



CWU ARMY ROTC

“Wildcats Lead the Way!”

-CDT Deen-Conteh, Yusufu

The Wildcat Battalion Cadets have the opportunity to venture out during the long Summer and endure in numerous types of training camps and Badge schools such as Basic Camp, Advanced Camp, CTLT, CU&LP, Airborne, Air Assault, SERE, and Project Go. The opportunities are boundless for Cadets who want to earn some experience in tactical situations and foreign Countries!

This Summer Newsletter will dive into the experiences of some of the cadets that went through training this summer, and will help future cadets prepare for the tough summers that await them.

Advance Camp – CDT Childs



Advance Camp is the culminating test for Junior Cadets going into their Senior. It puts everything you have learned from your years in ROTC to fruition. A 29-day course that can be very difficult, but also rewarding when seeing all your skills and knowledge being showed off.

” At camp I learned a lot about how to be a better leader and to be more confident when I become a 2nd LT. Some of the greatest parts of camp that I enjoyed the most was the

rappel tower and the leadership confidence course. The rappel tower was fun because it was the first time I had ever rappelled and possibly one of the only times I will get to do something like that. It also helped me become less afraid of falling from heights. I liked the leadership confidence course because it was one of the first times that my squad was able to work together and conquer some fun obstacles. We were able to bond which helped us when we got out to the field later at camp.

The more challenging parts of camp was figuring out how to work together with my peers in my platoon. The field was also challenging mentally more than physically because of the people, weather and terrain. Sometimes you would have to realize that you must step back and let other people figure out the problems even if you know it’s going to go wrong. And other times you would just have to mentally overcome the less appealing parts of camp like the terrain your walking through and just think about that it might not be fun right now but in the end, it will help you and it will be over soon.”

CU&LP – CDT Williams



CULP, Cultural and Leadership Program is a 3 week long experience where the world is the Cadets classroom.

They are immersed in foreign culture unknown to them and learn how other countries military forces view the U.S. and compare to their military training. In the process of it all, it also gives the Cadets a chance to learn more about themselves.

“When I first heard of CU&LP I was intrigued because I was looking for another military overseas experience since it had been about six years that I deployed to Afghanistan. Africa was never on my radar but when I got selected for the Senegal mission I made sure I researched as much information as possible in order to better understand the culture and to relate with the locals. I was very pleased to see how the Senegalese people are genuinely warmhearted, caring and extremely hospitable. It doesn't matter in what conditions they may live or the social status they hold, they always go out of their way to make you feel welcomed, cared for and comfortable.



Before going into country, I did not know what type of activities we were going to be conducting. I was under the impression that it would be mostly with their military doing some kind of training exercise. Instead, we had the honor to travel to different parts of the country and interacted with people from all over. The community outreach and humanitarian work was by far one of the most rewarding thing I have ever done in my life. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces, how grateful and happy the locals were whenever we went into a village, made me realize how content they are with the little they have. In contrast with the United States where people who have everything aren't satisfied with what they have and how they live.”

Many cadets come into the program not knowing that while in ROTC, you have the opportunity to earn real school badges that carry with you once you commission as a 2LT! It's a great experience that every cadet is recommended to work towards.

Airborne - CDT- Barreto



”This summer I had the chance to travel to Fort Benning Georgia for Airborne School. I went from June 20th through July 13th. It was an experience I will never forget. Airborne school was three weeks long and consisted of 3 phases. The three phases were ground phase, tower phase and jump week.

Week one was ground week. It consisted of the PT test the first day to make sure we were all physically prepared for the rigors of Airborne school. After the test we spent the rest of the week learning how to properly wear equipment and how to enter and exit the plane from mock doors. We also practiced what to do if our parachutes malfunctioned. The second week was tower week. This week consisted of practicing our exits from sixty feet high. This height can actually be more challenging for more people in terms of conquering fears. This helped us gain confidence in our abilities to properly exit an aircraft at about 1300 feet.

The last week was jump week. Jump week was the most exiting week by far. The days were long as we spent hours in the harness shed making sure our equipment was inspected so we perform our jumps. My first jumps were one of the greatest experiences of my life. I gained a new level of confidence after facing my fears. I will never forget getting my wings pinned on my chest. “

Air Assault – CDT Chinco



When I arrived at Benning for Air Assault School, the first thing I did was toss all the nervousness out the window and decided that I *was not* going to let myself fail, and the only way I would go home was with my wings. This was by far the best thing I could have

done.

In order to enter the Air Assault School you must pass 0 Day (the first of 11 days) which consists of exhausting PT sessions, and the Obstacle Course. After 0 day, is Combat Assault Phase where you learn about helicopter platforms and operations. At the end of this phase is a 6-mile ruck march and a written test. After Phase 1 I entered Phase 2, the hardest phase. In this phase I learned about sling loads of hooking up equipment (trailers, Humvees, etc.) to hang from a helicopter to be transported. This phase is the most important, as we could most benefit our units by bringing this skill back. At the end of this phase is a practical/written test and a 4-mile run. The final phase is rappel phase, the most fun phase. In this phase we learned how to rappel down an open (no wall) repel tower and properly exit and rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk from 90 feet! This phase was capped off by a 12-mile ruck march in under 3 hours!

What I learned going and passing Air Assault was that CWU really prepares us very well for Army schools and beyond. The biggest things with Air Assault are to get in shape physically and go in with the mindset that you will not let yourself fail. Those that fail usually do not stay calm and mind blank, so, just focus and stay calm! Lastly, I would like to thank

the Cadre of CWU AROTC and now 2LT Jacob Ferris, 2LT Andrew Wilkinson, and CDTs Austin McKenzie and Brandon Barrett for taking the time to help me train and ensure I was prepared. Wildcats truly do, Lead The Way!"

Project GO – CDT Covey



This summer I had the opportunity to receive a Project GO scholarship and partake in an abroad language study program. Project GO, standing for Project Global Officer, is a collection of "DoD funded language scholarships aimed at improving the language skills, regional expertise and intercultural communication skills of future military officers".

"ROTC students, participating and contracted, are eligible for critical language study during the summer months for domestic or overseas language study. This particular program gave me the opportunity to travel to New Delhi, India where I lived for two months while intensively studying Urdu.

While I can not speak for all programs I can give a brief overview of how the program I participated in was run. There were about ten of us total, we all had the opportunity to live with a host family during our stay in Delhi. Every day we would take the metro downtown where a shuttle would then pick us up and take us to the Institute of American Indian Studies, where we had class every weekday. Classes would go



from 1030 to 330 with a few breaks including lunch. After class we were free to roam and explore New Delhi which we often did. On the weekends we were able to do anything and go anywhere, we even had 3 extended weekends built in specifically, so we could travel within India or to surrounding countries. The program itself also set up a few excursions during our stay to meet with Indian military officials, United States Army Officers stationed at the U.S embassy, and to significant cultural locations.

The time I spent in India is something I wouldn't trade for the world. The memories I have and relationships I built will stay with me for the rest of my life. I learned so much more than a language, I learned about the world, about myself, and about life. If anyone is interested in applying for a Project GO scholarship I would absolutely recommend going for it, you will not regret it. The new perspectives you will gain are invaluable and it's honestly just a lot of fun. If I could offer just one piece of advice to anyone who may wind up traveling abroad for their program it would simply be to go into the experience with an open mind. If anyone is interested in Project GO feel free to ask me any questions you may have, and I will try to help, you can also visit the Project GO website for more information.

Summer Internship -CDT Ybay



“This summer a cadet from the Wildcat BN along with 21 other students and faculty in the Information Technology Administrative Management (ITAM) department, traveled to Peru for a study abroad internship. Their three-week stay in country was a once in a life time opportunity in which they

experienced the different cultural and spiritual aspects of Peru.

The study abroad consisted of tours of the local areas and Inca ruins, a four-day trek through the Andes, and a service project for the school in the rural village of Marconi. The students not only donated six laptops and a magnitude of dental and school supplies, but they also installed solar panels, hardwood flooring, planted over 300 tree, and more. A commonly used phrase to summarize their journey is, “We saw Peru, we experienced Peru, we served Peru.” ITAM Peru 2018



Future study abroad programs with the ITAM department consist of programs in Spain and Peru. You can find more information on the ITAM home page as well as contacting the ITAM department.”

The CWU Army ROTC staff want cadets to venture out during the Summer and dive into experiences they may never of thought they had the opportunity to have. All that is required is good grades, good PT and above and beyond motivation to want more. Ask your APMS that teaches your class about these opportunities or schedule an appointment with Mr. Van Den Hoek about it. Do not miss out on a chance to experience something most of your friends and family outside the program may never experience before! This concludes the Summer edition of the Wildcat Newsletter.

-Wildcats Lead the Way