



SPRING 2022 ISSUE

GATEWAY GAZETTE

GATEWAY BATTALION
ARMY ROTC

CDT KAYLA GREENE

A letter from the editor

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE GATEWAY GAZETTE, SPRING 2022 EDITION!

This specific edition includes personal cadet reflections from multiple events that occurred this semester, as well as pieces dedicated to the daily operations of specific MS levels and extracurricular activities. We would not be Gateway without the important roles every cadet plays in the daily operations and their continuous effort and support! We hope all the readers enjoy this semester's reflections as much as we did and learn from their fellow cadet's experiences and advice through this semester's edition of the Gateway Gazette!

TO OUR GATEWAY FRIENDS & FAMILY -

We want to personally thank you for your continued support of our individual cadets and program as a whole! Without your generosity and "helping hand" mentality, we would not be able to provide all the opportunities we have for cadets! Thank you again!

TO OUR GATEWAY ALUMNI -

If you are interested in staying involved with the Battalion or supporting our cadets as they continue down the road of discovering what their futures in the Army will look like, please reach out to our newest Alumni Relations Officer, **CDT K. Greene, at kaylamgreene@wustl.edu**. We look forward to connecting with you!



Message from the Professor of Military Science

The Gateway Battalion continued to live up to the high standards that our storied program demands, as seen through the training and our heritage events throughout the year. Years like this make my departure from Gateway so hard, but to know that I might bump into our Gateway Grads out in the force makes me smile.

The MSIVs designed, planned, and executed a tremendous training strategy that was comprehensive, challenging, and fun. Once again, we enjoyed the realization on the MS I-IIIs faces in the Spring Semester as the collective training task labs brought together all the mission variables into our formulas of military science. Culminating the year, I could not be prouder of our Cadets' performance at the rigorous Spring Field Training Exercise in Weldon Springs. The physical and moral courage will continue to pay off.

On behalf of the Faculty, I owe a thank you to the Alumni who continue to support our Program. It is their generous support that allows us to continue pressing into the margins of excellence with our leader development program. Our growth also allowed us to continue our new tradition of adding to the Gateway Alumni Hall of Fame this year. CPT Keith Lucas' service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

I am proud to make way for the 37th Professor of Military Science to take the helm. MAJ(P) Ray Kuderka possesses the exact balance of intellect and energy to guide this program to new heights. To him, our Alumni, Staff, Faculty, and Cadets, I bid farewell, and final "Gateway - To the West!"

Andrew P. Betson
Lieutenant Colonel, Armor, U.S. Army
36th Professor of Military Science

GATEWAY WATCHWORDS

ACADEMICS - RESPECT - COURAGE - HONOR

ARCH



Farewell from Outgoing Cadet Battalion Commander

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

I hope this edition of the Gateway Gazette finds you all well. It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter, as it means my time in command of the Gateway Battalion, and my time as a college student, are coming to an end. However, there is much to celebrate from this year's training.

The first semester kicked off by gaining mastery of individual training tasks, with a renewed focus on doctrinal tasks, conditions, and standards, to enable our MSIII cadets to not only dominate the upcoming RECONDO events at CST 2022, but also prepare them for the second semester's collective training tasks. In the spring, we had the opportunity to conduct weekly tactics labs, and the MSIIIs have experienced the arduous task of leading a platoon. Culminating in our annual Joint-Spring FTX, the entire Gateway Battalion was tested through a rigorous training exercise. For 4 days, at Weldon Springs Reserve Center, all of our cadets were tested on their individual soldier skills and platoon-level tactical patrols.

Specifically, to the MSIIIs: Your commitment to preparing yourselves, showing up every day, and training hard, will pay dividends this summer. I eagerly look forward to hearing about your individual experiences and successes. However, your hard work is far from over. You are now the rising MSIV command and staff team. I have the utmost faith that you will all exceptionally lead and train the Battalion. Peer leadership is definitely not the easiest task, but I trust that you all will handle it with grace.

Speaking to the outgoing MSIV team: I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our daily operations and the development of the underclassmen. Without you all, the Gateway Battalion would not be able to function. You are all the backbone of this Battalion, and I will be forever grateful for that. From our inaugural *Gateway Stakes* event to the implementation of the *Cadet Knowledge Book*, our culminating *Murder Board*, and everything in-between, I genuinely believe that we have left a positive mark on the Gateway Battalion for years to come.

And finally, to our alumni, families, and supporters of Gateway, we greatly appreciate your support to this program. Without your support, we would not be able to conduct the caliber of training that we do. Our ability to develop high-quality commissioned officers is owed, in part, to you all.

For one last time:

Gateway -- To The West

Patrick C. Grindel
Outgoing Cadet Battalion Commander



Gateway Cadet Battalion Commander

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

It's a weird feeling sitting down and writing this letter to you all. I feel like it was just the other day that I was a nervous MS1 that had no idea what I was doing. Throughout my time here at Gateway so far, there are a few things I've noticed that make this program special. The first thing is mentorship. If you want to succeed in Gateway, you have to find someone more knowledgeable than you and listen to what they have to say. At Gateway, we're a family, and we want to see each other do great things. The thing that sets this program apart with mentorship is that people will take the initiative and start helping you without you even asking. The next thing that makes this program special is the extended network we have. I can't tell you the amount of times I have reached out to an alumni and gotten an immediate response. If you are a cadet reading this, I highly recommend you start networking with alumni and learn from their experiences.

To the returning cadets, get ready for an amazing year. There are already a lot of moving pieces working together for you. To take full advantage of the upcoming year, there are two things I ask of you: attitude and effort. Attacking a task or event that you don't necessarily want to do is very powerful. A positive attitude makes difficult training a lot easier for yourself and those around you. Positivity is contagious, and it just takes one person to get a group excited and motivated. Effort is something that can always be controlled. It doesn't matter how many points you get on a land nav test or how much you can deadlift. You can always control your effort. I challenge you all to hold yourself accountable and give great effort at all times. Now, I can't ask you to do these things without doing it myself. I promise you this year you see nothing but a positive attitude and my very best efforts.

To the soon to be lieutenants, I sincerely thank you. Don't think that I did not notice all the extra hours you all put in. I'm sure it was stressful at times leading the Battalion, but I know looking back you are all proud of your efforts. I'm going to miss seeing some of my best friends on a daily basis. I'm so excited though to see you all dominate BOLC and start your Army careers. I have full confidence that you all are going to succeed in whatever you do! It's been a pleasure getting to know you all.

If you actually made it this far in my letter, thanks for taking the time to read it! I hope you enjoyed it and got to know me a little bit better. Always remember: Gateway – To the West!

Sincerely, Connor Burke

CPT Keith Lucas Hall of Fame Induction

I have had the honor of organizing and putting into motion the creation of the Captain Keith Lucas Cadet Lounge in memory of Captain Keith Lucas. Thanks to our CKB's, we should all know who Captain Keith Lucas is but in case you missed that section, Captain Keith Lucas graduated from Washington University in 1979. He was assigned as a Blackhawk pilot to Task Force 160 which is known as the elite 160th Special Operations Aviation regiment. On October 25, 1983, CPT Lucas became the first Nightstalker combat fatality while piloting his Blackhawk in an attempt to insert troops at the Richmond Hill prison in support of Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada. In his short yet distinguished military career he has earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Army Service Ribbon, Army Aviator Badge and Air Assault Badge. The 160th SOAR's motto, "Night Stalkers don't quit" is attributed to CPT Lucas. His legacy stands out and as a result of his sacrifice, was inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame last year and the Gateway Hall of Fame this year at the 2022 Military Ball.

"Night stalkers don't quit," the legacy that has carried on to this day within the 160th Special Operations Regiment. Captain Keith Lucas never quit. That was apparently through the way he conducted himself as a person, cadet at Gateway, and as an Officer all the way up to his death. I implore the cadets of the Gateway Battalion to not quit, to go into advanced camp, schools, life, with the mindset set forth by Captain Keith Lucas, to not quit.

We should carry his legacy on our shoulders, every day, to honor him and his family and to also bring honor to our program. Learning about his legacy has taught me what it means to be in the army and to be an Army Officer. His legacy will ring on for generations to come. Gateway Battalion stands on the shoulders of giants and those giants leave big footprints. It is our duty to bring honor to him and remember the spirits of the warriors that have made sacrifices and to carry on their legacies. It has been a privilege to work on the cadet lounge and attribute the lounge to his legacy. This lounge will inspire cadets today and, in the future, to not quit and to remember Captain Keith Lucas.

CDT David Vrablic

Saint Louis University - MSIII



Ranger Buddy Challenge

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On April 8th, 2022, Gateway Battalion went to the University of Kansas to compete in the annual Ranger Buddy Challenge. The competition this year took place at Sesquicentennial Point instead Rim Rock Farm (supposedly we were too aggressive with the terrain last year). However the terrain was just as scenic and challenging as the year previous. Our team was led by team captains CDT McMahon (myself) and CDT Shepard, our OIC Maj Connell, and the buddy teams brought this year included two male teams and two co-ed teams.

Our training cycle took up most of the spring semester, and as any student/cadet knows, the Spring semester always seems busier than the Fall. Indeed, the cadets had much to balance including more rucks, more PT, and more classroom instruction than their peers, on top of being a full time student. However despite the added stress, our Gateway teams were ready to tackle a 14.25km ruck march filled with rocks, hills, and mud, evaluations on standard infantry skills, a 5k buddy run, and mystery events littered in between. In fact, our teams performed much better this year than in years previous. Multiple teams had moved on to the skills portion of the competition and CDTs Wright & Pennington placed 6th in the co-ed division. Additionally, our freshman male team (CDTs Ryan & Peterson) had competed this year as well, and I suspect we will see much more of both of them in the future.

Overall, our teams did a great job. We had a decentralized PT schedule which allowed us to be flexible when covid was still a deciding factor, and it allowed us to focus plenty of time into skills and getting the necessary equipment needed to perform. It might also be noted that all the teams across all the battalions were able to participate in the skills lanes, even if they were eliminated from the competition. Thus everyone was able to receive valuable training with our minds and bodies challenged. I am also happy to note that a personal goal of the teams' was met as well during our training. Over the past few months, our buddy teams grew rather close within the training cycle. Last year was difficult to foster esprit de corp amongst the teams due to restrictions with Covid, however as we were able to spend more time in the classroom and conduct practical exercises together, we grew really close as a element. Thus I'd say with that fact alone, we were very successful this year. Nonetheless, everyone was able to learn and grow a lot in the buildup and during the competition itself, including many young cadets who will surely lead with tenacity and vigor in the future.

CDT Johnathan McMahon
RBC Team Captain



THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE CADETS AND CADRE MEMBERS THAT WERE THERE THAT DAY. I WOULD NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

I am an MS4 cadet of the 2020-2021 school year graduating from Washington University in St. Louis in abo My name is Cadet Zane Watson and I had the pleasure of competing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge(GAFPB) this past October. The GAFPB is a foreign award given to soldiers who pass a 9mm pistol shoot, Tactical Casualty Combat Care(TCCC) test, MOPP gear evaluation, German Army Physical Fitness Test, swim qualification, and ruck march over the course of several days. These evaluations I averaged a gold standard on the German Physical Fitness and so I was awarded the GAFPB in gold. In my personal opinion, the most difficult part of the GAFPB is the swim qualification. My swim exam was proctored by a prior enlisted navy diver. With that being said, he had no patience for cadets who could not swim to his standard which seemed to be higher than that of his German peers. The test is a 100 meter freestyle swim in less than 4 minutes.

It is immediately followed by diving under the swimming lane buoys, removing your uniform, and throwing it onto the side of the pool. All of this is done without touching the side or bottom of the pool at any time. Failure to meet the minimum swim time or touch the pool wall at any point and you will not receive your GAFPB. My favorite part of the competition was the final event, the ruck march. This is because I was accompanied by cadets Grindel and Wright who were also competing for the gold badge. The 12 km ruck march felt shorter than many of the previous ruck marches because of the jokes and great conversations that were had during the course of the event. After the ruck march, the results of all events were tallied and I had the privilege of being pinned with the GAFPB in gold by a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army. In all, this experience made me better understand just how much stress I could handle. Conversely, it demonstrated how much easier it is to perform when you are surrounded by your friends and cadre that want you to excel.



After the ruck march, the results of all events were tallied and I had the privilege of being pinned with the GAFPB in gold by a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army.



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THLETICS & ROTC

When I was looking for schools to attend, I knew I wanted to go somewhere I could have the opportunity to play lacrosse and join ROTC and I was lucky to find somewhere I can do both! Playing lacrosse at Lindenwood gives me the chance to play at a high level with the possibility of winning a National Championship but more importantly the chance to pursue my dream of serving our country. Being just a student-athlete is stressful and takes up a lot of your time between practices, lifts, and academic requirements which is something I have learned to balance during my time playing lacrosse in high school. Adding ROTC into the mix is almost like adding another sport. It has its own requirements with PT, class, and lab making time management crucial. A typical day for me starts with PT at 0600, classes from 0800 to 1200 or lift, practice from 1500 to 1700 and then doing homework the rest of the day. I also have days where I have lab during practice or a traveling for a game when we have class or lab requiring me to miss one or the other. Luckily, my coaching staff is very supportive and understanding of my commitment to ROTC and make it possible for me to miss practice to go to lab or complete other events like the Fall FTX and still play the game I love.

Being the first on my lacrosse team to be in ROTC has been a learning experience for both me and my coaches but with communication and explaining to them what it is I actually do in ROTC; we have made it possible for me to do the two things I love. At times I can get very stress out and feel overwhelmed with one of two and having the other in my life that I can turn to focus some of my attention on and know that I have so much fun doing is almost a stress reliever for me. Personally, I think I work best when I am busy because it keeps me on top of my commitments and work. I have also found a ton of support in my teammates and the members of 1st Platoon (First Platoon, Best Platoon!) When it comes to filling me in on practices or labs I have missed, keeping me motivated to do my best and pushing me outside my comfort zone. Without these people in my life, being an athlete and a cadet would be way harder and even if my teammates know nothing about ROTC or vice versa, they still do everything they can to be helpful! Being a Student-Athlete and a Cadet is definitely a big commitment, but I could not imagine my life without these experiences and I am so grateful to be able to continue doing what I love the rest of this year and years to come!

Olivia Tighe

Lindenwood University - MSI

Athletics & ROTC



With being a student-athlete, and also being actively involved in ROTC, it can be quite time consuming. There are both advantages and disadvantages to doing both. Advantages being that I don't have any time to procrastinate so all of my work is handed in on time if not early, keeps me in shape as I am constantly working out for both, and socially involved in school activities and events. Disadvantages are having to still wake up early for practice on my off days from PT, not having time during the day to just sit and rest as it is always consumed with homework, and sometimes having to tell peers that I am unavailable due to other commitments for both. Even though I may complain about doing cheerleading and ROTC from time to time, I would never give either of them up. My coach now is amazing and does her best to work around my ROTC schedule and is very understanding when ROTC events come up and I have to miss practice. Everything is super flexible allowing me to do both.

In order to keep your academics up and attend all commitments, you need to have the determination and will to keep yourself going. Once you fall behind you can never catch back up so you need to work ahead to stay ahead. Usually when I know my season is going to be the busiest, I try to take less classes during that time frame. I normally take two online classes in the beginning of each semester so that at the end of the semester when I know I am going to be busy with FTX's and Nationals, I have already done a majority of my classes and can focus on studying for the FTX. This allows me to work ahead in other classes that I will be missing when I am away for nationals. Being a collegiate athlete is something I have always dreamed of, so being able to do cheerleading, and ROTC is an honor and something I wouldn't give up for the world.



CDT Leigha Whitney
Maryville University - MSIII



"I had no idea what I was doing but I was helped by other cadets to succeed. As an MSI you learn that those experiences are part of the learning curve and it's okay to fall back on those around you."

M SI Year in Review

There is no better way to start a morning than hearing someone yell "the bend and reach" at 0600. I knew making the transition from high school to college would be challenging. I felt as though I was unprepared for the new school and environment, as well as nervous to join preestablished community. I soon realized, however, that was the whole purpose of your MSI year: to show up and learn and make yourself a part of the community. Even when you do fail at something there are other cadets to teach you and help you learn from your mistake.

Early on in the year, I received valuable advice from an MSIV cadet who mentioned to me to make the most of your MSI year and to get involved in everything that you can. I really took this to heart, having never shied away from a challenge before, and jumped in with two feet. I wanted to get the full Gateway experience. This was started by my participation on the Ranger Challenge team. During the week leading up to tryouts, I felt very anxious because I wanted to do well. This felt like the first opportunity I had to prove myself. Before I knew it, I was standing on top of Art Hill waiting before the 3 mile ruck to start, nervous but ready. Not even a mile in, my ruck began to fall apart. I thought to myself "this couldn't get any worse" After what felt like hours, I finally finished the ruck. When I passed the finished line, a cadet grabbed my pack to help me put it back together. What struck me was his willingness to spend 30 minutes of his own time to help me put my ruck together so that I could continue.

That was my first real MSI experience. I had no idea what I was doing but I was helped by other cadets to succeed. As an MSI you learn that those experiences are part of the learning curve and it's okay to fall back on those around you. As the year went on I competed with every competition team I could and as the competitions went on, I learned more and more from other cadets. That's the beauty of being an MSI at Gateway: you have the freedom to fail, but when you do you learn from it. Everyone is willing to help you learn and grow in the program. So even when standing in formation at 0530 before a six mile ruck, I know that I am surrounded by exceptional and motivated leaders in Gateway that make me strive to be a better cadet.

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You have the freedom to fail, but when you do you learn from it.



CDT Maggie Pennington

Washington University in Saint Louis - MSI



M SII Year in Review

When looking back on MS2 year there are a few lessons along the way I learned. First knowing how to control stress. Second, dealing with failure and how to react to that. Through these lessons there are stories to be told. Stories that will never be forgotten and stories that others can learn from.

It was a brisk night in Fort Leonard Wood. We are about to embark on night land navigation. This was my first time even trying to do land nav. Through this time my hands were sweating, shaking, and I was shivering for some odd reason. After plotting our points, we step off into the woods not being able to see what is in front of you. Walking into branches, spider webs, and tripping on logs that were not visible. We eventually get to what we thought was our first point and to our surprise it was not. From here on out... I lost it. My thoughts of not knowing where I was going got in my head. Walking back and forth thinking to myself, "Where am I supposed to go". I lost full composure. It took me a second to get it back. Am I proud of this moment? No not one bit. But this moment right here taught a valuable lesson. Knowing how to control your emotions and stress. At some point you are going to get frazzled. It happens to the best of us.

If you see yourself getting frazzled stop and think to yourself what can be controlled and what can't be controlled. If you can't control it, forget about it, and move on. But if you are stressing about something you can control then you attack it! Attack the problem and conquer it! From messing up at land nav I was able to learn a valuable lesson. And this lesson can be carried over for years. But this also taught me do not be afraid to fail.

Failure at one point or the other is going to happen to the best of us. My story of land navigation is only one of my many failures. But, to me that one hit me the hardest. Yet, it is only the beginning of many more. Through the journey of becoming an Army Officer we are all going to at some point fail. It may be exactly like my experience with land nav or maybe it was a test in class. Yet, these failures are some of the best aspects of the journey. Without them we won't be able to grow and tell stories for future generations. Now let me ask you. What are your stories and what stories have helped you along the way?

CDT Justin Pesek
Maryville University - MSII



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The training our cadre and IVs had equipped us with, and the trust we had in each other got us through.

M SIII Reflection

Going into MSIII year, I knew it would not be an easy hill to climb- and our class had big shoes to fill coming off the MSIVs successful summer at Camp. It seemed as if we skipped the “crawl, walk, run” phase of the army when it came to first semester, jumping right into the Fall FTX. Here, our class had what (we thought at the time) our first real taste of what a mission is, running through a patrol base each night. This seemed like such a daunting task, leading our own mission, making our own mistakes, but following this belief our confidence and team work grew.

Second semester was a breeze, here we got into the bulk of our Camp training, running through missions each week. We first conducted a War Games lab, where we were tasked with running through a mission, fielding the MSIVs’ tricky questions, and completing a successful mission on paper. We then moved into the Battle Drills Superlab. At this lab, we transferred what we learned from our missions at the War Games into actual action in the field. Although I thought it would be the most difficult thing I had done thus far in my ROTC career, it was the opposite. The training our cadre and IVs had equipped us with, and the trust we had in each other got us through. Even though it was a little rocky, it gave us momentum going into the following tactics labs.

About half way through the semester, the MSIIIs participated in Range Weekend. Here we had the opportunity to practice on the DOT40 qualification, and even got the chance to run through multiple times. As MAJ Haynes said, “Every soldier’s favorite weekend in the Army is one spent on the range.” There really is nothing like knocking down some targets and getting your confidence up going into the summer. It was a great weekend to watch each other qualify on the range, something that seemed nearly impossible in the fall.

As we wrapped up the semester, we partook in our final lab before the FTX, the Tactics Lab. It was incredible seeing the change in our thought processes from the first lab in the field, to this one; everything ran a tad smoother, each had an understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses and knew where to step in to help the mission get rolling. Overtime, the focus in class and lab became less on the actual tactics, and more on what differentiates a competent cadet versus an outstanding cadet. Looking around at all my classmates, it’s amazing to see the amount they have helped me grow as a leader, and I hope to have done the same for them. Gateway has prepared me not to be a competent cadet, but also an outstanding cadet this summer at Advanced Camp.

CDT Lily Johnson
Saint Louis University - MSIII





THE CONDOR EVENTS ALLOWED CADETS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY NEEDED TO WORK ON, AND HELPED US UNDERSTAND WHAT SKILLS WE BROUGHT TO THE TABLE TO HELP OUR PEERS.

Spring FTX Reflection

I got a start to my day at 0400 by making sure I had everything I needed for the daunting weekend ahead, and embarking on a 45 minute drive out to Weldon Springs. When I arrived, around 0515 my new platoon was already formed up. I drew a weapon and scrambled to situate myself before we began the CONDOR events. We were set to participate in five lanes: assembly/ disassembly and functions of a SINGAR radio, assembly/disassembly of a SAW249 and 240B in addition to a written land navigation exam, tactical field care, and call for fire.

I grabbed all of the notes I'd carefully taken over the course of the year, and headed off for the first event-the written land navigation exam. Now usually I'm pretty good with land nav... but there were some terms we'd never been introduced to, and many of the grid points didn't make sense. I looked around the room, worried I'd somehow forgotten the information I once knew like the back of my hand, but to my comfort I found many people looking around with the same worried look on their face. We received a correction to the questions, and continued with the test.

After we finished, we proceeded on to the tactical field care evaluation. There were a few underclassmen standing around me, worried because they didn't know how to call up a nine line. Myself and another MS3 assured them that they would learn, and that these events simply exist so you, and cadre can know where you stand, and so you can make mistakes in a training environment.

The third event rolled around, and the sun was already up, beating down on us. It was predicted to be 86 degrees and sunny, and I could swear some people were already sunburned. We moved through the next few stations quickly, counting down the minutes until lunchtime.

As we ate, my platoon reflected on what went well for us, and what could have gone better. We used the event as a way to identify strengths and weaknesses among our peers and identified what roll everyone should take on as we continued through our weekend. For example, those who scored well on the land navigation test were often used as 'point man' while those who scored well on tactical field care were often labeled medic. In the end, the CONDOR events allowed cadets to understand what they needed to work on, and helped us understand what skills we brought to the table to help our peers.

CDT Alexis Klosterman

Washington University in St. Louis - MSIII

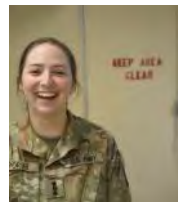


Spring FTX Reflection

On the second day of FTX our platoon woke up before the sun and prepared for a day full of long movements, heavy rucks and plenty of challenges. We knew that the most difficult and demanding day of the semester was upon us, but it didn't deter us at all. After successfully defending our patrol base position early in the morning, we moved as a platoon to change leadership. The sun was already warm on my neck when my platoon lane graders handed me the Company Operations Order and told me I had two hours to flip it, brief it and conduct my mission. I quickly got to work delegating tasks to my Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leaders so I could focus on planning. I then issued a Warning Order to my subordinate leaders and they in turn briefed their squads. A few moments later the entire platoon was rucked up and ready to move. At this point in the training exercise, we knew the terrain around us and the challenges it would make. The thick brush, sharp thorns and dry leaves would make advancing toward the enemy difficult and more importantly very loud. Nevertheless, we moved through the terrain for a few more minutes before stopping in a hasty fighting position. At this point the sun was beating down, and everyone was winded. We dropped our rucks and I took my key leaders out to recon the objective location and finalize the plan. We moved to the objective location but when I looked at the map, what I saw on the map was not what I saw in front of me. I decided to leave a few of my leaders at that position so serve as a backstop, while I went on to search for the correct position. We continued down the road but still could not seem to find the right spot. At this point I was getting nervous because I didn't know where I was and time was running out. I tried to remember my training, so I pulled my key leaders in and went over what I knew. I retraced my steps, analyzed the terrain, and was able to pinpoint our location. I was relieved to be back on track but quickly realized that I had spent far too much time correcting this error. With that in mind I finished the recon and went back to pick up the rest of the platoon. We held our breath and waited in silence for the enemy to arrive before using our Claymore landmines to initiate the ambush and neutralize the enemy. With another successful mission under our belts, our platoon left the objective site with our heads held high.

CDT Rachel Cocco

Saint Louis University - MSIII



SPRING FTX OUTTAKES

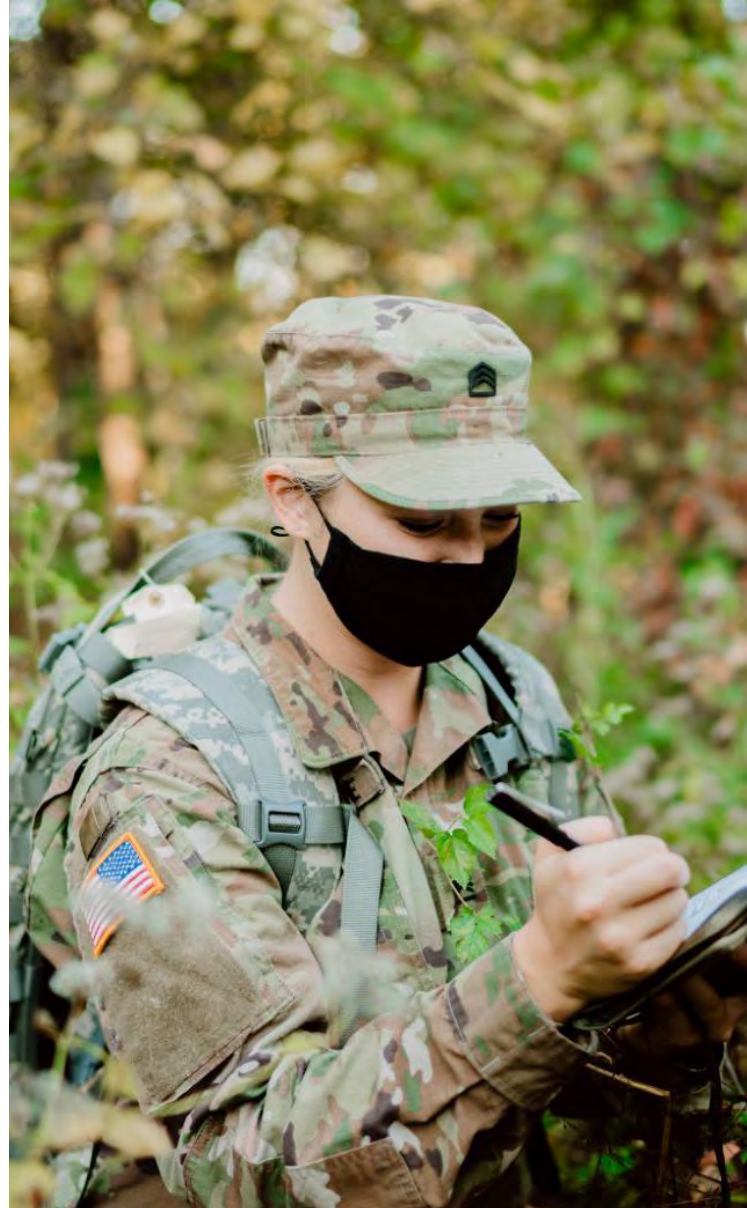




Want To Get Involved?

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.

Please visit our socials & website below.



"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 Rogriguez in the Gateway Recruiting Office can help you schedule an appointment. His contact details are: (314) 935-5521 and lee.e.rodriquez@wustl.edu

"In the National Guard or Reserves. How do I get involved with ROTC?"

Mr. Gary Lee is the Program Coordinator and has many years of experience helping cadets achieve their goals. His contact details are: (314) 935-5546 and glee.wustl.edu

Supporting Gateway Battalion

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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AND ACCT# 11-2051-94990