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Tar Heel Cadets remain exceptional. Cadet-led efforts in areas of physical fitness, standards of appearance, weight control, professional military education, and community service are producing positive effects at the individual and unit level. This fiscal year we are projected to set a program milestone by commissioning 22 new Second Lieutenants, nearly 200% of assigned mission and the highest single-year total in our 25 year history! The program is guided by an approach anchored on three bases (“Three C’s”): character, competence, and commitment. To maintain quality Cadets, the program is focused on outstanding education, training, and personal development. USAR Troop Program Unit officers and Advanced Civil Schooling students have augmented the full-time Cadre to ensure the Cadets are never deprived of opportunities due to lack of Cadre presence or availability. Cadre are employing techniques such as personal one-on-one outside of class instruction to continue Cadet progression or video teleconferencing to enable Cadets studying abroad to continue their ROTC progression.

Cadets are displaying competence and commitment on a daily basis through their ROTC activities, making full use of tremendous opportunities for further professional development. Since the last update, Tar Heel Cadets have participated in Airborne, Air Assault, Jungle Operations, CTI, CPDT, CULP, ProjectGo, internships, and many others. The Tar Heel color guard has consistently active both on and off campus and will end up participating in over a dozen separate events in the Fall Semester alone. Our Ranger Challenge team excelled at the 2018 Ranger Challenge. The Tar Heels were the BEST overall team in the Brigade based on the 15 skills assessments and only a scoring technicality deprived them of their 1st place standing. They officially finished 5th overall, but everyone in the Brigade knows without a doubt that UNC was the legitimate winner.

To support Character development -- an attribute that incorporates the Army Values and the principle of Selfless Service -- community service has also become an integral part of the Cadet experience. This term, Tar Heel Cadets provided over 700 hours of service to the greater UNC community! Tar Heel Cadets are projecting a highly visible and positive image. In addition to visibly demonstrating the spirit of the Battalion, this image does not go unnoticed by university officials and has resulted in constructive reciprocation by the university through assistance and accommodations.

The Tar Heel Battalion is flourishing. The primary objective is for the individual Cadet experience in this program to be engrossed in development of the “Three C’s” with an end state of producing commissioned officers who are men and women distinguished by honor. Based on the Cadets I have the privilege of working with every day, I can tell you there is no doubt we will achieve this. I understand why people take immense pride in proclaiming themselves Tar Heels, but I firmly believe there is no one who can be more proud than those who say “I am (was) a Tar Heel Cadet!” Hark the Sound, Go Heels!
Luke Boehm came to UNC Chapel Hill as a freshman in Fall of 2014. He was an Economics and Music double major. He often sang the National Anthem for ROTC events.

2LT Luke Boehm graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in the spring of 2018. 12 days later he reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course.

2LT Luke Boehm had this to say when discussing Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course and how ROTC prepared him for life as an officer.

“Working alongside peers in ROTC is the best leadership lesson anyone could have, and helped me tremendously. Giving orders to people that have to do what you say is easy, but leading people is completely different. In ROTC, I’d like to say that most people care a lot about themselves, others, and their country. But the reality is, that’s not always true. In ROTC and IBOLC I met people that weren’t very motivated, or were difficult to work with. Four years of getting along with, leading, and following my peers - no matter their motivations - set me up for success in my career so far. Spoiler alert: your peers will never go away: BOLC, Ranger School, Captain’s Career Course, etc.

He also had advice for future cadets on how to lead in stressful situations.

“People don’t ever stop getting hungry, tired, and grumpy in the field. It’s all in how you react to those situations. The simple lessons of building relationships and working for others when they need help will make anyone successful. Those friendships will pay off when you need help. In my short Army career, the skills I developed in ROTC have shaped my success thus far. I will always be thankful for the relationships I made and the lessons I learned in the Tar Heel Battalion.”
Cadet Troop Leader Training, is designed for MSIII cadets that have graduated from advanced camp. It provides cadets with the opportunity to shadow lieutenant-level leadership positions in active-duty units. I had the opportunity to conduct this training at Fort Bragg with The 82nd Airborne Division Artillery (DIVARTY). I shadowed 1LT Western, who was part of the Fire Direction Center (FDC) of Bravo Battery. During my three weeks there, I was lucky enough to go to the field on two separate occasions. I was able to observe all three elements the field artillery team in action: the Forward Observer (FO), the gun line, and the FDC. During our down time in the field and in garrison, I honestly learned the most from talking to the NCOs and lower enlisted and learning what they valued in their officers. CTLT served as a great culmination of everything I learned during advanced camp and my first three years in ROTC and I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to go.

By: CDT Kassimiss

MSIV Keenan Cromshaw shares his experience from the Nurse Summer Training Program in San Antonio, TX. Here, he gained first-hand experience in treating patients and medical procedures.

“NSTP was an incredible opportunity for me to both experience the medical field and how an Army Nurse functions day to day. I was lucky to be able to go to the only level I Trauma Hospital in the Department of Defense in San Antonio, TX. While in San Antionio, I was able to perform and execute procedures that many civilian student nurses had no chance to do, including inserting IV’s in the emergency department, intubating a patient for surgery, and ventilating patients while completely sedated and paralyzed, among many others. I was able to see a heroin addict go from screaming bloody murder to completely sedated in less than five minutes and a surgeon open up a patient’s chest and perform a cardiac massage to start her heart back.”

By: CDT Vitt
At my Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CU&LP) mission in Thailand, I learned how to lead my peers and behave in a military environment, and I gained valuable insight into how culture affects me as an American and an officer. CU&LP set goals for us, and we decided how to accomplish them. This gave me the opportunity to improve my peer leadership and co-operation skills outside of the framework of a rigid rank structure. At the various military installations in Thailand, I also had my first experiences of marching place and interacting with unfamiliar officers, which helped me develop my military bearing. Lastly, I learned a great deal about how my culture and upbringing as an American guides my thoughts. Discovering that Thai people often eat with just a spoon taught me that inefficiencies can be found in the most unexpected places. Often, a culture does something a certain way simply because it is the tradition. Ultimately, CU&LP encouraged me to question the status quo and to seek to be a leader who improves every aspect of the organizations I am a part of.

By: CDT Leech

Project GO is a DOD funded program that sends cadets oversees to study a foreign language, increase regional awareness, and enhance intercultural relations with our global partners. I had the opportunity to study Russian in Riga, Latvia for 9 weeks. During those 9 weeks I lived with a Latvian family and studied at the Baltic Center for Educational and Academic Development. The classes were very small, no more than eight students, allowing for more personal instruction. Classes lasted from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., after which myself and the rest of the cadets would go to a local gym or explore the city. The evenings consisted of dinner with our host families, studying for the next day, and of course watching the World Cup! On the weekends we went on Project GO sponsored trips to various places around Latvia, and two out of country visits to Vilnius, Lithuania and Krakow, Poland. During our two free weeks, I took the opportunity to go to Stockholm on the former and Normandy, France on the latter.

By: CDT Whitney
SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

During the fall of my freshman year at UNC, I raised my right hand to enlist into the North Carolina Army National Guard. My experience in the Army ROTC has been beyond rewarding. I originally desired a career in the medical field. However, my recruiter SFC Wilson told me that through the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP), I could serve while also attended an undergraduate or graduate program. Somewhere along the way, I discovered my hatred for blood and my love for aviation. Thanks to the flexibility of the SMP, I immediately moved to an Aviation Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. Through SMP, I have learned what it is like to be a lieutenant, experienced real-time operations and the planning process, and gained experience in military service. Being an SMP cadet allowed me to earn the respect of my gaining unit, build trust and strong bonds with my future soldiers, pilots, and commanders, and ultimately helped me secure a spot for the Army’s Flight School upon commissioning into the Army National Guard for the AH-64 attack helicopter. Because of this program and all of its revered success, I feel strides ahead of my peers for the day that I step in front of my platoon as a 2LT.

By: CDT Johnson

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

CDT Connor Lewis spent 9 weeks this summer interning in the J43 Joint Logistics Operations Center (JLOC) at the NORAD/NORTHCOM Headquarters. While TDY at Peterson Air Force Base, CDT Lewis gained exposure to strategic level headquarters, received hands on experience in Sustainment and Logistics, and had the opportunity to explore Colorado Springs, CO. CDT Lewis interned with two other cadets and eight civilian graduate students dispersed throughout the headquarters. In addition, he shadowed members of a 15 man team and gained experience with strategic-level logistics planning and execution. A majority of the work he did focused on Defense Support to Civilian Authorities, Homeland Defense, and Theater Security operations. Ultimately, these internship opportunities are an excellent way for cadets to grow holistically because they increase their technical knowledge, explore new areas of the world, and create invaluable relationships.

By: CDT Lewis
**AIRBORNE**

This year I was fortunate enough to be one of three UNC cadets sent to Fort Benning for jump school. In the three weeks of training I became extensively familiarized with the proper landing, exit, and descent control techniques. Training alongside enlisted soldiers and officers provided me with valuable sources of information and experience while allowing me to build team cohesion and a good relationship with fellow soldiers I will be working with in my career as an officer. The ability to attend Jump School has also allowed me to develop a better understanding of the Army training process and the importance of building skills and confidence gradually. Though I am uncomfortable with heights the gradual training process helped me to work through that fear and succeed in obtaining my jump wings. This experience has greatly developed my technical and interpersonal skills and better prepared me to serve as an officer.

By: CDT Sink

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**JUNGLE WARFARE**

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to get selected for, attend, and graduate from the Army’s Jungle Operations Training Course in Hawaii run by the 25th ID. Although it was very difficult, the training experiences were incredible and helped my understanding of real-world tactics and patrolling. We learned many skills relevant in a jungle environment including man-tracking, survival, waterborne operations, and mountaineering skills for mobility. The first week was blocks of instruction and practical exercises lead by instructors, the second week was incorporating these skills in different scenarios and training exercises, and the third week was an implementation of everything we learned in a culminating exercise that consisted of constant patrols through the jungle. We finished up the course with an event called the Green Mile. A tough, 4.2-mile course through obstacles and the largest gulches on East Range. I am proud to have graduated from the Jungle course and to have real world training experience in the big Army. I hope to continue to have amazing experiences like this next summer!

By: CDT Collins
WEEK OF WELCOME

One week prior to the beginning of fall semester UNC Army ROTC cadets arrived on campus ready to kick off the new school year. New cadets were introduced to Battalion and our standards and expectations. Cadets from all class levels helped new cadets move in, learn the layout of campus, and provided valuable advice on college life. Between periods of instruction cadets were given opportunities to socialize and build camaraderie with their peers. Cadets took a preliminary PT test, went on a Battalion campus run, were issued their equipment for the year, took classes on Drill & Ceremony and Customs & Courtesies, ending the week on the university’s high ropes course. Cadets ended the week prepared for life as a cadet and college student.

By: CDT Blankenship

CONTRACTING CEREMONY

“While spending the past year participating in ROTC, I was always looking forward to the day were I could prove my commitment. It means a lot to me that my family could be there to see me commit myself to the U.S. Army.”

- MSII Dylan Vitt

“I was really excited for my contracting ceremony because I felt that it truly initiated my journey of becoming an Army officer! I felt great support from my mother who attended the ceremony as well!"

- MSII Olivia Di Ruzza

“I started out nervous, but as I took the oath to the constitution, I felt pride and knew I was doing something above myself. It was truly an honor to have such a ceremony not only in front of my fellow cadets, but also my friends from school came out and supported me.”

- MSI Douglas Reinisch
9-11 MEMORIAL RUN

On the morning of September 11th, 2018, groups from around the Carolina community met in remembrance of the tragic event that happened 17 years ago. These people committed themselves to a challenging workout in honor of those who died. Not only did this serve as good exercise, but it also strengthened the bond of those involved and solidified the bond of the community as proud citizens of the United States. Led by cadets from the Tar Heel Battalion, each group was directed to a different part of Keenan Stadium to begin the workout. As participants started to struggle, chants of encouragement echoed around the stadium. Much dedication and support were shown. The event was a great way to honor American history and to bring the community together.

By: CDT Sorensen

ARMY 10 MILER

The Army 10-Miler took place on October 7th, 2018 in Washington DC. A select team of cadets from the Tarheel Battalion traveled to the capital to compete in a 10-mile race. The cadets trained vigorously to be their best in the race and pushed themselves hard to finish with the best time possible. Throughout the race cadets provided each other as well as other participants with support to keep going. As the cadets finished, they felt pride in having accomplished this physical challenge. The event ended with a gathering of all the participants and a celebration of the collective accomplishment.

By: CDT Sorensen
RANGER CHALLENGE

Since the beginning of the semester UNC Chapel Hill’s Ranger Challenge Team had been training for 4th Brigade’s Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Pickett, VA. Starting off the competition with a written test and team 5k run UNC’s 11 cadet team started off strong and carried that momentum on into the 15 skills events. These tasks involved an array of basic skills from marksmanship to grenades and communication to first aid. UNC’s team made it through all 15 stations and outperformed every other team on the skills tests. Placing 5th overall the team gained valuable knowledge and honed their technical skills while improving their physical fitness and team cohesion.

By: CDT Troutman

FALL FTX

Cadets of the Tar Heel Battalion traded their Halloween weekend for field training. Throughout the weekend, MSI’s and MSII’s were led by their fellow MSIII’s through multiple STX lanes which included missions for ambush, reconnaissance, and attack. Cadets also received hands on instruction on how to take apart and put back together a M240 and an M4 rifle. Finally, cadets completed four hours of night to day land navigation, a first for many cadets. This allowed the cadets a chance to demonstrate their map reading and compass skills. Cadet Connor Brown, MSII, recalled his FTX experience, “FTX allowed me to apply the information given in lab and integrate it into the field.”

By: CDT Burns
COLOR GUARD

The color guard team has been representing the Tar Heel Battalion at a wide variety of events, demonstrating the professionalism of the battalion. The color guard practices twice a week, ensuring that they are prepared for a variety of events from UNC sports games to Veteran’s Day ceremonies. CDT Sorensen, a member of the color guard commented, “It’s a good way to stay involved in the battalion and have fun experiences at different events.” CDT Burns, the captain of the color guard team, ensures that all events are organized and everyone is presenting the colors properly.

Being part of the color guard is an important job which calls for care and precision, but the reward and unique experiences that come with the job are worth it. You can see the color guard at basketball and football games.

By: CDT Burns

INTER-SERVICE MEET

Cadets of the Tar Heel Battalion met with UNC’s Naval ROTC and Air Force ROTC members to compete in the annual Inter-Service Meet at the Eddie Smith Field House. All three programs put forth their best cadets to compete in a wide range of physical events including: fireteam pushups, ultimate frisbee, 4x400 sprints, and dodgeball. In the end, the Air Force came in third, the Army came in second, and the Navy came in first. MSII Dylan Vitt stated, “I think it is important to mix with the other branches. We need to remember that, even though we compete with each other, we are still on the same team.”

By: CDT Burns
On Monday, November 12, more than 80 cadets and alumni gathered at the NROTC Armory to thank the men and women who served the US in the military. Guest Speaker Captain Larry Greenwold, a Vietnam War Veteran, recounted his experience in the war. Captain Greenwold described his weekly coffee outings with fellow veterans and emphasized the deep bond he feels with them. Captain Greenwold and two other veterans were recognized for their heroism and presented with a coin. The ceremony closed with a speech from Chancellor Folt, which highlighted UNC’s record of military service. Cadets left the ceremony feeling encouraged to continue their hard work towards a service career. On November 12, the Tar Heel Battalion held a tailgate prior to the Military Appreciation Football Game. Cadets, Cadre, and parents enjoyed an afternoon of great food and conversation. Near the end of the function, MSIV’s were pinned by past and current service members to recognize the branches they have been placed in. Following the tailgate, Cadets attended the UNC Football game, which honored various men and women who have selflessly served the US.

By: CDT Blankenship
Contact the Cadre
Check in!

The Cadre would love to hear from our alumni about how your careers and lives have been progressing. Why not Drop them a line!

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Send the Newsletter
Your Story

The Newsletter would love to feature some stories from our wonderful alumni. Please send anything you would like to have printed in the Newsletter to us.

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