

Fall 2015

Gateway Gazette

Fall Edition, Volume I



Gateway Battalion Army ROTC would like to congratulate the Class of 2015, our 97th Commissioning Class.



75% of 2015 Commissionees received an Active Duty Commission. Two Cadets will be commissioned in December 2015 after their graduation.

Shelby N. Aleksick
Saint Louis University
Active Duty
Army Nurse Corps

Augustus T. Kihn
Lindenwood University
Active Duty
Infantry

Mark A. Rowland
Washington University
Reserve Duty
Transportation

Katherine M. Wilkerson
Saint Louis University
Active Duty
Army Nurse Corps

Taylor S. Baum
Saint Louis University
Active Duty
Adjutant General Corps

Larissa A. Masching
Saint Louis University
Reserve Duty
Army Nurse Corps

Jacob Z. Schroeder
Lindenwood University
Reserve Duty
Ordnance

End of Graduation Commissionees:

Nicholas B. Bigogno
Lindenwood University
Active Duty
Military Intelligence

Brandon M. Parham
Lindenwood University
Active Duty
Medical Service Corps

Joshua J. Steele
Saint Louis University
Active Duty
Field Artillery

Gareth C. Anderson
Webster University
December 2015
Reserve Duty

Bryan M. Ciccarello
Washington University
Active Duty
Corps of Engineers

Andrew T. Prouty
University of Missouri-St Louis
Active Duty
Corps of Engineers

Chassidy M. Thompson
Missouri Baptist University
Reserve Duty
Quartermaster

Ashton M. Piper
Harris-Stowe State University
December 2015
Reserve Duty

Michael H. Garrelts
Lindenwood University
Active Duty
Air Defense Artillery

Eric J. Ramage
Saint Louis University
Active Duty
Infantry

Nolan M. Tighe
Lindenwood University
Active Duty

A Message from the Professor of Military Science



Alumni and friends of the Gateway Detachment, welcome to this year's inaugural edition of the Gateway Gazette, the newsletter of the St. Louis Army ROTC Community. I'm excited as we build off the success of the past year, and develop leaders for the future. While we can't accurately predict the future, it's reasonable to expect that successful leaders will require discipline, resilience, high ethical and moral standards, and the ability to apply critical and creative thinking to solve complex problems. These are the types of leaders being produced by the Gateway Army ROTC Detachment.

As last year ended, our 97th commissioning class assumed their position as the Army's newest leaders. When the Fall 2015 semester began, we added over 60 new Cadets to our ranks, joining our returning Cadets from nine universities in the St. Louis metro area. To further their development, Cadets are encouraged to take advantage of leadership opportunities on campus, in the local community, and through ROTC. As you've seen in our newsletter, our Cadets have taken advantage of multiple opportunities to further develop their leadership and problem solving skills. This past summer, 46 Cadets participated in Cadet Summer Training. They excelled at the Cadet Leadership Course and Cadet Initial Entry Training, as well as the Culture and Language Program, the Project Global Officer initiative, Cadet Troop Leader Training, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, and Airborne and Air Assault Schools. On campus, our Cadets serve as leaders in fraternities, professional organizations, university athletic teams, and with various university community organizations. This is in addition to juggling the demands of being a regular college student. I am extremely proud of our Cadets' dedication and ability to manage multiple challenges, while still finding time to assist each other in both academics and ROTC.

I sincerely appreciate the assistance we continue to receive from various Gateway Detachment alumni, our Army partners, university teammates, and the local community. It's a hallmark of a good organization when our former members remain dedicated to assisting the development of the current Corps of Cadets. The support from all these organizations and *individuals makes a tremendous difference in our Cadets' development, exposing them to a wide variety of information and experiences. Please contact us if you are interested in assisting our Cadets through providing professional insights, or in some other manner.*

On another note, we are always challenged with funding Cadets' participation in extracurricular leadership development activities. I encourage you to consider donating to the Gateway Detachment Cadet Fund. Your donations are tax deductible if you donate through Washington University's processes. Your entire donation goes directly to fund Cadet activities, travel, and additional leadership development opportunities.

In closing, thank you for supporting your Gateway Detachment Cadets. As you already know, these are remarkable young men and women who are the future of our Army. I encourage you to stay up to date on the Gateway Battalion's activities and accomplishments through our website (www.rotc.wustl.edu), and our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC>).

A Message from the Cadet Battalion Commander



The Gateway Battalion Army ROTC program welcomes 60 new Cadets this fall. A marked growth in participation, increasing our ranks to 109 strong, from the nine affiliated universities in the St. Louis area. To our new and returning Cadets, I commend your decision to commit to a contract of service between yourselves and your country while accepting a college lifestyle that is notably different than that of your peers. You are embarking on an unparalleled practicum in leadership that will challenge and develop you all both personally and professionally.

The Gateway Battalion seeks to continue its tradition of excellence in educating and commissioning high caliber officers for the United States Army. The critical thinking and problem solving skills gained here, will put you ahead of your peers in both maturity and leadership potential. Our senior cadet leadership and cadre work tirelessly to produce the best training and leadership development opportunities to that end. Our mentorship program aims to facilitate this growth by providing peer-led support in all facets of cadet and college life. The onus however, ultimately falls on you all as individuals to accept responsibility for your development and preparation for a career in the Army Profession.

At few other points in your life will you have a similar opportunity to be surrounded by so many like-minded individuals, who will push you to excel and challenge the status quo. Your fellow Cadets are scholars who study engineering, international relations, biology, and business. They are multi-talented: varsity athletes, student group presidents, community outreach leaders, first responders, musicians, and much more. I implore you to reap the benefits of attending a civilian university, over the regimented lifestyle prescribed by the US service academies. Immerse yourselves in campus life, make friends from diverse walks of life, study abroad, and explore the great city of St. Louis. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Welcome to the Gateway team.

Airborne, Airborne, All The Way!!!



This past summer I had the unique opportunity of attending the Basic Airborne Course at the United States Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. The three-week course qualifies Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in basic military parachuting. I was one of eighteen Army ROTC cadets fortunate enough to train with a class four-hundred strong. The Basic Airborne Course begins with the Army Physical Fitness Test as its welcoming statement. Attention to detail is critical to safely and successfully completing the course, so push-ups and paperwork are no exception. The instructors, referred to as “Sergeant Airborne”, consistently reminded us of this fact through all three phases of training, Ground, Tower, and Jump Week.

The 71st anniversary of D-Day occurred during my second week of training. The entire 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment (over 1,200 service members) conducted a battalion run to honor the historic day. This experience, even more so than my first jump, sent chills down my spine in feeling linked to an exceptionally proud and prestigious tradition. The first jump was nevertheless an absolutely surreal, out of body experience. I felt as though I was watching a Go-Pro video through my own eyes. Still, that paled in comparison to the feeling of being awarded the Parachutist Badge and joining the ranks of the elite Army Paratroopers.

My status as a college student and cadet, in a sea of four-hundred trainees, proved to be the most defining and worthwhile facet of my experience. The Sergeants Airborne seemed to place us on the totem pole somewhere below the noncommissioned officers (NCOs), yet above the junior enlisted Soldiers. Most of whom were under twenty years-old and straight out of Advanced Individual Training. I greatly appreciated this opportunity to engage the NCOs and officers in my class and pick their brains regarding the Army, leadership, and career paths. The greatest takeaways came from these conversations and the exposure to every day Soldiers that I will soon work with and lead as a young officer.



Cadet Brice (pictured above with his mother, Mrs. Judi Brice) poses for a picture during his graduation from the United States Army Basic Airborne Course. Cadet Brice is a senior at Washington University, majoring in Architecture.



The Airborne Cable Towers have been a staple at the airborne ground and tower training area. They were originally erected in 1973 to honor the lives of all US Army Paratroopers who have made the final sacrifice in every Airborne Operation since World War II.



A Tough 10 Days in the Army. AIR ASSAULT!



Left: Cadet Scally is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Accounting.



Right: Two students await rappel commands from an Air Assault instructor aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.



This summer, I was given the opportunity to attend the United States Army Air Assault School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Air Assault School is a total of eleven training days consisting of three phases. The school begins on zero day, when you are woken up early and proceed to perform a timed two-mile run which is followed by a graded obstacle course. If you successfully complete zero day, you are officially a student in the school and receive your roster number to begin phase one.

On the morning of day one, students conduct a six-mile foot march, in one and a half hours, or less. During phase one, also known as the combat assault phase, students learn about the various forms of military helicopters, as well as hand and arm signals to guide those aircraft while loading and landing. After instruction, students are tested on their knowledge on the third day.

Phase two of Air Assault School is considered the hardest and is when the students learn about slingloads. Slingloading is the term used for the loading of helicopters with equipment hanging from the cargo hooks on their underside. Students are tested on both a written and hands-on slingload test. During the hands-on test, students are required to find three of four deficiencies on 4 different types of slingloads that would make them unsafe to fly.

Phase three is called the rappelling phase. During which, students conduct multiple rappels off of an elevated tower. Once the students have been graded on tying their rappelling seats and tower rappels, they conduct a final rappel out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The next day, students wake up early to conduct a twelve-mile road march in three hours, or less. This is the final event and at the six-mile point, students are given a pair of air assault wings to motivate them to finish their march. Once completed, all students who have met the standards are moved back to their training area to put on a set of fresh uniforms for their graduation. At graduation, students finally have the coveted Air Assault Badge presented and pinned on them by an instructor.

Thanks to ROTC, I was able to have an incredible experience, as well as earn a badge from one of the Army's specialized schools. I learned a lot about attention to detail, as well as my own personal will and commitment to training. Air Assault is only one of the many great training opportunities that ROTC can offer its cadets. When selected to attend, it can be a formative experience for any young cadet who wants to experience specialized Army training. I would encourage every cadet interested to apply to attend the Air Assault Course and anyone interested in ROTC, to look at the numerous opportunities ROTC has to offer. At the end of the day, Air Assault is a great way to gain knowledge of personal strength, spend two weeks of the summer, and earn the coveted title of, AIR ASSAULT!

Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program



Cadet O'Halloran is a sophomore Political Science major at Washington University. Cadet O'Halloran recently attended CULP in Bosnia, where he recently took part in military-to-military training and numerous humanitarian assistance projects.

This past summer, I was fortunate to receive the opportunity to attend CULP as a cadet in United States Army ROTC. CULP stands for Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency. It is a month-long program, where the Army sends teams of ROTC cadets to foreign countries to train with foreign national militaries, perform humanitarian assistance, or teach foreigners to speak our language. CULP serves two main purposes for the Army, one being that it strengthens military ties between our nation and our allies, and it additionally gives cadets experience operating alongside of their international counterparts.

My specific mission was to Bosnia, where my CULP team was tasked with performing military training with the Bosnian military's 2nd Battalion, 6th Brigade. Although, that ended up being only a portion of what we accomplished. The mission started with our arrival at Fort Knox, Kentucky. There, we spent five days training in cultural awareness and teambuilding. The mission consisted of three teams of eight cadets and one officer. Each of which would spend the trip training on a different Bosnian military installation. My team spent the first two weeks in country in Bihac, conducting military training with the Bosnian forces, as well as learning more about their nation's history and cultural heritage. After this phase was completed, our team spent almost a week volunteering at a Bosnian refugee camp. This mainly consisted of building shelters and clearing out debris from flooding. The last phase of our trip was spent in Travnik, where our team rebuilt dilapidated urban playgrounds. After we returned to Fort Knox, we spent a few days reflecting on lessons learned before the rest of my team headed back to their respective homes. Meanwhile I moved into holding company to ready myself for another month of follow on training.

Bosnia is not one of the more functional nations we ally ourselves with. A third of the country's land mass is still covered in land mines left over from the country's mid-1990's war, and both culturally and politically the country is torn into three ethnic factions. Serbian, Croatian, and Bosniak. Each of which still resent each other for the atrocities committed twenty years ago. The majority of the young people are unemployed and their political system is too torn by ethnic faction for their leaders to enact any meaningful reform. A pivotal reason that this small nation has managed to defy the odds and avoid splintering into three disjointed entities, is the American military influence in the region. This influence has served as a consistent steadying and peace-keeping influence over the past twenty years. Above all else, my CULP mission taught me first-hand, the importance of international leadership from the United States and its military.

Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program



Cadet Yano Windmiller is a sophomore International Area Studies major at Washington University. Cadet Windmiller recently experienced CULP in Slovakia, where he gained insight into the structure and operations of the United States' NATO Battle Group Partners.

This summer I participated in Army ROTC's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP). Every summer, the Army works with embassies across the globe to send roughly 1,000 cadets to more than 40 different countries. There are three types of CULP missions; humanitarian, language training, and military to military training. The reason the Army chooses to fund a program that costs around \$10,000 per cadet is twofold. First, cadets who go on CULP missions spend a significant amount of time interacting with foreign soldiers and foreign diplomats, which can strengthen the relationship between the host nation and the US government. Second, CULP allows cadets the opportunity to experience leadership in a multilateral environment and develop comfort with interoperability, is a critical skill in today's environment.

My trip was military-to-military training with Slovakia. Meaning that, the specific goal of our trip was to interact and train with various elements of the Slovak National Army. Before we left for Slovakia, we spent four days in Fort Knox, Kentucky preparing for our trip. This included, verifying medical readiness, learning about the culture we were about to be immersed in, and getting to know each other through team building exercises. We spent the first week training with the Slovak 5th Special Forces Regiment, the second week with the Slovak Army's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Battalion and their MLRS Battalion, and the final week with Slovak Cadets, participating in their cumulative Field Training Exercise. Upon returning to Fort Knox, we spent two days debriefing and completing medical out processing before leaving for home.

There are specific moments from my trip that I will remember forever, such as a simulated impromptu midnight raid on a hilltop compound during the FTX. I gained an understanding about how a small NATO country manages to be a meaningful participant in the Global War on Terror. In the extremely complex threat environment facing twenty-first century officers, understanding global security from multiple perspectives is extremely important. This was repeatedly emphasized by our cadre, three senior Captains and a Lieutenant Colonel, who made sure our training was not only enjoyable, but also meaningful to our growth as future leaders. The Slovak Army is comprised of only 10,000 soldiers, fewer than the number of US Army ROTC cadets across the country. Expecting an Army that small to field an effective full-spectrum force is illogical. Instead, the Slovak Army has developed several niche capabilities that it specializes in instead of spreading itself too thin. Slovakia niche capability is CBRN, which was one of the reasons we trained with them for a week. Slovakia then contributes that capability to EU and NATO Battle Groups. The most eye opening experience that I had on the entire trip was being able to see the Slovak CBRN unit operating on par with, or even above, their American counterparts.

Project Global Officer



Cadet Darren Brown is a graduate student at Webster University. He is pursuing a Master's Degree in Information Technology Management. He recently participated in Project GO at North Carolina State University with a focus on Arabic and Middle-Eastern Studies.



This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to study Arabic for 6 weeks at North Carolina State in Raleigh, NC. Project Global Officer (Project GO) is a collaborative initiative that promotes critical language education, study abroad, and intercultural dialogue opportunities for ROTC students. Project GO programs focus on the languages and countries of the Middle East, Asia, Central Asia, Africa, and South America.

My Project GO class consisted of 12 phenomenal cadets from various universities around the country. During my time at Project GO, we studied Arabic with our professor for about 6 hours, Monday through Friday. On the weekends, we would get together as a group, explore the city, indulge in different middle-eastern foods, and study our readings for the upcoming week. I am glad I participated in Project GO. I had the opportunity to make friends with some great new cadets and learn a lot about a culture that I really did not know. Given the opportunity to participate again next year, I definitely would.

To qualify for Project GO, you have to be a cadet (contracted or non-contracted) in good-standing within your battalion, meaning you have to be able to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), and meet certain GPA requirements. The last requirement varies by the project GO assignment that you apply for. The program also requires a Letter of Recommendation from your Professor of Military Science and submission of a letter that states why you should be selected to receive a Project GO scholarship. There are a few requirements for application, but the experience is more than worth the time.

Project Global Officer



Cadet Teddy Sims is a senior at Washington University, majoring in International Area Studies. He recently participated in Project GO in Tanzania where he had a myriad of learning opportunities that positively affected his global perspective as a future Army officer.



This past summer, I attended James Madison University's East African Field School in Tanzania with a full scholarship through the Department of Defense's program, Project Global Officer (Project GO). I spent ten weeks there gaining an understanding of the culture, people, language, and political underpinnings of Tanzania.

My first two weeks were spent at the University of Dar es Salaam. Here, several local professors lectured us on Tanzanian constitutional law, governmental structure, environmental protection, history, and sustainable engineering practices to gain a better understanding. Following our time in Dar, we traveled north to focus on the conflict of conservation and indigenous lifestyles in Tanzania. We visited three major national parks and a game reserve. We spent two weeks in Zanzibar learning about the coastal ecosystem and the long-term implications of poor resource management practices.

My stay in Longido, in northern Tanzania was the most transformational experience of the entire program. I spent one week with a Maasai family in a homestay. After the first week, I completed a local internship at the library. I worked closely with the manager to develop supplemental educational programming and tutoring sessions for students on summer break. I developed lesson plans for students studying English, geography, civics, and math. Outside of the internship, I connected with the community and people of Longido.

Project GO offered me a variety of distinctive opportunities that helped develop me both as a cadet, student, and global citizen. I hope to return to Tanzania to further develop my understanding of east Africa.

WHINSEC: Counter Insurgency Training and Foreign Military Cooperation



Cadet Andrew Schad is a junior at Saint Louis University. He recently attended WHINSEC at Ft. Benning, GA, where he was selected above military officers from eight different countries to be recognized as the Honor Graduate for his class.



Last summer I had the opportunity to attend the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation course. The course was 31 days and took place in Fort Benning, Georgia. While I was in the course, I had the privilege of training with over 170 cadets and soldiers from eight different countries which included; the United States, Peru, Columbia, Chile, El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, and Brazil. The wide array of countries brought with it a wealth of culture, personalities, and military tactical knowledge.

The course was taught completely in Spanish, which made me rather nervous upon in processing to the course. I have taken four years of Spanish classes in my academic career and knew I was proficient in Spanish, but WHINSEC would be a true test for me. The cultural and language barrier posed multiple challenges on a daily basis for myself and fellow American cadets.

Throughout WHINSEC, I found ways to breach the cultural and language barriers while training to achieve the shared mission goal at hand. The training that we received was the US Army based doctrine for counter insurgency infantry tactics, with a focus on an urban environment. For the first week of training we went over familiarizing all the students in the course to the US weapons systems and their capabilities, day and night land navigation, and battle field tactics. We used the gained weapons knowledge from the prior week during week two when we went to the range every day. While at the range we conducted marksmanship exercises such as qualifying with the M16 and reflexive fire training. The following week, we continued to build on what we had learned the past two weeks. The third week was focused on Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) training. During this week, we trained on breaching and clearing rooms, hallways, buildings, and ultimately entire village compounds. The final week we spent in the field for a four day FTX conducting continuous platoon and patrol base operations.

Throughout the entirety of the course, we were graded on everything from Army Physical Fitness Test scores, marksmanship scores, written exams, tactical prowess, and successes during the FTX platoon operations. I was able to have my hard work pay off and was awarded the Honor Graduate Award by placing 2nd out of my class. WHINSEC was a valuable learning experience and I have taken many lessons away from the course. The thing that I feel was most beneficial was the opportunity to train with foreign militaries, having to communicate, and find ways to breach the language and cultural barriers. This challenge is faced on a daily basis with our military deployed in foreign countries, where we do not speak the language, or live by the same cultural lifestyle. Having the opportunity to train at WHINSEC has given me the chance to see how valuable it is to communicate and understand both the people we fight alongside and against, from the aspect of a leader.

Cadet Troop Leader Training: The Cadet Platoon Leader



Left: Cadet Phillip Gallon is a senior at Saint Louis University, majoring in Business Entrepreneurship.

Right: Fort Polk, Louisiana is the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center, one of the three Army Combat Training Centers.



Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) is a training program for cadets in their last summer before commissioning. It allows cadets to be integrated into a unit and shadow a Second Lieutenant in order to gain insight and perspective as to what operating as a Platoon Leader in the Army is actually like. In addition, the decisions that you make will actually be evaluated by your Lieutenant, the Company Commander and the Battalion Commander. As a participant in the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) program this summer, I was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana. I was informed before I departed for Cadet Summer Training (CST) that I would be assigned to an Engineer Battalion. Having little experience with Engineers, I was excited to find out what an Engineer unit and its capabilities, brought to the total Army force.

Upon arrival to Fort Polk, I immediately participated in a demolitions range. I spent two days creating C-4 shape charges, block charges and performing building detonations. In an effort to help my assigned Platoon Leader as much as possible, I assembling a training exercise that allowed to unit to complete 60% of their annual required training in one week. I also completed the Army orders required to conduct such training. Many of these tasks would not have been possible without the detailed lessons of planning training, which was delivered through my ROTC instruction. During the last week, I participated in a Joint Readiness Training Center Combined Arms Maneuver (CAM) exercise consisting of Airborne Infantry, Armor, Artillery, Attack Aviation and Engineer operations.

I took away many key lessons from Fort Polk this summer and they will probably stick with me throughout my career. I never knew how much training and coordination was required to implement Engineer support until I planned one myself. Being able to see a CAM from a different perspective positively influenced my desire to command, train my unit and ultimately bring them to one of the training centers. Having specialized in Special Operations Forces (SOF) for so long in my career, I fully understood the strategic effects of combined SOF operations, but lost sight of the conventional Army's effect on the strategic-level. It also helps me to understand why continued education is necessary. The more that I train my mind to deal with unconventional problem-solving, the better I will be equipped to deal with those challenges when I am a Commander, or filling a staff position as a future Army Officer.

Assigned to the 814th Multi-Role Bridging Company, Cadet Gallon was able to participate in the detonation of a four-story structure (right) and mechanized water bridging operations (below).



From Enlisted Navy to Army Officer: A Former Sailor's Experience as an Army Cadet



Cadet Robert Simcoke (left) is a sophomore Criminal Justice major at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is a six year veteran of the Navy and is a new to the Gateway Battalion this year.

Right: Cadets are shown navigating a team-based rope bridge obstacle during the 2015 Fall Leadership Development Exercise at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Events like these are just part of what helps build a close and trusting team between the cadets of Gateway Battalion.



When I left the United States Navy in August of 2013, I had it in my mind that if I ever served in the military again, it would have to be as an officer. Don't take it the wrong way, I loved my nearly six years I spent in the Navy and if given a choice, I would do it all over again. Although, I did not enjoy the level of responsibility and influence that I had as an enlisted Sailor. This and other reasons are why I left the Navy and pursued my college education. This is something that I had been wanting to do since I was about 22 years old.

I began at St. Charles Community College, where I became very active with the Student Veteran Organization on campus. Before I knew it I had completed three semesters of college and was accepted into the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). I was looking forward to transferring to UMSL, which has one of the best Criminal Justice programs in the country. Upon learning that UMSL had an ROTC program, I was eager to learn more. I remembered having conversations with retired Navy Master Chiefs, who constantly told me how nice it was having the benefits of retirement, but given the choice to do it again, they would have went for their commission. I knew that I wanted to follow my shipmate's advice, so I called the Gateway Battalion recruiter, Mr. Rodriguez. He was more than helpful getting me enrolled and integrated into the Gateway Battalion.

By the time I got to Fort Leonard Wood, for the Fall Leadership Development Exercise (LDX), I had been in ROTC for about a month and a half. I was surprised at how welcoming the cadets were to a Sailor joining their ranks. I was also surprised at how nice all of the cadets were treated and how well everyone worked together. Even Master Sergeant Felder was doing the courses with us. This was uncanny, as you would be hard pressed to find a Master Chief in the Navy doing things like this. The entire weekend I tried and succeeded in being one of the loudest, most motivated cadets on any of the obstacle courses. I was even able to keep up with most of the cadets that were a good eight years younger than me. Most of the fun that I had during the LDX derived from the leadership opportunities that I was given, the physical events we participated in, and comradery built between all the cadets. I cannot wait to go back to Fort Leonard Wood for future training exercises with these cadets and I am looking forward to the opportunities that I will have training to become a future Army officer.

Leadership Development Exercise



Above: A cadet actively rappels down the elevated rappel tower. This is one of many events meant to instill confidence in all cadets.



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

This is my second year in the Gateway Battalion's ROTC program and thus far, I have enjoyed every moment. My favorite part about ROTC is the weekend training events that we get to participate in at least twice a semester. These training events are known as the Leadership Development Exercise (LDX). We typically spend an entire weekend Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri during these events. Usually, we leave Friday morning and returning on Sunday. The entire time we are there is spent learning, developing, and having plenty of fun. Sometimes, we are even out at the weapons range, where we are trained to become familiar with and safely fire multiple types of rifles, carbines, and automatic machine guns.

This past LDX, we took part multiple activities, ranging from Land Navigation, a tower Confidence Course, a critical-thinking Team Development Course, and two different obstacle courses; a Physical Endurance Conditioning Course and the Confidence Course. At the confidence course were further developed our physical fitness and confidence by attempting multiple obstacles with our fellow cadets. We then preceded to the land navigation course. We were able to plot points on a map and navigate to them, through the woods of Fort Leonard Wood, using the skills that we gained during our military science courses. This is such a great experience because it helps to build self-confidence and trust in your ability to perform.

The next day, we went to the Confidence Tower and Team Development Course. This is by far my favorite part of the entire training. Cadets are trained to rappel from an elevated tower and walk across a rope obstacle course. This is a great way for cadets to build even more confidence and conquer any fear of heights that they may have. Once we completed the rappel tower, we moved to the Team Development Course. There cadets must collaborate with their fellow cadets and develop a plan to complete the obstacles within their given time limit. This event really helps cadets connect and built trust with one another. Next, was the Land Navigation course again, but this time, it was at night. This made the cadets rely on another set of trained skilled, other senses, and our equipment, rather than our eyesight to find our points in near pitch black conditions.

On the last day, we moved to the Physical Endurance Conditioning Course, where again we had to navigate an obstacle course as a team. The only catch is, the obstacles are really tough and the course is timed against other teams. Cadets were more than encouraged because of cheering fellow cadets. The LTX event is by far the most developmental and excited part of being a cadet in the ROTC program. This aspect alone, would make being a cadet completely worth it.

Cadet Leadership Course: Where Officer Leadership is Tested and Honed

Right: Cadet Seth Landon is a senior at Lindenwood University, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Below: A cadet briefs the plan that he created to the leaders of his Platoon during Field Exercises at the Cadet Leadership Course.



During the last summer before a cadet commissions as a Second Lieutenant, they are required to attend the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC). This 30-day camp is a place where every cadet in the nation meets at Fort Knox to conduct various training, which helps to further test and develop the leadership qualities of the cadets. CLC is structured to simulate the events that active duty Soldiers experience before, during, and after a combat deployment.

During the pre-deployment stage, the training is mainly focused on leader development tasks and assessing each Soldier's strengths and weaknesses. Once "deployed", the cadets participate in a 10-day field training exercise. There they conducted various forms of offensive and defensive operations to simulate actual missions and situations that take place when deployed. After returning from the field exercise, the cadets performed recovery operations back at their respective barracks to simulate the return from a deployment and the events that come with completing a deployment at home station.

Some of the interesting events that the cadets were able to experience included various shooting ranges, obstacle courses, rappelling towers, and eating Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) so often that many could recite the meal numbers that have candy in them. Between being over 100 degrees on the typical day and dealing with the limited amount of sleep, it was imperative that we ate all of the food given to us and that we stayed hydrated. Another great benefit of attending this training was the multiple leadership positions that each cadet was placed in. They were required to perform the duties of that particular position and were coached and mentored through any difficulties that presented themselves. This was a great part for me, because I was able to not only perform in those positions and learn the duties of each job, but I was able to watch other people in these leadership positions and learn from their achievements and mistakes.

Overall, attending CLC is not just some form of "check the box" mandatory training, it is a great developmental learning experience for all cadets along their path to becoming an Army officer.

Cadet Initial Entry Training: Where Basic Soldier Skills and Leadership is Learned



Left: Cadet Emerson Dresser (on the right) is a junior Emergency Management major at Saint Louis University.

Below: Cadets prepare to enter the Gas Chamber during Cadet Initial Entry Training.



During this past summer I had the opportunity to attend Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) along with a handful of other cadets from the Gateway Battalion. CIET was held in beautiful Fort Knox, Kentucky and it is a four-week long summer training event designed specifically for newly arriving MS1 and MS2 cadets. The purpose of CIET is to instill confidence and decision-making abilities in cadets, while also laying the foundation for success in the ROTC program.

Week one of CIET involved learning most of the basics as to how the Army operates. This included learning drill and ceremony along with basic military customs and courtesies. While many cadets found this tedious, it was necessary and purposeful considering CIET was the first experience most cadets had with the Army. Learning these basics solidified the knowledge some cadets already had, while also helping new cadets learn the very basics of how to operate within the Army. At the end of week one, we performed our first major event, the high ropes course. While this may have been intimidating to those with a fear of heights, all cadets completed this course and most enjoyed the experience when looking back on it.

Week two was slightly more eventful. We had the opportunity to go through a grenade assault course, enter a chamber containing CS gas (commonly referred to as tear gas), and complete basic rifle marksmanship. The grenade assault course was high tempo learning environment that ended up being a lot of fun for most of the cadets in attendance. The gas chamber may have not been the most fun, but it was a good learning experience overall. The basic marksmanship taught everyone the proper way to handle a weapon, assemble/disassemble an M16, and accurately shoot an M16. Week two was much more enjoyable than the first week because of these events. During week three, we were taught the basics to land navigation. After we learned how to plot points and plan a route, we went to a tent city where there was course that required us to find a variety of points to validate our land navigation skills. In two-man teams, we plotted our points and went out on the course to find them. At the end of week three, we began learning tactics and spent our first day out in the field executing tactical scenario lanes. The highlight of our time was spent in the field during week four. We spent a total of three days in the field conducting lanes, learning tactics, and the basics of leading a squad on missions. Overall, this was the most exciting and fun part of CIET. During our time in the field, we were rained on quite a bit, but it made the experience all the more exciting. We learned how to live outdoors, implement security measures, and thrive in environment that consistently put stress on us. Cadre did not take it easy on us because we were new cadets. They simply made the lanes and situations challenging in order to better develop our leadership and decision making skills.

Overall, CIET was a bit tedious at times, but in the end it served its purpose by making us better cadets and increased our knowledge of how the Army operates. I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend this summer training through ROTC.

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 in on the program, or wanting to give back; we are here to help.

Gateway Battalion website:

rotc.wustl.edu

Like us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/GatewayROTC](https://www.facebook.com/GatewayROTC)

I'm a prospective Cadet and would like to come see some of your training events. Who should I contact to coordinate this?

Mr. Lee Rodriguez in the Gateway Recruitment Office can help you arrange a meeting. His contact details are:

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



I'm a specialist in the National Guard, how do I get involved with ROTC?



Mr. Gary Lee is the Program Coordinator and has over 26 years of experience in helping Cadets achieve their goals.

- (314) 935-5546
- glee@wustl.edu

How can you Support the Gateway Battalion?

Donations through Washington University are fully tax deductible.

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

