BUELL ARMORY TO BE RENOVATED
UK President Dr. Eli Capilouto agrees to a “2-to-1 Match”

On April 21st, 2012 the Wildcat ROTC Programs kicked off a one-year fundraising drive to help fund vital renovations to the General Don Carlos Buell Armory and Barker Hall at UK. We need your help in funding these important renovations. For those that haven’t seen the Armory since you were a student, you will be amazed at the renovations completed over the past 12 months (see pg. 2). However, all of these great improvements were only aesthetic in nature, and now the difficult and expensive process of upgrading the first and second floor common areas, bathrooms, and electrical systems must begin.

The Armory is one of the oldest buildings on campus and is in great need of modern upgrades. Finished in 1901, the Armory has officially been home to the Cadets for nearly 100 years, since the days UK was known as A&M college of Kentucky. With only one major renovation in 1942, which added the rifle range, wooden floors, and additional classrooms, the building has received minimal upgrades. As we continue into the 21st Century, it is imperative to push for the necessary upgrades to bring the Armory on par with the rest of the buildings on campus, and provide a learning and training environment conducive for proper Cadet development.

Due to his firm belief in our mission to develop the military leaders of tomorrow, the University of Kentucky President, Dr. Eli Capilouto, has agreed to match one dollar for every two we raise for additional renovations. This unique opportunity is only available for a short time period, and we must make every attempt to take advantage of it. We are on the way to making our $500K goal, but we need your help to get past the finish line. Included with the newsletter is an informational brochure detailing the planned renovations. Plans and bidding will move forward over the next 12 months, with work beginning in the Summer 2013. Your funds will help the countless students who use the facility.

Over the next few months, I will begin contacting past Cadet Battalion Commanders to ask for assistance in contacting their classmates and garnering support. The Armory has meant so much to us through the years, and I anticipate a very positive response. I urge you to consider partnering with us in this important initiative. 100% of your donations will go toward Armory renovations, and gifts over $250 will be recognized in the Armory, by class.

If you have any questions, or would like more details, please contact me at jason.cummins@uky.edu or 859-257-2696. Donation instructions are available on the back page and in the attached brochure. Thank you for all you have given and are about to give. Your generosity is assuring the continued success of developing and commissioning the future Leaders of Character for the Military and the great state of Kentucky. GO CATS!

- LTC Jason Cummins, Professor of Military Science, UK Army ROTC Class of 1993
Cadets who remember the old Buell Armory have an understanding of the amount of work that has gone into the renovations and the difference it has made on the pride of the Battalion. The changes have been incredible to witness. The old, dark, cracked drill floor has been replaced, and the Army and Air Force logos surround the UK symbol on the new bright floor. Everyday seems to bring a new change for the better. The brick wall that was once covered in layers of paint has been restored and new pictures have been hung on all the walls in the Armory. The old media room now has a completely different look and is a meeting area for MSIV’s and Cadre. This briefing room has fresh paint, new floors, and new furniture. It is also a quiet place to study, in addition to the lounge, which has also undergone major changes over the past few years. Cadets have pride in the Armory. Everyday the lounge and briefing room are filled with Cadets studying, reading, planning, or socializing. The hard work was worth the tremendous results. Cadets have a place to go to make the busy day seem a bit more manageable.
Guest Speaker, 
Congressman Geoff Davis

Rare is the instance for the University of Kentucky to provide its students the opportunity to engage with a sitting United States Congressman. It was, however, the distinct honor of UK Army ROTC to present just this. In keeping with the strong tradition of providing Cadets the opportunity to hear from a diverse spectrum of leaders, LTC Cummins was able to secure Congressman Geoff Davis of Kentucky’s 4th District to address Cadets and the student body at-large during an official visit to the University. Drawing on his multifaceted background in business, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Congress, Congressman Davis provided all in attendance a candid look at the importance of building relationships and seizing opportunity. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Mr. Davis found himself serving in several junior officer leadership roles within the aviation community. In business, Mr. Davis started a manufacturing consulting firm aimed at efficiency and profit maximization. After being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004, Congressman Davis served on many distinguished committees including the Ways and Means Committee as well as two House Armed Services subcommittees. After discussing the legislative process, and giving a candid analysis of many of the legislative initiatives then being considered, he concluded with words of encouragement and gratitude for the Cadets in the crowd, noting that their choice to serve their country marked the disposition necessary to become the future General Officers and public servants of the world.

-Richard St. Onge, MSIV
At the University of Kentucky ROTC Cadets face leadership challenges and physical tests that make better, stronger, more adaptable leaders for our military. For some Cadets, however, these tests are not enough. Therefore, the Company C-1 Pershing Rifles fills that void. The Pershing Rifles organization was created by General John J. Pershing at the University of Nebraska in 1891. General Pershing, at the time a Second Lieutenant, was the Professor of Military Science and wanted to create a small drill team for the school’s ROTC program to raise morale. This was the beginning of what became today’s Pershing Rifles. Still holding ourselves to the strict, and meticulous standards laid before us by General Pershing, the Company C-1 Pershing Rifles pride themselves on “Setting the Standard” for others to strive to achieve. The purpose of the National Society of the Pershing Rifles is:

“To develop to the highest degree possible outstanding traits of leadership, military bearing, and discipline within the framework of a military oriented honorary fraternity.”

While using this purpose as our framework, we build our training plan. Candidates for the Pershing Rifles endure a grueling 10-week cycle where they are tested on everything from physical fitness, drill and ceremony, squad level tactics, and military knowledge. The training these Cadets receive is pertinent to what they will be tested on in the final, culminating event known as PREART. While going through the cycle, Cadets become more confident, motivated, and adaptable to challenges. The skills they acquire will help them become better officers upon commissioning. Additionally, Pershing Rifles is the only military organization that is comprised of both Air Force and Army ROTC Cadets. This makes for great leadership opportunities and helps people integrate with their brothers and sisters-in-arms.

Pershing Rifles is about giving back to the community as well. Each year, we conduct a 9/11 Vigil on the front lawn of the campus, where the names of the people who lost their lives that day are recognized and flags are placed on Admin Lawn in their memory. Pershing Rifles conducts Color Guard events for all UK athletics, educational events, and we are the official Presidential Color Guard for the state of Kentucky. Finally, we hold an annual high school JROTC drill meet to educate Cadets on what the program entails.

-Zak Johnston, MSIV
Pershing Rifles Host Annual JROTC Drill Competition

Each year the University of Kentucky Company C-1 Pershing Rifles hosts an invitational drill meet. Most schools in attendance are from surrounding counties in the state, but we do get some schools coming from Indiana and Tennessee. Hosting this event gives these JROTC Cadets a glimpse of what the University ROTC programs have to offer. As well as visiting the campus, these Cadets exemplify the hard work and dedication they have put into being an organization based on discipline and precision. Events the Cadets compete in include: color guard presentations, individual rifle spinning, platoon drill and ceremonies, and a drill knockout at the end of the day. Hosting this event presents many challenges to our Cadets in the Pershing Rifles, but it offers many great leadership opportunities that we take advantage of through participation. Overall, this year’s meet was a great success, and the feedback from the participating schools was outstanding. We are always looking to extend our reach in the program and this is just another way the Pershing Rifles can become better known in the community.

-CDT Gillespie
Company C-1 Pershing Rifles S-5
The Kentucky Rangers have continued the rich, distinguished history of their predecessors. Over the past year, the organization has taken tremendous strides in a positive direction. Once again, the Rangers are an elite group of individuals that specialize in small unit tactics, prepare underclassmen for the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), and train Senior Cadets to assume the role of young Army Officers.

Over the course of the last year, eleven new actives have been initiated into the organization. This past summer, our organization saw six of its active members selected for Cadet Professional Development Schools. It is clear that we are producing outstanding Cadets that excel amongst their peers, while providing a challenging physical and mental curriculum to continue individual growth as aspiring Army Officers.

In April, we conducted our culminating event for the Ranger candidates, RANCET, at Hidden Valley training area located in Powell County. During this practical exercise, Ranger candidates were put to the test mentally, physically, and emotionally. This graded environment helps the active Rangers separate those who deserve to be called Kentucky Rangers from those who don’t quite meet the rigorous standards.

With this year’s graduation and commissioning just around the corner, the Rangers will lose four key leaders to their respected Army component. Korey Gaines will commission as an Aviation Officer, Brian Johnson as a Chemical Corps Officer (being assigned to 5th SFG), Jeff Kelley as an Ordnance Officer, and Cody Mitchell as an Infantry Officer. These four individuals will pass down the reins to a strong Junior class, composed of six Cadets who are set to continue upholding the Ranger traditions as well as recruiting and training those Cadets who hope to one day call the coveted Ranger Den their own.

Rangers Lead The Way!

-Cody Mitchell, MSIV
Ranger CO
Ranger Challenge

Being a cadet in the Army ROTC program at UK has provided me with many excellent opportunities. Each opportunity has challenged me to develop greater mental, physical, and emotional strength. Ranger Challenge, a ROTC event held in the fall, tested me in all three areas. The training began in mid-September with 5:00 a.m. ruck marches, lessons in tying knots, and practices of one-rope bridge making. The training also acted as a selection process because there were more people who attended practice than would be allowed to compete. In the end, a team of eleven cadets remained, with two being alternates. We traveled to Fort Knox for the competition on the 14th of October and put our skills to the test.

Ranger Challenge lived up to its name and its reputation of difficulty. The ruck march in total lasted over seven hours and took place on a very hilly and wooded course. It challenged even the most physically fit among the team. The events required not only our knowledge of soldier skills but also our academic knowledge of geometry and engineering. Underneath the mental and physical challenge, there also came an emotional test. Our team succeeded in looking past aching backs, sore feet, and frustration so as to support one another. Teamwork and encouragement gave us the strength to finish the event well. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to participate in Ranger Challenge and hope to be on the team in the Fall of 2012.

-CDT d’Arge, MSI
In October, nine UK runners traveled to Washington DC to compete in the Army Ten Miler and tour the nation’s Capital. We are continuing to build upon our legacy as a top competitor in the race and build on our overall first place finish in last year’s event. We began dedicated training in August. In the weeks leading up to the Ten Miler, the team trained four days a week including long runs on Sunday mornings and rigorous interval workouts every Wednesday.

On the Friday before the race, we had the opportunity to tour the Pentagon and the Capitol building. Highlights included visiting the House Liaison Office, and a detailed tour of the Capitol led by Deana Ribble, the wife of Congressman Reid Ribble of Wisconsin.

On Saturday the runners enjoyed free time and visited attractions such as Arlington Cemetery and the National Mall. That evening we were hosted to dinner courtesy of the DC area UK Alumni Club.

Sunday morning the team’s efforts paid off and all runners had strong showings in the race. For the third year in a row, we placed in the top ten of fifty-eight teams and are already looking towards the race next year. Six of the nine runners are eligible to return to the race next year, and the added experience is sure to make next year’s training and team even more competitive. We take great pride in being one of the fastest schools in the Nation and are looking forward to continuing the tradition of the Army Ten Miler.

-CDT Jay Hurst, MSIV
During Fall FTX, my training and experience as a Junior Cadet within the ROTC program was very helpful in negotiating the many leadership opportunities and responsibilities assigned. The many challenges of garrison leadership, as well as maintaining military bearing within a field setting were a great experience for me. It was, overall, an excellent test of the skills necessary to lead others and perform the many battle drills and garrison operations we will face at LDAC. -Cadet Christopher Hilbert, MSIII

Field Training Exercise (FTX) was a little different for our MS-3 class this fall. The first difference was that we received a road to war brief on the buses in order to increase the realistic feeling of the Squad Tactical Exercise (STX) lanes. Another measure that was implemented by the MS-4 class in order to prepare us for LDAC was a written land navigation test. This test stressed the importance of being observant and exercising attention to detail, and really helped show cadets what they needed to focus on learning prior to leaving for LDAC. Many felt confident with their abilities in both day and night land navigation and the overall results showed that the vast majority of cadets passed with what LDAC would consider as Recondo. Saturday morning came quickly as we awoke and began preparing for a full day of STX lanes by 0430, less than four hours after arriving back at the barracks. STX lanes started off extremely well but the lack of sleep and the weight of carrying at least 50lbs of gear started taking its toll by the third lane. Saturday was an extremely long day. It pushed everyone to their limits, but we worked through it as a team and maintained a positive attitude. After about twelve hours of STX lanes, and finally arriving back at the barracks, we were challenged with another great learning experience, the rotation of our garrison chain-of-command. In order to better mirror LDAC, a new leadership team assumed command around eight o’clock that night and began diligently working through the issuing of operation orders for the following day. Sunday morning started off with cleaning the barracks and then the Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC) for the team. FLRC posed an interesting, new challenge for our class, but thanks to quality instruction from the MS-4 trainers, we learned the skills necessary to navigate the FLRC evaluation. FTX, this year, provided many great opportunities for learning and each of us boarded the busses for Lexington more prepared for LDAC.

- Cadet Jonathan Workman, MSIII

During Fall FTX, my training and experience as a Junior Cadet within the ROTC program was very helpful in negotiating the many leadership opportunities and responsibilities assigned. The many challenges of garrison leadership, as well as maintaining military bearing within a field setting were a great experience for me. It was, overall, an excellent test of the skills necessary to lead others and perform the many battle drills and garrison operations we will face at LDAC. -Cadet Christopher Hilbert, MSIII
A Day in the Life of a UK Army ROTC Cadet:

Army and Air Force team up for the annual Dean’s Run.

MSI’s and II’s pause for a picture at lab.

MSIII’s worked hard to master OPORDs and battle drills in the field at fall FTX.

CDT Swanson receives valuable one on one help in class from MSIV, Adam Crawford.

MSIV’s Cody Mitchell and Korey Gaines had fun assisting basic course cadets in the obstacle course at FTX.

Cadet Mckenzie prepares to intimidate the OPFOR for the last STX lane of the day.

Basic course cadets enjoyed room clearing exercises.

MSIV’s Cody Mitchell and Korey Gaines had fun assisting basic course cadets in the obstacle course at FTX.
BUELL ARMORY RENOVATION FUND

DONATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- For check donations, please make payable to the “Buell Armory Renovation Fund” and mail to UK Army ROTC, 101 Barker Hall, Lexington, KY 40506.

- For online donations, please visit our website: www.uky.edu/ArmyROTC

- If you have questions or inquiries concerning the initiative, contact LTC Jason Cummins at Jason.Cummins@uky.edu or MAJ Michael Marchetti at Michael.Marchetti@uky.edu or by phone at (859) 257-2696.