



THE WILDCAT POST

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Special appeal from LTC Jonathan Ackiss Professor of Military Science at CWU



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ARMY ROTC PROGRAM
400 UNIVERSITY WAY, ELLENSBURG WA 98926

ATCC-HHW

13 April 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CPT (KIA) Aaron Blanchard Memorial Room, Lind Hall CWU Campus

Dear Alumni and friends of the program, I'm excited to announce that the CWU Army ROTC Program will finally be relocating from Peterson Hall to Lind Hall in the summer of 2017. As part of that effort we plan on dedicating our "Honor Room" to Captain (KIA) Aaron Blanchard, Class of 2009, who was Killed in Action on April 23rd, 2013 in Afghanistan.

This space will be named in Aaron's honor and serve as a constant reminder of the great men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and its values. The Honor Room will additionally serve as the "Alumni Museum" and we hope to collect and display personal artifacts from your service to tell your story on campus.

We will be fundraising over the next six weeks, until May 31st 2017, to generate money to support the Aaron Blanchard Memorial Fund. This money will go directly to establish the CPT Blanchard Memorial at Lind Hall.

During this fundraising event the program will match funds up to \$2,500 with the goal of raising \$7,500 so help us meet our fundraising goal for this great cause.

We will be kicking off this fundraising effort on April 27th 2017 as part of CWU's "Day of Giving". This is CWU's main fundraising day and ask if you're able to support please go online at <https://www.mycentral.cwu.edu/give> and contribute (see enclosure). If you want to contribute to the Program but not the memorial please indicate in the submission remarks.

Thank you for your support to the CPT (KIA) Aaron Blanchard Memorial and your battalion, the CWU Army ROTC Wildcat Battalion.

Wildcats Lead the Way!

JONATHAN S. ACKISS
LTC, LG
Professor of Military Science

<u>Content</u>	<u>Pg.</u>
Message to the BN	1
Military Ball	2
Marshall Conference	3
Contracting	4
Fundraising	5
Contact Us	6
Upcoming Events	6



ARMY ROTC



Military Ball

By Taylor Payne, MSIII

It's that time of year again where we dress up in our Dress Blues and attend an event that capitalizes on our military history. Military Balls have always been a symbol of the subculture that exists among service members and are a time of reflection for all the events that have transpired in the year. It is such an amazing time and experience to have fun with all your classmates and pay respects to past and current service members. As an officer in training it is imperative to understand these events that take a pivotal role with military and specific unit history, because you might oversee the facilitation of one of these in your actual units.

Speaking on the dress code, military personnel are required to wear formal uniforms, while significant others are strongly encouraged to wear conservative formal dresses or tuxedos. If you have been to one of these events before, you know a little bit about what all goes into and a sense of what it means. However, for all of you cadets that this year is your first time, you should be excited and anxious to finally become a part of a sincerely important event, that is formal, but also a great time to network and connect with everyone in the program. This year we are continuing our partnership with the Air Force ROTC to create a wonderful experience for both programs. We have a wonderful order of events planned with a guest speaker that will provide a very colorful insight on his time in the service, so let's all come together to make this prolific time of year huge. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to gain some experience in military tradition!



Cadets take over McDonalds to raise money for the Cadet Fund which supports events like the Annual Military Ball

The George C. Marshall Conference

By Jessica Jantaas, MSIII

The George C. Marshall conference, located at Fort Leavenworth, Kentucky, brings together 275 of the top cadets in the nation for three days of seminars, round table discussions, and lectures by some of the most experienced high level Army leaders. This year, senior Cadet Jacob Ferris was selected to go to this prestigious event in mid-February.

Prior to the event, Cadet Ferris was excited to interact with other cadets from across the nation and discuss the similarities and differences between each program. Another aspect to look forward to was the opportunity to meet people who had knowledge and experience that many cadets didn't have yet, and to learn from their experiences. Cadet Ferris prepared for the event by planning to be extremely professional.

Despite the short duration of the conference, Cadet Ferris found several messages and learning points to take away from the event. His biggest take away was the realization that the speakers and presenters at the conference had developed their vast wealth of competencies over years of experience and exposure to new challenges. One important point he made was, "It is now my job to figure out what kind of leader I am going to be." This conclusion was a natural extension of the knowledge that anyone who has spent time in the military knows: You aren't always going to get along with the people you work with, but it is important to try to find common ground with people who have different ideas and perspectives, that is what is expected of a leader.

Of the leaders that Ferris meet with, one of the most impactful was General Hughes, Commanding General of Cadet Command. Many of the cadets that were present also had a big impact on Ferris including his roommate for the conference: Cadet Michael Ramos, of Cal State Fullerton. General Hughes had the ability to explain and simplify complex topics in a way that inexperienced cadets could understand. He also made excellent points about how thinking critically is an essential trait to an officer, all while setting a distinctive tone for all 275 future Army leaders. His words were direct, efficient and confident. As an attendee, Cadet Ferris looks to model his own officer personality off General Hughes. In addition to General Hughes, Cadet Ramos was incredibly influential on and his own community. Cadet Ferris was struck by Cadet Ramos' deviation from the natural stereotype that

accomplished cadets will all go Active Duty, and that one of the main motivations for this was staying in the area that he lived to positively effect his community. These are all powerful lessons that Cadet Ferris will carry with him throughout his career, as he remembers the experience at this conference.



Cadet Ferris with General Abrams, CG, FORSCOM

Cadet Ferris outside the conference



By William Stryker, MS I



Climbing Manashtash Ridge in snow was a different experience. Almost surreal, even. We departed Peterson at 1430 and drove to the base of the ridge. The going was slow at first. I was the pointman but didn't have an idea of which turns to take, what offshoot to follow, or which route was the best to trudge through. As I was carrying the pole with all the contracted cadets' names, it hit me that this was a hike deeply rooted in tradition and that the whole program was bigger than myself. The mentor I selected motivated me up the whole way and asked me questions that I hadn't asked myself prior to contracting.

Once at the top everyone was getting battered by the windchill and we were all sweaty from the ascent, but while we were raising our right hands there was an overwhelming sense of calm and familiarity, like I had done this before. I had enlisted the previous year and had completed the culminating training exercise at Ft. Benning, but something about this ceremony felt more organic and wholesome than my enlistment ceremony and final ruck march for BCT. On the way down I know that in each Cadet's head there was some prevailing thought about what duty means to them. We were quiet most of the way down, only speaking over the wind to call out dangerous spots on the trail. As we got back to our vehicles, I glanced up at the ridge again and saw nothing but the snow that was falling.

To be contracted is to be one step closer to your goals, and to promote your resolve to your fellow cadets, the program, and the country. It establishes a sense of confidence in one's abilities, but it also dangles the bait of "How can you be the best cadet you can be?" Being contracted allowed me to receive my scholarship after much frustrating and tiresome paperwork, so having that all behind me is a relief. Along with that relief is the more urgent sense of commitment, in my eyes, to self-betterment as well as to a development of my classmates.

The process of Getting a Minute Man Scholarship was certainly more easily said than done. After I enlisted, Mr. Van Den Hoek, the Wildcat Battalion Recruiting Operations Officer worked directly with my recruiter (SSG Wymer of Army National Guard Recruiting, Seattle). It took time to figure out the logistics and paperwork. Part of the process included an interview with Major General (Retired) James Collins who serves as a Civilian Assistant of the Secretary of the Army (CASA).

Now that I am contracted, my goals are to continue to grow in strength of mind and body which mean maintaining my Dean's List grade standing, and improving my APFT to a 300 by the end of Spring Quarter. I will continue to drill with my unit, closely working with Lieutenant I am attached to in order to promote readiness and higher caliber of training to accomplish our mission for this year's end state. Being contracted is just the starting rung on the ladder, and I am prepared to push my fellow Cadets and myself the top.



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Fundraising Efforts:

Hot Chocolate Sales

By Joely Manning, MSIII

In efforts to sustain the Wildcat Battalion's Cadet Fund the cadets have been hosting hot chocolate sales on campus at Central. With about five hot chocolate sales under our belt this year, we have continually seen progression and interest from students around campus. The fundraising committee has been continuously trying to improve the sales by reaching out to the student population what they would like to see done differently with the hot chocolate sales. In hopes for increasing sales, we recently added coffee to the items for sale in order to reach out to the caffeine addicted college students on campus. In the upcoming quarter the 'hot chocolate' sales are hoping to introduce baked goods, as well as muffins and potentially donuts to help increase the profit. The hot chocolate sales are hosted on the east and west patio of the SURC, so keep an eye out for our next sale and stop by!



Fire Team 5K

By Joshua Chingo, MSI

Coming up this spring will be an all new event directed at fundraising for the cadet fund, community engagement, as well as being a potential recruiting outlet. The event is called the "Fire-team 5k" where competitors sign up in one of three ways: solo, in a two man or a much encouraged 4 man fire team. The event will not be a traditional 5k but will include military themed obstacles along the way to showcase the competitive, challenging, and fun side of the military. Keep a lookout for this event coming in early May and help recruit competitors! It will be a laidback way for people to get to know the program as well as enjoy a fun yet competitive atmosphere!

Wildcat Battalion Sweatshirts

By Ryu Ybay, MSIII

Year after year, the Wildcat Battalion has always had difficulties setting up Battalion merchandise, whether that be items like a simple t-shirt or a sweatshirt. Cadets from past years have tried, with little success, to implement and create battalion specific apparel. This year, however, is different. MSIII cadets, Rachel Ford, Joely Manning, and Ryu Ybay have managed to overcome the challenges and difficulties associated with these types of projects. With the guidance and approval from cadre, these MSIII's have worked together with a select group of cadets from each class in order to design a Battalion Sweatshirt. These sweatshirts are a cotton based ¼ zip consisting of the American Flag flying on the right shoulder, and the Wildcat Battalion patch placed over the heart. This design was based highly off of the Ranger Challenge design as well as the long-sleeved battalion shirts every cadet is issued. It was created in order to build morale and camaraderie within the battalion. The battalion Sweatshirt has also been authorized by the PMS (LTC Ack-iss) to be a part of the uniform. Cadets may wear the sweatshirt not only for Friday PT sessions, but also with ACUs during the school day. The current long-term plan for these sweatshirts is to sell them online. With the target audience being Alumni from the Wildcat Battalion along with the family members who show support to their loved ones through the ROTC process.



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ARMY ROTC

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

Wildcat Alumni are encouraged to join the Central Washington University Alumni Association to be a part of the future.

Coming soon:

March 28th – Spring Quarter Begins

April 8th – Military Ball

April 22-23– German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

May 5th – Land Navigation at Lazy F Ranch

May 19-21-Spring LDX

June 9th – Commissioning

June 10th - Graduation

