and also to get to know the new people in the battalion. Wildcats Lead The Way!"

- Cadet Vance



The MSIII Experience

"On Nov. 17th Wildcat Battalion left Ellensburg for YTC to conduct its Fall FTX. This was my first FTX with the Wildcat Battalion due to being a junior transfer cadet. I was impressed by the balance between difficulty and positive instruction that was achieved by the MSIV class and the instructors. I left YTC with more trust in my peers and a great amount of hope in the future abilities of the lower class men. "

- Cadet Martin



Combat Water Survival Training

Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) both trains and tests the cadets on their ability to function and survive in open water. Cadets train and are tested on a number of skills in the water. They include distance swimming, swimming with gear and while carrying a weapon, ditching gear while under water and a 3 meter confidence drop while blind folded.

“The CWST is a great way to challenge yourself physically and mentally, and it pushes comfort zones to the limit. Another benefit is that it allows cadets to have a realistic environment for training in survival situations that are all too common”

-Cadet Stryker

Cadets that struggle with these events are encouraged to take swimming lessons offered by CWU. All cadets must pass the CWST events at Advanced Camp the summer after their junior year.



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Contracting

At the beginning of October 15 cadets hiked to the top of Manashtash Ridge and took the oath to become contracted cadets. This officially puts them on the path to commissioning as Army Officers.

“The best part of the view was the flag up top because that’s how you know you finally made it. You accomplished a mountain of struggle to accomplish an awesome feat.”

-Cadet Cloud

As part of the contracting ceremony, the cadets nailed brass placards with their names engraved on them into a 4 in X 4 in wooden post that they took turns carrying up the hill.

“Contracting for me was the culmination of hours of blood, sweat, and tears. We climbed a mountain at sunrise to do so, marking the dawn of our commitment to our country, families and each other.” -Cadet Lester



Branching

One of the most anticipated days of the year for Wildcat Battalion Cadets is Branching Day. This is the day the cadets who have been selected for Active Duty find out about what branch (officer job) they will go into on Active Duty.

"Branching was nerve racking, but a very gratifying experience. We have all worked tremendously hard to get to this point!" –Cadet McFarland

It's important to note that there is no bad branch to go in to in the Army. That being said, some branches are more popular than others and to be selected for these is competitive.

"All my hard work has finally paid off! Bullets don't fly without supply" –Cadet Peerson

Christmas Gifts

"Every Holiday season, the Wildcat Battalion has the opportunity to help the Ellensburg community in a very special way. CWU holds a program where a single person, or an organization can adopt a child's Christmas list and be responsible for those gifts. I had the great pleasure to be responsible for this program and decided to adopt two kids, one for each platoon, a 4-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy. The Junior leaders in charge of the platoons did an awesome job of gathering gifts from members of their platoon and generous donations from the Cadre members. In all we managed to get to gather about 40 presents all together! It was a great experience and I hope the tradition continues!"

- Cadet Deen



Other events this Quarter ...

October 6th – Army victory at the annual Army VS. Air Force Volleyball game -

October 31st – Crossing guards at the Ellensburg downtown association business Trick or Treat event and tabled at Boo Central

November 6th – Placing flags around campus with the CWU Veterans Center

November 11th - Ellensburg Veterans day parade

November 14th – senior class received branches

November 17th – 19th - Fall FTX and YTC

