

WILDCAT BATTALION



BATTALION UPDATE, LTC BRAD ROUSH



I am LTC Brad Roush and I took over as the Professor of Military Science here at Kansas State in July when I inherited a strong program from now retired LTC Rob Leicht. I commissioned out of Pittsburg State (don't hold that against me) but was in 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley as a lieutenant. While here I met a K-State student who later became my wife, so my kids have half Wildcat blood in them.

I have been an admirer of the K-State ROTC program for many years and am proud to have the opportunity to serve here now. Part of what makes this program so great is the immense history it contains and the strength of the alumni this program has produced. This newsletter is intended to be a way to keep the program connected to those alumni and other supporters of K-State ROTC which have made it what it is today.

I can assure you that this program is as strong as ever and the Cadets here continue to impress everyday with their dedication and commitment to becoming leaders prepared to face our nation's enemies on the fields of battle around the world. It gives me great confidence to pass the torch off to this generation. As I am writing this on Veteran's Day, our Cadets have just finished supporting the Manhattan Veteran's Day parade where over 40 of them volunteered in sub 24° temperatures to organize the staging area and block parade route streets to honor the dedication and sacrifices of the service members that have preceded them.

In closing, the current and future state of the Wildcat Battalion is strong. I hope this communication assists in maintaining the strong relationship required between the program and its alumni and supporters. Again, I am proud to have the opportunity to lead such a storied program and I welcome visits from anyone who finds themselves in the Manhattan area.

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BATTALION UPDATE, MSG DAVE BROOKS



The Wildcat Battalion continues to improve training for the future Army Officers enrolled in the K-State Military Science Department. Over the last three months, the Cadets of the Battalion have toughened their minds and bodies through intense physical fitness training and field exercises. New students have been introduced to the proud traditions, customs, and courtesies of the United States Army while upperclassmen build proficiency in training management. In

addition to physical training conducted three times a week, the Cadets completed their first record Army Combat Fitness Test, where they scored an average of 508 points out of a possible 600. 17 Cadets volunteered to participate in the Task Force Leavenworth Ranger Challenge competition where the Wildcat five-person team took third place.

Cadets of the Battalion have served as color guard detail at eight K-State events, using their knowledge of U.S. Military traditions to render honors to the nation and promote the Military Science Department at public events. Over fifty Cadets participated in the Fall FTX conducted at Fort Riley, KS. The Cadets fired over 125 live rounds using the M4A1 Carbine, engaging targets at distances up to 300 meters. They also learned how to maintain a service rifle. They were tested on their ability to conduct land navigation. The Battalion culminated the FTX by negotiating an eight-obstacle confidence course and rappelling from a 40-foot tower, demonstrating physical fitness, confidence, and mental toughness.

Next semester, the Battalion will conduct a 96-hour FTX in the Spring, the University of Kansas Ranger Buddy Competition, and weekly training on Platoon-level tactical operations. The Cadets of the Wildcat Battalion will continue to make Cadre proud with their commitment to improving themselves and will make outstanding Officers in the coming years.

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PROGRAM UPDATES, *C/BN CDR GUNNAR EHLERS*



This fall, the Wildcat Battalion has been focused on owning its culture. A culture that fosters esprit de corps, respect, and commitment. Owning our culture requires the effort and dedication of all members of the organization to remain invested and work together. To our advantage Army ROTC is an organization that was founded to develop leaders who can own and inspire the very culture they once met as MS1s.

Throughout this semester we have seen tremendous esprit de corps, respect, and commitment across the Battalion. A great example of the culture we have built is the obstacle course relay during the fall FTX. Each MS class selected two Cadets to run the obstacle course in a race between classes. Every class rallied behind their representative and ran alongside them throughout the whole course. The Wildcat Battalion has not only built our culture but we own it.

CADET HIGHLIGHTS



ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

One of now former K-State Army ROTC Cadets got the opportunity through hard work, passion, and determination to become a finalist in the All-American Scholarship Program last year. Cadet Austin Grabill received the Navy Federal Credit Union ROTC All-American Scholarship. Cadets from around the United States and its ROTC programs have the opportunity to compete for scholarships.



RANGER CHALLENGE

Ranger Challenge is the Army ROTC Varsity Sport. The teams are formed early in the semester and train rigorously nearly every morning of the week. Ranger Challenge team members accomplish more before 0800 than most college students accomplish in an entire day. Teams train all the way up until the Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition hosted in the middle of October. This year the 5-person team placed 3rd at the Task Force Leavenworth competition at Camp Dodge, IA.

COLOR GUARD

The K-State Army ROTC has the opportunity to present the colors at home Kansas State Wildcat football and basketball games in front of as many as 50,000 fans. Cadets train for these opportunities twice every week. Cadets also conduct Reveille and Retreat of the U.S. colors in front of Myers Hall each and every weekday.



ARMY 10-MILER

Every year, Cadets from the Wildcat Battalion get the opportunity to participate in the Army 10-Miler Competition at Fort Riley, KS. One of our Cadets placed first with a time of 53:35! This event takes dedication and weeks of training to ready the body and mind.



K-STATE ARMY ROTC FALL 2022 FTX

This October, Cadets from Wildcat Battalion traveled to Fort Riley, KS to participate in their Fall 2022 Field Training Exercise. While there, the Cadets conducted both day and night land navigation, got hands-on experience with the M4A1 weapon system at the firing range; learned how to group and zero, correct malfunctions, and fight from various fighting positions while firing live-rounds, and weapons maintenance. They got to ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk and see all of its associated equipment. Practice giving first aid treatment to a battle buddy and various types of carries. They finished their experience with the Confidence Course and Rappel Tower.



AMERICAN VALOR CONFERENCE

The K-State Army ROTC program got the opportunity to send five Cadets to the 24th Annual American Veterans Center in Washington D.C. for the American Valor Conference. While there, Cadets spent the day in breakout groups with Veterans of WWII and The Korean War. Our Cadets were able to listen to dozens of Veterans speaking on topics like, "What was war like?" to "How hard was your transition after the war?" They were guests at the Norwegian Ambassador Residence for a social where they got to meet foreign service members.



FROM GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE WILDCAT BATTALION

Thanks to our generous donors, the Wildcat Battalion is able to continuously work to improve the training, experience, and morale of the cadets and develop world-class future leaders. Thank you to those who have chosen to invest in this program.



K-State ROTC Hoodies, jackets, shirts, and water bottles



Program polos that allow Cadets to represent ROTC at outside events.

We are excited this year to begin the upgrade to the basement in Myers Hall, converting the decommissioned range into a usable training space.



Freshman welcome week integrated new Cadets and their families into the program prior to classes starting.



New display cases to preserve and display important historical pieces donated to the program as well as awards received by the program.



New Wildcat Battalion cadre and staff members board from the Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks woodshop helps newcomers and visitors understand the Wildcat Battalion Chain of Command



KSU Cadets yearly participation in the Army 10-Miler



Building upgrades

If you are interested in donating to the K-State Wildcat Battalion:

Kansas State University Foundation

Military Science Funds

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