

# WILDCAT BATTALION



Cadets with the 1st ID and the KSU Women's Basketball team

## BATTALION UPDATE, LTC BRAD ROUSH



I am excited to connect again with the alumni of the Wildcat Battalion through this year's newsletter. When I assumed the position here at K-State in July 2022, I wanted to focus on three key areas that I felt were instrumental for the program to continue its success and growth: Culture, Recruiting, and Training. As a testament to the quality of the Cadre and Cadets here in Manhattan, they took these areas and ran with them.

**Program growth-** From 2022 to 2023, the program has experienced a 27% growth in enrollment. This is due to the culture of the program. Cadets are proud to be a part of the Wildcat Battalion and others outside of the program see it and want to be a part of it.

**Cadet performance-** As a testament to the Cadre and MSIVs who oversee training, K-State Cadets finished at or above the Cadet Command average in all graded categories at this summer's Cadet Summer Training. This is the ultimate report card for the program.

**Myers Hall basement-** Affectionately known as "the pit" this space has seen a major transformation this year. Gone is the lead filled dirt floor of the old range, replaced by concrete and indoor training turf. This summer will see further work that includes upgrades to lighting, electrical, and HVAC. Thanks to our on and off campus supporters, this space will be a first class indoor fitness and training venue for Cadets for years to come.

Lastly and sadly, my time at Kansas State will be ending this summer as I move back to Fort Liberty, NC to take command of the 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion. This has been two of the most rewarding years of my time in the Army and I can assure you the Wildcat Battalion will continue its drive forward. EMAW

## BATTALION UPDATE, MSG DAVE BROOKS



The Cadets of the Wildcat Battalion have continued to elevate their performance over the last year. Some highlights of their achievements include the battalion's Army Combat Fitness Test average score improving since the last newsletter by over 20 points, from 508 points to 529 points out of a possible 600. The program Cadre and Cadet leadership planned and executed a comprehensive selection and training plan for the Ranger Challenge teams. During competition, the 11-person team finished 5th at the Task Force Leavenworth Ranger Challenge and the 7-person team won in their division. Their victory earned the program a guaranteed slot at the Air Assault course over the summer and sent them on to represent the Wildcat Battalion at the 3rd ROTC Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where they finished 3rd in their division. The Wildcat Battalion has not qualified for the Brigade competition since 2019, further demonstrating the winning spirit of the competitors.

The battalion conducted two more Field Training Exercises (FTX) at Fort Riley, Kansas, one during the Spring and one during the Fall. During the Spring, the Cadet Summer Training-bound Cadets were evaluated on their ability to lead small units in tactical environments while facing a dynamic enemy force. During both the Spring and Fall FTXs, the Cadets qualified with the M4 Carbine, conducted day and night land navigation, and completed obstacle and confidence courses. During the Summer, 17 Cadets graduated Advanced Camp at Fort Knox with the majority receiving an excellent or outstanding rating on their evaluation reports. Additionally, three Cadets attended and graduated the Air Assault Course.

In the coming months, the Battalion will conduct the Spring 2024 Joint FTX with partnered schools from Task Force Leavenworth, send qualifying Cadets to advanced individual training and internships, and send the current Junior class, the largest in over three years, on to Cadet Summer Training, where they will put the skills they have learned here to the test.

## PROGRAM UPDATES, *C/BN CDR STALTER*



In the past semester, our cadets demonstrated remarkable dedication and discipline during Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Kansas State, exceeding Cadet Command's standards. Every cadet passed the ACFT, Land Navigation Test, and the challenging 12-mile ruck march, with many excelling in Land Navigation Practical and weapons qualifications. Besides CST, cadets participated in diverse programs: three completed the Army's Air Assault Course, one joined Robin Sage, two undertook Army internships, three finished Cadet Troop Leader Training, and four completed basic combat training. Significant enhancements were made, including upgrading the Physical Instruction Training area with concrete and turf for improved ACFT

training. The recent Field Training Exercise tested cadets in various skills, while the Ranger Challenge teams excelled at the Task Force Level, preparing for the Brigade competition. Collaborations included a team-building exercise with Fort Riley and the Kansas State Women's Basketball team. The upcoming Spring FTX will challenge our MS3s' leadership and problem-solving skills.

## CADET HIGHLIGHTS

### SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS RECIPIENTS



The following Cadets received awards and scholarships for the Fall of 2023: Gray, Salsbury, Weide, Linn, Clark, Reardon, Peters, Ekerberg, Diaz, Gonzalez, Radabaugh, West, Stalter, Cole, Hertzell, Underwood, Frick, Montojo, O'neil, Propst, Coleman, and Bethards.

Donors through great generosity and in remembrance of loved ones, by continuing with their legacy, provide current Army ROTC Cadets who have stood out from their peers with recognition through scholarships and awards. They are an agent of change for individuals, families, and communities.

### FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT - SOPHIA REBESCHINI



Sophia Rebeschini, a freshman at Kansas State University from Leavenworth, Kansas, is majoring in Animal Science/Pre-vet. Engaged in both academic and extracurricular pursuits, she actively participates in Ranger Challenge, recruiting events, rip week, Recondo, and the pre-vet club. CDT Rebeschini's commitment to leadership, teamwork and her passion for veterinary medicine define her well-rounded approach

## 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 55,000 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.



## RANGER CHALLENGE

The Ranger Challenge competition is a difficult mixture of fitness events, marksmanship, calling for fire, and other individual soldier skills. Early in the semester, two teams were selected after a tryout period. They trained rigorously every day to improve their physical fitness, teamwork, and soldier competency. Cadets traveled to Iowa to compete. Team 1, led by CDT Jean Quinones, placed 5th overall. Team 2, led by CDT Zac Proehl, placed 1st overall and was afforded the opportunity to compete at the Brigade level in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where they finished 3rd. Their performance at the competition this year marked a significant improvement over past years, and the teams are looking to continue this trend by aiming to place even higher in the years to come.



## K-STATE ARMY ROTC FALL 2023 FTX

This October, Cadets from Wildcat Battalion traveled to Fort Riley, KS to participate in their Fall 2023 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.



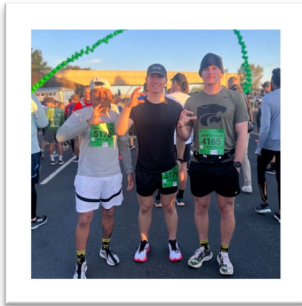
## RUN CLUB

The Wildcat Battalion's Running Club competed in numerous runs in the Fall 2023 semester such as the Little Apple Marathon, Salina Crossroads Marathon, and the Annual Army 10-miler hosted in Washington D.C.! These events are a great opportunity for Cadets to both push their physical endurance and to interact with the local community. Wildcat Battalion plans on sending teams to even more races in 2024, especially national events like the race in D.C. If you or your organization are interested in sponsoring our amazing teams, please reach out to the K-State Army ROTC.



# 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.



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

Thanks to donors, the Battalion was able to send Cadets to the Army 10-Miler in Washington D.C.



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



Over the past year significant improvements have been made to the ROTC gym, also known as “The Pit,” starting in the summer of 2023. It started with the removal of dirt from the back half of the pit and the pouring of a concrete slab in the area. A new turf floor was then installed on the back half of the pit over the new concrete. Before the semester ended we received equipment donated from the Universities track and field team which consisted of two squat racks with powercat platforms, a lat pulldown machine, and a variety of new weights. The next step in the process is to install a new HVAC system, upgrade lighting and electrical, and more equipment for the pit.



Cadets earn commissioning gifts afforded through generous donations.

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

**Kansas State University Foundation**

**Military Science Funds**

**Designation (F32725)**

<https://giving.ksufoundation.org/campaigns/17106/donations/new>