



GATEWAY BATTALION



Spring 2019 Gateway Gazette



Photo from the 2019 commissioning ceremony

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Letter From the Professor of Military Science



Greetings to the entire Gateway Family. As you will read in the pages of this semester's Gateway Gazette, this has been a fast-paced year filled with many opportunities for personal growth and leader development. I am continually amazed at the dedication and commitment of the cadets of the Gateway Battalion. They are absolutely committed to each other and to preparing for the task of serving our nation as 2nd Lieutenants! I would like to extend my personal thanks to the class of 2019 for their leadership and service within the Battalion. Our MS III (Junior) class is absolutely ready to take on Advance Camp this summer thanks to your efforts!

This summer I will retire from the Army, and my family and I will begin the next chapter of life. It has been one of the greatest pleasures of my military career to serve with the Gateway Battalion, and I am continually impressed by the intelligence, dedication, and hard work of the cadets! As I depart, it is comforting to know that the Battalion is in good hands. In August, MAJ Drew Betson will join the Gateway Battalion as he becomes the new Professor of Military Science. I wish him and his family the best as they make their transition to St. Louis.

I'd also like to thank all the supporters of the Gateway Battalion. 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. As I sign off, I'd like to say a special thank you to the cadre and staff of the Gateway Battalion. The professionalism, care, and dedication you bring to your work is the strength of this program. Thank you all for your service to our Nation.

LTC Matt Snell

Letter From the Outgoing Cadet Battalion Commander



Gateway cadets, cadre, alumni, friends and family,

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent the Gateway Battalion. Thanks to the hard work of our cadre and cadets at every military science level, we've had another successful semester. The MSIVs worked hard to plan, prepare and execute every training event. The MSIIIs not only worked hard to prepare themselves for advanced camp, but they also taught the underclassmen every chance they got. They taught dozens of classes on tactics, leadership and military professionalism. The MSIIIs served as mentors to our freshmen cadets. They put in extra hours helping the MSIs adjust to college life, including organizing study sessions and tutors. Finally, the MSIs learned, and they learned quickly. Most came in with little to no military experience. In a few months they learned all the basic soldiers skills, now they are able to run tactical lanes and conduct themselves like soldiers.

Thank you all for all your hard work and dedication. This program depends on cadets striving to improve themselves and the organization. I'd also like to thank all the family, friends, and alumni that support our cadets. Gateway ROTC has a proud tradition of excellence. For over 100 years we have produced officers of integrity. That tradition is largely thanks to the support of the community behind us. Our cadets and our program would not be successful without the support of their family and friends.

As I move on and get ready to start my career as an officer, I'm confident that I've left the program in good hands. CDT Schneider and the new MSIVs are ready and capable to lead the program.

Respectfully,

Ted Sheehy, outgoing Battalion Commander

Letter From the Incoming Cadet Battalion Commander

Cadets, alumni, family, and supporters of the Gateway Battalion,

I hope you all are enjoying your first few weeks of summer as we close out yet another great semester here at Gateway. This semester has been one of rigor and advancement as the MSIs grew in their knowledge of the profession of arms and what it means to be an ROTC cadet, MSIIIs gradually took on leadership roles, the MS IIIs underwent key training for camp, and the outgoing MSIVs shaped and built the foundation for the battalion to grow off of. Every single cadet in this battalion should be proud of how far they have come since the beginning of this academic year and how much they have accomplished.

I would like to extend a heartfelt and well deserved thanks to the outgoing MSIVs for living up to the ideal that one should leave a place better than how they found it. Your class has truly shaped the battalion in such a positive way and has helped develop the rising MSIVs into a class capable and ready to tackle Advanced Camp. Thank you for being leaders us Gateway cadets are proud to look up to. I have tremendous faith that each and every one of you have the skills and leadership abilities to tackle the next chapter in your lives as second lieutenants. Congratulations and remember you always have a home here at Gateway.

To the rising MSIVs, you have all the tools you need to succeed at camp. Reflect on your training this semester and remember to stay calm when the heat starts to rise (both the literal and mental heat). Live in the moment at camp and soak up all of the information you can when you're there, but most importantly, have fun! If you're having fun, success will surely follow. We got this!

To all the Gateway cadets, don't let your summer get the best of you. Keep up your physical fitness and prepare yourself for the next semester. I've heard the Ranger Handbook makes for a great summer read. Most of all, allow yourselves to decompress from this year and mentally prepare for the upcoming year.

Lastly, thank you to all in the Gateway family who have made this year one for the books. Your dedication, love, and support to this program is what makes this battalion so special. Thank you all and have a safe, relaxing summer break.

Train to Lead

Sincerely,

Madison Schneider, Cadet Battalion Commander



The 101st Class of Gateway Commissioning Officers

2LT Haley Allen - Active Duty, Aviation
2LT Trevor Bachus - Active Duty, Ordnance Corps (EOD)
2LT Evan Bolder - Active Duty, Medical Service Corps
2LT Eric Feldhake - Reserve, Adjutant General Corps
2LT Jacob Griffith - Active Duty, Medical Service Corps
2LT Travis Heer - Reserve, Transportation Corps
2LT Brian Hong - Active Duty, Medical Service Corps
2LT Jaryd Huffman - Reserve, Corps of Engineers
2LT Emma Hupp - Active Duty, Transportation Corps
2LT Eric Kibbey - Active Duty, Infantry
2LT Toby Manjarress - National Guard, Chemical Corps
2LT Calvin McCallister - Active Duty, Infantry
2LT Emerson Rainey - Active Duty, Ordnance Corps (EOD)
2LT Ted Sheehy - Active Duty, Cyber
2LT Teddy Sims - Active Duty, Chemical Corps
2LT Savonna Small-Brown - Active Duty, Medical Service Corps
2LT Sommerlyn Stevens - Active Duty, Corps of Engineers
2LT Ruben Yapias - Active Duty, Signal Corps



SPRING AT THE BATTALION

MSI Spring Reflection

CDT Neel Aligave

Ring, ring, ring! My alarm clock ruthlessly snatches me from the comforts of my bed. I shake off the last remnants of sleep and glance at the time: 5:00 AM. Heading to the bathroom, I am careful not to wake my slumbering roommate with excessive light or noise. I use the facilities, wash my face, and gargle with mouthwash to remove the dryness in my mouth. Laid on my chair is my Army PT uniform: black shirt and shorts, sweats, and a reflective belt, which I quickly put on. As soon as I open the door that leads outside the building, the cold Missouri wind bites into my exposed face, uncomfortable yet refreshing. Today is a PTI day (Physical Training Improvement), consisting of upper body calisthenics, core workouts, and some cardio. Breathing hard, I enjoy the warmth of the rising sun on my back as we collectively cool down on Francis Field. Back at Bear's Den, we push tables together in order to seat all the cadets who have breakfast together. To pass the time until breakfast is served, we talk and make jokes, often at each other's expense, having a good time in each other's company. In all truth, breakfast is when the majority of the bonding in the ROTC community occurs. We workout together, go to class and labs together, eat breakfast together, have study sessions together, suffer through miserable conditions at FTX together, which all result in the tightness and cohesiveness of the group. I am very happy that I made the decision to join ROTC as I have met the most motivated people and made the closest friends in this group alone. All of this is only after the first year together; each year will lead us to closer bonds as brothers and sisters and as future Army officers.



A group of cadets at a tactical lab

MSII Spring Reflection

CDT Austin Greene

Sophomores of the Gateway Battalion are now only a few months away from being the new leaders at the forefront of Army ROTC. The blend of nervousness and anticipation is obvious in my MSII class; we are all ready to test what we've learned over our two years in the ROTC program. As a freshman with no prior military experience, everything I was being presented with was new. I wasn't used to standing in formation before a morning workout, or having to concentrate on not saying "yes sir" or "yes ma'am" as my go-to response to the soldiers I interact with. I had to learn new ways of disciplining little things, like keeping my boot laces out of sight and making sure I had all 5 pairs of socks required by the packing list. After developing new habits and making a lot of mistakes, my sophomore year came around. As an MSII, I better understood what was expected of me as a cadet and what habits I could develop to put me in a position to lead in the future. The same tips and tricks the previous MSII's gave me, I was able to give to the freshman entering the program. Sophomore year of ROTC is the perfect time to evaluate where one has been as a cadet and also visualize what is coming next. I have learned from the mistakes I have made over my two years in the program and have also learned from the examples of the two classes above me. Junior year is approaching quickly. Although I am sad that both my college and ROTC experiences are flying by, I couldn't be more excited and prepared for the challenges and leadership that MSIII year holds.



CDT Greene (far right) and other cadets waiting to conduct a mission

MSIII Spring Reflection

CDT Lydia Bertels

The MSIII cadet year is known to be the culmination of everything you have learned thus far in ROTC. It is a demanding year, but if you give it your all, it will be the most rewarding. I have definitely learned the most in my MSIII year and feel prepared to use the information I learned at Advanced Camp and beyond. From the tactics to the leadership attributes, each piece of information is vital for your life as a cadet and future officer. My MSIII year, especially the spring semester, has allowed me to become more confident in my abilities as a leader. It has been time demanding, but it has been worth it. I know myself and the other fellow MSIII cadets are extremely appreciative of Captain Dib for teaching our class and providing us with the information needed to become successful leaders. The Spring FTX was a specific event that allowed me to use the information I gained throughout my ROTC career. From leading a react to contact mission in the freezing snow to setting up a patrol base in the pouring rain, the Spring FTX allowed myself and the other MSIIIs to work together in rough conditions to become better leaders.

My piece of advice to prepare for your MSIII year is to use your time wisely in the summers leading up to it, which you should be in right now. Use this time for personal study to become familiar with tactics, land navigation, and keeping up on your physical training. This will prepare you for your MSIII year. Make sure to leave time for your student work as well. You will want to put all your focus on the cadet training you are receiving, but you will not get to your end goal without putting school first.



MSIII CDTs Jordan and Boomer teach a class to their PLT

Reflecting back, my MSIII year has been very rewarding and has expanded my knowledge greatly. With the help of the great leaders of the Gateway Battalion, the MSIIIs became leaders prepared to take on Advanced Camp and become Army officers.

ROTC and the College Life

CDT Kathryn Porter

When deciding where to go to college, every single ROTC recruiter told me the same thing: ROTC allows cadets to live a normal college life while still getting a taste of the military. It took me almost a year to realize it, but I've learned that probably every college experience involving ROTC is anything but normal. Being an ROTC cadet has affected every aspect of my college experience and has already changed who I am as a person and student, just after one year.

Considering that my friends were sometimes still awake when I got up for morning PT, starting my day at 5:22 AM seemed like cruel and unusual punishment to them; however, I often was grateful for it because of how it affected my behavior as a student. Knowing that I would need a decent sleep in order to function through classes after an early wake up enabled me to make decisions (like

going to bed instead of staying up until 3AM for a floor wide Mario Smash Bros tournament) that were better not only for my academics, but for my physical and mental health as well. ROTC has affected my college experience and performance as a student by encouraging me to prioritize necessary homework and studying for future exams earlier in the evening, allowing me to get the sleep that I needed to survive PT and the rest of my academic schedule.

The 104-R form was another component of ROTC that I found to be a blessing and a curse. Sure, it was a pain to track down my Academic Advisor and think about Senior year as a Freshmen; however, ROTC is the entire reason I am already thinking about where I want to be when I'm 26 or even 30. Most people my age don't even know what they want for breakfast the next day while I'm already considering what I want to do in the next 11 years of my life. ROTC has shaped my mentality



CDTs in formation before a lab

from living one day at a time to seeing the bigger picture and questioning what I really want for myself and what will make me feel the most fulfilled.

I wish I could tell future cadets that the recruiters are wrong. The ROTC lifestyle is far from a normal college experience, but the way it alters the lives of college students is far from a bad thing. Yes, sometimes I'm awake before the sun comes up, and perhaps I regularly revise my 5 different life plans, but it's thanks to the direction and structure ROTC has given my life that I live this unique and far from normal college experience.

FTX Reflection-MS III

CDT Trevor Scaringello

For this semester's Field Training Exercise, we went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where we combined with 3 nearby ROTC battalions to experience 3 days of hands on practical exercises. Using what we had learned in the last several months in the classroom, we would have our knowledge tested in land navigation, tactics, and competence in different leadership roles. Friday was dedicated to land navigation, day and night. The ability to plot points on a map and navigate to those points with nothing more than a compass and a map is extremely important and the time spent learning and practicing this skill is invaluable.



3 cadets step off to conduct Land Navigation at the Spring FTX

Where Friday was largely individual for the MS3s and small groups for the MS1s and 2s, Saturday and Sunday was entirely team based, where we worked as a platoon to complete an array of missions given to us by our cadre. Rotating leaders after every mission, we had an opportunity to see how the other battalions operated and could see firsthand the challenges that we would face at Advanced Camp the summer after our MS3 year. Invaluable on its own, we also faced poor terrain and weather, which might have slowed down other platoons, but I can't say it bothered us too much. Working with unfamiliar faces in stressful conditions, my platoon came together quickly and performed well. The MS1s in particular deserve praise; subjected to some of the worst conditions the older cadets have seen at Fort Leonard Wood, not one of them complained.

The FTX gives all cadets in the program an opportunity to learn at their respective levels. The MS1s and 2s experience what the field is like and can improve some skills not easily learned in the classroom like moving silently in the woods and the crucial difference between cover and concealment in a firefight. The MS3s are put into leadership roles at the tactical level which require close attention to detail and draw on their experience from past FTXs and applying new knowledge from their MS3 classes. The MS4s in the program plan and manage the event to ensure the best possible learning experiences for the underclassmen.

Ranger Buddy Challenge

CDT Patrick Grindel

Kansas State University's annual Ranger Buddy Competition is not only a test of mental, but also physical willpower. Consisting of a 15km hill-laden ruck march, evaluation on standard infantry skills, and a 5k buddy run, this competition is no small feat. On April 6th, 10 of Gateway's cadets accepted this challenge. After approximately 5 months of additional PT, occupying every available Thursday and Friday morning, Gateway's cadets were prepared for the competition. Throughout the demanding train-up, led and organized by CDT Schneider, the motivated cadets were often awake hours before sunrise, conducting ruck



2019 RBC team

marches, long runs, and fine tuning their basic Army skills. A few short weeks from the competition, all of the cadets who still remained were in peak physical condition. The final 5 teams were selected, and plans to travel to the competition were made shortly thereafter. Competition weekend quickly approached. That Friday morning, these 10 cadets (and a few other committed cadets who came to support the team) embarked on the journey to Kansas. Later that day, the van arrived at the hotel. We enjoyed a pasta dinner, socialized with various other Battalions' finest cadets from all over the country, and studied our skills into the late hours of the night. The next morning, the competition commenced. Met with a blazing sun and greater than 80° weather, all of the cadets were ready for a challenge. After the dust settled, Gateway's cadets placed rather well. The competition pushed all of us to our limits, demanding mental and physical fortitude. Despite the challenge, it was an enjoyable experience. Many of Gateway's cadets look forward to returning next year.

Spring in Photos





Support Information

Donations in support of the Gateway Battalion which are 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

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Washington University
Campus Box 1082
One Brookings Drive
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



Editor's Notes

This past semester was another incredible one from the Gateway Battalion. Cadets pushed themselves and took another step forward to becoming 2LTs. The newly commissioned officers from this battalion set the bar extremely high, and my class will strive to not only meet the precedent they set, but push it even more. I hope everyone enjoyed reading this gazette as the stories and statements are from some of Gateway's finest.

CDT Tristan Boomer, Incoming Cadet S5