

Gateway Gazette

Spring Edition 2017, Volume VI



A Message from the Professor of Military Science



Alumni, friends, supporters and members of the Gateway Battalion,

This year has been a year of change for the Gateway Battalion as we re-focused our leader development efforts on the tactical environment. Our goal is to develop agile and adaptive leaders who can think critically and act decisively in some of the most difficult conditions imaginable. The response of the Gateway cadets has been outstanding! As General Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the Army, stated, "Our collective strength depends on our people – their mental and physical resilience is at our core." The Cadets of the Gateway Detachment stand ready with the mental and physical resilience to lead America's Soldiers.

As you read through the pages of the Gateway Gazette, I hope that you are encouraged and inspired by the intelligence, dedication, sacrifice, and grit of these young men and women as they prepare to lead. Whether they are conducting the 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March, competing in the punishing Ranger Buddy Challenge, or just waking up at 0600 day after day for physical training, the commitment and dedication of these cadets is inspirational.

Many thanks to our alumni and families who continue to support us through mentoring relationships, professional insights, and financial support. If you'd be willing to mentor a cadet or would like to make a financial contribution, please contact me at matthew.e.snell@wustl.edu. Don't forget that financial donations to the Gateway Battalion are tax deductible (see the last page for details). All your support goes directly to fund cadet activities, travel and additional training opportunities. We would not be as successful as we are without your continued support. I encourage you to follow our activities and accomplishments on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC>).

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

Congratulations Lieutenants!!!

This year, Gateway Battalion commissioned 13 new Second Lieutenants. They have recently received their first assignments and shared a few words for how they plan to be successful during their individual Basic Officer Leadership Courses.



Steven S. Galbraith
Active Duty
Military Intelligence
Corps

Brady D. Hawkes
Reserve Duty
Field Artillery

Alexander S. Kalna
Reserve Duty
Corps of Engineers

Wesley R. Beck
Active Duty
Corps of Engineers

Emerson B. Dresser, IV
Reserve Duty
Corps of Engineers

Lucas M.X. Elberfeld
Active Duty
Chemical Corps

Amanda R. Lofgren Lazewski
Reserve Duty
Chemical Corps

John P. Martinez
Reserve Duty
Infantry Corps

Andrew R. Potts
Reserve Duty
Military Police Corps

Justin A. Rujawitz
Reserve Duty
Medical Service Corps

Andrew J. Schad
Active Duty
Infantry Corps

Nicholas H. Tannenbaum
Educational Delay
Medical Corps

Chinyere G. Turner
Reserve Duty
Adjutant General Corps

ROTC as a Prior-Enlisted Soldier



Cadet Stanley Goodwin is a student at Maryville University, working towards a degree in Cyber Security. CDT Goodwin has served three years in the Army as a Petroleum Supply Specialist (92F).

Transitioning from an enlisted soldier to an officer has greatly enhanced my experience in ROTC. Some of the tasks and methods I learned as an enlisted soldier are reiterated to me as a cadet. The difference is that as an enlisted soldier, I learned material to adequately educate myself. As an ROTC cadet, I am educated on certain tasks while also growing the capability to educate subordinates to effectively carry out these tasks. Having knowledge reiterated to me grants me the opportunity to gain more confidence in myself and display competency as a leader.

One of the characteristics of an effective leader is having a positive influence on others. As a prior service cadet, I feel I am able to use my knowledge and experience and convey that positivity to other cadets. The benefit of my sharing knowledge with others is that it increases the opportunity to successfully execute tasks. Many times, younger cadets who have no prior military experience are frequently asking questions about certain methods of execution and other topics pertaining to the Army. When such questions present themselves, prior cadets such as myself are able to properly educate them on such matters. When there are moments in which I do not have the capability to answer their questions, I am able to direct them to the correct person who will guide them correctly.

Being able to influence my fellow cadets allows me to show others what knowledge they should have in themselves so that they are able to positively influence other cadets in the future, thus having positive influences constantly revolving.

Military Ball 2017

CDT Sommerlyn Stevens is an MSII cadet and a student at Lindenwood University studying Exercise Science.



Towards the beginning of the New Year, cadets of the Gateway Battalion are given the opportunity to attend a ROTC Military Ball. As a sophomore in the ROTC program, this was my second time attending the ball. Being able to participate in this event for the second year, I was able to understand and take in more of the experience. The ball is a great opportunity to meet other cadets and learn so much through guest speakers, cadets, and cadre around you, as well as intermingling with individuals from different schools and different branches. This year, the ball was hosted by the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Army cadets with the attendance of Washington University Army cadets and Air Force Detachment 207 cadets.

The ball starts off with the selected cadets performing a Color Guard and posting the colors, just like the Color Guards you see at sporting events and others events. At the ball though, it feels so much more special. After the toast, cadets are seated and have time to socialize and have dinner. This is a perfect opportunity where we can put cadet life to the back-burner and learn about their school lives, past military lives, and even more personal questions as simple as their interests. After dinner has been served, and time was allotted for socialization, ball members are introduced to a guest speaker. This year the guest speaker was U.S. Army Four Star General Darren W. McDew, Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He spoke to everyone in attendance about his military experience with his foundation in ROTC and gave some very pointed advice about what we should learn as Cadets from his experiences. He shared many stories including ones that included key advice about getting to know your soldiers and even a every bit of effort making a huge difference. He made it very apparent that learning never stops and there are always opportunities for improvement. The ball finished with delicious desert, playing of the Army forces Medley, and the retiring of the colors. During the medley you can hear groups of people singing along to their current branch and, for some, their past branch.

I am truly grateful for the chance to attend the Military Ball again. I was able to take a picture with the General, which was an amazing life experience and candid shot. The military ball is a great way to learn more about everything, allowing you to further your career as an Army lieutenant. I highly recommend anyone who has the opportunity to attend to do so and take advantage of the possible life lessons and memories that could be made.

US Army Corps of Engineers Internship

CDT Morgan Brooks,
MSIII, pictured with an
Army Corps of Engineers
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
(UAV)



Working with the Archaeology Department of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) last summer immersed me in an opportunity to build on my knowledge of archival organization and curation, as well as gain an overview of the projects and purpose of the archaeology department in the St. Louis District. By engaging with archaeologists, archivists, and knowledge managers working within the department, I learned of many jobs within the corps that would utilize my degree.

During my internship, there were many opportunities to develop my leadership skills. I had the pleasure of organizing a luncheon with the commander and deputy commander where I could learn from their experiences and ask questions regarding my future in the military. Engaging with other army personnel at the luncheon, pt, and in the hallways provided me with a chance to learn more about the army, USACE, and my future as a military leader. Not only did I have plenty of opportunities for military and professional development, but I also had more fun than I ever imagined for an internship. I attended numerous site visits, including one where we spent the day at Mark Twain Lake, and another visit to the new NGA site. I even had the opportunity to experience some of the new technology utilized by USACE, like an unmanned ariel vehicle (pictured above).

Working with the Archaeology was truly one of the best experiences of my college career. Everyone in my department was kind, supportive, and committed to helping me with professional development. I had such a rewarding experience that I am going back this summer for another internship with the archaeology department.

German Armed Forced Military Proficiency Badge



Above: The German Armed Forced Military Proficiency Badge (Gold) is displayed. It is one of the few foreign awards authorized for wear with the U.S. Army Service Uniform.



Cadet Adam Messer is an MSI Cadet at Washington University in St. Louis, studying Systems Engineering. He received a gold badge at this year's GAFBMP competition.

From the wake of the 2016 Ranger Challenge team, eight team members were fortunate enough to be allotted slots to Western Illinois University's German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) qualification. This event was not only an opportunity for these cadets to improve upon their military skills, but also to earn one of the most sought after foreign awards achievable by cadets. The GAFBMP is a German award (hence its namesake) wearable by US soldiers who qualify in one of its three tiers - bronze, silver, and gold. These categories are a tiered set of physical tests and military-skill assessments increasing in difficulty with respect to their aforementioned order. These physical tests include a 100m swim in ACUs to be completed in under four minutes, a 1000m sprint, shuttle sprints, and a timed flex arm hang. As far as skill aptitude, cadets are given accuracy requirements on a 25-meter range with a 9mm pistol, as well as a combat lifesaving skills test, and a timed gas mask test. To round off the qualification, cadets are set on a four to nine mile ruck march with 35 pounds and strenuous time constraints, with this distance determined by the medal for which each cadet is competing.

Those able to successfully complete all of these requirements to the highest standard receive the gold award. However, developing the ability and courage to face the physical and skill-based qualifications and earn any of the three medals is a commendable accomplishment. Thanks to the expert build-up and training throughout the Ranger Challenge season led by CDT O'Halloran, Gateway Battalion was able to bring home 5 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze badges. This success was undoubtedly due in part to the leadership of CPT Flynn and MSG Rabon. For the cadets on this trip, each one was able to bring home a medal, despite heavy physical and mental duress. They have joined the ranks of those both in Gateway Battalion and around the world who are able to say they have trained, competed, and achieved the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

Ranger Buddy Challenge



Cadet Sean Rogers is an MSI and a freshman Systems Engineering major at Washington University in St. Louis.

While most people are comfortably lying under their covers sleeping at 0600, over 100 buddy pairs of Army ROTC cadets are lined up ready to hear the command that will start one of the hardest tasks these cadets have ever faced. These cadets will start their day off with a grueling 15-km road march with 35 pounds on their backs that will push them to their physical and mental limits. If the buddy pairs complete the road march in the allotted time, they will move onto four skills lanes that will test their military knowledge through a variety of skills, but if the team does not know these skills, they will be punished with physical activities. These skills include reading maps, combat lifesaving skills, tactical movements, knot tying, and even a tomahawk throw. If the buddy pair completes all four of these skills lanes, they will move onto a 5km run. The run must be completed in an hour while carrying a rifle. By this point, all the buddy pairs have pushed themselves to their limits and are suffering from cramps and muscle fatigue. At the end of all of this, most of the buddy teams will only get the reward of completing Ranger Buddy Challenge. After going through this competition, I can say that the huge sense of pride is the best reward you can ask for after completing the toughest course I have ever been through.

All of this was preceded by four training sessions a week since November, led by CDT Conor Hammond, who trained up 10 buddy teams for this competition. At these sessions, everyone would push each other to do their best, while at the same time building team morale and forming a group of strong leaders. Seeing this group of cadets every morning really made all of the training enjoyable and intense at the same time. I have a huge sense of respect for all of the cadets who went out to KU to compete in the challenge.

Overall Ranger Buddy Challenge is one of my favorite things that I have taken part in ever since joining the Gateway Battalion. One of the most exciting parts of the weekend was having one of our female buddy teams place third overall in the female group. Congratulations to Cadet Allen and Cadet Rhodes for their performance.

What a Year! - MS1 End of Year Perspective

Cadet Michaela Cohen is a Pre-Med student at Washington University in St. Louis.



Like for many incoming students, the start of my freshman year was very overwhelming. Transitioning to a new school and a new home with new people felt very daunting at first. However, with ROTC, I was able to find the friends I needed to start the year strong.

There are so many people I wouldn't have even met had I not met them through ROTC, yet now I can't imagine not being friends with them. Training early mornings together, overcoming challenges together, and growing together makes a group strong and cohesive. This is the bond that cadets share, and it is a bond that permeates into our regular lives as college students. We're not just classmates; we're a family of sorts. We support each other both in and outside of ROTC, whether that be attending each other's sports events, concerts, and art galleries or studying as a group for exams or training exercises.

This support system makes it worth waking up early for PT and motivates me to give my all. Time and time again, I've been physically challenged to push myself further than I ever thought possible. It's all thanks to the support and encouragement from my fellow cadets and our cadre members that I've been able to overcome these challenges. Everytime I make it through an obstacle, I gain confidence and motivation to continue pushing my boundaries. Just recently, for example, I participated in the Ranger Buddy Challenge competition, where I completed the most difficult ruck I've ever done. When I was losing confidence about my own abilities, my buddy was right there to encourage me and push me to go the extra mile (or three!). The feeling of finishing that very difficult task was incredible and both me and my buddy are fired up to work even harder next year.

This whole year has been a year of exponential growth for me and I'm certain that as I continue in the program, I will grow even more. Looking to my MSII, MSIII, and MSIV mentors and the experiences and advice that they've shared assures me of the effectiveness of the program and the benefits of my future here.

What a Year! - MS2 End of Year Perspective



Cadet Eden Livingston is a sophomore at Washington University, studying Systems Engineering.



Approaching the halfway point of my journey through ROTC, I know myself and my fellow MS2 cadets are feeling more than ready to attack the new leadership roles and challenges that await us as MS3's. We've been through the newness and inexperience of an MS1, and although MS2 year has not been as demanding, there was still a lot of learning to do.

For myself, coming back to school fresh out of Basic Camp, I was able to see ROTC and what we did in a new light. For the other cadets, most had gone to camp, or had been on CULP or Project GO, and experienced the first tastes of military life and being on a base. Having this experience over the summer greatly increased my understanding of the Army as a whole, in addition to my confidence in myself as a competent and knowledgeable cadet. I was excited to come back and share everything I had learned. Luckily for us, MS2 year is the first time we get put into mentorship roles, and are expected to look out for and help the brand new MS1s, a place of confusion we had been just a year prior.

Although we as MS2's were not in any major leadership roles this year, this year was an essential time to use as observation, and study traits we liked in leadership, things we saw as beneficial in the program, and start thinking about ways to improve the program and ourselves in leadership. In class, we spent a lot of time discussing important aspects of leadership and how to apply military leadership, and discovering our own personal strengths.

In my experience this year, though out various activities we did, I consciously assessed each leader we worked with and made note of what I liked and disliked. Ultimately, by the end of the year, I had a very strong awareness of what kind of leadership works in specific situations. But most importantly, I learned that the most essential quality of leadership is adaptability, because not every style works for every possible audience and task, and I need to be able to adapt and lead in any situation I could find myself in.

During MS2 year, it is essential to capitalize on every opportunity you can get. You have a lot of flexibility in this year, and choice to coast to MS3 year or to really engage yourself and make yourself as prepared and competent as you can before you take on positions as squad and platoon leaders. I am confident my class spent this year examining others and ourselves as leaders, and have incredible enthusiasm and drive heading into the second half of our ROTC careers.

How Do You Get Involved at Gateway ROTC?

Whether you're a prospective Cadet, a parent interested in what your child does in the ROTC, an alumni wanting to look back into the program, or wanting to give back, we are here to help.

I'm a prospective Cadet and would like to observe some of your training events, or classes. Who should I contact to schedule this?

Mr. Lee Rodriguez in the Gateway Recruiting Office can help you schedule appointment. His contact details are:

(314) 935-5521
lee.e.rodriguez@wustl.edu



Gateway Battalion website:

rotc.wustl.edu

Like us on Facebook:

Facebook.com/GatewayROTC

I'm in the National Guard, or Reserves. How do I get involved with ROTC?



Mr. Gary Lee is the Program Coordinator and has over 27 years of experience helping Cadets achieve their goals.

(314) 935-5546
glee@wustl.edu

How Can you Support the Gateway Battalion?

You can make donations online through the Gateway Battalion's GoFundMe account using the following address:

<https://www.gofundme.com/gatewayROTC>

Donations made through Washington University are fully tax deductible.

You can make checks payable to:

"Washington University - Department of Military Science"

Memo: Acct# 11-2051-94990

MAIL TO:

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Saint Louis, MO 63130

Online:

Go to gifts.wustl.edu/giftform.aspx
Click "select giving areas". Then, check "other" and enter "Department of Military Science" and Acct# 11-2051-94990

Other:

To donate time, money or equipment, or other resources outside of Washington University channels, please contact the Professor of Military Science.

