



# GATEWAY BATTALION



Fall 2018



Cadets in formation at the Fall Field Training Exercise at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO

## Letter from the Editors

To our readers,

We hope this issue of Gateway Gazette finds you all well. We have been up to a lot this fall at the Gateway Battalion, and we hope you take the time to read about some of the incredible things our cadets have accomplished this fall and the past summer. We have features about our Fall Training Exercise, Ranger Challenge, and even a poem about a cadet's experience at Air Assault school.

Gateway alumni, we would love to hear from you to learn what you are currently doing. If you have any interest in being an available contact or mentoring cadets, please let us know. We would like to provide the opportunity for cadets to have alumni resources. Please email [edenlivingston@wustl.edu](mailto:edenlivingston@wustl.edu) if you are interested in getting involved.

Gateway friends and family, we cannot thank you enough for the continued support of our cadets. Your support makes it possible for our cadets to wake up before the crack of dawn day after day and accomplish everything that they do, with both unbreakable commitment and impressive time management. If possible, we would appreciate any extra assistance to allow our cadets the opportunity to succeed in Army extracurriculars, such as Bataan Death March and Ranger Challenge. Information on how you can support the Gateway Battalion is at the end of the issue.

Please enjoy!

Thanks for your support,

CDT Teddy Sims - Outgoing Alumni and Network Relations Cadet Officer  
CDT Eden Livingston - Incoming Alumni and Network Relations Cadet Officer



**CDTs Livingston and Sims keeping SFC Johnson's dog warm at the PT test**



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# Letter from the Professor of Military Science



Our mission at the Gateway Battalion Army ROTC is to partner with St. Louis area universities to recruit, educate, develop, and inspire leaders of character for the Total Army in order to promote the continued strength of our nation. As you read through the pages of the Gateway Gazette, I know that you will be encouraged about the future of our nation! The cadets of this battalion will soon be commissioned as lieutenants who will infuse the ranks of the Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve with their optimism, courage, and leadership.

The Gateway Detachment continues to grow with a current enrollment of 121 Cadets from seven different universities. The ongoing support of each of our university partners is essential to the accomplishment of our mission. These outstanding institutions provide the necessary facilities, administrative support, and educational training necessary to develop well-rounded leaders who are fully prepared to handle the challenges of an uncertain future.

One of my goals during the spring semester is to rebuild our Alumni program in order to better facilitate professional mentoring of cadets and networking among Gateway Alumni. Our team will be working hard to update our databases and contact rosters. Please be patient with us during this process. We look forward to connecting with you all soon.

Thanks for your continued interest in the Gateway Battalion. These young men and women are the future leaders of our Army. I encourage you to follow our activities and accomplishments on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC>) and consider opportunities for you to support the Gateway Battalion.

- Matthew E. Snell, LTC, Professor of Military Science



# Letter from the Cadet Battalion Commander



It is with sincere pride and great humility that I congratulate each of you on the completion of another successful semester in the Gateway Battalion. Your dedication to improving yourselves as leaders, each other as members of a team, and your communities as future representatives of the U.S. Armed Forces has been inspiring in more ways than one. The path each of you has committed yourselves to is not an easy one. Every year in the program seems to demand more hours of physical training, study of military science, and community outreach without adding any more hours to the day. Over the course of this fall semester, I have seen each and every one of you rise to the occasion and exceed the formidable standards expected of you. There is no doubt in my mind that with as much as you invest in yourselves and your community, your reward will be immeasurably repaid.

In this semester alone, you have participated in over 30 miles of ruck marches with an average of 45 pounds on your backs, 45 miles of running through the concrete jungles of St. Louis, and enough diamond push-ups to afford yours and your date's expenses for the Spring Military Ball. You have seen nearly 80 majestic sunrises with your fellow cadets and never complained once about being up before your roommates. From your mentorship to nearly 100 high school students from the greater St. Louis area through the JROTC/SROTC Joint Training Event, to your participation in Washington University's first ever Veteran's Day reception, your influence on the community has reflected our program's continued dedication to selfless service. Your personal dedication to physical fitness and personal excellence inspire me every day. Thank you for continually enhancing the great legacy of leadership our Gateway Battalion has come to symbolize.

None of the Gateway Battalion's success would be possible without the unwavering support of our family and friends. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart for the invaluable professional insights, financial contributions, and personal mentorship you have provided our program this semester. It is directly because of your valued support that we can continue to produce highly qualified future Army Officers. Stay tuned for even greater challenges and accomplishments in the spring, and our preparation to commission Gateway's 101<sup>st</sup> class of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants. Thank you!

Respectfully,  
CDT Sheehy

# FALL AT THE BATTALION

## Fall FTX Reflection - MSIII

CDT ANDREW KOLTZ

This September, the entire Gateway Battalion boarded vans and buses early on a Friday morning and left St. Louis for the highlight of the fall semester: three days of grueling but rewarding training at Ft. Leonard Wood. Our weekend was packed with exciting training that tested us physically while simultaneously developing our fieldcraft and leadership abilities. As an MSIII, I spent the weekend running tactical missions, working through land navigation courses both during the day and at night, and taking on complex obstacle courses as both a member and leader of a squad.

We spent Friday night and much of Saturday rehearsing and running tactical operations. While we had already learned tactical skills like establishing a patrol base in the classroom, practicing them in the field further strengthened our understanding. By conducting multiple missions with different leadership, we were able to refine our tactics and make sure all necessary steps were taken to set our mission up for success. Despite the cold and wet conditions both nights, we slept in the field. Our MSIII leadership stayed focused and kept morale high.

The land navigation course gave us an opportunity to use the map skills we had learned in the classroom. After plotting my assigned set of points on a map, I set out with a compass to find them all. Staying exactly on my planned course proved difficult, but by using terrain association and the coordinates of other points I found, I was able to reorient myself and adapt my plan to find every point on my list. Each found point brought me a sense of accomplishment, and this was especially true at night because of the very low visibility. Finding all my points gave me newfound confidence in my land navigation skills, and I look forward to using those skills again in the spring and at Advanced Camp this summer.

We spent our final morning completing the Field Leader Reaction Course: a set of intricate, puzzle-like obstacles where we had to cross damaged 'bridges' without losing a single squad member or sensitive item. We were given a few wooden boards that could be used to bridge gaps in the obstacle's structure, and we then had to figure out how we could strategically use them to cross the obstacle. To cross successfully we had to make clever use of each cadet's strengths and



MSIII cadets working through an obstacle on Field Leaders Reaction course at Ft. Leonard Wood



abilities. Stronger cadets could pull others up over a wall, while those with excellent balance could stand on tiny surfaces without falling off. Serving as squad leader for one of the obstacles showed me the importance of listening to and investigating my squad members' ideas, especially when the strategies I visualized weren't working well. If I had been more quick to explore and implement their ideas, we could have completed the obstacle instead of running out of time when we were close to finishing.

While the weekend was difficult and demanding, the training it provided was very effective. Running multiple ambushes and raids allowed me to practice applying what I had learned in a classroom to a tactical environment. Also it was my first opportunity to practice land navigation entirely on my own. By the time we piled back into the buses, we had all gained a wealth of invaluable field experience. I am very thankful to have participated in such an intense and effective learning experience, and I feel more prepared for my Army future because of it.

## Fall FTX Reflection - MSIV

CDT TEDDY SIMS

This September, I had the distinct pleasure of guiding this year's class of MS IIIs through the treacherous forests of Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri as a lane walker. As soon as we reached our respective locations on the base, we began our densely packed training schedule that had taken a full year to plan for.



CDT Sims instructing MSIIIs in Enemy Prisoner of War Searches

Friday afternoon, the MS IV instructors assigned to the MS IIIs gave informative classes on shelter building, field hygiene, and of course, camouflaging. That night, the MS IIIs walked through a guided example of setting up a patrol base where they would be able to securely rest and regroup for the night. After a full three hours of sleep, the cadets were woken by the serene woodland calls of their cadre, eager for them to begin training. All morning, the MS IVs exposed them to various battle drills and other experiences they had only read about in textbooks or bragged about to their

friends back home. Later that day, the cadets conducted a land navigation practical exercise during the afternoon, and again after dusk. Now, if you were to ask your average group of 19 - 20 year old college students to walk through a dense forest (rumored to contain rabid werewolves and bored Drill Sergeants) with nothing but a plastic rifle, Vietnam-era compass, and a map in the middle of the night, you probably wouldn't be able to convince them with free pizza and a T-shirt. However, the brave cadets of the Gateway Battalion were not your average college students. Literally shaking in their boots, the thirty-five exhausted MS IIIs wandered into the woods seeking dimly reflected points using their pace counts and protractors motivated by nothing but the inner voice of MSG Rabon in their heads and the feeble hope of more than four hours of sleep in their hearts. After another half-night's rest in a patrol base they established without guidance, the MS IIIs participated in the Field Leadership Reaction Course. They took turns fulfilling leadership roles as they worked as a team to accomplish challenging puzzles designed to mimic real-world combat scenarios.

Being able to witness first-hand the growth and excitement had by the younger cadets was well-worth the stress and effort that goes into planning each of our joint field training exercises. Aside from the humbling impact of mentoring the MS IIIs and preparing them for Advanced Camp this upcoming summer, some of my favorite moments were getting to relive my own repressed memories of spending my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in Ft. Knox this past summer at Advanced Camp - fighting raccoons for a coveted Chili-Mac MRE. I watched the cadets improve exponentially over the weekend, not only in various tactics and basic soldier skills, but in their overall confidence and camaraderie among each other. It was an eventful weekend and rewarding to be on the other side as the trainer.

## MSI Reflection

CDT KYLE MELLES

My first semester at Gateway Battalion has both challenged my character and surpassed my expectations. The program has helped me transition to my first semester of college as a freshman in more ways than one. The feared "freshman fifteen" has no place for an ROTC cadet; within the first weeks of school the battalion was up at 0530 doing various workouts of pushups, sit-ups, and cardio. Certain mornings we completed ruck marches at even earlier hours. Many of these mornings, it was difficult to start off so early.

Looking back on my semester, I realize that this has helped me accomplish more than I would have without the structure of ROTC. The early mornings meant I was up before most of my peers that were not in ROTC, and this gave me extra time to complete assignments, eat breakfast with the other Washington University cadets, and gave a stronger start to my day. This also provided a social group to acquaint myself with college. Within the first few weeks, I had friends to hang



Washington University MSI Cadets



out with after class, people to get lunch with, and people to work out with. This is a group of goal-oriented people, who push each other to fulfill their potential. I found this incredibly useful for the beginning of college, when some students struggle to find a social surrounding that has their best interests in mind. For this, I am incredibly thankful.

ROTC has also taught me how to balance different aspects of my life. ROTC cadets are held to a high standard with physical and intellectual accomplishments, and as I mentioned previously, the camaraderie gives cadets a boost within social lifestyles. All these areas of life should be kept healthy, and many students neglect this when confronted with the new stressors of rigorous academics in college. I still had to confront challenges when coming to college, but ROTC gave me every tool possible to face these challenges with a game face. I know my responsibilities within ROTC and college will only grow more daunting as I continue on, but I am excited to see where the challenge takes me and how much more I will develop as a cadet, a student, and a person.

## Ranger Challenge

CDT MADISON SCHNEIDER

While most college students spend the first few weeks of the school year adjusting to their college life and classes, 19 of Gateway's finest took on their course loads while simultaneously jumping straight into Ranger Challenge training. These cadets dedicated themselves to extra morning workouts, skills training, and long Saturday rucks in order to prepare themselves for the gruesome Ranger Challenge event held at Ft. Leonard Wood. Our Battalion was able to send a full 9-man team as well as combine with two other schools to complete two other 5-man teams.

The competition itself started at 0600 with the PECs course where cadets tested their physical fitness with a variety of obstacles. Following the PECs course, teams stepped off to begin what ended up being over a marathon of rucking with the 12-mile course and skills lanes combined. Dispersed along the course were stations where teams tested their skills knowledge, including grenade identification, Combat Life Saving procedures, call for fire, disassembly and reassembly of an M4 assault rifle, construction of a one-man rope bridge, and calling up a 9-line to name a few.

At the end of the day, Gateway put their best foot forward with CDT Rogers who designed the train-up, taught skills, led workouts, and ultimately guided the team through the Ranger Challenge using his past Ranger Challenge experiences. With his leadership, we were able to showcase our physical and mental capabilities and finish the competition strong. Ultimately the gained military knowledge and newfound confidence in ourselves will only propel us farther in our future ROTC endeavors and beyond.

While one may wonder why anyone would want to go through early morning training two additional times a week, over 16 hours of mentally and physically taxing events, countless hours learning skills, all while juggling school, I look at the event as one of the best ways to build character and camaraderie in ROTC. Throughout the entire experience, I witnessed each and every one of my fellow cadets push themselves to their limits with the rallying support of their peers behind them. This event not only enabled each of us to prove our physical abilities, but it also uncovered a key leadership attribute that we all portrayed: unwavering support. Through Ranger Challenge, along with other opportunities outside of normal ROTC training, I am able to see how we, in Gateway, ultimately shape each other into great leaders. Ranger Challenge gave us the platform to prove our

physical and mental aptitudes as well as allowed us to be an example to other schools of what it truly means to be a part of a strong, cohesive unit like Gateway Battalion.

## Sports and ROTC

CDT JUSTIN DICARLO

This past semester, I had the unique opportunity to both serve as Master Fitness Trainer (MFT) for ROTC and to play for the WashU Bears Varsity Football Team. MFT refers to the cadet-leader of physical fitness. My role was to create, manage, and lead the workouts for the WashU cadets during the early morning PT sessions. On the football team, I play defensive back, and this was my first year of starting all ten games. When August came around and I shipped off for football preseason, I was definitely intimidated by the task that lay before me. Once school started, not only would I be expected to push myself and my peers at PT, but to do the same at football practice. I had worked throughout the summer to get my body in shape, but was unsure if I was mentally prepared. Now, at the end of this daunting semester, I can say with confidence that the only thing I was not prepared for was how rewarding an experience this semester would be.

My week would begin on Sunday, planning and preparing with my Platoon Leader the workouts for the week ahead. Monday would begin at 0530, arriving early to PT to set up the workout that lasted from 0600-0700. While I intended the workouts to be physically productive, I had no idea how beneficial PT could serve for cadet rapport. The cadets of Washington University not only came motivated each morning for exercise, but were eager to motivate each other and have fun. For as many pushups I had everyone do, there was double the smiles and laughter. I began my semester dreading having to wake up early ready to motivate cadets for working out; it turns out they motivated me.

After PT all of us cadets got breakfast together, where the laughs continued. Then my class schedule would begin, 0900-1430, and the laughs would end. At 1530 football films began, the defensive backs would meet together with our position coach and watch the schemes and tendencies of the team we were about to play. At 1600 we put on the pads and went out on the field for practice, lasting until 1830. Football practice can be a grind, especially in the beginning of the year with the intense St. Louis heat, but just as I found at 0600 earlier in the morning, the players all stuck together and found a way to enjoy practices, even the times of misery. After practice all of us football players would get dinner together, and the laughs continued, just as they did in the morning. After dinner would mostly entail finishing homework for the next day for my International and Area studies degree, and instrument practice for my music minor.

This was my schedule everyday of the week, culminating with a football game on Saturday, and restarting on Sunday. While it may seem like a difficult week, the people with which I worked with made it all worth it. What was striking to me was that both in my leadership positions, as MFT



CDT DiCarlo making a catch at a Washington University football game



and as a football starter, this was consistent with the members of both programs. It seems painful for someone to willingly submit themselves to waking up early and working out, and the same goes for strapping on shoulder pads and a helmet in 100 degrees with humidity. But, when you have friends by your side, embracing both the good times and the hard times, I think you would be foolish not to join. I'll never forget this or all the memories this semester, and am greatly thankful for my teammates on both of my teams. I am also thankful for Coach Kindbom for understanding my situation and appreciating the military, and for LTC Snell and SFC Johnson, both former college football players, for doing the same for my football team.



CDT DiCarlo instructing 2nd Platoon in Drill and Ceremony

## Prior Service Experience

CDT RAMI SAFI

Ever since my youth, a part of me always knew that I wanted to give back to this country. However, if you would have told me that I would be part of the Army National Guard as a combat medic, I would have laughed and just shook my head.

But instead, here I am.

My name is Rami Safi, I was born and raised in the St. Louis County area and have lived here my whole entire life. I graduated from high school in the year of 2017 and quickly realized that I wanted to be part of something bigger. Instead of going straight to college, I decided to take a year off of school and complete the training to become a Soldier in America's oldest fighting force, the National Guard. I remember completing Basic Training at the same time my friends and peers were beginning their first year of college. Shortly after leaving Ft. Benning, I arrived at the location that would change my life.



CDT Safi during a Field Exercise

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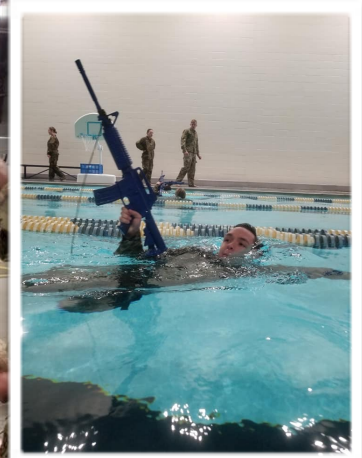
I remember arriving at Ft. Sam Houston with some of my best friends from Basic and quickly fell in love with Texas. We began training by completing eight weeks of an EMT-B course. In order to continue with the combat medic training, you were required to be nationally qualified as an EMT. I was able to pass the NREMT on my first try and quickly found out how much I truly loved emergency medicine. We began our training as Combat Medics and learned everything there was to know about emergency medicine on the battlefield. With everyday came new education and new challenges.

After completing the 14 day field training exercise in Camp Bullis, I was officially awarded the MOS 68W. Finally a Combat Medic, I returned home to train with my unit, the 1-138th Infantry Regiment, who I currently train with now.

As a medic I get to provide medical aid to my battle buddies and educate them on material that could save lives in the future. As I began my college career at Maryville University, I joined the Gateway Battalion and quickly found myself educating the Cadets around me with the knowledge that I had gained from training. I even was able to assist and teach first aid at one of our labs this year! Joining the Army National Guard as a combat medic made me realize what I truly love to do in this life. But my favorite part about my job as a medic is the fact that I will always get to take care of my friends and buddies who choose to give back to this great nation.



# FALL AT THE BATTALION IN PHOTOS





# GATEWAY SUMMERS

## Advanced Camp

CDT TRAVIS HEER

This summer I attended Advanced Camp at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Advanced Camp is a thirty-day leadership evaluation, designed to test cadets in various individual and team exercises. It is the pinnacle of cadet training during ROTC and many cadets will overcome various personal fears and challenges to help prepare them to become better officers in the United States Army.

The individual events cadets face include: physical fitness test, written map reading test, day and night land navigation, call for fire, first aid, marksmanship, rappelling, confidence course, and a 12-mile foot march. Each of these events must be passed at camp and often push cadets to limits they have never reached before; challenging them to break through those barriers.

After the confidence course and before the foot march, cadets are taken into the field to perform three field training exercises. These three to four day exercises place cadets in different leadership roles and each leadership group is tasked with different challenges. This forces cadets to work together and tackle daunting missions in situations in which they will not be successful unless they work together. The three missions that are focused on at Advanced Camp are recons, ambushes, and raids. Cadets must use their knowledge from prior ROTC classes and training exercises to accomplish the mission. Cadets receive evaluation reports, called blue cards, when they are in the leadership position of platoon leader, platoon sergeant, and squad leader.

Even though not all cadets will be branching into combat arms, the focus on tactics as a catalyst for leadership evaluation provides a standard that allows cadets to show their true leadership capabilities. The grading criteria was best described to me as how you respond to those situations where you are operating on little sleep and food and need to accomplish a task in which you have been set up for failure. Success does not necessarily mean completing the mission but maintaining your composure and always pushing forward to make logical and rational decisions.

Furthermore, Advanced Camp allows cadets to bond over adversity and teaches them how to overcome challenges as a team, and not an individual. By the end of Advanced Camp, cadets have developed not only a sense of accomplishment, but a pride that will help push them to transform from a college student into a capable young officer.



CDT Heer with squad members at Ft. Knox

# Airborne School

CDT TREVOR BACHUS

This summer I was privileged enough to get a slot to the U.S. Army Airborne Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia. I was in Charlie Company, class 031-18. Airborne is a three-week course designed to teach you how to reach an objective by... jumping out of an airplane. The first two weeks cover exit procedures, safety actions in the air in case of a malfunction, and how to land safely. The third week is the culminating exercise: 5 solo jumps from an airplane in flight.

Like any Army course, there is a certain amount of added stress. At Airborne School, it's physical: the "airborne shuffle." You'll run everywhere and call cadences the entire time. Once you get to your area, you'll fall. Then you'll fall again. Then you'll fall a third time. Then a fourth, a fifth, and over and over again until you get the order to airborne shuffle somewhere else. All this training, however, is absolutely worth it. By the third week, you have built so much confidence in proper procedures and safe methods of hitting the ground that you're just excited to get out the door. Each jump builds on the other: the first jump being a nine-man day jump without combat equipment, the fifth one being a 15-man night jump with full combat equipment. Although nerve racking, this week will build your confidence as a soldier and an individual.

This confidence is universally applicable. All aspects of my life – from my research assistantship, to my part-time job, to relationships with friends, to school – require me to confidently approach any problems that arise. Before the first jump my whole body was shaking, but I trusted that my equipment and training would take me safely to the ground and followed my peers out the door. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. The applicable lesson gained from Airborne is this: put work in on the basics, then when it comes time to do so, confidently execute on whatever event is at hand. For you, it could be researching then writing a paper; but, in my case, it was running in circles then jumping out of a plane. It's an experience I wouldn't trade for anything.



CDT Bachus receiving his Airborne wings from his father

# Air Assault School - Poem

CDT ADAM MESSER

## with a loud and thunderous

peaked past the night, not morning,  
I was piqued past sleep by a stir  
the 0330 kind of mourning.

*AIR  
ASSAULT*

in my head I became an engine – like a  
train except my hands are for writing, not pushing coal until we  
train to become what we are not  
and soon the *chugg chugg click click* of a locomotive  
becomes the repeat repeat murmur out of my breath

*air assault*

we sweat words and read prose from the heat from sun up 'til  
sun down like the kind of day where you step outside and face  
the same dark you met  
upon waking.

the knots the knots, I shoved knots into my head and through my hands  
until I couldn't remember if the cruise speed of a LUH-72A  
was 133 or a bowline or not.

*air sault*

there's no passing for some, past not passing for others  
we lost 4 beds next to me in one night – my bunkmate was one  
he bled out from massive hands-on-hemorrhaging and  
congestive sling load failure. the medics just watched him  
collapse.

*aerosol*

on a tower near the woods about 60 feet high we draped ourselves  
across the daylight, across the nightlight,  
I draped myself across my hands and asked them to breathe.  
they refused and repeat repeat repeated like my lips when a left foot hit the  
ground.

the lords of the tower screamed and rattled their swords so we  
tied ourselves so tight that we'd bleed without the blade.

*air saw*

they never tell you this but a Blackhawk isn't a bird it's a UH-60A/L/M  
and that means it's eyes are rotor wash and its talons go by  
the title air aerosol sarn't.  
there's a moment of blatant displacement stepping out the door  
and it sort of feels like hyacinth rolling off the tongue,  
hyacinth opens up the lungs.

we cried out with a loud and thunderous sigh  
and the sunrise seemed to sound off in agreement –  
God loves the infantry, but loves air assault the most.



# Summer in Africa

CDT CANAAN HANCOCK

The rural extremities of Chad have long suffered from an absence of emergency medical services. In the summer of 2018, I had the privilege of traveling to southeast Chad for two months to conduct a research study on expanding emergency medical services utilizing the existing transportation infrastructure. Working with the local government, Red Cross, and an NGO called TEAM Chad, our team set up a lay first responder system by training close to 150 taxi drivers and aid workers, and equipping them with first aid kits with grant money from Washington University. I am currently doing a longitudinal study to measure the efficacy of the program. During my time in country, I also conducted an anthropology study of trauma in the region to educate future initiatives when assisting the community to further increase their emergency medical care capacity.

From sitting on woven mats with tribal chiefs to presenting my project ideas to various government agencies, engaging with people from a vastly different culture than my own forced me out of my comfort zone and greatly enhanced my communication skills. I was able to learn from traditional healers about the skills they have passed down in their families for generations and the daily struggles most Chadians face in obtaining healthcare. Above all though, my favorite part was the chance to work alongside enthusiastic women and men who wanted to make a difference in their community by becoming trained first responders. Because of their dispersion and transportation capabilities, these taxi drivers and aid workers knew they had the power to help many people. Since the training, I have received several reports of success in caring for injured patients from car crashes, drownings, and farming accidents.

Because I was going alone, I had to see through the entire planning and execution of both research projects, which strengthened my abilities in logistics and interagency work, especially in a cross-cultural setting. The research itself taught me a great deal about how vital it is to understand and be sensitive of the cultural, social, and political situation before assisting a community, thereby ensuring cooperation and sustainability. I was incredibly thankful to have this opportunity, and I am confident the skills and knowledge gained will make me a better Army officer.



CDT Hancock participating in a graduation ceremony for first responders with the State President of the Red Cross and the mayor

# Semester Abroad

CDT EMILY FRANCIS

My semester in Madrid was an incredible experience. No words could ever describe how incredibly grateful I am for the experience. Thanks to the nursing program through Saint Louis University Madrid, as well as ROTC's distance learning, I was able to do what most nursing students don't usually have the opportunity to do.

During my time abroad, I was constantly pushed outside of my comfort zone which helped me grow and become more confident in my abilities. I used to think to myself, "if I had the strength to say yes to any task given to me, why don't I use the same strength to take on tasks I've only dreamed of doing?" I had dreamt of studying/traveling abroad ever since I was little, but I was at a loss as to how I would make every moment memorable. I didn't want to get caught in the cycle of simply going with the flow, but rather believed that I could take on any new opportunity that presented itself to me. I didn't want to be one of the students who left the country every weekend, but instead someone who took the time to get to know the city I was going to be living in for the next six months. So, I began to sign up for everything that looked interesting and challenging.

I started off by teaching an English class of over thirty-three students ranging from basic to fluent skills. Not only was it difficult to teach a subject in a different language, but also to create an interesting lesson plan every class. As time went by, I realized I had a love for teaching that I never knew I had. If you asked what my favorite thing I got to do abroad was, I would say it was grading homework. Being able to read and discover so much about the lives of my students was a heartwarming experience. I got to practice my Spanish with their families over dinner, helped students apply to colleges in the United States, and cheered a few of them on during their first musical performances. I even let one of my students who was practicing becoming a hairdresser give me a crooked hair-cut. In addition to teaching English, I taught health classes at elementary schools, volunteered for local charity groups, and tutored Spanish university students on how to conduct job interviews in English. Thankfully ROTC had taught me the importance of good time management, so I was able to balance all of these activities on top of school and travel.

I cherished everyday I spent in Madrid. School was fun and exciting. I made so many new friends, and every day was an adventure. I even gained a new mentor, who was a nursing professor that inspired me through her incredible accomplishments as a traveling nurse.

When my time started to come to an end, I decided to extend my study abroad experience an extra month and a half by picking up a health care ethics course at Maynooth University in Ireland. After spending six months in a big city, I was happy to finally tap into my outdoorsy side and spend most of my time hiking, kayaking, and exploring beautiful landscapes. Ireland was a completely different experience, but, nevertheless, wonderful.

Traveling has always been important to me. I grew up listening to speakers from Doctors Without Borders, watching the Travel Channel, and making lists of countries I wanted to visit. The world is such an incredible place filled with so many different cultures and landscapes, and I'm so happy I was able to experience some of it.



# GATEWAY SUMMERS IN PHOTOS





## Support Information

Donations in support of the Gateway Battalion which are made through Washington University are fully tax deductible:

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