



# THE WILDCAT WRAP



## UK ROTC Places First in Army Ten-Miler

On 21 October 2010, eight cadets and two cadre members of the Wildcat Battalion began their trek to Washington, D.C. Little did they realize that they were about to bring home the first trophy to be added to long legacy of excellence at Buell Armory in many years.

The ride that led to a 1st place trophy did not begin on 21 October; it started last spring when our UK ROTC team placed 4th place last year in the Army Ten Miler and came back unsatisfied. We trained for months, and this year we all went to D.C. with nothing besides winning first place on our minds.

Most of the men who ran the Army Ten Miler last year were back on the team this year, with three additions: Cadets Simpson, Green and Holben. Those of us who were already close from last year accepted them into our running group with open arms, excited to see what they could bring to the team.

At 0700 on 21 October, we stepped off from Buell Armory for the long ride to D.C. Like last year, the ride gave us the opportunity to connect with the cadets we had been training with for the previous nine months and also with the cadre on a level above the typical cadet/cadre relationship. When we arrived in D.C., we went to dinner with CPT Mickey Jordan, a former Air Force cadre member at UK who is now working at the Pentagon.

Friday was a day I will not soon forget. We had the privilege of an exclusive tour of the U.S. Senate. We were able to go into Senator Mitch McConnell's office in both the Russell Senate Office Building and his Minority Leader Office in the Capitol Building. This was all made possible by COL Laura Richardson, the Senate Liaison Officer to the Army. On Friday evening, we were taken to dinner by LTC (R) Couch and his wife.

On Saturday, we explored D.C. on our own. We decided to venture out to the city and see what our nation's capitol had to offer. On Saturday night, we went to COL Jeffrey Kelley's house for a terrific dinner prepared by his wife, Mrs. Kelley. We were able to spend time talking about our futures in the Army with multiple Colonels and Sergeants Major.

*Continued on page 2*



CDT Josh Lynch (left) and CDT Ahunuar Huerta (right) at the Army Ten Miler awards ceremony



Finally, the day of the great race arrived! We met at the ROTC tent and were able to talk to cadets whom we had met the previous year. For the MSIV's, it was a chance to catch up with other MSIV's they went to LDAC with. Overall, the pre-race functions were almost as fun as the race itself. Then, the long-awaited call to line up came over the speakers, and the race was finally underway!

**We trained for months, and this year, we all went to D.C. with nothing besides winning first place on our minds.**

At the end of the race, those who had ran the previous year learned they had each improved their times by a couple minutes. CDT Ahunuar Huerta ran the second-fastest time of all cadets in the nation, one of only two cadets to break an hour with his incredible time of 0:59:24!

Still awaiting the final results, we all went to the hotel to get our belongings and head back to Lexington. However, LTC Cummins got a phone call from another PMS saying that we had to get down there because we had come in first place in the ROTC division.

Not only was the race enjoyable, the entire weekend was a wonderful experience. I feel that the experiences from the Army Ten Miler trips have been the most beneficial and most enjoyable to me in my entire ROTC career. I could not have asked for a better gift for my 21st birthday than to bring home the first place trophy.

-CDT Joshua Lynch, MS-3



Top Left: CDT Ben Skaggs finishes at 1:05:23  
 Top Right: Cadets with LTC Cummins after the 10-Miler  
 Bottom Left: 10-Miler Team in front of the White House  
 Bottom Right: UK ROTC Team is recognized for winning the Army Ten Miler on the football field at halftime of the UK vs. South Charleston on Military Appreciation Day

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1 - UK Wins Army 10-Miler  
 Page 2 - Word from the Command Team  
 Page 3 - Fall FTX Training  
 Page 4 - Pictures from Fall 2010  
 Page 5 - MS-3's Preparation for LDAC  
 Page 6 - Norwegian Road March / Cadet Lounge & Upcoming Events  
 Page 7/8 - Military Appreciation Day  
 Page 9 - ROTC Commissioning  
 Page 10 - Deployed Alumni Feature



LTC Cummins with Cadet Brennan Parker

## A WORD FROM THE COMMAND TEAM

Alumni, Family, and Friends...Greetings from Lexington, KY and the Wildcat Battalion! The spring semester is underway, and we are excited to highlight some of our Cadets' incredible accomplishments this year...an Army 10-Miler Championship, unique ambassador efforts to both the UK Campus and Lexington Community, and incredible leader training. We want to officially acknowledge our talented MSIVs. They have embraced their rightful leadership roles within the Battalion, and have truly "led by example" in building a challenging training plan to develop trained, adaptable leaders of character for our Army.

Alumni participation continues to enable our Cadet enrichment activities, as evidenced by the recent renovation of the Cadet Lounge. Thank you for all your continued support, and please mark your calendar for the weekend of September 11 for our Alumni Reunion to be held in conjunction with UK's Military Appreciation Day football game. We hope to have a record crowd! We are honored to serve as your Command Team...GO CATS!

- LTC Jason Cummins and MSG Jason Skinner



# Fall FTX a Great Training Experience for All Cadets

My experience with last fall's field training exercise is one that I can truly say taught me much more about the Army than I had expected. FTX allowed me to see the Army from a different perspective than from what can only be taught on campus.

I can honestly say that I wasn't mentally prepared for the weekend that was ahead of me when we pulled away from campus to head to the training site. The first day was probably my least favorite because I felt like everything was being thrown at me at once, but I grew to appreciate the things that I discovered about myself, especially through the obstacle course that we were put through that afternoon. Although I was terrified to complete the obstacles, I did them, and at the end of the day I felt so accomplished and proud of myself for overcoming the fears that I originally had of the course!

Throughout the first and second days of FTX, I begin to realize the purpose of our squads and the breakdown of each platoon, and I really enjoyed the team obstacle courses that we were put through on the second day. That was my favorite event of the entire weekend. Although night land navigation was somewhat of a failure for my group, it made day land navigation a piece of cake which was a wonderful way to end the entire experience.

The long walks and freezing cold weather became more tolerable as I now look back on the experience. I think our entire battalion grew as a whole from spending time together and that allowed me to have a positive outlook on the Army and its values. I look forward to our next FTX in the spring, and I hope I am able to take from it even more than what I gained at FTX last semester.

-Maranda McWilliams, MS-1



A cadet on the high ropes course



CDT DeVries and CDT Lance negotiate the Obstacle Course



CDT Mason and CDT Ducker devour an MRE during a break in training



CDT Nutt maneuvers the descent down the ropes on the highest obstacle course



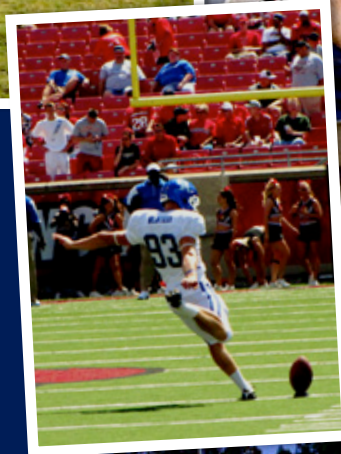
CDT Korey Gaines is all smiles setting out on the land navigation course



Cadets enjoy a warm MRE after the day's training



# UK ARMY ROTC FALL 2010



TOP LEFT: CDT JAY HURST, ACTING AS 1SG, CALLS THE BATTALION TO ATTENTION BEFORE PT

TOP RIGHT: CDT SIMPSON CROSSES THE FINISH LINE OF THE ARMY TEN MILER

TOP MIDDLE: CDT MCINTOSH KICKS A FIELD GOAL FOR THE UK FOOTBALL TEAM

MIDDLE LEFT: CDT BEN SKAGGS AND CDT BRENNAN PARKER WITH THE GOVERNOR'S CUP AT THE UK V. UL FOOTBALL GAME

MIDDLE RIGHT: BATTALION DOES PUSHUPS DURING EARLY-MORNING PT

BOTTOM LEFT: CADETS AT THE UK V. UL FOOTBALL GAME



# MS-III's Receiving Excellent Training for Future LDAC Success

The MS-III year is the final year before LDAC, and in order to effectively prepare cadets for success at camp, it is by far the most training intensive. Pushed by our innovative and engaging instructors, the current MS-III class has had the opportunity thus far to learn, bond, challenge one another, and accomplish the training and tasks that will help us succeed not only this summer, but later on as officers and in other environments where we will be expected to lead.

We began the year with high expectations and excitement for the new responsibilities and training that we were to receive. In preparation for our Fall FTX, we spent much time in the classroom with Captain Orr, our primary instructor, fine-tuning the battle drills that we had learned as basic course cadets, and meticulously improving our understanding of OPORDs. After only a few weeks of instruction in the armory, we coupled our classroom training with practical application during lab at Coldstream Research Campus. The MS-IV advanced course instructors consistently motivated our class and shared with us valuable insight regarding their recent experiences at LDAC.

Fall FTX was held at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center and began with the Field Leadership Reaction Course which provided another opportunity for the improvement of our troop leading procedures. On the first night, our MS-IV instructors introduced us to patrol base operations.

Day two of FTX consisted of twelve hours of consecutive STX lanes. This environment simulated the STX training we will encounter at LDAC. The extended practice allowed us to build on everything we had learned at Coldstream and in class. A noticeable improvement in everyone's proficiency was evident as the lessons learned in each lane were applied to the next. Our instructors and class carried the motivation from FTX into a remaining semester of positive and beneficial training.

The spring semester has brought a feeling of excitement to the MS-III class as we have several new and challenging aspects of training to look forward to. This semester we have moved our Wednesday training from Coldstream to Veterans Park. The new terrain consists of thicker vegetation and greater square miles. The new challenge of adapting to an unfamiliar environment provides a greater training value. In addition to a new location, our MS-IV instructors have adapted and improved the actions and realism in each lane by taking extra time to coordinate the dress and of OPFOR. We are confident in the instruction that we have received, and we eagerly awaiting the chances we will have to expand our knowledge further. We look forward to developing as a team and as leaders this semester.

*-CDT JAY HURST, MS-III*



**CDT Julie Seszko pulls security during a STX lane**

## **A word from the MS-III Instructor, CPT Joey Orr:**

It's been a busy year already for the Wildcat Battalion and the Advance Course. As the MS-III's prepare for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), they have been participating in grueling training week in and week out. Last semester the MS-III's mastered the five paragraph Operations Order (OPORD) and tested their abilities to apply the OPORD in a Squad Training Exercise (STX) each Wednesday at Cold Stream Research Facility. Here they utilized leadership, team work and Squad tactics to accomplish multiple challenging battle drills in preparation for LDAC.

Additionally, the MS-III's participated in UK's Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Wendall H. Ford Regional Training Center where they synched as a team and flawlessly executed twelve hours of intense battle drills, conducted Patrol Base operations and completed a Land Navigation Course. So far the Advance Course is on track to send twenty-two Cadets to LDAC this summer and have displayed amazing potential to succeed amongst Cadets from all over the country. As their primary instructor, I couldn't be any happier as to where we are thus far in the school year and I'm incredibly proud of the leadership displayed throughout the entire Battalion. Go Cats!



**MS3 cadet briefs an OPORD**



**Cadet reacts to a downed pilot in a STX variable**



**After Action Review**



# CADETS PARTICIPATE IN 2010 NORWEGIAN ROAD MARCH

On November 13, 2010, cadets Brennan Parker, Adam Crawford, Jay Hurst, and I were given the privilege to compete in the Norwegian road march and represent the Wildcat Battalion at the University of Southern Indiana. The task set before us was to complete the 18.6 miles in under four and a half hours, by far the longest distance I have ever had to cover.

We arrived the night before and started to mentally prepare for the march ahead. Major Morlen set us up for success by introducing us to one of the best German restaurants in the Midwest; a great place to fuel up and lift our spirits for the task ahead.



We were released the next morning at exactly 0800 to the thundering of a cannon and just like that we were off. I had never thought much of carrying twenty-five pounds until about mile twelve when the blisters started to burn and our packs seemed to gain weight with each step. However the team pushed on and finished together with a time of four hours and twenty minutes. I wouldn't say that the march in itself was enjoyable, but I will say that I would do it all over again for the time that I was able to share with my teammates and Major Morlen during the trip. Getting to know them better was a prize in and of itself.

-CDT Caleb DeVries, MS2

## 2010 Norwegian Road March

18.6 Miles  
25 Pounds on Your Back  
4.5 Hours to the Finish



Army cadets in the Wildcat Battalion are now able to enjoy a newly-renovated cadet lounge! Completed last fall, it includes new couches and furniture, numerous pictures of cadets in action and memorabilia, our new 1st Place Army Ten Miler trophy, and a workspace for cadets to hold meetings and accomplish homework.



## 2011 Upcoming Events

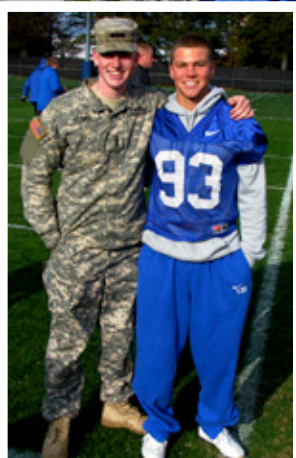
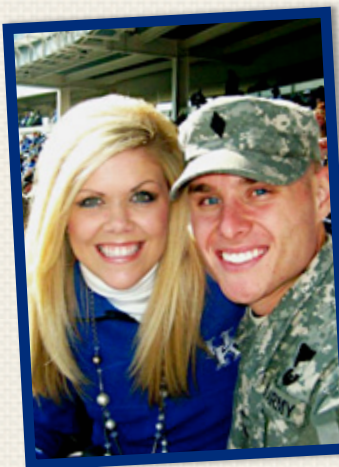
01 FEB - Mentorship Breakfast  
18-19 FEB - DanceBlue  
19 FEB - Polar Bear Plunge Team ROTC  
25-27 FEB - German Armed Forces Badge  
01-03 APR - Joint FTX  
08 APR - Military Ball  
15-17 APR: Best Ranger Competition  
21 APR: Operation Anaconda Testimony  
by CPT Nate Self  
06 MAY: Commissioning Ceremony  
09-13 MAY: Warrior Week



# MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



The annual Military Appreciation UK football game brought special opportunities for cadets this year. With an emphasis on military style leadership being integrated into Head Football Coach Joker Phillip's training program this season, the Wildcat Battalion has been fortunate enough to forge especially strong bonds with the athletic department. Never has this relationship been so evident than in preparation for this year's game against Charleston Southern.



In conjunction with the football team's Friday morning pre-game rehearsals, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne's Parachute Demonstration Team jumped into the practice field and led the special teams walk-throughs. Cadre, cadets, and family, alike, were invited to participate in this unique viewing of both the expert parachutists and a Division I football team practice. Onlookers were wowed by the extravagant areal maneuvering as well as the professionalism and dedication of all members of the Kentucky football team.

*Continued, next page.*

**Above:** CDT Ben Skaggs and his fiancée, Kristin Ranard, at the game.  
**Above Right:** CDT Reid Dodson with UK football coach Joker Phillips  
**Left:** CDT Richard St. Onge with UK football team kicker and CDT Craig McIntosh





# MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



On game day, the Battalion assembled at Commonwealth Stadium and commenced the Military Appreciation Game by unfurling a field-sized American flag for the signing of the National Anthem. This simple exercise is one of the few chances each year the Battalion has to give back to the larger military community of soldiers and veterans, and is quite an exciting event.

Having been graced with a generous lot of tickets, cadets were released to the grandstands following the unfurling of the flag; to mingle with invited family members, alumni, and soldiers of the 149<sup>th</sup> MEB Kentucky National Guard. As the Wildcats went on to rack up an impressive win against Charleston Southern, all in attendance enjoyed cheering them on.

-CDT Richard St. Onge, MS-III



**Top:** Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets spread the American flag across the football field during the game.  
**Middle:** CDT Brennan Parker and CDT Ben Skaggs with the UK cheerleaders  
**Bottom:** CDT Brennan Parker (left) and CDT Ben Skaggs (right) with UK Basketball Coach Cal Calipari

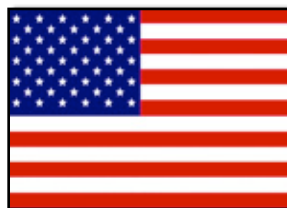


# DECEMBER 2010 COMMISSIONING



## UK Army ROTC Commissions Four Second Lieutenants

I, (state your full name), having been appointed an officer in the Army of the United States, in the grade of Second Lieutenant, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; so help me God.



**2LT Mallory Bierman, R.N., Westchester, OH**  
*Nurse Corps, Kentucky National Guard*

**2LT Ahunuar Huerta, Shelbyville, KY**  
*Transportation Corps, United States Army Reserve*

**2LT Travis Fugate, Lexington, KY**  
*Field Artillery, United States Army*

**2LT Erickson Haire, Wilmore KY**  
*Corps of Engineers, United States Army Reserve*



# Alumni Update: UK Fans in Theatre



LTC Coffman, CDR, I-64 AR



COL Crider, 3ID G3



1LT Michael Conaway



1LT Dan Hudson, currently deployed in Iraq at COS Echo

## Nominations Wanted!

Submit your nomination now for the UK Army ROTC graduate who deserves to be honored on the WALL OF FAME! Contact MAJ Kris Morlen for nomination guidance.

email: [kris.morlen@uky.edu](mailto:kris.morlen@uky.edu)

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