

UNC ARMY



ROTC

*The Tar Heel Battalion
Newsletter*



Academic Year
2013-2014

Issue 2: The Tar Heel Battalion



“Airborne! Welcome to the Family!”

In mid-June of the summer of 2013, I tossed my bags onto the conveyor belt and plopped down on an airport bench as I awaited my departure time. I glanced down at my boarding pass one last time. After an hour-long flight to Atlanta, GA, I would hop onto another plane and cruise down to Fort Benning, the home of the US Army Airborne School. As I sat there, I wondered what the next few weeks held in store. Would the fear of jumping out of an airplane at 1,200 feet paralyze me or would the excitement of the imminent adrenaline rush kick in?



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UNC ARMY
ROTC
 The Tar Heel Battalion
 Newsletter

Greetings Tar Heel Battalion Alumni, parents of current Tar Heels, and other Battalion supporters!

It is time for yet again another edition of the Tar Heel Battalion Newsletter. Cadets are hard at work accomplishing many feats, from the normal collegiate academic, extracurricular, and ROTC challenges, to special schools and studying abroad.

Coming to a close on the spring semester, Cadets are buckling down to complete final papers and exams, while also preparing for various summer assignments. Whether heading to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) which is now at Fort Knox, Kentucky, or to Germany for a medical internship, or to China for language and cultural immersion, or to Korea and Lithuania for military to military engagements, or to the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) for those newly commissioned, the cadets are busy! They challenge themselves everyday with

opportunities to grow, develop, adapt, and hone their leadership capabilities and attributes, readying themselves for their future profession as leaders of our Nation's Soldiers.

As always, take the time to listen to the Cadets, through personal interactions and through the articles in this newsletter – hear their stories, applaud their victories, understand their challenges, cheer them on as they work together to develop solutions for complex problems, and support them in their quest for current and future endeavors.

We are always happy to hear from you, our alumni and supporters. If you have news to share with the battalion, or are going to be in the Chapel Hill area, please contact us!

LTC Megan Stallings
 Professor of Military Science



ROTC and Law School

A Balancing Act.

Kira Lumsden is a current 2L at UNC School of Law and an MSIII in AROTC. She graduated UNC-CH in May 2012 with two bachelors in Political Science and Peace, War and Defense.

In August 2012 I began my MSII year in ROTC and my 1L year at UNC-Law. I knew although being involved in two time consuming activities would be difficult, that it would help me reach my goal to be a JAG officer in the United States Army.

Having ROTC in addition to law school is challenging and I find myself groaning even more than I did in undergrad when my alarm goes off at 0530 for PT. However, I do strongly believe that being in ROTC is a benefit for me. I have definitive plans for what I want to do once I graduate and I also am forced to manage my time very strictly. I plan out my semester before it starts and I track my deadlines for school weeks in advance. This allows for me to have at least one night a week that I can go and socialize with other law students, which I really think is essential maintaining sanity in law school.

Balancing law school with PT, lab, ROTC class and Saturday trainings is frustrating but it is also rewarding. I can laugh at hearing my classmates complain about how early our 8:45 class and know that I have already accomplished something before many of them even woke up. The support that you have from your fellow cadets in ROTC is stronger than any other support system you could find on campus.

Law school and ROTC are challenging but I am certain that I will be able to look back on this experience and know that I will be able to face any other challenge that is thrown my way.

STEM

Science Technology
Engineering Math

Cadets in the UNC Army ROTC Battalion are increasingly taking on these tougher curricula in order to prepare themselves and the Army for future challenges. From Physics to Computer Science, the unique mindset required to excel lends itself well to making future Army leaders. The ability to quickly analyze problems and parse the extraneous information from the important is a hallmark of STEM undergraduate and graduate students.

-Matthew Wolboldt, MSIV



Continued from page 1

No matter what, two weeks of training stood in between my first jump and me and I'd go in with the same work ethic that got me to this point. A moment later, the flight attendant called for all passengers to board. Without looking back, I picked up my carry-on and walked towards the plane.

The first thing anyone notices when they arrive at the Airborne barracks are the monstrous 250 foot towers that dot the adjacent training fields. Immediately, a chill ran down my spine and a sense of anticipation crept into my consciousness. Following two days of in-processing, training commenced with a PT test. That first week we learned the intricacies of the PLF, or Parachute Landing Fall, practiced jumping out of a C-130 mock-up, and worked on our exit routines by propelling ourselves from a 34-foot tower. The next week included more of the same. Days started at 0400 and ended around 1700, but this week we trained on the Swing Landing Trainer. Although most consider this machine to be their least favorite part of the school I enjoyed the challenge that it offered by forcing you act quickly to conduct the proper PLF. Other than that we continued to hone our aircraft exiting skills, learned how to manipulate the chute in the air, and nailed down the safety checks and emergency procedures. In preparation for the following week, jump week, the First Sergeant delivered a motivational speech encouraging us to be brave and to remember our training. At that point, I knew I was ready.



Air Assault

Samuel Pulliam
MSIV

Two days after graduating from the 1st regiment of LDAC I reported to the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia for Air Assault School. Coming directly from Fort Lewis was great as I was still in the training mindset for the summer. The UNC Tar Heel Battalion prepared me greatly for the challenges that Air Assault School would present. From physical challenges such as Zero Day to the 12 mile ruck march before graduation, I knew what to expect and I was ready. The course was overall a great experience getting to train with soldiers, officers, and cadets from all over. I learned a great deal that I can take forward into my military career. I am fortunate for the opportunity the Tar Heel Battalion gave me to attend Air Assault and for my classmates and cadre who helped prepare me for the course.



(Continued)

On the ensuing Monday we rose at 0300 and jogged to the airstrip to spend another hour practicing PLF's and exit procedures on more mock-up C130s. We then filed into the hangar, found our chutes, geared up, sat, and waited to get individually inspected, or JMPT'd, by the Black Hats. Over the hours that the individual inspections took I thought about the task at hand and mentally prepared myself. I couldn't believe it. After a year of hard work and determination I was finally here and about to conduct my first jump. In the weeks leading up to Airborne school I thought I would be nervous. I thought that I would be scared out of my mind. The thing was, I wasn't. What seemed like moments later, the blaring PA system interrupted my thoughts when they called my stick, or squad, to load onto the C-130. Slowly we lined up and piled into the plane. Minutes later we were in the air and before I knew it, it was go time. My heart beat faster than normal, but I felt completely at home. The jumpmaster led us through the commands we had heard dozens of times. I stood up, hooked up, checked my equipment, and shuffled to the door. I took a look out of the door and, on the command of go, leapt into the sea of green below.

It takes nerves of steel and a dose of faith to jump out of an airplane: faith that your equipment will work, and faith that your training will kick in if the need arises. Fortunately, I did not need to initiate any emergency procedures. When I jumped out of the aircraft the prop blast thrust me away from the plane. After a moment of disorientation I realized I was floating. I conducted the proper safety checks and watched from my perch as the surreal world eased its way towards me. After conducting a proper PLF and packing my chute I jogged back to the waiting buses and rode back to Fort Benning. Four jumps, some of them combat, and a graduation ceremony later I was Airborne qualified. I learned a lot about myself during my three weeks in Georgia. I learned that a strong work ethic and determination lead to achievement. I learned that I could accomplish anything and overcome any fears if I set my mind to it. On the plane ride back to North Carolina as I proudly clutched my Airborne wings in my hand an elderly man across the aisle noticed them, looked me in the eye, and energetically exclaimed, "Airborne! Welcome to the family!"

-Stuart Hamm, MSIII



Cultural Immersions

This past summer I, along with 8 other cadets from across the country, was lucky enough to be given the opportunity through the Project GO initiative to spend 8 weeks at Arizona State University learning Russian, followed by 4 weeks in Kazan, Russia. My time at ASU included 6 hours of intensive class daily, and at least 6 hours of homework a night. The classes were entirely in Russian, even from Day 1 when none of us knew any Russian. My time in Kazan was a complete cultural immersion, as I stayed in a Russian home and spoke nothing but Russian for the entire duration. I also attended classes on the weekdays, and was taken on weekend excursions across the country. The entire experience was unforgettable, as I learned so much more than I could possibly have gained from any textbook. The people I met, the places I saw, the culture I experience have left a lasting impression on me for the remainder of my life.

Robert Graziano, MSIII





CULP by Tyler Miranda, MSIII

This past summer I was given the opportunity to participate in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program offered through Cadet Command. I was sent to the city of Bucharest, Romania. When I first found out this was where I was going, I did not really know what to expect. However it was probably the greatest experience of my life thus far. After spending about four days at Fort Knox, KY we began our 10-hour journey to Romania. While there, my group of 20 cadets including myself stayed at the Radisson Blu hotel in the center of Bucharest. The diversity present in our small group of cadets was incredible. There were cadets from universities all across the U.S. to include UCLA, Alabama, Michigan, UNLV, Ohio State, and OSU. Our foreign counterparts were a group of Romanian Gendarmes in the *Brigada Specială de Intervenție a Jandarmeriei* or Special Intervention Brigade. They could be described as a combination of an American SWAT team and Special Forces.

My CULP mission was an English Teaching mission. A typical day for us consisted of PT in the hotel gym from 0630 to 0730 and then leaving for the Jandarmeria (their training facility) around 0800. At 0900 we began our classes. The classes consisted of topics such as American Households, US weapons and vehicles, or American Football. The goal of these classes was to get the Romanians to speak as much as possible in English, whether it was about the topic or not. We as cadets were encouraged to correct them as much as possible which took us a while to get used to, as we did not want to seem rude constantly correcting their English. We would then break for lunch at 1200 and then the Romanians would lead the next part of the day until about 1600. This usually consisted of the Romanians teaching us some of their tactics in riot control or room clearing and then on other days we would go on tours of various museums around the city. On the weekends we would travel to other parts of Romania along with a few of our counterparts. We went to the city of Brasov as well as the city of Constanta, which is next to the Black Sea.

This experience was extremely rewarding for me and is something I will remember for the rest of my life. The CULP program provided me with my first trip outside of the U.S. and a first hand account of a culture completely different from my own. However, the most rewarding part of this experience was the friendships and bonds that were formed, not only with the other cadets and myself, but also with our Romanian counterparts, several of whom I still keep in touch.





Last summer, I had the opportunity to attend Cadet Troop Leader Training, or CTLT for short, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. CTLT is an opportunity for cadets to essentially have an internship following a Platoon Leader, making it a great resource for rising seniors who have recently completed LDAC. For me, it was extremely beneficial because other than ROTC and LDAC, I had not seen what a regular unit in the Army was like. I had also never been to a major base before, except for Fort Lewis during LDAC, so my time in Lawton was an experience of firsts.

I was assigned to a fires brigade, which I thought was pretty cool. I had thought that I would be with a unit that fired some of the big howitzers, and was a little disappointed when I learned that I would be assigned to an MLRS unit. Although these were cool weapon systems, they seldom were able to shoot due to financial constraints. But the supervisors in charge of us cadets were able to arrange for us to go out and see paladins shoot as well as some other howitzers. Most of the other stuff that we did was pretty cool too. We were able to go to some fire stimulations as well as notionally lead convoys. We also were tasked with helping to write NCOER'S, our "own" OER support forms, and other useful paper work. Before, I had not realized that much of the job is administrative.

The Field Artillery branch treated us very well (probably because we had not put in accession packets yet!) and actively kept us busy during the weeks. Our 2nd Lieutenant sponsors also were responsible for providing us with some entertainment so they took us shooting, to the Wichita mountains wildlife refuge, out to Oklahoma City, and even around in Lawton! I also made good friends with other cadets who were also doing CTLT and still keep in contact with them. Overall my time was fun and enjoyable at CTLT. More importantly, however, I gained the knowledge of some things to expect after BOLC. This has transcended to more confidence which I think will ease the transition from college life to a professional career because I know a little bit more of what to expect next year.

CTLT



Cliff Swanson, MSIV



Leader's Training Course

My experience at LTC was definitely one I'll carry with me for the rest of my life. I was introduced to living in a barracks, handling an M16, upholding the Army Values, building camaraderie, and carrying out basic army tactics. Although the adjustment to living a more army-centered life was a lot to handle at first, I persevered through and had a wonderful time and met some pretty amazing people. Going into LTC, I didn't know that there would be drill sergeants waiting to yell for every minor mistake. It was interesting exposure because it's not something cadets would normally get to experience. I was quick to learn the do's and don'ts in order to not make myself a target. After the first "hell" week of getting used to waking up before five, rushing to get ready, and always staying awake and alert during

class time, the drill sergeants relaxed a bit. While at LTC I completed a high ropes course, learned how to conduct land navigation, passed the CWST, learned the IMTs, grouped and zeroed with an M16, learned to handle the M16 and conducted my first STX lanes amongst other trainings as well. I got to see firsthand how the army builds families because I got close to the cadets in my squad, and even in my platoon. While at LTC, I was even privileged to receive the Military Order of the Purple Heart Award, so I was recognized as an awardee during graduation. I graduated LTC with a sense of pride, and a small pang of sadness because I knew that I had to say bye to my fellow battles. Overall, LTC prepared me for my MS III year, and I'm really glad I dedicated a month of my summer to go.

Gina Deihl, MSIII

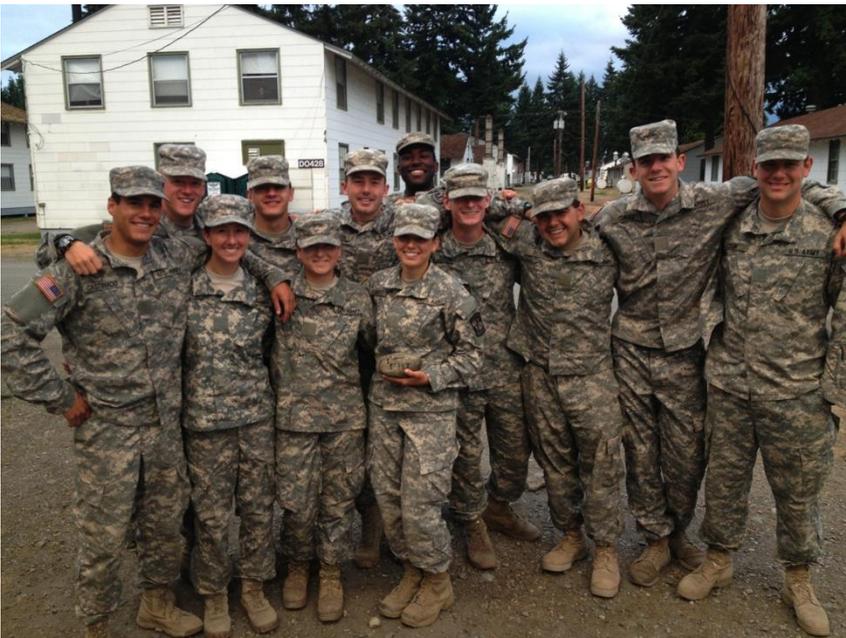


WARRIOR FORGE 2013

After your MSIII year in ROTC, you must complete the Leader Development and Assessment Course or LDAC, the results of which have a large impact on your ranking in the Order of Merit List for your entire year group in ROTC throughout the country. For the seniors who went summer of 2013, this was a 29-day course at Joint



Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Here they had to contend with lots of rain, dry heat, giant anthills, as well as the development and assessment. Since there are over 5,000 cadets going through LDAC each summer in regiments of about 400 cadets, it is likely a cadet will not see a familiar face from their school. It is an added challenge to quickly develop as a team within your squad and platoon, an undertaking that will greatly help in the month to follow since you stay with them the entire time. The rising MSIVs were assessed on the basic skills of physical fitness, land navigation, obstacle courses, first aid, a hand grenade assault course, as well as squad and platoon level operations. The LDAC cadre was tasked with mentoring these college students into better leaders while also evaluating their performance through garrison and tactical leadership positions such as company commander, executive officer, platoon leader, platoon sergeant, etc. Cadets are also immersed in classroom lessons on the Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention programs in the Army, as well as Basic Rifle Marksmanship, mounted land navigation, calling in fire support, and an IED practical exercise. At the end of LDAC cadets are exposed to a career day where they are



allowed to speak with officers and enlisted from all the branches of the Army, National Guard and Reserves. While it is an assessed event, LDAC is meant to develop leaders through classroom lessons, cadre and peer mentorship, pushing oneself in graded events, and most importantly teamwork.

- Tyler Smith, MSIV



A Fresh Perspective...

Doing Ranger Challenge was exhilarating. I am glad I did it. As a First Year, it forced me to budget my time and prepare for the next day each night before. I also got to know the guys in the battalion a lot better because of Ranger Challenge. I think Ranger Challenge also opened up a lot of opportunities for me that I wouldn't have gotten until much later in the program, for instance, the shooting part of the competition. Without Ranger Challenge, I wouldn't have been able to shoot with ROTC until my MSIII year. I also enjoyed the more advanced PT. It also gave me a chance to get used to rucking in a repetitive kind of way. I got a chance to learn about a Grenade assault course and stretcher bearing. Overall, it gave me chance to get to know some great guys and learn a lot.

Lane Dougherty, MSI

•Ranger Challenge•

The Ranger Challenge competition is always one of my favorite events of the fall semester. It usually begins one week into the semester. At that point, it seems like just about everyone in the battalion is trying out. After a few weeks, as the intensity of both academic work that comes with the rigorous academics of Carolina and the physical rigors of conducting five days of PT discourages some from continuing. This year we faced some uncertainty of whether the competition would even be conducted due to the government shutdown. The team however stayed focused and pushed through. This year the team had to conduct land navigation to all of the events. The events included weapons assembly, a written land nav test, one-rope bridge, marksmanship, an urban assault course to include radio assembly and 9-line medevac, an obstacle course, a reconnaissance lane, poncho raft, and a hand grenade assault course. While we did not place in the top three, we did build lots of great memories and developed great team camaraderie, which I will always look back on as some of my favorite times in ROTC.

- Mitchel McGee, MSIV





Army 10-Miler Team

In October of 2013, the UNC Army ROTC program sent an eight-cadet team to compete in the 29th annual Army Ten Miler in Washington D.C. The team was comprised of seven cadets and one cadre support liaison. Team members included: 2nd Lt. Lance Randles, MSIVs c/Thomson, c/Reaves, c/Pulliam, c/McGee, c/Buxton, MSIII c/Pinos, and MSI c/Dougherty. These individuals were chosen based on their impressive APFT 2-mile run times and they also held the fastest times during the seven-mile tryout run.



The Army Ten Miler represents the camaraderie that resides within the U.S. Military and the event hosted approximately 30,000 runners from all around the globe. Each member of UNC's team ran exceptionally well with an average time of 72 minutes. The UNC Army Ten Miler Team placed well among the other ROTC teams that competed and on an individual level, each team member was in the upper echelon of their age/sex division. The team funded itself through the generous support of community members, family/friends, and UNC ROTC Alumni. It was the team's mission to represent the UNC community in a positive manner and to show the successful ROTC program that UNC is proud to call their own. The UNC Army ROTC program hopes to have another team compete in 2014 headed by another MSIV or MSIII cadet so that UNC's success in the race can continue. We owe all of our success and the opportunity to compete in such a fantastic race to all of those who supported our efforts and we are proud to have represented the Tar Heel Battalion in this year's Army Ten Miler.

- Joey Thomson, MSIV



The First Year

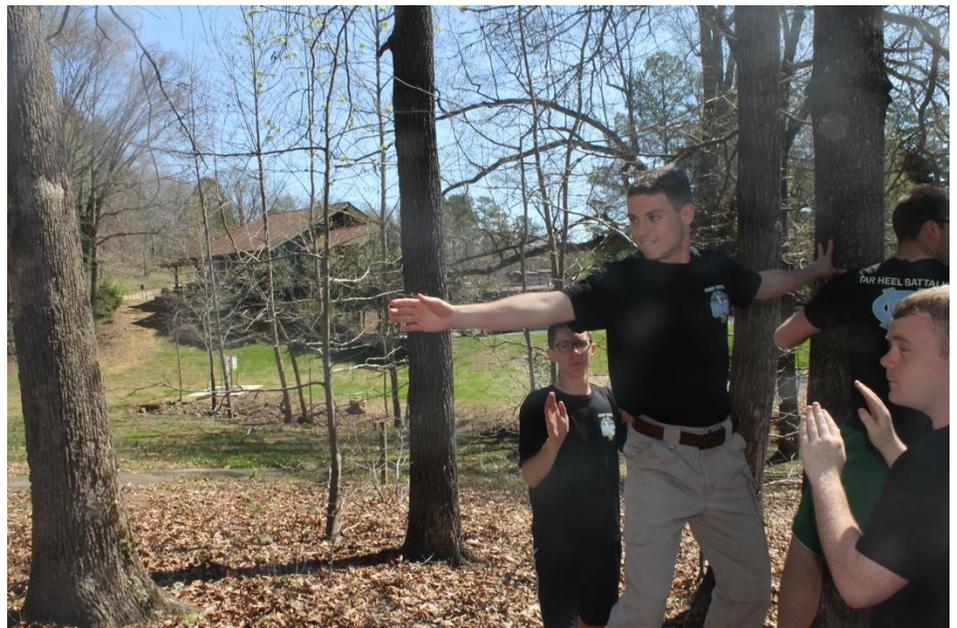
As a former JROTC cadet, I came to the Tar Heel Battalion with what I thought was at least a vague notion of what the Senior ROTC program would be like. However, I quickly came to realize that the

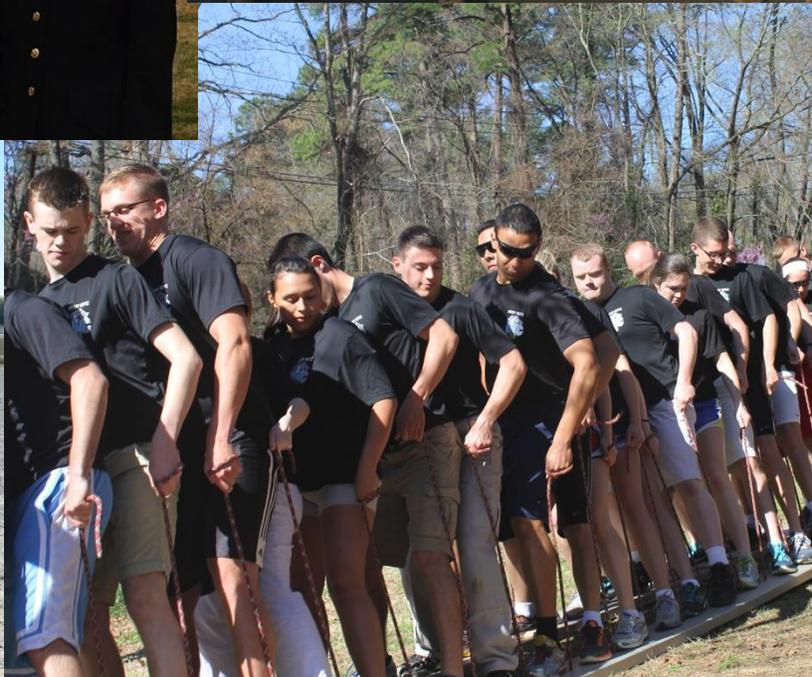
junior and senior levels of ROTC are quite different. Junior ROTC taught me the superficial aspects of soldiering: uniform inspections, drill, and ceremony. Senior ROTC, on the other hand, is clearly focused on the real foundations soldiering and solid leadership.

Before joining the Tar Heel Battalion, the concept of leadership was fairly vague to me; it was quite frankly more a product of thought than action. However, in the six months that I have been a part of Senior ROTC at UNC, leadership has taken on an active role in my life. As a first-year cadet, I have begun to practice leadership by following my superiors and living the Army values. Following the orders of those above me and emulating their behavior serves as an example of leadership by encouraging others to follow suit. Likewise, living the Army values provides an example for others to follow, but it is also an act of personal leadership. This personal leadership manifests itself in almost every aspect of my life, from upholding grooming standards to giving 100% during every physical training session.

The first-year experience in Army ROTC at UNC is quite challenging, but also very rewarding. I have often heard that the Army “is what you make it; you get out what you put into it”. From my limited experience, I can attest to the accuracy of this statement. Nothing is more satisfying than investing yourself completely in a worthy cause and witnessing the rewarding outcome of your endeavors. This has been my experience in the Tar Heel Battalion.

Jared Miller, MSI

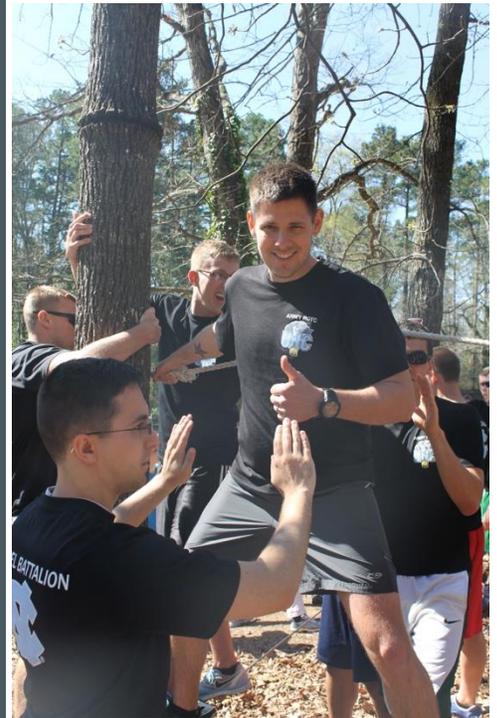




Go HEELS!

On behalf of the MS IV class, I extend a heartfelt thank you to the Cadre and mentors of the Tar Heel Battalion for their guidance and support. The professional relationships we have developed have led to challenging and rewarding training events and some high quality Cadets! The onus rests with our future Cadet Leadership to continue to strive for excellence in training in preparation for LDAC, life, and service in the United States Army - a task they are more than prepared for. At the close of this academic year, the winds of life will scatter us about the globe just as it has all of our alumni. Some will be moving on to military assignments, some will attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, and some will attend Army training schools or travel the world on various CULP, CTLT, and CIP missions. But no matter where we find ourselves, we will all remain a part of Carolina and the Tar Heel Battalion. Allow me to lead the members of the Tar Heel Battalion, past, present, and future, in a loud and thunderous: GO HEELS!

Cadet Daniel Huseman
c/LTC, MSIV
UNC Tar Heel Battalion



The Tar Heel Battalion



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