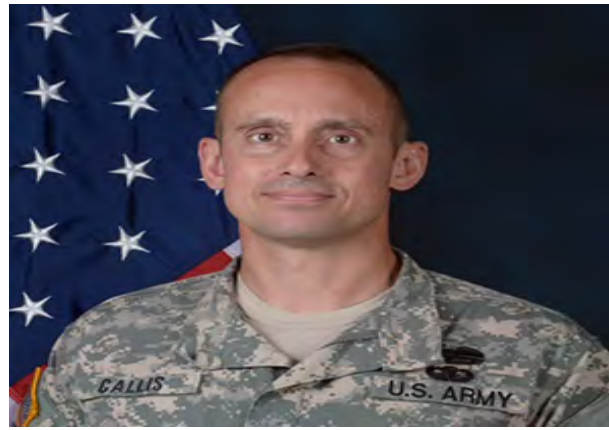


Gateway Gazette

Spring Edition 2016, Volume IV



A Message from the Professor of Military Science



Alumni, Cadets, and friends of the Gateway Detachment, welcome to our final edition of the Gateway Gazette for the 2015-2016 school year. President Theodore Roosevelt once stated,

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

This time of the year is marked by transitions and the opportunity to reflect upon the achievements of those who stood in the arena of leader development, our Cadets. In the following pages, you'll see articles by our Cadets describing the significance of their transition to Army officers, their experience as ROTC Cadets, and their goals for the future.

Transition and achievement seem to go together. As they began the academic year last fall, our Class of 2016 had just transitioned into the leadership role of the Cadet Battalion. Predictably, they experienced some growing pains as they developed the skills and teamwork necessary to lead over 100 of their fellow Cadets, drawn together from nine universities across the St. Louis metro area. Building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Class of 2015, these young men and women showed an ability to thrive as leaders in the arena. Throughout the year, they planned and executed innovative and challenging leadership labs. They influenced Cadets to challenge themselves, resulting in nine Cadets earning their German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, four teams competing in the KU Ranger Buddy Challenge, and five Cadets representing our Cadet Battalion at the Bataan Memorial Death March. Key skills they developed along the way were the ability to critically assess problems from different perspectives, combined with a willingness to try innovative solutions. These Cadets are fully prepared to transition into their new leadership roles as Army officers.

The mantle of leadership for the Gateway Cadet Battalion now passes into the very capable hands of the Class of 2017. Already, they've begun to show their abilities by planning the inaugural Gateway Fitness Challenge and a pair of leadership labs. This summer, our Cadets transition from the campus arena to a larger stage. 35 Cadets will take advantage of 47 different Cadet Summer Training leadership development opportunities. This includes Cadet Leadership Camp and Cadet Initial Entry Training at Ft. Knox, KY, as well as the Army's Airborne and Air Assault Schools. Through Project Global Officer and the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency programs, some Cadets will broaden their knowledge and understanding of world cultures in several countries. Other Cadets will gain real world experience as part of internships with NATO, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (thanks to our unique partnership with the St. Louis District Headquarters).

This summer also marks transitions in our Cadre Team. This semester, we bid farewell to MSG Felder, who departed for a new posting in the Washington, D.C. area. In his place, we welcomed MSG Rabon and his family, who joined us after extensive experience in the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the Ranger Regiment. This summer, my family and I will be leaving for a new duty station. LTC Matt Snell and his family will join the Gateway Detachment as he becomes the new Professor of Military Science; I wish him the best as he leads the Detachment in developing its young Cadets. It's been very rewarding to watch our Cadets progress towards meeting their incredible potential. I've been amazed at their motivation, determination to succeed, curiosity, and ability to develop new solutions to challenges. Thank you to all the supporters of the Gateway Detachment. From the faculty and administration at each of our nine university partners, to the many St. Louis area organizations, to our Army teammates, to our alumni, your support has been extremely important in strengthening the Program and developing our Cadets. I owe a special debt of gratitude to our Gateway cadre and staff. It's through your incredible dedication to accomplishing the mission and caring for our Cadets that we've been able to achieve our goals. This organization is extremely fortunate to have such a group of dedicated professionals. Finally, thank you to the Gateway Detachment Cadets. Your energy and drive are inspiring. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to have served with you in this arena. I look forward to seeing you again and to hearing of your many accomplishments. Until then, do great things, be good teammates, and have fun.

100 Years of ROTC

Below: Cadet Phillip Gallon (Saint Louis University) speaks with JROTC Cadets from McCluer High School before the start of the ROTC 5K Run.



This year Gateway Battalion Army ROTC is proud to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of ROTC around the nation. The 100th anniversary of ROTC is a nationwide event celebrating the ROTC detachments for all of the various services. As the primary source for commissioning officers into the Armed Forces, ROTC has a proud tradition which began with the signing of the National Defense Act of 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. Since 1916, the Army proponent of ROTC has produced over 500,000 Second Lieutenants and the Gateway Battalion is a member of the 275 Army ROTC programs throughout the nation. The Gateway Battalion has been commissioning Army officers for over 100 years, starting in 1891, but only formally following the ratifications of the National Defense Act of 1916. Since the inception of ROTC, there has been both a growth of enrollment and opportunities offered to Cadets. ROTC offers various training events to Cadets through military training courses such as Airborne, Air Assault, Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency training (where cadets are sent to other countries to learn about different languages and cultures for a month), as well as scholarships which fall under the 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year classifications. ROTC has developed and grown due to these initiatives and the ideals of National Service its Cadets adhere to. Through the 100th Anniversary, the Gateway Battalion celebrates the growth and diversification ROTC has accomplished throughout its history.

There have been various events scheduled by the Gateway Battalion to commemorate this historic event. From the alumni gathering that occurred on the 15th of April to the ROTC Nationwide 5k race which will occurred on April 23rd in Forest Park, the Gateway Battalion is successfully participating in showing our pride as one of the Army's recruiters and trainers of future officers. The schedule of events Gateway Battalion has put together for the 100th anniversary is as follows:

April 15th - Alumni reunion at Gateway Battalion

April 23rd - ROTC 5k race in Forest Park

May 2nd - 100th Anniversary Celebration at Lindenwood University

Congratulations Lieutenants!!!

This year, Gateway Battalion commissioned 18 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.



2LT Briana Adam

Quartermaster Corps

A Company, 40th Brigade Support Battalion, Bell, California

"Using my resources such as our alumni from the program to help me prepare for BOLC."

2LT Grant Beavers

Quartermaster Corps

383rd Quartermaster Company, Saint Charles, Missouri

"My biggest obstacle prior to BOLC is physically and mentally preparing myself to exceed the standards of an Army officer."

2LT Matthew Brice

Corps of Engineers

Italy

"I plan to develop myself and my peers both personally and professionally in order to enter duty as mentally and physically fit as possible."

2LT Darren Brown

Signal Corps

1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia

"To read and study everything related to Signal operations."

2LT Connor Eulberg

Transportation Corps

Baumholder, Germany

"I plan to arrive at BOLC motivated, physically fit, and excited to forge relationships with my fellow transportation second lieutenants."

2LT Richard Ferrell

Aviation

Flight Training, Fort Rucker, Alabama

"To be successful, it is important to understand yourself and set goals. Determine what you don't know and do something about it. Identify your weaknesses and actively work to improve them. Take interest in your potential and focus on self-development."

2LT Phillip Gallon

Aviation

Flight Training, Fort Rucker, Alabama

"I plan to study heavily, using all available time before I report to flight school to have a head start on the knowledge necessary for the courses that I will be attending."

2LT Dustin Hesskamp

Military Intelligence Corps / Branch Detail Infantry
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Schofield Barracks, HI
“Ruck really far and run really far.”

2LT Anthony Jackson

Ordnance Corps
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Ft. Stewart, Georgia
“I will ask questions and gather as much information as possible in order to further my preparation and knowledge.”

2LT Nathan Kinnard

Medical Service Corps
47th Combat Support Hospital, Ft. Lewis, Washington
“My biggest obstacle that I will need to address before I attend BOLC is getting myself in the physical condition to lead from the front.”

2LT Seth Landon

Medical Service Corps
229th Multi-Functional Medical Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
“To ready myself for Medical Services BOLC, I plan on becoming more familiar with my overall knowledge of the Medical Corps, as well as my familiarity with medical terminology.”

2LT Marcus Prosser

Infantry
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
“Grow mentally, physically, and spiritually each day I wake up.”

2LT Sean Scally

Quartermaster Corps
82nd Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
“I need to be both mentally and physically prepared to face the challenges Army leaders deal with.”

2LT Joel Schroeder

Military Intelligence Corps
35th Main Command Post Operational Detachment, Lamar, Missouri
“Plan on staying in shape and speaking to other officers in the military intelligence branch so I'll know what to expect.”

2LT Jason Sumpter

Corps of Engineers
631st Engineer Support Company, Sparta, Illinois
“I'm going to read the FMs and ADPs pertaining to my branch and expertise.”

2LT Joshua Taylor

Quartermaster Corps
De Soto Armory, De Soto, Missouri
“My biggest obstacle is not to get distracted and to be mentally prepared for the coursework, pressure and training that will be put upon me as a leader.”

2LT Jacob Wagner

Military Intelligence Corps / Branch Detail Field Artillery
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado
“My biggest obstacle is maintaining momentum through the challenges that will arise throughout BOLC.”

2LT Sarah Weaver

Adjutant General Corps
10th Psychological Operations Battalion, Saint Louis, Missouri
“Talk to prior lieutenants who have been before me.”

Gateway Detachment Cadet Selected to Truman Scholars Program



Cadet Teddy Sims (pictured left) is a senior at Washington University, majoring in International Area Studies.



Congratulations to Cadet Teddy Sims (Washington University in St. Louis, Class of 2017) for his selection to receive the Harry S. Truman Scholarship. The Truman Scholarship is one of the most prestigious and selective scholarships in higher education. The scholarship provides \$30,000 for graduate school, of any type, for students who plan on attending graduate school and are in preparation for a career in public service. Cadet Sims was one of only four awardees.

To learn more about this accomplishment, visit the following website:

<https://source.wustl.edu/2016/04/teddy-sims-selected-truman-scholar/>

Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks

Cadet Richard Ferrell is a graduate student at Webster University, currently receiving a Masters in Business Administration. CDT Ferrell has served on Active Duty for over four years as a Sergeant in the Field Artillery branch. CDT Ferrell is also a participant in the Army's Green-to-Gold Program.



A. What has your participation in the ROTC program taught you about becoming an Army officer?

While I already had some experience and knowledge of leading small teams as an NCO, the ROTC program expanded my potential by exposing me to new domains of leadership and added new and effective tools to my kitbag. Learning how to use the mission command philosophy was particularly valuable.

B. What experience was most influential in your decision to become an Army officer?

Even though I had made my decision to become a military officer long ago, I feel that the most influential experience that Cadets have in making the decision to commit to the Army is their personal interactions with Cadre and peers who have committed. People who have already made the decision and Cadre who have lived the experience of service, influencing others as role models, have the greatest potential positive impact in influencing younger Cadets to realize the good they can bring to the world serving our nation as a leader.

C. Being a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), how do you plan to build trust and confidence with your NCOs as a junior officer?

I plan to build trust and confidence with my NCOs by valuing their contribution to the platoon, helping them achieve their goals, setting them up for success, both personally and professionally, showing competence in my command as a servant leader, leading by example, and sharing in hardship on the path to mission accomplishment. Confidence comes from consistently demonstrated competence and sound decision making. Trust is earned through respect, teamwork, integrity, and selflessness.



Cadet Phillip Gallon is a Senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Business Administration - Entrepreneurship. CDT Gallon has previously served on active duty for over nine years as a Staff Sergeant in the Aviation branch.



A. What has your participation in the ROTC program taught you about becoming an Army officer?

Overall, the program allowed me to witness how Army officers were trained from inception. As a platoon sergeant, I often wondered where my company grade officers learned about the knowledge base of their NCOs. I now see that much of their knowledge of their subordinate leaders has to be self-learned. Mostly, it showed me how much officers were expected to be independent learners and make every effort to grow their own base of knowledge through independent learning opportunities.

B. What experience was most influential in your decision to become an Army officer?

While attending basic training in 2003, I was paired with another recruit who was going to eventually attend Officer Candidate School. After speaking with him over the course of nine weeks, I decided that I wanted to become an officer. Also, being able to work overseas as a Task Force Senior Enlisted Advisor afforded me the rare opportunity to aid in real-time combat mission planning. I was thrilled to be learning while having such valuable and direct input on the mission. This experience served to solidify my dreams of becoming an officer.

C. Being a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), how do you plan to build trust and confidence with your NCOs as a junior officer?

I'll start by building mutual trust. By giving my NCOs numerous opportunities to actively participate in shaping the culture of my platoon, it will show them that I trust their leadership capabilities and judgement. Of course, they will have my intent and all guidance required to do so. It will also include their input due to them being with the Soldiers of the platoon longer than I have. I will also actively develop and progress them. This will show them first hand that I have a vested interest in their individual success, as well as the success of the junior enlisted Soldiers.

Cadet Dustin Hesskamp is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Business Administration - International Business. CDT Hesskamp has served on both Active Duty and the Army National Guard. He has over eight years of total service and serves as a Staff Sergeant in the Field Artillery branch.



A. What has your participation in the ROTC program taught you about becoming an Army officer?

ROTC has helped me transition my mindset from enlisted to officer. If I was asked a few years ago what the difference between being an officer and an enlisted soldier was I would have probably answered "nothing everybody does the same stuff but has different roles." ROTC has taught me that being an officer requires a very different mindset and vision. There is a reason the Army spends so much time and effort training officers to think in a different way than their soldiers.

B. What experience was most influential in your decision to become an Army officer?

I left active duty with no intent to come back to the Army. After spending some time back in the civilian workforce I realized I would be much happier and much more successful in the Army. I knew I wanted to challenge improve myself, so when I decided to come back to the Army, I wanted to do it as an officer.

C. Being a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), how do you plan to build trust and confidence with your NCO's as a junior officer?

I plan to build trust with my NCO's by showing them my commitment to them. I will do this in three ways: First, I will always look out for their best interests before my own. Two, I will develop their talents and value their skills and abilities. Last, I will always be the first one in and the last one out, ensuring I am giving my maximum effort and working hardest for the betterment my NCO's.



Cadet Nathan Kinnard is a senior History major at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. CDT Kinnard has over 12 years of active duty service as a Cavalry Scout in the Armor branch. CDT Kinnard is also currently a Sergeant First Class participating in the Army's Green-to-Gold program.



A. What has your participation in the ROTC program taught you about becoming an Army officer?

It has reinforced my desire to develop officers for future leadership roles. I now understand that I will be doing this from a position of mutual trust and experience, rather than relying on the responsibilities inherent in my previous role as a Platoon Sergeant.

B. What experience was most influential in your decision to become an Army officer?

The experience that was most influential in my decision to become an Officer was that of my last deployment to Afghanistan. During that deployment, I worked directly with the Medical Officer in my Squadron. I felt like my job in the Cavalry was becoming stagnate and wanted to do something new with my career. After observing and inquiring about the roles and responsibilities of a Medical Officer, I saw a new challenge that would help me acquire new skills, along with allowing me to be able to transition into a rewarding job after my retirement from the military.

C. Being a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), how do you plan to build trust and confidence with your NCO's as a junior officer?

I will build trust and confidence with my NCO's through being competent in my job and utilizing the lessons I learned throughout my many years as a NCO. I will be an adaptive leader who not only cares for the welfare of my Soldiers, but also inspires my Soldiers to always complete any mission. I have a deep understanding of how what to expect of my NCO's and what they expect of me. This will help me guide their careers and enhance their capabilities.

ROTC: A Singapore Army Officer's Perspective

First Lieutenant Victor Yaw is a freshman at Washington University, majoring in Business Administration. 1LT Yaw is a seasoned Infantry Platoon Commander with the Singapore Army, who sought to learn more about the training of American junior officers by enrolling in ROTC for a semester during the course of his studies.



I spent my last day in Singapore with friends, family, and fellow servicemen. At the cusp of a new beginning in my life, I was nostalgic, excited and nervous. It felt like my heart was being torn away from two different families: the one related by blood, and the one forged through the kilns of hardship. Within less than a day, I would be on my 25 hour journey to St. Louis, marking the start of my education at Washington University. The Army, although a large organization, became my family through those tough times. However, when I first got to college, those close bonds, feelings, and mutual understanding I once experienced suddenly disappeared. The Gateway ROTC program not only provides a comprehensive and nurturing environment for future US Army officers, fellow Cadets also become a family away from home. Led by highly competent military cadre, with real combat experience and a high motivation to develop capable officers, the Gateway ROTC program has taught me a lot.

The path to becoming an officer in Singapore is different from that of ROTC Cadets here. Almost all officers in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) receive their commission through Officer Cadet School (OCS). After being selected, based on leadership potential at Basic Military Training (BMT), officer candidates are allowed to go through the course. Because the required active duty portion of Singapore conscription is only two years, there is a need to very quickly produce officers of high quality. Fast-paced and rigorous, this course tests the mettle and builds the leadership of those who go through it. There is not much time, or need for learning anything outside of the military. In ROTC however, cadets need to balance school work and extracurricular activities with training requirements. That is a challenge I have never had to face. ROTC cadets are placed in an interesting dynamic where civilian and military lives are inextricably intertwined in the fabric of college. The time that they have to learn and develop the values and traits required of an officer, is much longer than what I had. Lieutenants in the SAF are pushed very quickly to serve in their line of duty. Therefore, many skills are learned by making mistakes.

Despite this difference, we all still come from the same warrior family of leaders. The values of integrity, discipline, fighting spirit, loyalty, and honor are all equally ingrained in our minds. To lead others with these values is an experience that not many others share. Leadership in the military is one of the rawest forms of leadership. No other occupation forces one to make such a direct impact on the lives of others. A sloppy job in this line of work does not result in a lost bonus, it results in a lost life. The Gateway ROTC program helps prepare Cadets to shoulder that responsibility through hands on experience in tactical and non-tactical leadership. By instilling values and giving practical experience to Cadets, the cadre guide and mold future Army officers that are able to lead, develop and achieve in their future careers.

US Army Corps of Engineers Internship



Left: Cadet Sumpter (left) and other interns touring the machine shop to learn how parts are manufactured on the service base and used in daily operations

Right: Cadet Sumpter (left) Aboard the Dredge Potter; learning how the river is navigated safely with the assistance of technology.



The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) aims to deliver vital public and military engineering services, partnering in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy and reduce the risks from disasters. Their vision is to engineer solutions for the nation's toughest challenges. As an intern with USACE, I worked at the Applied River Engineering Center (AREC) located on a service base adjacent to the Mississippi River. Under the mentorship of professional engineers, I was able to dive into daily operations.

AREC helps maintain the operability of the river by supporting and maintaining the dredges. These dredges use a mechanism similar to a vacuum to displace dirt toward the banks of the river, which in turn keep the channel a certain depth and width. Without accomplishing this task, a major route of transportation used for business and commerce becomes obstructed. I personally participated in project management tasks to ensure mission success. These tasks ranged from editing technical specifications, to acquiring quotes for parts. For example, I had to find replacement springs for the bulkheads, which is a retaining wall. Although it seems trivial, all of the small parts and efforts come together to collectively engineer solutions. As a future Army officer, I can utilize the project management skills I learned through USACE to become a better manager and leader. I have a better understanding of how to break down a mission into various tasks and subtasks, in order to create a mission essential task list, which allows overwhelming missions to be accomplished. Overall, this experience will be invaluable as I operate as a future Army Engineer Corps officer.

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 Keyana Mapp is a junior Political Science Major at Lindenwood University. Upon graduation, CDT Mapp is hoping to attend Law School and become an Army Judge Advocate General Officer.

“GAFMPB is a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany,” according to the German Sergeant Major that briefed us before the events began. “In the German army, this decoration is awarded and worn by soldiers of all ranks. In the U.S. Army, the proficiency badge is one of the few foreign awards approved for wear on the Army Service Uniform and that makes it a highly sought-after honor.”

To qualify for the award, participants must successfully complete challenges such as; an 11x10 meter sprint, a 1,000-meter run, pistol qualification, NBC & CLS test, flexed-arm hang, 100 meter swim, and a 12 kilometer road march with a 35 pound ruck sack. All of which determines your eligibility of placement. Going into this competition I had the biggest knot in my stomach and a lot of doubt about being able to complete what I worked hard to accomplish. Going through the first couple of events, I started to get to comfortable, until the 100-meter swim came around. I got too settled and didn’t pass it the first go round. This event demotivated me quickly and I wanted to give up because I felt like I couldn’t do it. After watching everyone else finish his or her swim I talked to Master Sergeant Rabon and Staff Sergeant Wyrick. They both told me that I had this, just to relax and think positive. I took this into consideration even after being told, “You have a year to complete it.”, and being given the option to wait. My mindset and motivation wouldn’t let me leave without my badge, so I went for it again.

When I got into the pool the second time, I swam my first 2 laps with 2 min and 30 seconds to spare to finish my last 2 laps. I was tired from the first time but I didn’t give up. With the motivation from my fellow Cadets and COL Callis, I finished the 100-meter swim in 3 minutes and 59 seconds. Talk about a photo finish! This very moment is when I knew that I could do anything I put my mind to.

Bataan Death March

Above Right: Cadet Lauren Murray is a junior nursing major at Saint Louis University and was responsible for the coordination, training and fundraising efforts for the Bataan Death March team.



Below Left: Cadets Mocha Uchiyama, Haley Allen, Jack Kiplinger, Lauren Murray and Steven Galbraith pose for a team photo before the opening ceremony.

Below Right: The Gateway Bataan team crosses the finish line together.



“It sounds pretty cruel and to the extreme. Just trying to understand why you want this challenge.” This was the response I received after explaining the Bataan Death March to a family member. It does take a special type of person to willingly agree to trek 26.2 miles in the sandy mountains of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. To top it all off, we completed the race while carrying the weight equivalent of a seven year old child in rucksacks on our backs. After thinking for a moment to come up with a good explanation as to why I would voluntarily put myself through this for the second year in a row, I explained that the first time I completed Bataan, I had never felt so accomplished and proud of myself like I did the moment I crossed the finish line. I felt so completely honored and humbled to shake the hands of the actual Bataan survivors, despite the sunburn, countless blisters, aching muscles, and exhausted feet. For the first time, I truly felt as if I was part of something bigger than ROTC with the thousands of soldiers, veterans, cadets, civilians, wounded warriors, and even children lined up at the starting line. This was the feeling I had to keep in mind when I was asked to be captain of Gateway’s 2016 Bataan Death March team.

I had already done Bataan once, and I was sure I could do it again, but this time I would just have to do a little bit of extra planning. After creating a training plan, determining travel details, and finalizing the team, there was one important detail I had yet to figure out: funding. After crunching the numbers multiple times, I knew this was going to be an expensive trip, but I wasn’t going to let the cost prevent the team from experiencing the best event ROTC has to offer. I typed up a fundraising email, which I then had each team member forward to family and friends. The response was incredible. We quickly received donations with immense support and encouraging words to help us achieve our goal. Our five team members raised nearly \$3,000 in a matter of weeks.

As March 20th was approaching, I was excited for my training and planning to finally pay off. I could not wait for the team to get to experience the Bataan for the first time. After around ten hours of walking in pain through what seemed like the middle of nowhere, the five of us crossed the finish line together. We may not have had the fastest time, but I could not have been more proud of every member of the team for finishing this incredibly physically and mentally challenging race. While we sat together nursing our feet and muscles, completely exhausted, the five of us agreed that day that the Bataan Death March was the most difficult thing we have ever experienced.

Ranger Buddy Challenge

Cadet Cormac O'Halloran is a sophomore Political Science major at Washington University and was the captain of the Ranger Buddy Challenge for this year's teams. CDT O'Halloran was responsible for coordinating all training and event travel planning for everything concerning this event.



There is no ROTC event that will test a Cadet's physical endurance, mental toughness, and technical competency the way that Ranger Buddy Challenge will. This is an all day competition held at Kansas University meant to determine who the number one Cadet buddy team in the Midwest is. Everything done in the competition is done in buddy teams of two. This year, five teams successfully represented the Gateway Battalion at this competition.

This is an all-day event that begins with a 15 kilometer ruck march, then leads into four different lanes of four stations each, and ends with a 5 kilometer run. Some examples of stations involved in each lane included tests such as; having to low crawl under barbed wire 100 meters over difficult terrain, having to treat a casualty and call up a helicopter medical evacuation request over the radio, or doing an alternating buddy rush across a field while being shot at with paintballs. Every team starts the ruck at the same time, 0515. The winner of the competition is the buddy team that finishes the run first. Because the competition is time based, Cadets cannot stop to rest or eat at any point in the day if they expect to win. Although all these events are crammed into one day, the Cadets who represented the Gateway Battalion put months of training into preparing for this event.

Any Cadet who completed this competition will tell you that it was worth it to have gone through this competition and all the training that preceded it. Ranger Buddy Challenge turns Cadets into tougher, more athletic, and more competent Cadets. It teaches them a variety of valuable technical skills, and gets them further integrated into the Gateway Battalion by giving younger Cadets the opportunity to train and compete alongside each other and older Cadets. But most importantly, this event makes Cadets more confident in their own abilities and turns them into better, more capable leaders of the Gateway Battalion and future Army officers.

The following teams represented the Gateway Battalion at this year's Ranger Buddy Challenge:

Mocha Uchiyama (Washington University)
Conor Hammond (Washington University)

Haley Allen (Washington University)
Emma Hupp (Lindenwood University)

Hayes Bell (Lindenwood University)
Robert Simcoke (University of Missouri-Saint Louis)

Cormac O'Halloran (Washington University)
Jason Sumpter (Washington University)

Alexander Kalna (Lindenwood University)
Emerson Rainey (Lindenwood University)

When You've Given All That You've Got



Cadet Haley Allen is a freshman Psychology major at Washington University. CDT Allen performed well above all set standards during her participation in every one of the most challenging events that ROTC has to offer throughout the school year.



My freshman year in the Gateway ROTC program has been remarkably challenging, but also extremely rewarding. Especially the second semester. After the initial phase of adapting to college life and ROTC, I decided to challenge myself by volunteering for as many extracurricular ROTC events and training opportunities as possible. The three major events that I was given the opportunity to participate in included the Bataan Memorial Death March, competing for the German Armed Forces Military Proficiency Badge (GAFMPB), and the Ranger Buddy Challenge.

Each of these events were both physically and mentally challenging and required months of extra training leading up to the event. Preparing for these events as well as keeping up with academics has been no easy task, but it has forced me to learn how to better manage my time and prioritize, which is a necessary skill in both college and life in general. During this last semester I've learned that with hard work and commitment, almost anything is possible. At the beginning of freshman year, I'd never thought that I'd complete a 26.2 mile march with 40 pounds on my back or earn a German military badge my first year in the program. After completing these events, I have realized that I am capable of much more than I had originally thought, both as a cadet and as a student at Washington University. The other cadets that have also been participating in these extra events have been a source of inspiration for me, setting the example of what dedication and hard work truly look like.

Although much of my free time this semester has been taken up by extra training, I can honestly say that I would do it all over again, because I got so much out of the experiences that ROTC has given me. Ranger Buddy Challenge in particular, has taught me a lot of practical skills that I wouldn't have otherwise learned as a freshmen Cadet. I feel these skills will serve to give me an advantage as I move forward in the program. I am extremely glad that I had the opportunity to participate in these three events this past semester and hope to continue to challenge myself in events like these in the future. I have grown tremendously as an individual and gained many valuable skills this past semester that will prepare me for my career as a future Army officer.

US Army Corps of Engineers Professional Panel



Cadet Wesley Beck is a junior at Washington University, majoring in Chemical Engineering.



“Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” These famous words given by General Douglas MacArthur upon leaving the United States Military Academy were a key focus in the United States Army Corps of Engineers professional panel with COL Anthony P. Mitchell, MAJ Morgan Reese, and CPT Joel Groves. This motivational phrase, provided as an inspiration for cadets to aspire to be greater, was what struck me the most out of the panel. Instead of focusing on just what it is to be an Army Corps of Engineers officer, the panel instead veered towards developing us all as future leaders.

As it turns out, there are a lot of nuances and details that leaders have to attend to. As all members of the panel pointed out, one thing Cadets should care about is how they present themselves for the first time when applying for their first duty position. Instead of just focusing on appearance, however, the panel believed it was more important to convey your passion for serving in whatever role you could fill. Although we often emphasize being goal-oriented and prepared, as future leaders we will have to adapt to whatever work environment we are placed in. They used the example of instead of just asking the Battalion Commander to place you in a Sapper Platoon (Engineers who are first into battle to clear enemy obstacles and make repairs required for the fighting force to maneuver), which may be what you have strived for, focus on simply applying your passion for following those 3 words: duty, honor, and country. Then, once you are given your first position (and every position thereafter), it is important to remember, “There is something that you can teach everyone that can help them.”, as MAJ Reese said. So long as you focus on your Soldiers, and remember that your own development isn’t just for yourself, then you will have lived up to those three words.

Military Police Professional Panel



Cadet Andrew Potts is a junior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice.



As an MS3 (junior) in the Gateway Battalion ROTC program, I am on my way to shape my future within the United States Army. I believe that one of the most beneficial moments of my ROTC career would have to be the Military Police Professional Panel that we had this semester. Of course, I am slightly biased on the subject matter because I want to pursue a career as a Military Police Commissioned Officer. With a major in criminology and a desire to work within federal law enforcement, it is obvious why I learned so much from this panel. They provided a lot of insight in educating Cadets as to what exactly military police does, instead of leaving it to the imagination of stereotypes of guarding gates, checkpoints and arresting unruly soldiers. Here, I learned so much and it helped spur my excitement to the military police corps. They ensured that we were aware of the fact that the military police corps works side by side with federal law enforcement, runs prisons, provides security and so much more. Anything imaginable that civilian, state and federal law enforcement agencies performs, military police does all of that and more for the Army.

However, I would like to point out that even if a Cadet had no interest in the military police corps, that they still gained so much knowledge and aid that lab. The point of the panel was to gain the insight of multiple military police officers and noncommissioned officers, who not only supplied insight on the military police corps, but also as a leader and Army officer as a whole. The guidance these Army personnel provided for the Cadets was beneficial to succeed in all parts of life for our future. Overall, I would like to point out that you should stay open minded when considering what branch of the Army you want to serve in, as each will have something new to show you, and you might enjoy it. What does not take much thought is how beneficial as a professional, a leader, and a person that Army ROTC is for everyone. If I can do it, so can you. Army Strong.

What a Year! - MS1 End of Year Perspective

Cadet Emma Hupp is a freshman at Lindenwood University, majoring in Computer Science.



Participating in the Gateway Battalion ROTC program has helped to shape me into the person I am today. Like most freshmen, I entered college knowing absolutely no one. It was comforting to find that after my first day of ROTC, I had dozens of new friends from schools all over the area. Every individual in the program that I have encountered, has taught me something important. By just observing, one can learn so much.

Communication skills are vital to military and everyday success, and the upperclassmen have demonstrated some highly effective ways of communicating. The critical thinking skills and tactical knowledge I've learned will also be helpful for the rest of my life.

Through the program, I am learning how to lead and what it means to be a leader. I now know methods of effective communication and how to plan and organize people.

So many incredible opportunities have come from being a part of Gateway ROTC. Through professional leadership panels and guest speakers, I have been afforded the chance to meet and speak with many servicemen and women who have been where I am now. Thanks to daily physical training and the Ranger Buddy Challenge, I am much better shape than I was at the start of my MS1 year. Morning workouts can be tough, as well as balancing ROTC with school, work and sports. Though, it has taught me critical time management skills that can only be learned through experience.

Whenever I wanted to quit, there was always someone motivating and pushing me to be my best. My peers took a genuine concern in seeing me be the best I could be. That is something truly special. Many others have demonstrated and surpassed, the incredibly high standards set by this program. I strive to carry on the legacy of those who are commissioning.

In August I was almost always lost and confused. I am still a bit confused at times, but with the help of my mentor and numerous other Cadets, I feel more capable than ever. The seemingly innate inclination to help and encourage others astonishes me. It truly is a family and I am so grateful to be a part of it. I would like to say thank you so much to the Cadre for pushing me, and the same to the MSIs, MSIIIs, MSIIIs, and MSIVs for setting the example and being there for advice and support. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all the Cadets of Gateway Battalion for struggling and growing along with me. I would not be the person I am today without this incredible opportunity.

What a Year! - MS1 End of Year Perspective

Cadet Eric Kibbey is a freshman at Washington University, majoring in Psychology. In addition to his already hectic schedule of classes and ROTC related events, CDT Kibbey is also a member of the Washington University Football Team.



The ROTC program at Washington University (WASH U) is designed to be challenging and push Cadets to become better leaders. Without this sort of challenge, I think that I would not have learned as much throughout my freshman year. During the fall semester, my first at Wash U, I was immediately faced with a mental and physical shock. It was difficult to be able to motivate myself to wake up bright and early for a grueling physical training session at 0600, knowing that I would have to go to classes all day afterwards and be expected to perform well at football practice in the evening.

Perhaps, this challenge led me to one of the greatest developments I experienced throughout the year. As someone who sailed by in high school, never really struggling to manage my time or do well in my classes, I had never learned a sense of humility. Gateway's mentorship program was exactly what I needed to help me to learn to be successful. After realizing that I did not have all of the answers and that I could not always be successful on my own, I began to learn from my MS2, MS3, and MS4 mentors. They helped me transition from a high school environment to a demanding college lifestyle by giving me practical advice and motivating me to put in as much work and effort as possible. I was able to learn an incredible amount of time management skills from them. The reason they were ahead of the curve is because they all had at least one year under their belts at Wash U. I learned to have more humility and to ask as many questions as I possibly could. The greatest thing about the mentorship program here is that the mentors actively take it upon themselves to insure the success of their cadets. It was a huge motivational factor to know that I had older cadets looking out for me and giving me the advice that I needed to be able to do well as a student, Cadet, and athlete.

What a Year! - MS2 End of Year Perspective



Cadet Naveen Rau is a sophomore at Saint Louis University, majoring in Political Science.



As the Gateway Battalion wraps up another amazing school year, each Cadet is able to reflect on their growth and experience that has shaped them this past year. For myself, my MS2 (sophomore) year has given me the opportunity to strengthen my skill set and perfect my leadership attributes.

At the beginning of the year, I remember sitting in Master Sergeant Felder's office. He looked at me and said, "I believe in you, but now you have to go out there and believe in yourself." Those words stuck with me throughout this whole year. Every morning when I woke up for physical training, I used those words to motivate me to do extra push-ups or run an extra lap. When I didn't understand a concept, I was proactive and had an instructor slow down and explain to me why such a concept was important, or how it might be used at the Platoon Leader level. This not only allowed me to strengthen my skill set, but it has also enticed me to become more curious.

This entire year has been about building on my foundation from my freshman year, in order to become a better leader. I was able to do this because of the tools and resources that were given to me by my Cadet Chain of Command and Army Instructors. Leadership, communication, and a will to succeed is the name of the game. All of these are attributes that I have been fortunate enough to take away from this program thus far. As I continue my journey to becoming a commissioned officer, I can proudly say that the Gateway Battalion is changing my life. Teaching me not only the values needed to becoming a good Soldier, but providing me with the tools to becoming an even better leader.

What a Year! - MS3 End of Year Perspective



Cadet John Martinez is a junior at Lindenwood university, majoring in Criminal Justice.



If I could summarize my experience over the past year as a junior in ROTC, I would say it was one of the best experiences of my life. I was pushed to be a critical thinker as a regular college student would be, but under extreme circumstances that the program provided. Luckily for me, through the first two years I have been in the Gateway Battalion ROTC program, I was able to collect a wealth of knowledge and experience out of both the curriculum and leadership training. The cadre of instructors here at Gateway come from all corners of the Army, each of whom use their personal background to guide their students to become the best they could be. I had great instructors my freshman and sophomore year that would set me up for a smooth junior year.

Our junior year, or MS3 year, is where my competency and attributes were put to the test. Every decision we made was evaluated by cadre that ultimately determined our career in the United States Army. One of the greatest outcomes that came out of ROTC for me was the ability to work as a member of a team. In ROTC, much like the rest of the Army, we are a team that is devoted to making one another better than when we first came into the program. A team can only be effective with a strong leader. Accountability is what makes leaders unique from the rest of society, and in the Army, that plays a major role in the success of the mission. Responsibility for not only the personnel under you, but taking possession of the task at hand is essential.

I will never forget the words from a book that I read during my junior year that changed the way I see military leadership. The book is titled *Extreme Ownership*, written by two former Navy SEAL officers, Jocko Willink and Leif Babin. It stated, "While there is no guarantee of success in leadership, there is one thing that is certain: leading people is the most challenging and, therefore, the most gratifying undertaking of all human endeavors. So, with that humbling reward in the distance, embrace the burden of command and go forward onto your battlefield, in whatever arena that may be, with the disciplined resolve to take extreme ownership, lead, and win."

What a Year! - MS3 End of Year Perspective



Cadet Narissa Rodriguez (left, in blue) is a junior at Missouri Baptist University, where she was recently recognized as an Academic All-American by the Women's College Wrestling Association.



Every person has a different story and background, but most of us ultimately have the same goals. I grew up in a small town in the agricultural San Joaquin Valley of California. It seemed that many of the others around me wound up facing pregnancies in high school, or fell into drugs. I have always known that I wanted more in life. I wanted to make it out and break the same cycle I was used to. When asked in kindergarten what I wanted to be when I grew up, I said a police officer. At such a young age, I knew that my ultimate goal in life was to help people. Every year after that, what I wanted to be when I grew up changed. Growing up, I always played every sport I possibly could, including tackle football and wrestling. Furthermore, I was good. I loved the challenges and always striving to be better than I was the previous season. My freshman year of high school, I saw many ads for the Army and I knew that serving in the military would be something I would greatly consider. I knew that if sports didn't get me to college, the first thing I would do is enlist. What better way is there to help people than to serve our country? I always wanted to be challenged physically, mentally, and emotionally, and I knew that the military would gladly provide this for me.

Senior year of high school, I left my small town and earned a wrestling scholarship to attend Missouri Baptist University with an undecided major. While going to school full-time and wrestling on the starting lineup, I worked an on-campus work study job, as well as two part-time jobs at the mall. This provided me with enough income to cover the rest of my tuition, rent, and other bills. Maintaining these tasks became more and more difficult, so I spoke to a friend who had enlisted in the Army. He then told me about how the Army would help pay for school. I did some research and found the Gateway Battalion ROTC program. I met with the recruiter, Mr. Rodriguez, and I was blown away by all the opportunities the Army had to offer. I learned about scholarship opportunities, stipend pay, training opportunities, and what it means to become an Army officer. I was excited, so spring semester of sophomore year, I enrolled in the Military Science course. It was interesting learning about completely new material I had never been exposed to. My classmates and instructor were great. They put in extra time to help ensure I understood and was successful with assignments. By the end of the semester, I decided ROTC was something I definitely wanted to do, so I signed up for summer Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET).

I had the most amazing experience at CIET. At first, it was slightly overwhelming trying to process so much new information, but it was never anything I couldn't handle. Summer training was constantly challenging, with tasks such as; teamwork events, entering the gas chamber, completing the ropes course, firing a weapon for the first time, night land navigation, field training, and much more. Every single task was challenging, but I enjoyed every part of it and had so much fun. I got the chance to meet so many great people who also put in extra time to teach and guide me. By the end of CIET, I knew that I wanted to fully commit to ROTC and the Army. When school resumed for my junior year, the cadre at Gateway Battalion did everything to help me complete the requirements to sign a contract to be a future Army officer. I'm happy to say that I discovered what I want to do in life to help people. Through the ROTC program here at Gateway Battalion, I am preparing myself to directly influence and help people, while bettering and developing myself as a leader. I can finally say that I found my ultimate purpose in life.

Air Assault! Cadet Summer Training

This summer, I will have the opportunity to travel to Fort Benning, Georgia and attend the U.S. Army Air Assault School. The Air Assault course is 11 days of intense physical and mental training that trains Soldiers in the basics of helicopter-borne assault and movement operations. At the end of the course, graduates are pinned with the coveted Air Assault Badge. The school is broken into three phases, each designed to teach a specific set of technical skills associated with a different aspect of Air Assault operations. However, before being even considered a student in the school, Soldiers must make it through the intense zero day. Students must complete a timed run and are meticulously graded on an obstacle course.

Phase one is the combat assault phase. It includes extensive instruction on types of military helicopters and the hand and arm signals an individual can use to guide helicopters into a landing zone. Phase two teaches students how to sling load. Sling loading is the process used to attach cargo to the underside hooks of various helicopters in order to hook-up various types of equipment. Equipment can range from a simple cargo bag to an artillery howitzer, or vehicles. The sling loads must be prepared perfectly in order to meet rigorous safety standards and ensure the load is secure. The third and final phase of the course is the rappelling phase. During this phase I will have the opportunity to learn to tie my own rappelling rope seat, hook-up to the aircraft and rappel with equipment out of a tower. Eventually working up to rappelling out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. However, before graduation, I will have to overcome a timed 12 mile ruck march. This is usually the toughest obstacle of the course for most students.

I am grateful to ROTC for providing me with the opportunity to go and test myself at a specialized training program. It will allow me to gain technical skills that are not typically taught to Cadets and to commission as an officer with a good grasp on the basics of Air Assault operations. I will undoubtedly be spending the coming months preparing extensively. That being said, I am confident the Gateway Battalion has instilled in me the mental fortitude, physical fitness, and discipline required to excel the course.

Below: Cadet Connor Hammond is a sophomore at Washington University, majoring in International Area Studies.



Below: Upon completion of the Air Assault Course, Soldiers earn the coveted Air Assault Badge.



Below: Soldiers begin their rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter.



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 26 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:

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