



TAR HEEL BATTALION NEWSLETTER



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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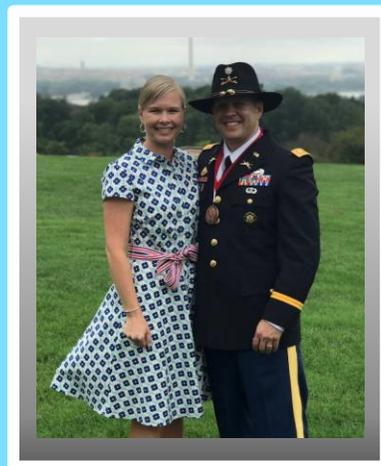
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PMS MEMO



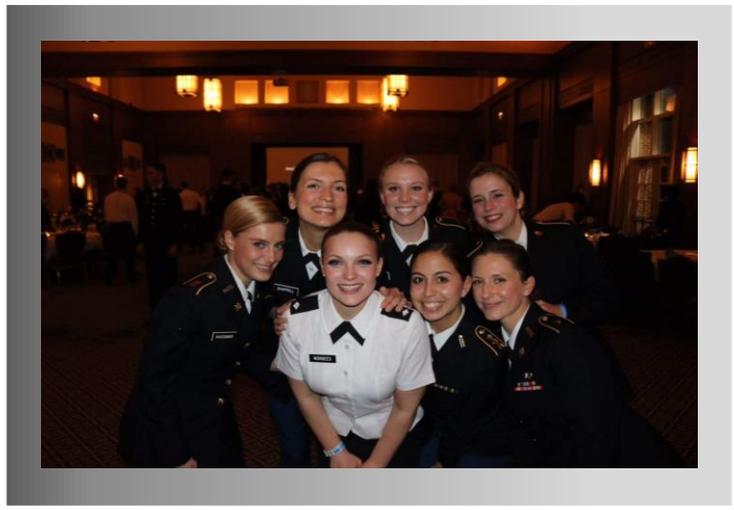
Unbelievably, the academic year has already drawn to a close. Unsurprisingly, Tar Heel Cadets have continued a tradition of high achievement and standard-setting performance. Through their determination and effort, these future Army officers have met this program's primary objective: for the individual Cadet experience to be engrossed in development of character, competence, and commitment (the "Three C's").

The Cadet training experience in just four short months this term has been tough and realistic. Experiences ranged from sunrise 12-mile road marches and runs past the Old Well to muddy tactical patrol bases in the Coker Pinteum; combat patrols in the pouring ice-rain and pitch dark land navigation at Duke Forest to digital calling-for-fire on the Armory drill deck; live-fire rifle qualification at Fort Bragg to Army Combat Fitness Testing at Smith Field House. Throughout it all, Cadets kept driving forward and got appreciably better each and every day.

Tar Heel Army ROTC Cadets also continued to broaden their understanding and enrichen their experience by participating in activities such as cross-BN female mentorship gatherings, the George C. Marshall Leadership Conference, the USMA Mission Command Conference, and a staff ride to the Monroe's Crossroads battle site as well as attending forums and panels with retired Army leaders such as GEN McChrystal and LTG McMaster and the Veterans Writing Workshop (organized by CDT Winkie) and information briefs from leaders in the current force such as MAJ Casey Biggerstaff ('06). Last but certainly not least, the Cadets have sustained their demonstration of the selfless service Army value by providing over 700 hours of community service including organizing blood drives, enabling young women in the community make history and become part of the inaugural class of females to earn Eagle Scout through a Female Scouts BSA Troop, supporting the UNC-CH Children's Hospital, and countless color guard events.

The excellent young women and men who comprise the Tar Heel BN inspire me each and every day and I am truly blessed to be part of this journey with them. As the PMS, I can't help but be extremely proud of what the Cadets have accomplished throughout this term and entire year. I also have no doubt the Army gets better with every Tar Heel Lieutenant it gains. I bid a fond farewell and wish good luck to our commissioning Cadets and APMS, LTC Forshier, and I sincerely look forward to seeing the Tar Heel BN together again in the fall. Go Heels!!

MILITARY BALL



On Saturday, March 2nd, 2019, the Tarheel Battalion danced and dined at their annual Military Ball. Planned by Emma Neely, the ball was a huge success. With over 200 guests in attendance, the battalion welcomed many high-ranking officers and cadets from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. This year, the cadets had the opportunity to hear from former United States Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper. Multiple cadets of all grade levels participated in the ceremony which included the color guard, the infamous Grog, many wonderful toasts, and speeches from Lt. Col. Snow and Gen. Clapper. After the ceremony, the cadets and their guests were released to the dance floor. CDT Jasmine Johnson, an MSIV, reflected on her final cadet Military Ball, “The annual Military Ball is the one time where cadets can dress confidently in their uniforms and bond in a relaxed manner outside of the academic setting. It is definitely the biggest and most sought-after event of the year.”

By: CDT Colleen Burns

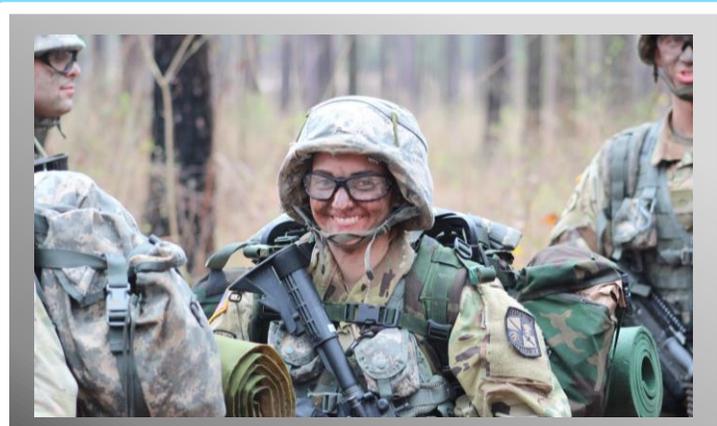


CFTX

From April 5th to April 7th, the Tarheel Battalion participated in a Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) with Duke, NCSU, and St. Augustine's University at Fort Bragg. MSIII Cadets put their skills to the test by leading platoon-sized missions in preparation for Cadet Summer Training. MSI and MSII cadets were given a more realistic sense of field training by shooting blanks from a real rifle, conducting three consecutive lanes, and spending two nights in the field. The weekend ended with MSIII's shooting at the range and MSI's and MSII's leading their own Movement to Contact lane. Over the course of

CFTX, cadets learned the importance of efficiently working as a team to accomplish a mission, especially if you've never worked together before. Cadets refined their leadership skills in the face of high-pressure situations. Often times, a mission does not go as planned and you have to think quickly to devise a new course of action. When faced with this challenge, cadets successfully proved their abilities and learned from their mistakes.

By: CDT Colleen Burns



DUKE FOREST FTX

Cadets of the Tar Heel Battalion woke up bright and early on Saturday, February 23 and made their way to Duke Forest for a day of field training. The training company was given the chance to apply the tactical skills they've learned in the classroom and at weekly labs.

While training, Cadets used paintball guns rather than rubber rifles to give them a more realistic sense of their weapon. MSIII's and End of Camp Commisionees confidently planned and led MSI's and MSII's through platoon movement to contact and ambush lanes. Though the training company was met with unwelcome rain and cold, they successfully completed these STX lanes. In doing so, Cadets ultimately proved their resilience and determination to follow through with the mission at hand. Even though the day was cut short due to the rain, the training company learned a great deal about working through difficult conditions to accomplish a goal.

By: CDT Kassidy Blankenship



TACTICAL LAB

While most students are heading off to class on Wednesday afternoons, dressed in either sweatpants or jeans, the cadets of the Tarheel Battalion stand out with their FLC's and helmets. Every Wednesday, cadets step outside the class room and into their uniforms to put their Army skills to use in Army Leadership Lab. These labs, whether at the Armory or in Coker Pinetum are led by the cadets in order to teach tactics, platoon operations, field craft, face cameo, and other skills the cadets will need to pass their summer training. The most common lab held is platoon operations. CDT Taheri, an MSIII, recounts how important lab is for our cadets who are going to Advance Camp this summer, "Wednesday's tactical leadership labs are essential for MSIII's as they give us the necessary practice to prepare for camp and equip us with the confidence to plan and execute any mission we receive." A few hours before lab, the MSIII's are given an Operations Order (OPORD) at the company level which gives their mission for the platoon. An example of a mission is a platoon attack or an ambush. They must then take this information, and prepare their own OPORD for lab. The designated Platoon Leader will then take his or her plan and lead a platoon of cadets in order to complete their mission. At the end, the cadets consolidate, and the MSIV's lead a review of the mission. Overall, lab is important for the growth of a cadet because it allows the MSIII's to demonstrate their knowledge and leadership skills with a platoon, and it allows lower level cadets to practice their basic soldier skills and possibly have an introduction to leadership roles such as Team Leader.

By: CDT Kassidy Blankenship



TAR HEEL TEN MILER & PRT

ROTC PHYSICAL READINESS TRAINING

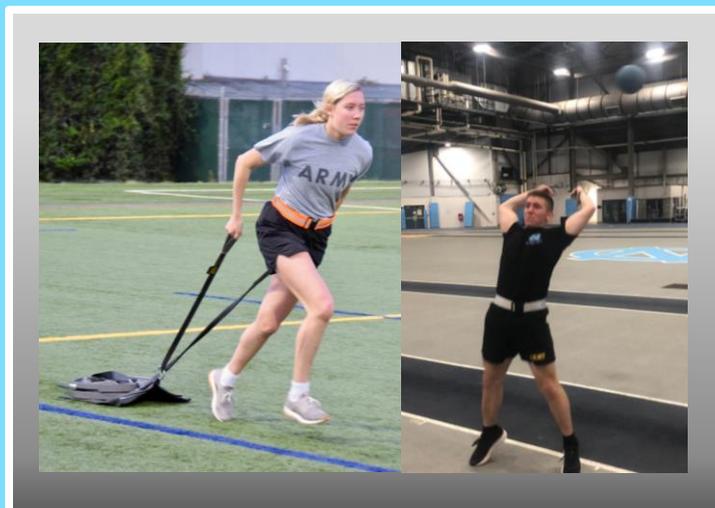
Physical fitness is and always has been a top priority of the Tar Heel Battalion. Physical training is organized and carefully constructed to ensure that soldiers are performing at the top level. Cadets design and lead workouts to gain experience as leaders and develop their ability to push their peers towards a goal. Each cadet pushes themselves to their limit while also encouraging the cadet next to them to do the same. In this way all cadets hold each other accountable and learn to be part of a cohesive unit striving towards a unified goal. Physical training can consist of rucks, weight lifting, running, high intensity interval training, and much more. An example of a physical training session that was held recently by Cadets Walker and Sorensen was based on Army Combat Fitness Test familiarization. In an effort to improve performance and preparation for this event, cadets studied each event of the ACFT.

By: CDT Mitchel Sorensen

TAR HEEL TEN MILER

This year, the 12th Annual Tar Heel 10 Miler was hosted on April 13th. The event, in partnership with Fleet Feet and Finisher Pix, is a Chapel Hill favorite. Many alumni return to participate in the event alongside students and members of the Chapel Hill community. The race takes thousands of runners around the UNC campus, Franklin street, and the beautiful neighborhoods around the campus.

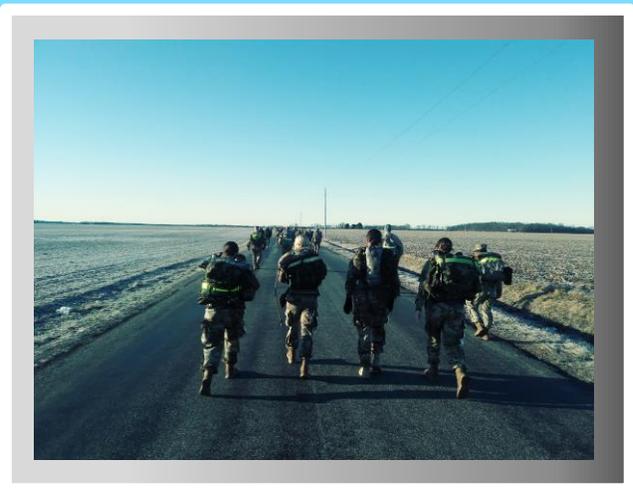
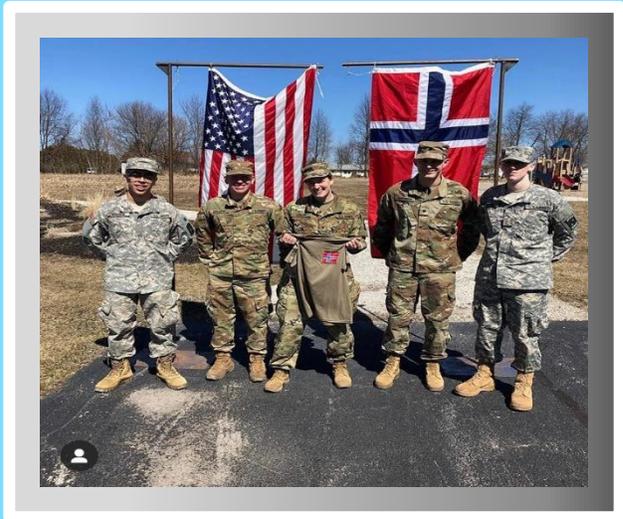
By: CDT Lauren Shappell



NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH

On March 23rd the UNC Norwegian Foot March Team competed in the Norwegian Foot March at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. Over a three month period prior to the event the team undertook a strenuous training regimen involving over 80 miles of rucking at a fast pace. The team planned the entire trip from travel to booking hotels and managed the event while raising over \$2,000 to pay for trip expenses. All five UNC competitors completed the 30 kilometer course through rural Indiana in under the required 4 hours and 30 minutes to win the Norwegian Foot March Badge. The rigorous training and competition helped cadets develop physical and mental endurance along with planning and management skills in preparation for the physical demands of advance camp and their career as an officer.

By: CDT Daniel Troutman



ARMY ROTC BLOOD DRIVE

On 16 April, 2019, Army ROTC held its annual blood drive in conjunction with The Blood Connection on the drill deck of the Naval Armory. The event was organized by a committee of five cadets who spent months planning and advertising for the event. Over 6 hours, the Battalion hosted 31 donors exceeding its goal of 27.

Many cadets felt this was a meaningful event.

“Partnering with this organization was meaningful because we were able to give back to our community and incentivize donations. We plan on continuing our partnership with them, and hopefully we can continue to give to our community and to fellow soldiers.”

– CDT Sam Meyerson

The battalion plans on hosting blood drives annually in the spring semester as a way of giving back to the community.

By: CDT Dylan Vitt



“Many of our own cadets, as well as members from the Chapel Hill community were able to donate blood. In total, blood was successfully collected from 31 donors. That blood will go on to help around 90 people in local hospitals. We are so grateful for those who helped out and joined the cause!”

–CDT Lauren Shappell

AWARDS CEREMONY



As the school year drew to a close, the Tar Heel battalion celebrated the cadets' many accomplishments throughout the semester with our regular award ceremony. Cadets were recognized for their achievements in physical fitness, participation in extracurricular activities, and outstanding performance among their MS level. The awards ceremony acts as a morale boost and encourages cadets to strive for improvement each semester.

By: CDT Matthew Parker

MS IV STAFF RIDE

On April 13th, the cadets in the class of 2019 traveled to Fort Bragg to tour the site of the Battle of Monroe's crossroads for their staff ride. Cadets researched the battle beforehand and used that basis of knowledge to discuss leadership successes and failures in relation to course themes from their Army 401 class. By touring the battlefield to examine confederate and union positions, cadets gained a better understanding of the conflict and leadership decisions. After the tour, cadets reflected on the broad historical lessons and their application in modern warfare. This experience helped cadets to think and react as leaders in a historical context in consideration of local considerations such as terrain.

By: CDT Ben Pendelton



BATTALION LEADERSHIP



c/CSM Pendleton, Ben
Battalion Command
Sergeant Major



c/LTC DiMartines, Jake
Battalion Commander



c/MAJ Monsees Molly
Battalion Executive
Officer

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.

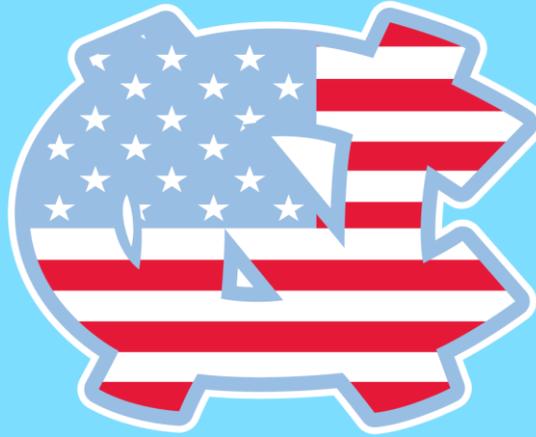
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