



# GATEWAY BATTALION



## Fall 2019 Gateway Gazette



Newly contracted cadets being sworn in

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# Letter From the Professor of Military Science

Alumni, Cadets and Friends of the Gateway Detachment,

I cannot tell you what an honor it is to join the Gateway team. A special thanks to LTC Matthew and Meredith Snell, who just retired from the U.S. Army for a warm reception and outstanding transition. I am a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and career Cavalryman with multiple deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan (most recently returning from Mosul, Iraq in November 2018). It is great to be with Cadets again, after getting to spend 2012-15 as an Assistant Professor of Defense and Strategic Studies at West Point.

The Fall Semester for the 2020 Academic Year was a whirlwind of activity. I am particularly proud that we unveiled our “Gateway Watchwords,” spelling ARCH – Academics, Respect, Courage, and Honor. I truly believe that if we maintain these in our minds and stamped in our hearts, the Gateway Battalion will remain a great place to live and work, and will continue to produce tremendous leaders of character for the Total Army Force.

The following pages will show the other amazing things our Cadets have done over the last semester. We couldn’t do all that we do without the support of our alumni and families, and we would love to have you join the team. There are many opportunities for you to have a powerful impact on the next generation of Army Leaders, including one-on-one mentoring, professional insights, or by gifts to help us reach the margins of excellence. Please watch for developing information about our Alumni Program, and contact me to find out more information ([Andrew.p.betson@wustl.edu](mailto:Andrew.p.betson@wustl.edu)).

Andrew P. Betson, Major, Armor, Professor of Military Science



# Letter From the Cadet Battalion Commander

Cadets, Alumni, Family, and Friends of the Gateway Battalion,

Happy Holidays! It is my honor to congratulate all of the cadets for completing another successful semester in the Gateway Battalion. I have witnessed first-hand the amazing strides each and every member of this battalion has made this year and we're only halfway through!

While your friends and roommates in college were sleeping in and running through the daily routine of college life, you all were busy bettering yourselves physically and taking on extra time commitments with ROTC classes and Thursday labs to enhance your professionalism and leadership skills. Between our fall FTX, Ranger Challenge competition, JROTC/SROTC event, the Norwegian Foot March, and countless color guards, you have taken on challenges and pushed your limits to better not only yourselves and others, but the program as a whole.

To our new cadets, I am beyond proud to call you all members of our Gateway family. You have chosen to not only tackle the feat of adjusting to college life, many of you far away from home, but to also mix in the added adjustment of ROTC. You all have broken out of your shells and begun to soak up the fountains of information flowing from your senior cadets and cadre. Your grit and determination have enabled you to be standing here at the close of the semester. You should be proud to have accomplished such an amazing feat as a college student and Gateway ROTC cadet.

To the returning cadets, you have met, and many times exceeded, my expectations of you all. Many of you have grown from followers to leaders and are taking on roles of mentoring younger peers. You all are the reason that this battalion is not just a place of work and development, but also a home and family we all belong to. Thank you for your tireless work this semester and keep up the intensity as we hit the latter half of our year.

As we close out the fall semester, I implore you to reflect on what you have accomplished here at Gateway and what you need to do to reach your goals in the spring. Take the time over break to push that reset button and come back ready to work. Just remember to sneak in workouts between your holiday parties to stay physically fit. I also hear the Ranger Handbook is a great book to cuddle up with loved ones in front of the fire to read this winter season.

As always, I would like to extend a special thanks to the family and friends of Gateway. Your unwavering support and love are what keep the gears turning here and enables us to shape exceptional future Army Officers.

I wish you all a safe, relaxing winter break and cannot wait to see you when we come back.

To the West!

Sincerely,

Madison Schneider

Cadet Battalion Commander



# The 102nd Class of Gateway Commissioning Officers

2LT Eden Livingston - Reserve, Military Intelligence

2LT Darryl Chandler - Active Duty, Ordnance Corp



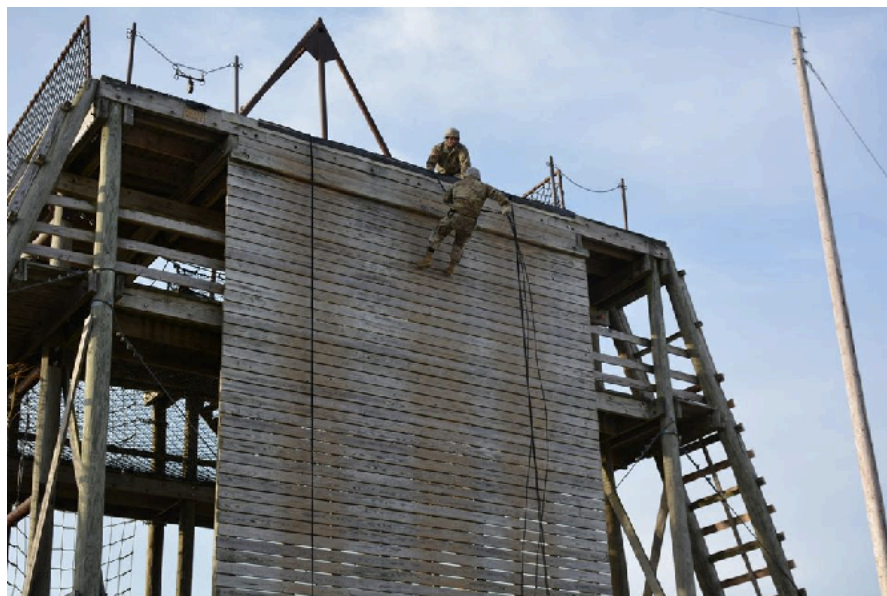
2019 Winter Commissioning

# Fall at the Battalion

## MSI Fall Reflection

By CDT Model

Freshman year is never easy for anyone. People miss their family, friends, and mama's cooking. My peers started to join greek life where they made their new "family", but I didn't have time to juggle ROTC, nursing, and a sorority. I started to feel left out because I wanted to have my own family at college too! Day-by-day I started to realize ROTC was my family in college and it's the place where I feel I truly belong. Everyone looks out for one another and tries to push each other to reach their full potential. Cadre not only help with education on ROTC topics, but they also give life advice when it's due. It's interesting how all the cadre seem to look very intimidating and intense, but as time goes on, I started to realize how my perceptions of them shifted. The truth is, they're strong and passionate people who want to be the best role models for their cadets. They are flexible in fitting our ROTC schedule around academic schedules to make sure that everything is able to fit and coincide with one another. I'm thankful to have cadre who are supportive of both my academic and my ROTC career. Every semester, a brigade nurse comes and visits my battalion to speak with us on our grades, study habits, involvement in ROTC and any other life issues. I find it extremely helpful to speak to someone who is currently an army nurse and ask her anything about life after or during college. It's comforting to build a relationship with someone in that position who holds me responsible for my goals. Finally, PT, labs, and FTXs are primary times where cadets become close. I seem to spend a majority of my free time either studying or hanging out with ROTC cadets.



A cadet rappelling during the Fall FTX

No matter what situation someone is in, we know we can trust our platoon to watch out for one another and help whenever possible. As much as ROTC likes to stay professional and serious, I wouldn't consider the cadets or cadre acquaintances, co-workers, teachers, or even friends because they're so much more than that; they're my family.

# MSI Fall FTX Reflection

By CDT Casas

As an 18-year-old, fresh-out-of-high-school college freshman, I was full of naivety and blissfully ignorant about the highly idealized concept of participating in a United States Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program. I began my MSI year at Saint Louis University with a minimal understanding of what it meant to be part of such a program such as the Gateway Battalion. Before participating in the fall field training exercise, my appreciation for the grit, tenacity, and dedication displayed by members of my platoon, as well as the greater battalion, rose at an exponential rate. With each day, I worked fervently to ensure that I would not assert the position of the weakest link at any level of my involvement, a concept easier planned than carried out. In my execution of the aforementioned project, the training exercise would act as an orientation for how I could best acclimate and apply myself to reach the required degree of performance for my eventual service in the United States Army and more immediate participation in the battalion. The concentration of anticipation increased in the bus transporting us to Fort Leonard Wood for the training exercise. With each mile covered and as every minute elapsed, stories of past FTX's ricocheted around the vehicle's interior, each story including common themes of comradery and resolution. Upon arriving, we secured our rucksacks and moved straight to the firing range where cadets were cycled between classroom explanations of weapons safety and handling, placing rounds downrange, and eating. Firing the weapons was not an unfamiliar act for me, but the experience was still lucrative to my understanding of general protocol and assumed expectations. At dusk, following a day complete with obstacle courses, team courses, and general practices of communication and leadership, we closed our Friday with sweat-soaked clothes, high morale, low energy, and enough bacteria on our skin to cultivate an unquantifiable sum of Petri dishes. We were also given the comforting words that day two was to be more "fun" than the day prior. Land navigation dominated a majority of our second day, it also acted as an immense humility check given how I struggled to keep up with my team, which was comprised of fellow MSI CDT Lily Johnson and MSII CDT Brett Morgan, whose confident mannerisms and willingness to teach acted as major points of consolation. My comfort was sapped, however, as Morgan instructed us to dead reckon about 100 meters to our next point during the night land navigation. How Johnson and I managed to overshoot that point by over half a kilometer without realizing that Morgan had been chuckling and grinning for virtually the entire trek still shocks me. Day two ended on the same note as the day prior, except with larger energy deficits and even larger blisters. As I gloss over certain activities like rappel towers, practicing drill and ceremony, and discussions on advanced camp, we boarded the eastbound bus home. On our way home, the bus ride was far quieter as essentially every cadet, myself included, slept, only to be woken up when the pungent odors of those who were less effective in their practice of wet-wipe "baths" hit high intensities. I left the bus with tired eyes and promising thoughts of the next training exercise, knowing



that I had developed lasting relationships with the cadets around me and would learn as much as possible about the ever-expanding plethora of information that details the Army ROTC program and the expectations that I would come to meet.



A company formation at the Fall FTX



# MSIII Fall Reflection

By CDT Johnston

I always tell people that one of my favorite experiences at SLU is being a part of ROTC and each new semester continues to reinforce that sentiment. My first two years in the program introduced me to unfamiliar challenges as I learned how to ruck march, take charge as a leader, and adjust to PT at 0600. Coming back to school this fall, I was nervous for the high expectations that comes along with being an MSIII. This is the year of peer evaluations, blue cards, and class rankings. Now, my fellow MSIIIs and I are stepping up to prove that our training is paying off. We have enough experience and knowledge to be tasked with more planning and leading of labs, events, and training. All the MSIIIs are busier than ever but with the spirit of a SLU cadet, we all know how to embrace the suck with each other.

So far, I have been selected for leadership experience as Master Fitness Trainer, Platoon Sergeant, and I will be starting as assistant S2 in the upcoming semester. Each leadership role has challenged me to lead by example. Not only is my performance being evaluated by those above me, but it's the job of an MSIII to pass on knowledge to the younger cadets. While I have a good time writing OPODs and practicing call-for-fire on my own, I must say the people are what make this program exceptional. At this point, the MSIIIs have a good relationship and there's never a dull moment watching the MSIs take on all these new skills for the first time.

This has proven to be a big growth year in academics and ROTC. While I'm always eager to prove myself as a leader, it never seems to be long before I realize that there's something I need to be doing better. I see my fellow MSIIIs stepping up to the plate, organizing study sessions, training for Ranger Buddy Challenge, organizing cadets for The Bataan Death March, and teaching at labs. MSIII year is stressful, yes, but more than that, it's exciting. It's a glimpse of the life that awaits us as officers.



Cadet qualifying on a range at FT. Leonard Wood

# Ranger Challenge

By CDT Morgan

This year 14 cadets joined the 2019 Ranger Challenge team and committed themselves to grueling training led by CDT Kazmierczak. These cadets spent three extra days each week learning skills, conducting morning workouts, and giving up their Saturdays for long ruck marches. They did this training to prepare themselves for the long and challenging competition ahead of them. The Ranger Task Force Challenge Competition event is held at Ft. Leonard Wood and consists of ten skills lanes which included: grenade identification, combat lifesaving procedures, call for fire, one rope bridge, 9-line medevac request, land navigation, and assembly/disassembly and performing a functions check on the M4, M240, and M249. All of these skills were placed miles apart from each other and cadets had to ruck between them, totaling up to 26 miles. After completing the ruck march, cadets had to run through the PECs (Physical Endurance Course) where they negotiated a variety of obstacles. New to this year's competition was rifle qualification which occurred the night prior to the competition. Qualification scores were used to determine the starting order of the teams in the competition the next morning.

The average person would wonder how someone could train and compete in this competition while balancing school at the same time, but ranger challenge is a prime example of how ROTC cadets go above and beyond mentally and physically to become great leaders. Through this competition, I learned many things about myself, one of which is how much my body can accomplish. Overall, I enjoyed this year's competition and look forward to next year.



Gateway's 2019 Ranger Challenge team

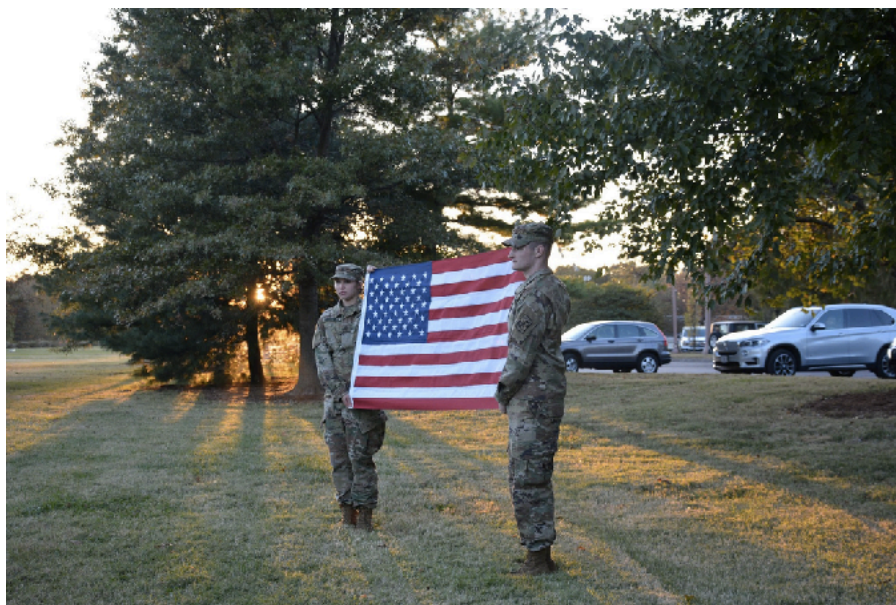
# Rejoining ROTC

By CDT Pratt

A year ago, I decided ROTC was not for me and chose to quit. This semester however, I made the decision to rejoin and proceeded to contract a few weeks ago. I never could have imagined how much I would miss the program. I did not solely miss the program; I missed the people and the relationships I had developed my first time around. When people tell you about ROTC, they do not tell you about all the memories you make with your fellow cadets. They do not tell you about how your fellow cadets make the most challenging times more bearable. When I left the Gateway Battalion I had no idea how empty my life would feel.

ROTC is more than a program offered for college students. It offers a bond that is unbreakable with your fellow cadets. You create the most memorable experiences during early morning 0600 PT sessions, at weekend trips to Fort Leonard Wood, at military balls and the countless other experiences offered. Sure, there are challenging moments that make you push beyond your fixed mindset, but it only makes you stronger and develops you as a future leader. When I decided to rejoin ROTC, it was because of the memories I had with my friends in the program. I joined because this program has helped me surpass my goals that I originally had for myself. I have gained confidence, happiness and determination. This program has its challenges, but I would not have it any other way.

I rejoined ROTC for a challenge, for the memories, and for the people. There is not a better group of people I would want to surround myself with. The challenge of pushing myself physically at PT and mentally to have a competitive GPA have made me a better person. The memories I share with my fellow cadets will last a lifetime. I'm glad to have been given the opportunity to prove to myself and others that I have finally found where I belong.



Cadets holding the U.S. Flag during a contracting ceremony



# Basic Camp: A How-To Guide

By CDT Hartke

Basic Camp isn't bad if you just do what you're told. And in fact, that's really all there is to it. You arrive, fill out some paperwork, your drill sergeants politely introduce themselves, acquaint you with the marching surface, and you are already en route to being squared-away. But for prospective cadets I will add: don't count the days, count the weeks. And if it ever does get hard, it is easy to remind yourself as a cadet that whatever you are experiencing now: you are not the first, there will be more of this in the future, and it will be easier. In general, there are a few rules that will help anyone survive basic camp:

1. No matter the challenge, embrace it. Attitude is everything.
2. Take pleasure in little things.
3. Find common ground and get comfortable with your routine.

But most of all, remind yourself why you are there. I can remember vividly how after just three minutes of extending to the left, another cadet offered me their shoulder to place the end of my rifle-hand. It was a small gesture, but I can tell you it's been several months after completing Basic Camp, and I still keep in touch with the comrades that I made there. If everything else is stripped away, it is easy to remember the people you are working for. You will be happy to sing 'Here we go again, same old stuff again!'

# Air Assault

By CDT Kazmierczak

This past summer I had the opportunity to attend the United States Army's Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Air Assault school, often referred to as the ten toughest days in the Army, is a three phase course that will physically and mentally challenge those who enter the school's grounds. Before you can even be considered, candidates must successfully complete "zero-day." On zero day, Air Assault Sergeants will test the physical readiness of soldiers by putting them through a rigorous physical training session which concludes with a 2 mile run. Immediately following the run, soldiers must complete a confidence course with nine different obstacles to standard that test the soldier's physical endurance and mental toughness. Only after completion of these tasks will a soldier be enrolled into the course.

**Phase I: Combat Assault.** Phase I of the school begins with a 6 mile road march to time standard followed by a strict gear layout where anything less than perfect will not be accepted. Soldiers must have all required items on the packing list and these items must be clean and serviceable. Any items that are dirty, torn, folded incorrectly, or forgotten will result in a soldier being dropped from the course. In phase I, soldiers learn and are tested on basic aviation knowledge to include: Aircraft safety, aircraft orientation, aeromedical evacuation, pathfinder operations, hand-and-arm signals, close combat attacks, and combat assault operations. The phase concludes with 50 question multiple choice exam and a hands-on exam where soldiers must correctly perform ten hand-and-arm signals.

**Phase II: Slingload Operations.** During Phase II soldiers receive instruction on various aspects of sling load operations. This includes understanding the capabilities, characteristics, and use of sling load equipment, familiarization with sling load theory, and hands on training on how to properly rig and inspect external loads. These loads include the: M1097 HMMWV Humvee, M119 105mm Howitzer, M149A2 Water Trailer, A-22 Cargo Bag, Fuel Blivets, and the 5K/10K Cargo Net. Phase II concludes with another 50 question multiple choice exam and a hands-on exam where students are tested on four of the six loads and must identify three out of four deficiencies within two minutes.

**Phase III: Rappelling Phase.** Phase III is by far the most fun phase at Air Assault School. During the phase, soldiers perform various rappels and learn hook-up and lock-in procedures. Soldiers will be tested on how to tie a swiss seat and conduct various styles of rappelling including full combat rappelling. Phase three culminates with the 100 ft rappel from a hovering UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. On graduation day, soldiers must wake up at 0130 to conduct a 12 mile foot march followed by another gear layout. Only after successful completion of all three phases and 12 mile foot march will the soldier earn the coveted Air Assault Wings.

Air Assault School was by far the most challenging and physically demanding experience I have endured in ROTC. Daily 0400 formations, the intense Kentucky summer heat, and rigorous course requirements pushed my mind and body to new limits. Although the course was challenging, it was also very rewarding. Along with the premiere training the Army provided me, I was able to get pinned by my dad who was also a graduate of the same Air Assault School when he was stationed at Fort Campbell as a Captain. My advice to anyone who is interested in attending Air Assault School is to go into the school with an open mind and be prepared to be pushed mentally and physically. The school demands attention to detail and for you to give maximum effort. Study hard and remain focused. Air Assault!



CDT Kazmierczak and his graduation certificate



## Support Information

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