

THE WILDCAT WRAP



Cadet Battalion Commander Jay Hurst prepares to rush the field of the Heroes game with Kentucky football coach, Joker Phillips, and UK players.

A WORD FROM THE UK ROTC COMMAND TEAM



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Greetings from Wildcat Country! It is hard to believe it is already October. As you will read, the program has been busy. We enjoyed a productive summer with Cadre and Cadets spread from Joint Base Lewis/McChord to Germany to Korea in a host of unique, training opportunities. Several of their experiences are documented here, in their own words. Of note, we now have 5 new Airborne, 13 Air Assault, and 2 Pathfinder graduates.

We have exciting news with regard to Buell Armory. Since 1901 it has served the program faithfully, but it has been nearly 60 years since its last significant improvement. This summer ushered in Phase 1 of the Buell Armory Renovation Project, enabling key facility improvements to Cadet areas (the changes are highlighted on page 3). We hope to make a significant announcement with respect to Phase 2 Renovations, and how you can partner in our efforts, within the next 6 weeks.

Finally, we must farewell a key member of the team this semester. MAJ Kris Morlen and I both arrived in the Summer of 2009. Since then Kris has served faithfully as the primary MS1 Instructor and Battalion Executive Officer. He was personally responsible for reinvigorating the freshman curriculum, flawlessly managing the staff, and investing in countless lives during his tenure. He will be sorely missed!

Enjoy the Wildcat Wrap, and as always, GO CATS!!

Heroes Football Game

September 10th

The annual University of Kentucky Military Appreciation Day took place on September 10, 2011, at the UK vs. Central Michigan football game at Commonwealth Stadium. This year's event incorporated a special theme in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. Not only were military members and veterans recognized, but also local emergency responders, as UK adopted a "Heroes" theme for the opening game day celebration on a beautiful fall day. Army and Air Force cadets proudly spread the American flag across the field as the notes of the National Anthem resonated throughout the stadium before kickoff.

Prior to the game, University of Kentucky Army ROTC Alumni gathered on the newly-renovated drill floor of Buell Armory for the annual Alumni Breakfast. Alumni enjoyed an update of battalion activities presented by LTC Cummins as well as Jay Hurst, Cadet Battalion Commander, and Richard St. Onge, Cadet Battalion S-3, who are part of the current UK ROTC cadet leadership team. Our thanks to all who participated in this special event.



9/11 Memorial

On a day that marks eternal sadness for the country as a whole, the University of Kentucky's Pershing Rifles spent eight hours reading the names of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The vigil, which occurs annually, began promptly at 9:00 AM by the flag pole on Administration Lawn. Pershing Rifle actives and candidates, comprised of both Air Force and Army cadets, took turns reading the names while the flags that had been placed on the lawn representing each life lost fluttered silently in the wind. Observers paid their respects in different ways; some silently stood, staring at the flags while others offered pained glances. That area of campus became a place of remembrance, respect, and reflection. Regardless of where they needed to be, all who passed by were reminded of the ten year anniversary of the day that changed America forever. -Elizabeth Nutt, MS-II



God Bless America

Buell Armory

Phase I Renovations



Exciting new renovations are taking place on a daily basis in Buell Armory! Recently, a couple of generous donations allowed us to refinish existing hardwood floors, repaint walls, and transform the Cadet computer lab to a Cadet Staff War Room. In addition, updated photos and personalized banners were provided by the US Army Accessions Brigade. The most exciting development is a beautiful new drill floor featuring the emblems of UK, Army, and Air Force in the center of the sparkling floor! We hope to soon announce exciting news with respect to Phase 2...stay tuned.

Cadet Summer Training Experiences

Cadets from the University of Kentucky Wildcat Battalion experienced a wide range of professional development and training opportunities around the world this past summer, gaining invaluable experience for their future careers as Army officers.

NURSE SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM IN GERMANY

Twelve ROTC nursing cadets from across the United States were selected to attend Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) in Germany at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the premier tri-service hospital charged with taking care of the wounded warriors from Operation New Dawn (OND) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This summer internship offered each of us a life-changing opportunity to practice our nursing skills in a fast-paced clinical environment and truly learn what being an Army nurse meant before completing our senior year of nursing school and entering the Army Nurse Corps as a Second Lieutenant.

Assigned to working nights in the ICU at the only Level I Trauma Center outside of the United States, I quickly was thrown onto the intense 18-bed critical care unit that cares for all wounded warriors coming from Iraq and Afghanistan. Under the tutelage of my wonderful preceptor, I provided constant patient care for the wounded warriors who came directly from downrange during the most vital stage of their recovery.

Humbled by the gravity of the situations we faced nightly, inspired by the multidisciplinary healthcare team with whom I worked, and armed with the knowledge I gained while working in the ICU, I have come away from the NSTP experience grateful for having had the opportunity to spend a month at Landstuhl and excited to soon start my own career as an Army Nurse. -CDT Jennifer Graehler, MS-V



CDT Jennifer Graehler (right) in Germany at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center with CDT Tara Connolly from the University of South Carolina.

UK ROTC Graduates of Specialty Schools



AIRBORNE

Colleen Fitzpatrick
Andrew Holben
Kevin Mosley
Marlee Price
Caleb Devries



AIR ASSAULT

Brian Johnson
Jay Hurst
Cody Mitchell
Richard St. Onge
Josh Lynch
Ross Jarrett
Zak Johnston



PATHFINDER

Jay Hurst
Clayton Gorton

AIR ASSAULT

Reid Dodson
Jonathan Kippler
William Pritchett
Jonathan Workman
Clayton Gorton
Ryan Howell

CULP: KOREA

This past summer I was given the opportunity to travel to South Korea with twenty-three other cadets from across the nation. It was a great experience that helped me better understand the world around me. We visited some of the major tourist attractions around the country such as the DMZ, huge palaces, and the beach. The best parts, however, were when we got to interact with the locals. We were able to spend several days with a few ROTC cadets teaching English to middle school students in Suwon (just south of Seoul) for about a week. Getting to learn about the people and interacting with them helped me see them as individual people instead of a population. The experience will definitely help me later on in my military career, when interacting with foreign nationals will be an important part of my job description. -CDT Caleb Devries, MS-III

LTC

My month-long experience at Leader Training Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky was a phenomenal learning experience. It was eye opening to have Drill Sergeants teach us what “right looked like.” After spending time receiving their instruction, (often the hard way), I was able to fit right in whether surrounded by Sergeants or Privates at other Army settings.

The leadership opportunities were challenging and rewarding. We were highly scrutinized, but the feedback really helped us grow. There were also plenty of opportunities to push ourselves to the limit physically. I was often surprised by what I was able to accomplish. The heat and humidity provided plenty of miserable moments, but the benefits far outweighed these. I would highly recommend LTC to anyone who has the opportunity to attend.

-CDT Kevin Mosley, MS-III

CADET TROOP LEADING TRAINING

While on my trip to Kansas for the CTLT program, I was able to experience a multitude of opportunities. One of the biggest things I was able to do was work with helicopter pilots during their normal work days, which included helicopter maintenance, control troop organization/ tasking, conducting checks on all equipment, planning all the training for the troops, and also planning family events.

While working with the officers during their everyday jobs, I was also given the opportunity to experience several helicopter flights with the pilots, and I was able to see and listen to all the steps that go in to a simple flight. Along with flying in the helicopters, I was able to fly in the simulators that are used to train pilots on base. While at Fort Riley, I was also given the opportunity to take a tour of the historical portion of the Army base, given by the commanding general’s honor guard, on horseback.

Overall, the experience taught me the many different opportunities that the Army has to offer besides that which commercials and recruiters can tell you. I also learned what it truly takes to live the daily life of an Army officer.

-CDT Jeff Kelley, MS-IV

Cadet Training, Continued



TOP/ MIDDLE: CDT Kevin Mosley at LTC this summer.

BOTTOM: CDT Jeff Kelley in Kansas for the CTLT program.

CULP: A CADET'S EXPERIENCE IN COSTA RICA

On the morning of August the 6th, I was working on board the USNS Comfort as a translator in the CASREC, which is the waiting room for patients who were going to receive surgery. My duties that day were supposed to include maintaining accountability of the two Costa Rican medical students that were assigned to me that day, and to answer questions that mostly consisted of where the bathroom was located.

Around 1030, I was approached by a Sergeant from the linguist department of the ship. He told me that a translator was needed on the flight deck, but provided no additional details. I thought that a patient was coming in by helicopter and that I was needed to translate for that patient. I followed the Sergeant up to the flight deck, where I was greeted by a Navy helicopter pilot. This peaked my interest because I had previously thought that the pilot would be flying a patient on the boat instead of waiting for me on the flight deck.

After the sergeant introduced me as the translator for the mission, I was quickly whisked away below the decks in order to receive the Operations Order for the mission. As I sat there absorbing the Operations Order, I soon realized what kind of a mission that I was going to translate for. I was going to translate for a rescue mission of a missing hiker on the Poas Volcano. He had been missing for three days and was said to be wearing a black shirt and camouflaged pants. Needless to say, this guy was going to be hard to find and this was going to be an important mission.



As we flew over the volcano, I translated between the Navy pilot and the Costa Rican pilot. I had to translate such things as the Navy pilot's grid coordinates from English to Spanish, telling the Navy pilot where to fly as told by the Costa Rican pilot, and jokes that the Navy pilot wanted to tell his Costa Rican counterpart. The flight lasted for four hours, but it only felt like a few minutes because I was working almost the entire time.

Unfortunately, we did not find the hiker that day, but I later heard that they found him alive three days later. When we arrived back at the police headquarters at the Costa Rican airport, we had to fuel up and it time for me to go to the restroom and grab more water. In the ten minutes that I was gone, we received orders to head back to the ship because a storm was approaching the Volcano and it would then be too dangerous for us to continue the mission.

The pilot told El Coronel that we had to leave right away, but we would try to be back in the morning. He then thanked us for our help, and we were on our way within fifteen minutes after that. The flight back was pretty scary because we had to power up above the storm at an altitude of 10,000 feet. But we made it there with no problems, and I was back on the ship in time for dinner. I thanked the Navy helicopter crew for allowing me to be on such a great mission, and then I walked below deck to meet my OIC.



This experience has given me confidence in not only my Spanish skills, but it has also given me a greater respect for our military as a whole. Working in conjunction with Navy pilots and Costa Rican police, I now know that joint operations are not only achievable, but they are also usually quite successful. It all comes down the human element, that contact between people that wins hearts and minds. I know for a fact that the Costa Ricans that we worked with that day have a lasting respect for the American military, and that we respect them likewise.

I would like to thank everyone involved with CULP for not only giving me this opportunity but also on behalf of the many other cadets that have enjoyed this wonderful experience. I hope that it expands because this experience will help all future officers that go through it to become adaptable leaders who can win hearts and minds through contact with the local population and relationship-building. -CDT Andrew Holben, MS-III

SPRING 2011 FTX



Spring FTX provided MS-III's with the ability to practice and experience the benefits of training with a different ROTC battalion. This experience produced the difficulties of meshing doctrine and SOP's with another unit grown on similar and yet conflicting ideas. The Wildcat Battalion distinguished itself from the UofL cadets by displaying superior knowledge in OPORD and TLP measures. It was clear that our thirst to excel was modeled by our camo, flak jacket, and positive demeanor. Overall, the weekend was challenging and rewarding and it presented many opportunities to practice what we had learned all year. Go Cats! -CDT Brian Johnson, MS-IV



Freshmen Retreat at Asbury University



The Ropes and Challenge course at Asbury College was a great way to start off the year as a MS2 in the UK ARMY ROTC program. It gave me the chance to interact with many of the new freshman and get to know them before a lot of the other cadets. It was also great to catch back up with a lot of the older Cadets who helped me grow and mature when I was a freshman cadet.

The actual ropes course was absolutely awesome! The low ropes course and FLRC lanes presented many leadership challenges and really promoted team building among the cadets. Many of the MS1's were given leadership opportunities right off the bat, and I think that is the right thing to do. It was great to see what kind of leadership qualities each of the MS-1's possessed, and it makes me look forward to helping them grow just as many of the older cadets did for me when I was a freshman!

The last part of the day was the high ropes course. This was a great part of the day as well. It promoted self-confidence and instilled a will to succeed in many of the young freshman. Overcoming fears, showing the ability that you can do things you didn't think you could, and learning to face your obstacles with a positive mind-set were some great lessons we took away from the high ropes course.

All in all, it was a great day. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and the incoming freshman class seems like a great group of cadets who will help take this program to where we want it to go.

GO CATS!
CDT Allan Ducker, MS-II



Congratulations to the Summer 2011 Commissioned Second Lieutenants (bringing us to 19 for the year)!

*2LT Mary Awoniyi, Louisville, KY
Judge Advocate General Corps*

*2LT Hunter Burkey, Greeneville, TN
Military Intelligence*

*2LT Nathan Dubie, Essex, VT
Infantry*

*2LT Charles Fulton, Warrenton, VA
Infantry*

*2LT Erin Hayden, Corbin, KY
Ordnance*

*2LT Jimmy Hornback, Larve, KY
Infantry*

*2LT Samantha Hornback, Louisville, KY
Finance*

*2LT William Hutcherson, Nelson, KY
Armor*

*2LT Matthew Lewis, Ashland, OH
Armor*

*2LT Joshua Mitchell, Crestwood, KY
Ordnance*

*2LT Brennan Parker, Murray, KY
Military Intelligence*

*2LT William Parker, Jr., Frankfort, KY
Aviation*

*2LT Jessica Powell, Venice, FL
Adjutant General*

*2LT George Schadler, Florence, KY
Signal Corps*

*2LT Benjamin Skaggs, Madisonville, KY
Aviation*



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