President Woodrow Wilson created the ROTC program in 1916 by signing the National Defense Act. The result of this signing was to create a relationship between the military and the country's academic community. In order to foster excellence in the military, business, and industry, ROTC military training came to the University of Pittsburgh in the same year, 1916. When the program was introduced, there was much debate over whether the program should exist or not, and many were skeptics. However, there were enough people in favor, and the program was supported by the University. In this time period, cadets didn't learn how to wear the uniform, but how to dig a trench. As well as not how to salute the lieutenant, but how to cure chilblains. The culture and training in ROTC in these days was far different than what we are currently used to. For example, during World War 1, the campus was turned into a support system for the war overseas. It was a place for the men to drill, and the women to volunteer for the Red Cross. The fraternities turned over their houses to the University for use as barracks, and the mess hall served one hundred thousand meals.
Believing he would fully be able to “see the world” through the United States Army, like his recruiter told him, Master Sergeant (MSG) Shane Hancock decided to enlist at the age of 18. Master Sergeant Hancock began his military career at Ft. Drum. He then went to Italy (508th parachute infantry regiment) where he was able to attend and complete multiple schools like ranger school, jumpmaster school, and airborne school. Following that, he went to Fort Bragg in the 82nd Airborne Division. While at Ft. Bragg, he also went to more schools which advanced his career. During his time at this station, Master Sergeant was deployed to Iraq, twice. He then continued his career at Fort Benning where he served at the 4th Ranger Training Battalion (RTB). He also served as a First Sergeant during his time as Fort Benning. It was around this time, where he was deployed to Iraq for the third time. After Fort Benning, Master Sergeant Hancock was moved to Fort Hood in Texas. He was with the Division Special Troops Battalion (DSTB) of the 1st Cav. Division. He then completed his undergrad degree in communications. He was then able to serve as the EIB, Expert Infantry Badge, test manager. For the past two years, he has resided in Pittsburgh, PA, working with the Three Rivers Battalion. Master Sergeant Hancock credits the Army with teaching him how to efficiently multitask, how to speak to different audiences clearly, and the skill of patience. Master Sergeant Hancock holds some very exciting plans for Three Rivers Battalion, including redeveloping the structure and layout of the leadership style. Hoping to make it more of a company based training battalion, the cadre at Three Rivers Battalion will be providing more leadership opportunities to the upcoming seniors in order to give them the ability to see what it looks like to command more than one element. For example, in the future, Duquesne University will combine with CalU to make one company. For the University of Pittsburgh, there will only be one company, Alpha, with two platoons under it. The new semester will provide multiple opportunities to improve and continue to develop the Battalion. Master Sergeant Shane Hancock looks forward to what the future holds for the Battalion and his career with the United States Army.

If you are alumnus of the Three Rivers Battalion and you are interested in being included in regular email updates and learning more about our events, please send us your phone number and email to:

ThreeRiversBattalionCadre@gmail.com
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

By: Lieutenant Joseph McClain

With the coming of every new academic year, the Three Rivers Battalion prepares for the arrival of new students and the welcoming back of current students. Here at the Battalion, New Student Orientation (NSO) is how we begin to facilitate the transition from outgoing high school senior to incoming college freshman.

This year, the senior cadets (MSIVs) planned NSO with a round robin style. NSO was broken into several sections, namely, in-processing, introduction to Physical Readiness Training (PRT), introduction to Drill and Ceremony (DNC), a demonstration by the Ranger Challenge team, and team building exercises (sports).

To start off the NSO, LTC Jason Eddy had the opportunity to speak to the incoming cadets, introducing the cadre members and setting the tone for the rest of the semester. Following LTC Eddy's introduction, incoming cadets were split into multiple sections and rotated through the stations for the rest of the day.

To some of the incoming cadets, NSO was a slight culture shock, informing them that they would now be waking up earlier than all of their non-cadet peers and participating in physical training several days a week. Although surprising to some, the incoming cadets were excited to start a new chapter in their lives and pursue their goals of becoming a commissioned officer.

FUS STUDENTS DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AT SUMMER TRAINING

By: Cadet Stephen Shaw (MSIV)

Several of our Franciscan University Army ROTC cadets participated in Cadet Summer Training or CST at a variety of locations throughout the country and around the world. The rising MS-IVs were required to attend the Cadet Leadership Course at Ft. Knox in Kentucky. CLC, also known as Advanced Camp, involves a month of intensive leadership training including a rigorous two week long field-training exercise.

Cadet William Blackley, a junior MS-III cadet attended Airborne School at Ft. Benning Georgia and earned his jump wings after completing five parachute jumps out of a fixed-wing aircraft. He remarked that, “Airborne was a great experience. The course was far more of a mental than physical struggle during the long and hot training days of ground and tower week. When I finally got to jump week, however, it was definitely worth it and I realized all the training was to build muscle memory to help with exits and landings. Airborne School was a great way to experience the real army!”

Cadet James Hildebrand, also a junior MS-III, had the unique opportunity to participate in the Cultural Understanding and Learning Program, or CULP, which is a foreign exchange program the Army has with partner nations around the world. Cadet Hildebrand’s travels took him to Germany and he stated of his experience that, “Germany was an incredible experience that challenged and developed my world views and pushed me to grow as a leader and future officer!”

Cadet Kristie Kelly, a senior MS-IV cadet, participated in the Nurse Summer Training Program, or NSTP at Walter Reed Medical Center just outside Washington, D.C. and recounted that, “I was exposed to how nursing is integrated into the military. We toured the Pentagon and participated in a mass-casualty exercise there. We toured the White House and Capitol Building along with many other sites in D.C. as well. We were also privileged with a chance to be Honor Flight Chicago guardians of World War II and Korean War veterans for their day in Washington D.C. It was a phenomenal and unforgettable experience!”

The author participated in Cadet Troop-Leading Training, or CTLT, which is an internship program in which cadets are attached to real units to shadow a lieutenant and learn about a specific branch of the Army. I was assigned to a mechanized-infantry platoon in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center, or NTC, in Ft. Irwin, California. NTC is located in the Mohave Desert and encompasses a land area roughly equivalent to Rhode Island. Here I participated in a ten day field-training exercise in which the 11th ACR acted as the Opposing Force, or OPFOR, for several units preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. We were mounted in tanks for the entire rotation and participated in a movement-to-contact mission, a town defense, and two attack missions.

Cadet Gonzalez and Rushmore teach new cadets how to march
I had the amazing opportunity to learn the basics of armored maneuver tactics throughout the rotation and experience life with the soldiers in the platoon. I learned the fundamentals of platoon leadership through observing the lieutenant and had a very formative and educational experience!

Now our cadets are back in school again. Some have just one more year in the ROTC program before commissioning and being assigned to a unit. Others are juniors and will practice leadership by motivating and counseling the freshman and sophomore cadets.

**CADET TROOP LEADER TRAINING**  
*By: Cadet Stephen Starinsky (MSIV)*

Following my completion of Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY this past summer, I was afforded the realistic leadership opportunity of Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). I shadowed a 2LT in the 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment. This field artillery unit, part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, has participated in battles from World War I to current day, and is known as one of the most highly decorated field artillery units in the U.S. Through CTLT, I was able to learn through experience by serving in a platoon leader position while being shadowed and mentored by an actual Platoon Leader in the “Gun Devils” at the 82nd Airborne Division. While shadowing a Fire Support Officer, I was able to assist the Company Commander in the planning, integration, and coordination of fire support assets to include mortar and artillery support.

The experience immersed me in the everyday life of a Field Artillery Officer, and allowed me to familiarize myself with the command, training, administrative, and logistical functions of a 2LT in the Field Artillery branch.

**CADET ATTENDS AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL**  
*By: Cadet Leo Hill (MSIII)*

Following my CULP Mission to Tanzania this summer, I was fortunate enough to attend Army Air Assault School in Fort Benning, Georgia (19 JUNE - 2 JULY). In the weeks before the course, I was a certainly a bit nervous because of the schools reputation as “the toughest ten days in the Army.” From doing internet searches, watching videos and hearing stories from cadets and cadre who had the experience, it was inarguably going to be incredibly physically and mentally demanding for the entirety of the course. I had a general idea what to expect, but I was still nervous of the stories and pass/fail ratio, especially on the second phase, sling load operations.

After arriving back in Pittsburgh after my CULP mission, I had a few days to reorient myself and prepare my gear for my flight to Fort Benning. It came quickly, and before I knew it, I found myself in a crowded barracks preparing myself for the days to come. Day Zero started with a 0300 wake up. My class, number 005-16, began with 275 soldiers. A large number were cadets, either from West Point, the Citadel or R.O.T.C., while the rest were a mix of Active duty and foreign soldiers. All 275 of us gathered in formation on the gravel PT field at the Warrior Training Center in the dark of the morning with little instruction or understanding of our schedule for the day. We all knew that these next ten and a half days would be far from easy, but the fear of the unknown made it much worse. As we waited in the dark at 0330, a cadre member, the first we had seen, came to the front of the formation and read off our names for a roll call, and then exited to the back, out of view, leaving us to stand in silent darkness for another few minutes. Suddenly, without warning, a half dozen blinding strobe lights were switched on as megaphones blared with instruction. Loud commands of “front leaning rest position!” and many others were switched on as megaphones blared with instruction. Loud commands of “front leaning rest position!” and many others were almost inaudible in the confusion and chaos. Out of nowhere the Air Assault Cadre, the “black hats,” were surrounding out formation, and with that, Zero Day began. For the next hour or so, we were battered with a wide variety of bodyweight exercises in the field before immediately moving to a 2 mile run. The rest of the day consisted of some more physical training sessions, completion of an obstacle course, and then even more physical training. Our class lost around two dozen on Day Zero as we began the next day with around 250.
The rest of Phase I consisted of a 6 mile ruck march, Physical Training sessions on the mornings of Days 2 and 3, and classroom lessons about helicopters and Air Assault Operations in the afternoon. Phase I concluded with a 50 question multiple choice test, and a hands on test in which we were evaluated on our knowledge of hand and arm signals. At the end of the first phase, about 240 soldiers were still remaining.

The next phase, that I previously mentioned, was sling load operations. In this phase we were taught how to properly inspect loads that were ready to be picked up by aircraft. We also learned everything you ever need to know about the equipment used during sling load operations. The most important thing that was stressed during this phase was attention to detail, attention to detail, and attention to detail. The smallest thing could be wrong with a load, and if it wasn’t properly inspected, the load could fall during flight. I spent at least four hours a night for three nights studying the material that would be on the written test, while also going over the loads that were prepared outside. Come test day, we had to pass another 50 question multiple choice test, and the hands on portion of the test which consisted of identifying three out of four deficiencies on a load for four different loads. You had to pass each load in order to receive a “Go.” Although I had heard horror stories about people failing this phase, it wasn’t as bad as I thought it was going to be, despite about 20 failing this section of the course.

Once we got to Phase III, it was all downhill from there. Phase III was by far the most fun because all it consisted of was rappelling. We spent the final three days at the towers, first going off the 15 foot incline to get a feel for rappelling before we moved up to the large tower. There we only did one rappel off the wall side, while the other 10 were done on the open side. While this was the most fun phase, it was also the most uncomfortable because of one thing…the Swiss seat. We tied about 30 Swiss seats during the three days. It was important because we were tested on tying proper seats in 90 seconds. Along with that test, we had to hook up to the tower ropes in 15 seconds, pass all belay procedures, and successfully complete three rappels, a lock-in, Hollywood, and a combat rappel with ruck and vest. After completing the test, we were fortunate enough to rappel twice out of UH-60 Blackhawks that were hovering about 85 feet above the ground. That was by far the highlight of the course and probably one of the coolest things I have ever done. Phase III and the course concluded with a 12 mile ruck march on the morning of Day 10, followed by graduation. Our graduating class was about 170.

Despite any nerves I had beforehand, I came out successful, and finishing the 12 mile ruck and graduating air assault school was an amazing way to end my summer. I could not have been more fortunate to have the opportunity to attend CULP and Air Assault School and to recieve the skills and experiences that came with them. It was extremely rewarding as I made new friends, learned an incredible amount about Air Assault Operations, rappelled out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, and now have the honor of wearing air assault wings, which many do not have the chance to do. This summer provided me with two of the best experiences thusfar in my young life, and I highly encourage anyone interested in increasing their global awareness or satisfying adventurous interests, to fully apply yourself in ROTC and take advantage of these incredible opportunities.

**COURAGE**

“Bravery doesn’t mean you aren’t scared. It means you go anyway.”
Cadet Summer Training Graduates

Congratulations to the following cadets for completing summer training!

**Advanced Camp:** Jacob Boice, Caileigh Carei, Jason Carne, Jessica Chalfant, May Chang, Matthew Flynn, David Gallagher, Erickson Gonzalez, Michael Green, Brandon Herbert, Gregory Kabusk, Kristie Kelly, Nicholas Kumbris, Jesse Martin, Benajmin McCurdy, Matthew Nieberding, Reed Radford, Angus Richardson, Charles Rushmore, Michael Shaw, Stephen Starinsky, Jacob Sweed, Eli Talbert, Phillip Tanenbaum, Mitchel Woytovich, Dennis Zaitsev

**Air Assault:** Leo Hill, Alexsandar Tolbert

**Airborne:** William Blackley, Emily Gallagher

**Basic Camp:** Brittany Clegg, Madeline Evangeliste, Cheyenne Helsel, Gregory Kabusk (cadre), Joshua Larkin

**Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT):** Jason Carne, Jesse Martin, Stephen Shaw, Stephen Starinsky, Jacob Sweed

**Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency:** James Hildebrand, Kristian Hill, Leo Hill, Austin Martin, Pablo Platero, Hannah Weidinger

**Drill Cadet Leader Training (DCLT):** Matthew Nieberding, Reed Radford

**Internships:** May Chang, Brandon Herbet, Kristie Kelly

**Project GO:** Zachary Horn, Anna Marsh, Jonah Warshawsky, Michael Wienczkowski

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**FALL SCHEDULE**

27AUG: New Student Orientation
17SEP: Leadership Lab
23-25SEP: Fall FTX @ Camp Dawson
7-9OCT: Army Ten Miler
14-16OCT: Ranger Challenge
22OCT: Leadership Lab
19NOV: Leadership Lab
27NOV: Combat Water Survival Training
02DEC: Dining In

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**Alumni Spotlight:**

**Brigadier General William H. Graham**

Brigadier General William H. Graham is Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division. He took command on March 26, 2015. The North Atlantic Division is one of nine regions providing engineering and construction services to the nation. It is the Corps’ headquarters for the Northeastern United States, Europe, and Africa, with offices in Concord, Mass., New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and Wiesbaden, Germany. Brigadier General Graham is a native of Western Pennsylvania. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from the University of Kansas. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and was an Army War College Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Security Studies Program. Brigadier General Graham’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary and Service Medals, Overseas Service Medal, Saudi Arabia Defense and Kuwait Liberation Medals, Valorous Unit Award and Combat Action Badge.

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If you would like to nominate an alumni for the Alumni Spotlight, please email ThreeRiversBattalionCadre@gmail.com