

The All For One

ISSUE 1

SUMMER/FALL 2013

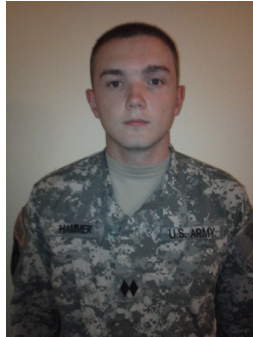
EDITOR: C/CPT KEEFE

Welcome to our Battalion!

The first days of a college school year can be eventful enough, but as the “All for One” battalion starts its year cadets must face the exciting challenges ROTC presents. Cadets take on more than the average college student with early wakeups, tests of physical strength, and training that no other college student faces.

This semester will be a challenge for many to adjust to this lifestyle and for others who have experienced it before it will be one in which they help others to get accustomed to their new schedules.

The challenges we face always come with rewards and much of that will come in an abundance of exciting training. One of our first training events will be a morning where all cadets will get to rappel. Later on in the semester we will begin training on new airsoft rifles to familiarize cadets with basic rifle marksmanship. These training events as well as others



will make the semester an experience unlike any other.

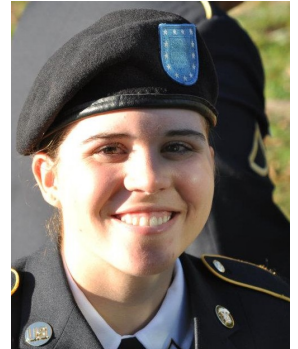
I would be remiss if I did not recognize the thrilling training events that we have already completed over the summer months. Over the summer our current senior class attended the Leadership Development Assessment Course, a test of the leadership potential. Several of those Cadets were afforded the opportunity to attend Cadet Troop Leader Training, in which they served as Platoon Leaders in

active duty units for a month in order to learn the expectations of them as Second Lieutenants.

Several cadets went to Airborne and Air Assault School during the summer. There they trained to parachute out of airplanes and rappel from helicopters. One cadet was able to attend the Cultural Understanding and Language Program, where cadets travel to a foreign nation to learn about foreign culture and language.

All of these opportunities are unique to ROTC cadets and will be experiences they can carry with them the rest of their lives. This year we will work to encourage cadets to participate in the training we offer so that they can better themselves and learn what it means to be a Cadet at Xavier University.

C/LTC Matthew Hammer,
All for One BN



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On the first Leadership Lab of the year, freshman cadets were oriented to the Battalion and issued supplies, while returning cadets received awards for physical, academic, and Army achievements that they completed over the summer.

(more photos on page 5)

U.S. Army Airborne School by Cadet Eddie Hoffman

This summer I was one of three cadets from the All For One Battalion who had the great opportunity to train in Airborne school at Fort Benning, GA. Airborne school is a military school run by the 1st Battalion of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment that trains soldiers in all of the necessary steps to become a paratrooper.

I arrived at Fort Benning with most of the other cadets in my company (Bravo Company) several days before training actually started. This allowed us to be processed into the company before most of the trainees arrived and to familiarize ourselves with the base and its environment.

Airborne training is split into three portions: ground week, tower week, and jump week. During ground week, students were familiarized with the two parachute systems that we would be jumping with. We were taught how to properly exit the aircraft by repeated exits from a mock door – a structure built to simulate the door of a C-130 Hercules aircraft, the plane from which we'd later jump. Next, we applied

those exit skills when we jumped from the 34 ft. towers, from which we zip-lined to the ground. Finally, we were taught proper landing procedures, or what is known as the



parachute landing fall, or simply “the PLF.”

During tower week, we honed our aircraft exit skills, and continued training with the 34 ft. towers, but this time our exercises included parachute malfunctions and combat equipment. Our execution of parachute landing falls was also improved

by use of the swing landing trainer, a sort of swing that imitates the motion of an actual parachute fall.

The day of reckoning finally arrived at the beginning of jump week. After hours of waiting in the harness shed, my first exit from the aircraft was the most exhilarating experience of my life. But after leaving the turbulence of the prop blast and feeling the opening shock of the parachute, the rest of the ride to the ground was surprisingly quiet and peaceful. Even though the ground rushed to meet me faster than I imagined, my landing was quite soft for my first and the following four jumps. By graduation late on Friday evening, I had successfully completed five jumps, and was awarded the coveted Airborne wings.

LTC Wissel's Remarks

We are off to an exciting start this Fall in the “All for One” Battalion. I am impressed with how we are growing both as a unit and as individual leaders on every level. Our Freshman class is the largest in years; I believe it represents the increased reputation of our Cadets as leaders on our campuses both in the classroom and beyond. Some of the new additions to our Battalion came to us after successfully completing the Leader's Training Course; a summer experience meant to teach the Freshmen and Sophomore ROTC curriculum in a 30 day time frame at Ft. Knox. All six participants successfully completed the training; Cadet Stricker and Cadet Finn graduated in the top 20%. We also had a good number of Cadets who completed Basic Training, a worthy accomplishment. They will serve in a National Guard or Reserve Unit while in college and commission into the component of their choosing, including Active Duty, once completing ROTC.

With all of our new and returning Cadets, I want to highlight two groups in particular. A team of young leaders off

to an early start this year is our Ranger Challenge team, led by CDT Leadingham. Ranger Challenge is the varsity sport for ROTC Cadets, pitting them against 38 schools from across our brigade. They have been training hard with the support of the Battalion and look to add another trophy to the many in St. Barbara Hall. Our MSIV Senior Class is off and running too after their Senior Week, leading the battalion and mentoring our underclassmen. They are full of anticipation as they solidified their choices on the component and branch of the Army in which they want to serve once commissioned. We look forward to the results of the Accessions board this November to find out where the Army will place them. Each performed very well at LDAC this summer, with over 1/3 receiving the highest rating possible as they competed against nearly 6,000 Cadets from across the Nation. Also regarding training, many alumni of Xavier ROTC will remember rappelling at Eden Park; check out the great photos in the newsletter from the

Leadership Lab this September. CPT Tim Bill our Operations officer, put together a solid plan and obtained approval for this dynamic training

enabling us to return to the site. I am proud that every Cadet demonstrated the Personal Courage to rappel safely down the wall (with some needing just a little encouragement from Master Sergeant Kacuba). Finally, our Cadre team welcomed CPT Brandon Andrews, an Infantry officer who just completed Company Command with the 101st Airborne Division and Justin Kubat, a 1LT in the OHNG. Our Cadre team and the Cadet Battalion we are training look forward to a terrific year as we grow the future officers and leaders in the U.S Army. All for One!



Basic Combat Training by Cadet Tommy Noe

I went to Basic Combat Training (BCT) in the summer of 2013 before my freshman year at Xavier. BCT was a great experience that developed me both physically and mentally. Through all the training I received, I learned both how to be a Soldier and what it means to lead from the front. Although the training was strenuous, it was a lot of fun and very rewarding.

My favorite part of the training was that I was constantly learning new skills and conquering fears such as rapel-



"One of the biggest reasons I joined the Army was because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself and be in a brotherhood that will last a lifetime."

ling. The drill sergeants at Delta 1/40 at Fort Sill were great teachers and motivators. They constantly demanded that we try our best and were there to correct us when we failed. My favorite training we received was advanced marksmanship where we were taught to clear rooms and compounds using both team and squad sized elements.

The part of basic I disliked the most was dealing with the other Soldiers that did not take the training seriously and did not understand the importance of the training for deployments. That being said, the camaraderie created during basic between the friends I

made was like none I have ever experienced in the civilian world. We started to come together as a team and we all knew we had each other's back. We were constantly looking out for one another to make sure that nobody in our platoon was doing the wrong thing, this drove home the importance of teamwork and not being an individual.

Basic training is a lot easier when you and a group of friends are going through it together because you look out for one another and you help keep the morale up in your platoon.

One of the biggest reasons I joined the Army was because I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself and be in a brotherhood that will last a lifetime. Basic training not only taught me basic soldiering skills but also how to be independent. The lessons I learned at BCT will continue to help me throughout college, ROTC, and the rest of my life.

My IET Experience by Cadet Samantha Wyatt

My IET experience, or Initial Entry Training, is something I will never forget. I completed both Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training. It made me grow in ways I never would have expected.

Some parts were very hard for me, while others were fairly easy. My first couple of weeks of BCT was a struggle. But as the weeks went on, and I learned what it meant to be a Soldier, the lifestyle became second nature to me. It was no walk in the park; I had to work very hard to keep up. Ruck marches were the most difficult for me. Due to my short stature, I had to really open up my stride to make it the same length as the other privates, which over the 10 weeks, really took a toll on my body.

Despite this, I knew I had to push through the pain in order to complete training and graduate. When our 16k ruck march came around I was dreading it, but I knew that was the last obstacle that stood in my way of completing the mission I set out to do. So I sucked it up and pushed forward, staying in the front the whole way! That

day really gave me confidence in my abilities as a Soldier. I know that I'll face many more obstacles in my career, but BCT proved to me that a lot of it IS mind over matter.

AIT tested me but not in the same way as BCT. We were "on our own" for the

majority of the time. We woke up at 0400, PT 0445, and class 0800-1630, then we were normally released for the day at 1800. We had to study for test, show up to formation, and do what was expected out of us without the constant eye of a sergeant. Some people really struggled with this, but that was quickly solved by an Article 15.

Temptation was always present, but we always had a schedule to keep. The Army values really came into play at AIT, and they were drilled into me so much that they still stick with me today (as they should). So much so that I didn't know what to do with myself when I got home, I was so accustomed to having the day planned out for me. I can remember the first couple days of being home, I woke up thinking I was

late to a formation. AIT taught me not only my MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), but what it meant to be a soldier with values.

Both AIT and BCT helped me grow as a Soldier. Physically, mentally, and even spiritually. It gave me confidence that I know will carry on throughout my career in the military, and help me become a great leader one day.

I might not have had a typical teenage summer, but then again, I'm not your typical Soldier either.



"AIT taught me not only my MOS, but what it meant to be a Soldier with values."

Better than Expected - My LTC experience by CDT Bevin Yenderusiak

Prior to even starting my trip down ROTC lane, I have to admit I was extremely nervous and had no idea what to expect for the upcoming two years.

Getting ready for LTC, or Leadership Training Course, I had an intimidating picture in my mind of what things would be like heading to Fort Knox for the month of July. On the other end, after graduating in August, I have to admit, LTC was nothing like I expected.

I ended up learning more than I thought I would have, especially since it was only one month to catch up on both the MS I and II years of ROTC. Overall, I had a great experience, learned from great teachers, and felt like the whole experience made me more

certain I was making the right choice joining the ROTC program.

I made so many new friends, some that I will resume keeping in contact with, and learned just how impor-

tant it is to have each other's back at the end of the day.

I went to LTC as an individual, and thought it would be great to have a month to work and build myself up, but I came back with much more: a family, confidence, and something to look forward to.

Now that the school year has started, the LTC experience was one that I am very appreciative of. I am now confident that the next few years of ROTC will be well worth the while, and will certainly guide me into being an even more confident leader than LTC has started me off on.



All For One BN Photos



Interested in writing for the All for One?

The All For One newsletter is always accepting submissions from cadets and cadre. If there is a topic you would like to write an article on for the Fall Issue, don't hesitate to contact C/CPT Keefe at kefek1@nku.edu or the current Cadet Public Affairs officer.— C/CPT Keefe



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