

The Wildcat Post

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Central Washington University Army ROTC

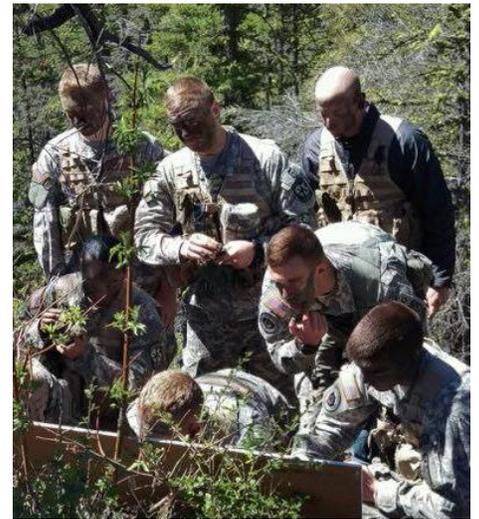
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Reecer Creek

By: Eric Roberts, MSI

Reecer Creek is an enjoyable location for any kind of outdoor activity, including learning some basic soldiering skills. While we were up there, it gave us ROTC recruits the chance to actually practice some basic skills, field craft, and hygiene while in the field. The whole experience was very memorable and it was good in teaching us how to prepare for the LDX that was upcoming and if we ever find ourselves in the field. While there, I never expected to learn how to apply face paint or that there was almost a science to where you want to apply different shades to your face. Overall, it was an educational experience and an excellent opportunity to learn and to become closer with the other members of the ROTC program here at Central Washington University.



Cadets apply tactical face paint



Camouflaged Cadets



President's Day Retreat

By: Joey Knight, MSIII



The Joint Army/Air Force Color Guard

On May 20th, cadets from both Central Washington University's Army and Air Force ROTC programs participated in the annual President's Day Retreat and awards ceremony. Every year, the Air Force and Army programs collaborate to plan and execute this very special event which features a pass and review ceremony and awards for distinguished performances presented by special guests. This year, the President's Day Retreat event was led and conducted by the Air Force cadet leadership who did a commendable job at organizing the ceremony. Formalities aside, this unique event gave the Army ROTC cadets a chance to reflect and appreciate their peers' outstanding performances during the 2015-2016 school year. Reflecting upon the accomplishments achieved throughout the past year, for many cadets, proved to be a motivating factor to maintain and improve upon exemplary athletic, scholastic, and leadership performances.



Cadet Harfst receives an award

Cadet Profile: JAMES MCFARLAND, MSII

As the 2015-16 school year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting upon how tremendously grateful I am to know and work with everyone in the Army ROTC program at CWU. It was not too long ago when I did not truly know what camaraderie meant,



but after exposure to the program and with all the interactions and experiences I have had with my fellow Cadets, as well as the Cadre, I can now say that I *do* know what it means. Learning what it takes to be a leader in the Army is a fun, challenging, and rewarding

experience, but I have come to learn that this permeates into everyday life. I can say without any reservation that I have been pushed to what I thought were my limits, and broke them. I have been both physically, and mentally strained, but have always retained the end goal in my mind so that I do not falter. Now, at the end of my MSII year, I have become a much stronger self, and I look forward to the coming years of CWU Army ROTC (Kentucky, here I come)!

Spring Leadership Development Exercise

By: Shane Small, MSIII

You wake up, nothing but sand and shrubs as far as the eye can see. You are unsure if you are going to get attacked today, you've been walking through hostile territory for several days now talking to the local population and you know the enemy is out there. But you stay focused, you have a mission to complete and you will not be deterred come hell or high water. This is no movie, this is



Cadets learn about EOD

Spring LDX. Spring LDX this year for the first time took place at the Yakima

Training Center, or YTC. The cadets loaded up vans here in Ellensburg and hit the road for this 4 day training event. But instead of being dropped off at the main gate the cadets were dropped off about 20 miles away. Over the next couple days, cadets in the Wildcat BN found out a lot about themselves, most pushing themselves to new limits. Cadets got a training experience like no other: from spending the night in the friendly nation stronghold, taking sniper fire and having to react, getting hit by an IED, and everyone's favorite part: rucking 20 miles. This experience was challenging but fun and really brought a lot of cadets closer together. By the end of the ordeal everyone was ready to go home but many had learned something new about themselves and all had pushed themselves to new limits.



Cadets receive instruction while recovering from road march

By: Victor McIntosh, MSII

Spring LDX was a great experience for me. It was an extremely rewarding time and the highlight of my sophomore year at ROTC. LDX was a four day training camp at the Yakima Training Center. It gave me an opportunity to have some field experience. The Cadets were given M16s and M249s loaded with blanks. I carried the M249 for most of my time at LDX. I had the chance to fire the weapon on several occasions including on a raid mission we conducted. LDX also pushed me physically and mentally. Over the four days we walked just over 20 miles. I would say the first and second days challenged me the most. Not being used to walking in the heat over hills and ravines, the trek challenged me. However I knew this was a great learning experience and couldn't let it pass me by, by letting the tough environment drag me down. I saw a lot of good leadership skill from the MSIIIs that I hope to emulate going into my MSIII year.



Cadets camouflage for a mission



By: Garrett Jones, MSI

Leading up to Spring LDX I was extremely excited to practice all the things I learned over the year in ROTC. The first day wasn't bad at all, it was the second day when we walked, and walked, and walked up hills and down hills that was really tough, and not to mention the total of 8 hours of sleep over four days wasn't something I was a fan of. If I'm being honest, I was beginning to wonder why I decided to do it. My feet and ankles were so swollen that it was a ten minute struggle just to put on my boots the next day. As the last day of Spring LDX came around I started to look back on what we all had done over the four days and I'm proud to say that I did it without slowing down or quitting, physically and/or mentally. I also think it was a very eye-opening experience to see how people react to situations in the field and it was a great learning opportunity for everyone involved and I would do it again in a heartbeat.



Cadets pull security around their Patrol Base

100-Mile Relay

By: Danielle Maldonado

On April 15, 2016 the Wildcat Battalion celebrated 100 proud years of ROTC with a 100-mile relay run on the track. Each cadet ran one mile to represent each year of Army ROTC since President Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916. CWU President Gaudino and other members of the college helped us celebrate by running the first mile. Along with the Wildcat BN, the Air Force ROTC, Cascade Cowboys, joined in the fun by running the 'Air Force Mile'. Army ROTC has produced great officers the last 100 years, and I am sure the next 100 years will be no different.



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(or search "CWU Wildcat BN")

Commissioning

Eleven MSIV Cadets will be commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants this June 10th, 2016: Nolin Bare, Joseph Bauer, Kenner Eliason, Olivia Halsne, Hauke Harfst, Tyler Jutte, Kyung Kim, Danielle Maldonado, Christopher Meyers, Jared Paddock, and Gabriel Valladares.

At the end of the summer, Cadets Cristine Fetzer and Christopher Scott will be commissioning as well.