UK Cadets and Cadre meet Coach John Calipari at Big Blue Madness, 16 October, at Rupp Arena. (From left to right: CPT Orr, MAJ Alaniz, Coach John Calipari, CDT Peterson)

Upcoming Calendar

13 February  Bluegrass Area Community Covenant Signing
4 March  Mentorship Breakfast
27 March  Lexington Half-Marathon
2 April  Army/Air Force Joint Military Ball
16-18 April  Joint FTX with UL at Artemus
7 May  Spring Commissioning
10-14 May  Warrior Week

Members of the Army 10-Miler Team meet with the VCSA, GEN Pete Chiarelli, during a tour of the Pentagon (From L to R, CDTs Kelley, Lynch, Huerta, Devries, LTC Cummins, GEN Chiarelli, CDT McCormick, MSG Stoehr, SFC Hubbard, CDTs Parker, and Skaggs).
Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

Happy New Year! It was an exciting Fall semester here at UK and within the Wildcat Battalion. I hope the pages of this newsletter capture a small bit of the immense pride I feel for our Cadets and this program.

Alumni support has been phenomenal! From your physical presence at the Fall Alumni Reunion to your financial support for essential cadet development initiatives, the Wildcat Battalion is made stronger by your involvement. Thank you! To further this impact, we are establishing an Alumni Advisory Council comprised of 6-10 ROTC alumni. I am particularly excited about this, as it will facilitate improved mentorship for the Cadets and provide much needed continuity for the program moving forward.

We have an exciting semester planned for the Spring. Of note, we’ll host our first Mentorship Breakfast on March 4 in Buell Armory. Cadets, UK Faculty, and local alumni will gather to hear Major General(R) Richard Huck, former Marine Division Commander and OIF veteran. Also, our Joint Military Ball is scheduled for April 2 at the Lexington Downtown Hilton. This event proves to be a memorable evening, as we will induct two new members to the UK Army ROTC Hall of Fame (featured in our next Wildcat Wrap). Our guest speaker that evening will be Air Force Brig. Gen. James Holmes, Principle Director of Middle East Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Thanks for all the Alumni Updates...a great way to keep up with some of your friends from the past. Please send your updates to carla.getchell@us.army.mil. All the best for 2010...GO CATS!

- LTC Jason Cummins
On October 24, 2009 over 80 Alumni, former Cadre, Staff members & their families gathered with current Cadets and Cadre for this year’s UK Army ROTC Alumni Reunion.

Festivities kicked off in “famous” Barker Hall with lunch, and a state of the program address given by current UK Army ROTC Professor of Military Science, LTC Jason Cummins. As this year’s reunion was held in conjunction with UK’s annual Military Appreciation Day football game, the group then moved to Commonwealth Stadium for tailgating, pre-game festivities and to watch their beloved Wildcats trounce the University of Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks 36-13.

Alumni in attendance represented commissioning classes spanning 1960-2007. LTC (Ret) Don Harmon (Class of 1960) was recognized for traveling over 1200 miles to attend the event. LTC Cummins presented LTC Harmon with a UK football, signed by current MSII Cadet and UK varsity football player Craig McIntosh.

Next year’s Alumni Reunion will also be held concurrently with the 2010 Military Appreciation Day football game. Watch future Wildcat Wraps for dates and details.
By: Cadet Christopher Peterson, MS4

This year our Ranger Challenge team proved the true character of the Wildcat Battalion, upholding the battalion motto of “Deeds Not Words,” and we set out to prove just that.

The Ranger Challenge Competition took place on 24 OCT 09 at Fort Knox, KY, going from 0500 until approximately 2100 that night. Events of the day included the APFT, a hand grenade assault course, M-16 assembly and disassembly, basic rifle marksmanship, terrain identification, the one-rope bridge, an obstacle course, and the 10K road march (with weapon, LBE, and 35-lb ruck).

Starting in September, the Ranger Challenge team met an additional two times per week, focusing on the events that were traditionally the most difficult – the creation of a one rope bridge and the 6-mile ruck march, while doing our best not to neglect the other events. Training went smoothly, and the team was transforming into a well oiled machine.

Yet, as often stated, no plan survives first contact with the enemy. About a week out from competition, the team captain, Cadet Charles Hoffman, contracted H1N1 and was out of the competition. We persevered and drove on with our training. Cadet Chris Peterson was bumped up to Captain.

The day of departure, Cadet Brennan Parker came down sick with what we thought would be the team’s second round of H1N1. The night prior to the competition, we were in doubt whether we would even be able to compete. There were a lot of long faces. After a late night visit with the Brigade Nurse and an IV bag, however, Cadet Parker was back in the fight. The team would be able to compete!

True to his normal style, Cadet Parker, despite being very ill the day prior, ran the fastest 2-mile time of the team, providing a positive example for the rest to follow. During the course of events that day, we scored 16th out of 48 teams and finished our 10K in 70 minutes. To be frank, we were glad to be competing.

There is an old Japanese proverb that states, “Fall down seven times, stand up eight.” This year, despite the setbacks, we chose to fight on, and we finished in the top third of the competition. Next year, we will build on our positive experience and look to challenge for the top.

“DEEDS NOT WORDS”
THE FALL SEMESTER

Top left: MAJ Alaniz’s MSII class practices marksmanship with the National Guard simulator.
Top Right: Cadet Blank reassembles the M249 SAW at the US Weapons Leadership Lab.
Middle Left: A Cadet takes aim with an M16 (.22 long rifle conversion bolt) at the Squad Designated Marksman clinic.
Middle Right: Army Cadets compete with Air Force for the 2009 PT challenge—Army wins.
Lower Left: Cadets Hoffman, Skaggs, & Peterson stand with 2LT Coggshall at Big Blue Madness.
On October 16th of this year, University of Kentucky Army ROTC Cadets and Cadre joined the 24,000 fans which filled Rupp Arena for one of the greatest spectacles in college sports—Big Blue Madness. For the 22nd consecutive year, UK athletics put on an incredible show to introduce the UK men and women basketball teams. However, for the first time, the U.S. Army promoted the event with great success.

Both the United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) and Recruiting Commands (USAREC) jointly sponsored Big Blue Madness '09 with 1,200 “Strength” t-shirts, a thirty-second Army ROTC commercial, and raffle prizes. The t-shirts were a traditional UK blue, and featured a UK basketball logo on the front, and an ROTC leadership logo / “Army Strong” logo paired on the back. The raffle prizes consisted of a basketball signed by the UK Men’s Coach John Calipari, an iPod Touch, and an X-box 360 featuring the popular game Call of Duty.

The night of the event, Rupp Arena opened its gates at 6 pm with crowds bulging at the doors. Any give-away with the UK colors was snatched instantly by the sport fanatics, including our shirts. Cadets were strategically placed to guide the masses toward the two tables set up by UK Army ROTC and USAREC. The two U.S. Army programs worked as one, throwing t-shirts into the crowd and taking names for the raffle. Once the 1,200th shirt was given away, the crowds dwindled and the Cadets and Cadre excitedly moved into the arena to watch the show.

From start to finish, cheers from the fans were instigated by laser lights, indoor pyrotechnics, and a stage/screen combination fit for a Metallica concert. But perhaps the highlight for the UK Army ROTC Wildcat Battalion was the tip off throw at the start of the men’s scrimmage. Cadet Hoffman was chosen to throw up the ball as the Cadet Battalion Commander, a UK Senior, and top Cadet of his class. As the moment neared for Hoffman to walk on the court, Cadets and Cadre intensely watched to see if he would “goof” the toss. CDT Hoffman threw the ball up without a hitch, yet was almost trampled by the monster players coming off the court! All the Cadets representing the Wildcat Battalion were helpful, thanks and a job well done.

It’s important for the U.S. Army and ROTC to advertise at these high profile events as the recruitment message is shifting gears from scholarship to officership. With UK Army ROTC at Big Blue Madness this year, viewers across the board were exposed to our positive environment and leadership message.
The Army Ten Miler

By Cadet Josh Lynch MS2

The Army Ten Miler is an experience I will never forget. The weather was amazing on that October 4th day, and all the hard work paid off when our Wildcat Team placed 3rd out of 56 ROTC teams from across the country.

It was not all fun and games, however. Lieutenant Colonel Cummins began training those of us who were “lucky” enough to make the team the day classes began. And I use “lucky” very lightly, because we were about to do more running than some of us have done since high school and most ever have. We ran during the three days of PT each week, as well as our “voluntary” early Sunday morning runs. The training lasted only a month and a half, but despite its short duration, we felt very confident about our upcoming race.

We departed for Washington D.C. at 0500 on the Thursday before the race. I thought an eight hour car ride could never be fun, but I was wrong. The trip to D.C. was a key part of the overall experience...getting to know some of the guys better or just getting to know the freshmen, the brotherhood and friendships that were built between those of us who had trained together and all the time spent together was apparent on that eight hour trip.

Thursday was a pretty relaxed day just to get settled and ready for the rest of the weekend. Friday started off with a very unique opportunity, as we took a tour of the Pentagon that most don’t get to see. Of note, we were able to go into the Chief of Staff of the Army’s office and see the desk where so many powerful men have sat. We were also able to go into the Sergeant Major of the Army’s office. However, the best part was getting to meet the Vice Chief of Staff, General Peter Chiarelli. We got a picture with him and each received a coin. I don’t know about the rest of the guys, but the part I will never forget is being called sir by a four star general.

Next it was off to Fort Myer, where we received a tour by its previous Garrison Commander, Colonel Laura Richardson. We visited the Caisson Platoon and got to meet Sergeant York, the famous horse that served at President Ronald Reagan’s funeral in 2004. Finally, each of us was deeply moved while observing the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Saturday was a day spent relaxing and, of course, watching some UK football. Saturday night we were taken out to eat for our pre-race meal by UK ROTC Alumni, LTC (Ret) and Mrs. Andy Couch (and their wonderful family). It was really interesting hearing about the things that happened at UK and in ROTC in the past.

Finally, it was race time. We met by the ROTC tent and talked with other cadets who were running the race. Even though the whole point of the trip to D.C. was to run the race, I feel we benefited even more from the rest of the weekend’s events. Thanks to all the alumni sponsors who helped make the event possible! Although next year we will be leaving for D.C. on my 21st birthday, I cannot think of a better present than to be able to participate again.
**Wildcat Philanthropy**

By Cadet Mary Awoniyi, MS3

This past semester, the UK Army ROTC cadets exemplified selfless service by putting the needs of the less fortunate in our Lexington community before our own. We planned two community service programs during the fall semester. The first project was a blanket drive for the homeless. Over the course of a couple of weeks, we collected numerous blankets, sweaters, and jackets to help the homeless stay warm during the cold winter months. They truly appreciated our generosity.

The second initiative was in conjunction with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Drive. Every Christmas, The Salvation Army helps provide new clothing and toys for needy children whose parents cannot afford to buy them Christmas presents. Throughout the month of November, we asked each cadet to bring in one dollar every Wednesday. Our original goal was $250, but we surpassed our goal and collected over $430! We were able to buy presents for eight children! We bought a car seat for a four-month-old little boy, clothes for a family with four young children, shoes, a bike for a six year old girl (with a helmet and pads of course!), hats, gloves, toys, gift cards, the list goes on and on!

Money is one thing that few of us students have, but we were able to come together and make a difference in our community. We kept people warm and put a smile on many faces! It was an honor to be part of such remarkable efforts!

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**Ft. Hood Memorial**

By Cadet Charles Hoffman, MS4

In respect for the losses at Ft. Hood on November 5th the Pershing Rifles at UK held a small memorial service in their honor. On the following Friday, we emplaced a small flag for all of those injured and killed in the shooting. We then began a ceremonial guarding of the flag from 1230 (around the time the shooting started) to 1330. It was a small gesture, but it served to keep the incident in people’s minds. Many stopped for a few seconds to reflect on what had happened. Overall, we just wanted to do whatever we could to honor those affected by a terrible and unprecedented incident in U.S. history.
“If you can pass land nav here, you can pass it anywhere!” Those were the words that ran through my head on the first night of our Fall FTX. Soon, I was speaking those words out loud as I pushed through the tall blades of grass that separated me from where I was positive my point laid waiting to be found. Our FTX land navigation site that weekend would prove to be more challenging than all the courses from my basic training days, advanced individual training time, and over four years of National Guard experience combined. Above all, that weekend was also one of the best learning experiences I had all semester.

If you were to ask a cadet to tell you his or her most memorable Fall FTX experience, you would get a variety of answers. Some will say that they learned the importance of actually packing everything on the packing list. Others will remember the joy of using battle drills as an excuse to shoot paintballs at MSG Stoehr. Although we have our individual memories, we all share the thrill of the opportunity to apply our classroom lessons to practical situations. We had discussed the importance of cover and concealment, but now we were able to practice our individual movement techniques while using the terrain. We had been trained on how to conduct a map recon, but now we were able to both recognize the hill near our objective, and utilize it to our advantage on our STX lane.

The FTX was a valuable learning experience. I learned that I had to put in a little more time outside of the classroom in order to be comfortable with giving an OPORD. Every cadet in our Wildcat Battalion left the Fall FTX with knowledge of individual strengths and areas that needed development. We also left with closer bonds, inside jokes, and funny stories. Although swimming through a swamp was not funny at the time I was going through it, I can now laugh in anticipation of the adventures that we have yet to encounter. Spring FTX- here we come!

“The new experience for me was the OPFOR position. I was a member of the downed pilot STX lane as an insurgent. It gave me a good outside perspective on squads that were taking part in the lane...”

- Cadet Crawford MS2
**Alumni Updates**

**CSM Charles Waters**, the Commandant of Cadets (1999-2000), is currently serving as the Garrison Command Sergeant Major for Fort Knox, KY. He has three daughters, one in the Kentucky National Guard attending Western Kentucky University, one attending the University of Louisville, and one in High School that swears she will attend the University of Kentucky. Army Strong!

**MAJ James “Sunny” Mills** (1991): I have been on active duty since graduating back in 1991. I am an Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP) officer and physical therapist, having been in various clinical and staff officer positions over the years. I am currently a fellow in the US Army CGSC Interagency Fellowship Program with duty at the Department of Veteran’s Affairs working on interagency healthcare issues and National Defense Authorization Act legislative mandates. In 2008 I returned from Iraq where I was deployed with the 1/10 MTN DIV (LI). My wife, MAJ Elizabeth Painter, SP, is the chief therapist at the Military Advanced Training Center of Walter Reed Army Medical Center overseeing the rehabilitation our fellow Wounded Warriors with amputations. We have one great son, Jack (10). If you are ever in the Washington DC area we would be glad to give you a tour of this fabulous facility, just write (james.t.mills@us.army.mil).

**LTC Robert Leonard**, MS, HRC-Forward Re-deployed in January after 15 month tour in Mosul, Iraq as the Deputy Commander for the 86th Combat Support Hospital. Have since PCS from FT Campbell, KY and have assumed the Career Manager Position for the Medical Corps Branch at Fort Knox, KY where I manage all of the Army's OB/GYN, Pediatricians, Neurologists, Psychiatrists, Pediatric Subspecialties and Pathologists physicians.

**CPT Chad Chenoweth** is currently attending his Captain's Career Course at Ft. Benning after a 4 year tour in Hawaii, and one tour to Iraq. He is married to Kelli Chenoweth, and has a 2 year old daughter, Lilly Jo.

**LTC Margaret A. Dixon (Lyons)** graduated in 1975. She was a civilian RN until Sep 1992 when she came on active duty. She is married to Larry Dixon, who spent 26 years in the Army Reserves. Her present duty assignment is as the Deputy Commander for Nursing and Patient Support Services at Munson Army Health Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

**MAJ Wendy Woodall**, class of 1998, graduated in 2008 with her Master’s in Nursing (Nursing Education) from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is currently stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as the Deputy Director of the 68WM6 (Licensed Practical Nurse) program, Phase 2. She has one furry kid, Molly, a Jack Russell terrier.

**MAJ Saul Decker** class of 1999, Currently assigned to the US Army Counterinsurgency Center in Ft Leavenworth, KS and planning to attend ILE (formerly know as CGSC) in Summer of 2010. Prior to that spent one year as a Sustainment Observer/Trainer at Battle Command Training Program, Ft Leavenworth.
CPT Joey Orr, commissioned in 2003 and branched Armor. He spent his PL time with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Carson and deployed in support of OIF III with them as a tank platoon leader. After that he spent Troop Command time at Fort Knox as the 16th Cavalry Regiments RHHT commander. He is currently the Operations Officer and primary MS III instructor at the University of Kentucky.

LTC Edwin Fiske is currently stationed at Ft. Stewart with 1st Brigade, 3rd ID and will deploy to Iraq for my 3rd combat tour in December as an advisor to the Iraqi Army.

LTC Don Hill is currently commanding 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry at Ft. Campbell, KY.

CPT Lolito Ganal commissioned into Medical Services in 2002 and is currently stationed at Ft. Bragg with the 28th Combat Support Hospital as a Medical Supply Officer. He deployed in OIF 1, OEF 6, and is scheduled to deploy again to Iraq in October 2009.

CPT Steven Kane recently moved to the DC area where he is an Account Manager for Human resources Command in Alexandria, VA. Steven and his wife Marissa have a 16 month old son named Jackson. Steven remarked that he is already smarter than his dad and a riot to be around. CPT Kane and his family will be moving to Ft Knox next summer.

LTC Walter Sweetser commissioned in 1988 and is currently assigned as Chief, Theater Engagement Officer at the Defense and Threat Reduction Agency. He is responsible for coordinating DTRA support to the geographic combatant commands and will deploy 19 Sep for six months to Afghanistan. He and his wife Rebecca have five children: Clay (15), Benjamin (10), Kathryn (8), Jonathan (5), and Daniel (1).

CPT Michael Slawter is currently with the 2nd Ranger Battalion out of Fort Lewis, WA. He is a Company Fire Support Officer for Charlie Company. He has had two deployments so far and is preparing for another at the end of this year. He recently got married and his wife Lauren is also from KY and a UK graduate.

LTC Derwood Spencer who commissioned in 1989 is married and living in Bethesda MD Just north of DC. He changed out of command of C Squadron/ Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) on 13 August and is now assigned to the AWG Washington office in the Pentagon as he transitions to retirement.

MAJ Dan Durall is currently teaching English at the United States Military Academy. After his three year teaching tour he will return to his operational career field (Armor). He and his wife Marcie have an 11 year old son named Donavan.
MAJ Stephen Marshall commissioned 1999 is currently attending ILE at Ft Leavenworth KS. He will be attending the School of Advanced Military Studies with a follow on utilization tour. He recently returned from his third tour in Iraq as the Signal Company Commander/BCT Asst S3 with 2 BCT, 101st ABN DIV (ASSLT). He has his wife Sarah have 16 month old twins, Owen and Claire.

MAJ Adam Keown, class of 1999 (Aviation), is currently serving as a MITT team leader in the Diyala province of Iraq.

1LT Aaron Treesh, is currently serving as an Executive Officer for Charlie Co. 1-5 IN Regt of 1st BDE 25 ID Stryker Brigade Combat Team. He just completing a 12 month tour and will be back to Fairbanks, AK the second week of Sept. For the first nine months of deployment, I served as a Platoon Leader for Alpha Co. he served in Baquba, Iraq, but his company was sent to Mosul, Iraq to serve with 3/1 Cav for 4 months. After he returns home, he plans to marry to Katie Brittain, a UK Alum (as of Dec 09), on Dec 27th. Aaron plans to leave the military in the summer of 2010 and he, along with his wife, will pursue full-time Christian ministry.

LTC Dan O'Rourke left the 1st Cavalry Division after five years to do a short assignment at Fort Hood with Operational Test Command. Over the last few years he has been able to touch base with numerous Wildcat Battalion alumni both CONUS and in Iraq. He recently took command of the 8th Engineer Battalion (Trojan Horse) here at Fort Hood, Texas. It is a great opportunity to lead and serve Soldiers and stabilize the family here at "The Great Place". He and his wife Jen are excited about the assignment.

CPT Christopher Wardlaw and his wife Veronica currently reside at Fort Rucker, AL where Chris is attending the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course; he branched transferred from Field Artillery in May of 2009.

1LT Brennan Cook, EN, Detachment Commander, 49th Engineer Detachment (Canine)Graduated with the class of 2008, Completed BOLCII, BOLCIII, met up with the 5th Engineer Battalion in Iraq and was a Route Clearance Platoon Leader for the last 6 months of the deployment. Upon returning, was a PL for about 2 months and was moved to be a Detachment Commander for the Mine Detection Dogs (49th MDD Detachment, Engineer Canine Company, 5th EN BN). Recently promoted and will be going on my 2nd deployment (Afghanistan this time) where I will be splitting my time between Kandahar and Bahgram working with the Mine Action Center to give my teams land to clear. Currently stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ALUMNI UPDATES FOR FUTURE EDITIONS TO 1LT CARLA GETCHELL AT carla.getchell@us.army.mil.**