Another semester is in the books! I hope all of the Cadets in the Fighting Saints Battalion have had an opportunity to learn and grow as much as I have through this grand organization. On taking a look back at this semester, we had a ton of fun. The Dining-In was a blast and the skits were funnier than ever. MSG Arnold's whole hearted goodbye to the battalion was a great way to end the semester. The Legion of Merit that was awarded to the retiring MSG was an honor for all of us to witness. Also, we have two new Cadre members that will be joining us this coming semester: CPT Matthew LeBlanc, who is actually a St. Cloud State University Alumni, and MSG Thomas Biggerstaff who is a Minnesota native and will be the Senior Military Instructor and the main instructor of the MSIIIs as they prepare for LDAC. To the new freshman, I hope you enjoyed your first semester in college and ROTC. I know a lot of information was thrown at you, but try to retain as much of it as possible. Keep learning from the upper-classman. Sophomores, LDAC is much closer than you realize, keep working hard. You only have one more semester before the real fun begins. Juniors, this is it. One more semester left to prepare for Warrior Forge. Stay motivated, and don’t let the hard work get you down. The Fighting Saints had a great semester that was very productive and we all learned so much!

Continued on Page 8
I am now well into my fourth year as the Professor of Military Science here at the Fighting Saints Army ROTC. At this point, I have to admit that it can be more difficult to find new things to write about for our newsletter. One thing I will never have trouble doing is praising the outstanding Cadets that make up our program. Our MS IVs are an impressive bunch. They plan complex events for our Cadets. They help develop the next class leaders. They sponsor and mentor the new Cadets in our program. They do this all while maintaining their grades, playing sports, drilling with their units, and participating in life on campus. This juggling act that they perform is important to their development as officers for it helps them to understand the need to balance all the requirements and priorities of their professional life. I am privileged to witness the growth of all our Cadets. Our MS IIIIs are preparing diligently for Warrior Forge, the capstone training and evaluation event of their Cadet development. We are seeing leaders emerge in our MS II class as they accept more and more responsibility. The MS Is are a particular treat as they make the transition to college life. In this fourth year, I am also reminded that change is a constant in military service. We say farewell to our Senior Military Instructor, MSG Keith Arnold, who has served us so well. He has been the spearhead in Cadet development over the last three years, teaching and coaching our Cadets in the military skills they need to succeed as leaders. We will also see CPT Joe Berube depart; he has been our utility man, teaching classes, mentoring Cadets, and handling a large part of the administration necessary to keep the program running smoothly. These are not our only changes, we will welcome two new members to our team: MSG Biggerstaff and CPT LeBlanc. I know the will pick up where their predecessors have left off. Finally, I must announce a major change that will occur this summer. After 22 years of service, I have submitted my request to retire and intend to ride off into the sunset. I will be replaced by Tom Nelson, an officer currently serving with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky. No matter the changes in names and faces, one thing will continue: the tireless quest for leadership excellence by all the members of the Fighting Saints.

Train to Lead!
2009 Army Ten Miler
By Cadet Sarah Platzer

The morning of the race was an early one. With about 30,000 other runners crowding around the starting line, things were a little hectic. Cannons were fired to signal the start of the race and we quickly started to break off from each other. Throughout the entire race, people were cheering and motivating the runners. After completing the race, runners received an Army Ten-Miler completion coin, food, and drinks. Once everyone completed the race we headed back to the hotel to get ready to see the rest of this nation’s capital. The teams got to experience the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Reflection Pond, WWII Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, and the Korean Memorial. The next morning, we were in our Army Combat Uniforms (ACUs) for the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Conference. It started off remembering a few brave soldiers from the past. The guest speaker at this year’s conference was the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates. After his speech, awards were given out to specific AUSA Chapters throughout the nation and even the world. Our AUSA Chapter received the Best Chapter of 2009. After the luncheon, we went to the Army Expo which had presentations from hundreds of companies spread across an area covering the size of 4 football fields that were trying to cater to soldiers’ needs. There were companies that specialized in everything from medicine to aviation to robots to computers. This was a great opportunity for us as Cadets to see what is available to us as future officers. This year’s Army Ten-Miler was a successful FSB social and physical event.

If you are interested in joining our AUSA subchapter #5401-93 please contact Mr. DeJesus at 320-308-3930 or visit the AUSA website www.vessey5401.org/

2009 Ranger Challenge Competition
By Cadet Matthew Elden

On September 9, 2009 a group of nine Cadets caravanned to Camp Ripley to take part in this year’s Ranger Challenge Competition. The immense training prior to this competition began August 17th and consisted of 0545 PT sessions every morning followed by technical training every afternoon. The Fighting Saints’ Ranger Challenge Team learned to build a one rope bridge, honed their grenade throwing technique, took part in orienteering and patrolling, showed a mastery of basic rifle marksmanship, and developed themselves personally along the way.

The dedication and willingness to succeed showed our team’s true resolve. Although the season was not without difficulties, the team showed an ability to roll with the punches and not be defeated. The FSB Ranger Challenge Team did well during the competition. They had strong finishes in the Patrolling event, along with a great finish in the 10k Ruck run, and placed 6th overall. I am sure that I can speak for everyone who participated that weekend in saying thank you to all of the alternates, parents, and Cadre who were able to make this weekend such a success.
Congratulations to our Newest Second Lieutenant

The end of the 2009 Fall Semester was a pivotal time for Cadet Gerald Loher III. It marked an important transition of this young Cadet to Lieutenant. The accumulation of over two successful years through ROTC led to the commissioning of this future leader as Second Lieutenant in the MN Army National Guard. 2LT Loher successfully completed all necessary training as a Cadet to have the honor of earning the Bar of Gold. He will now move onto further training at BOLC II and continue to the Officer Basic Course of his selected branch before arriving at his National Guard unit. The commissioning ceremony was a special event attended by family, friends and fellow Cadets. Guests of honor included parents, Provost Devinder Malhotra and Associate Vice President Mitch Rubinstein of St. Cloud State University. On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate 2LT Loher on a job well done, we wish him the best of luck in his career as military officer.

Welcome Our Newest Cadre Members

CPT Matt LeBlanc is the new Fighting Saints Battalion Executive Officer and Assistant Professor of Military Science. He is a native Minnesotan growing up in Little Falls, and alum of the Fighting Saints Battalion. CPT LeBlanc is coming to us from Human Resources Command in Alexandria, VA. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from SCSU as well as a Master of Arts in Business and Organization Security Management from Webster University. He is married to the former Sarah Valiton, they have two daughters, and the family resides in Sartell, MN.

MSG Biggerstaff is another new addition to the Team and grew up 12 miles from CPT LeBlanc in Pierz Minnesota. MSG Biggerstaff is the new Senior Military Science Instructor who will replace the outgoing MSG Arnold. He is coming to us from the 370th Engineer Company in Bamberg, Germany where he served as the First Sergeant for the past three years. MSG Biggerstaff is a graduate of the Sapper Leaders Course, Air Assault School, Airborne School, and Drill Sergeant School. He has served in every leadership position as a Combat Engineer to the position of First Sergeant. He is married to his wife Manuela, and has three children, Marra, Tommy, and Lilly. They currently reside in Battle Lake, Minnesota.

Voice of the Army Support

Consider joining the Norberg sub chapter of AUSA. Since 1950, the Association of the United States Army has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members.

AUSA provides our Cadets numerous Professional Development Opportunities at a variety of events both local and national. Our chapter is named in honor of Jeremy Norberg, a Cadet who tragically died in a car accident two months shy of receiving his commission. He was a fine example of the seven Army values and was posthumously appointed a Second Lieutenant.

See the Minnesota chapter’s website at www.vessey5401.org/ or call Major Errington @ (320) 363–2342 to learn more.
This year's September 11th Community Commemoration Ceremony was as somber as the 7 before it. Local police departments, EMT staffs, fire fighters, and other members of the community made their way to honor those fallen from the attacks which took the lives of more 3400 Americans. The ceremony started with the Fighting Saints Color Guard followed by the singing of the National Anthem, invocation, remembrance, and closing. Along with the ceremony, the City of St. Cloud posted wreaths for each branch that assisted the victims of the terrorist attack that befall our country that infamous day. Many Minnesotans contributed to the recovery efforts, lining up at the blood donation banks, donating money and supplies, or even going to ground zero to assist in the recovery effort. Along with that, nearly all of Minnesota’s National Guard and Reserve troops have served in The Global War on Terror since the site of the tragedy that occurred that day, we are all united being Americans and though we are separated by great distances we stand resolved to Never Forget.

By Cadet John Ghorbati

Veteran’s Day Parade
By Cadet Derek Lundquist

On November 8, 2009, Cadets from the Army ROTC Fighting Saints Battalion participated in a parade in Saint Cloud dedicated to the memory of America's Veterans. The Cadets mustered in a parking lot outside of the Veteran's Affairs Hospital and marched behind the Saint Cloud Veterans of Past and Present Wars. After completing the parade the Cadets had the honor to share coffee and cookies with Veterans and most importantly thank them for their service. Americans celebrated Veterans Day which originates from Armistice Day, which was first proclaimed by President Wilson for the date of 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1911. The Fighting Saints Battalion is proud of the service of Veterans before them and humbled to carry on the tradition of the finest Army in the world.

By Cadet Colman Silbernagel

Fall FTX
By Cadet Glen Belmer

The Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) is a weekend long event that is used to provide MS III Cadets with an insight into what the rest of the year’s expectations will entail, as well as what the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) is going to be like. MSI’s and MS II’s were introduced to many different concepts that provided them experiences that will prove useful in their future training this year, and in the years to come. On Friday, the MS III’s began the weekend by conducting the Night Land Navigation (NLN) course in the woods surrounding Saint John’s University. Upon completion of the NLN course, the MS III’s were moved to a different location to conduct rock drills, which are mock battle drills performed step by step so that the Cadets can learn and understand how to perform the important steps in each drill. On Saturday, we were given an OPORD (Operations Order) class that taught us the finite details of briefing the Squad you are in charge of during the Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes that would follow that afternoon. Following the OPORD class, we conducted Day Land Navigation and STX lanes. These lanes were the first opportunity for the MS III’s to lead a tactical exercise in their ROTC training. These lanes were also an opportunity for the MS I’s and MS II’s to become familiar with these tactical exercises. After the completion of the STX lanes, the MS I’s and II’s were released for the weekend while the MS III’s received a class on Patrol Base Operations. After our class, we moved into the woods to apply what we had learned. In the early morning hours of Sunday we set up an Ambush for one of the other squads that was moving down a road. All MS III’s that completed this weekend’s training gained insight and knowledge that will prove incredibly useful for their Warrior Forge training at Ft. Lewis, WA.

2009 Dining-In
By Cadet Colman Silbernagel

November once again brought the annual Dining-In event. The Dining-In is a celebration of military tradition and an opportunity to build camaraderie within the Fighting Saints Battalion. Not only was the Dining-In filled with the usual festivities and good food, we also celebrated the twenty-four year career of our own Master Sergeant Keith Arnold, honoring him with the Legion of Merit Medal. Cadet Breuer presided over the mess as the Battalion Commander and assisting him was Mr. Vice, Cadet Lundquist. Cadet Lefeve oversaw the grog, that traditional and tasty beverage made in remembrance of those who came before us consisting of among other things Tabasco sauce, cooked hamburger meat, and coffee. Mr. Vice ensured complete compliance with the Rules of the Mess assisted by the Cadre and other Cadets making points of order. Due to his exuberant contributions, Cadet Haider was crowned the “Buzzkill,” an award noted for the Cadet that notes the most infractions. The night was also full of other games and challenges including Cadet Lentz’s superior commitment to physical fitness as champion of the arm wrestling as he defeated Cadets Oemig and Christiansen. It was a night of fun and festivity, one which the Fighting Saints Battalion will certainly remember.
On July 31, I arrived in Frankfurt, Germany and headed to Saarbrücken. I decided to travel here alone for three days just to visit a city that I had interest in. The city was gorgeous. The city has a strong French influence on it as many times throughout its history it has been under French control. I then traveled to a small community of about 6,000 people called Einhausen near Mannheim. I stayed there for nearly four weeks. During my stay I did extensive hiking, had a chance to practice my German, and participated in an annual tradition of my host family of collecting plums for schnapps. After my stay in Einhausen, I traveled to Salzburg. In addition to studying, I had a chance to explore the city. I walked up and down every street and took every bus line just for fun. Also, while I was there, I had a chance to visit some notable locations including Hitler's Eagle's Nest, Munich's Oktoberfest, and Vienna. During a traveling weekend, I went with my classmates for fun to Ljubljana, Slovenia and there I was able to see a former communist country trying to compete in a global market. We toured a museum that explained the history of Slovenia and it is extremely sad. The people have endured many hardships during the past 100 years. Overall, I believe that this study abroad semester has opened my eyes to the cultures and struggles of people throughout the world. It is fascinating to learn in such a different environment and to be immersed in a different culture daily. This experience of other cultures can only help me lead as an officer as well as working with those from different countries in the near future.

Study abroad to Germany
By Cadet Gregory Sandquist

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Support Your Local Staff Ride

Every year Cadet Command expects MSIV’s to study a battle and conduct an on-site staff ride. This helps them learn from history about the challenges and opportunities they might face as officers in wartime. Our goal is to see one of the most important battlefields in American history: Gettysburg and focus on the heroic actions of the First Minnesota Regiment. Could you help us pay for transportation or lodging?

If you would like to donate to our trip, please make your checks out to “Cadet Battalion Fund” and mail to: Dept of Military Science, ATTN: MAJ Errington, 7099 Guild Hall, Collegeville, MN 56321, or call MAJ Errington at 320-363-2342.

Please consider joining our AUSA chapter. Tell your soldiers about Green-to-Gold at SCSU, CSB, or SJU. We expect to have some seats available at our Military Ball on April 23rd, 2010, it would be great if you could join us. Keep checking our website for updates from your brothers and sisters. http://armyrotc.com/edu/mnstjohns

If you know a post-command active duty Captain who would like to serve on our Cadre, give LTC Fischer a call at 320-363-2715
Sights from Fall 2009

FSB Closing formation during Fall FTX

2009 FSB Ranger Challenge Team

CDT Majkrzak conducts pull ups during PT

CDT Lundquist enjoys sipping the grog

FSB color guard at 2009 the Dining In

Every Cadet takes part in the CWST

Cadets conduct training during the 2009 Fall FTX

September 11th Ceremony in St. Cloud, MN

MSG Arnold receives a gift mug from MS IVs

CDT Belmer shows his Viking’s Pride
The Fall FTX was a demanding task for all involved. The training was tough, and will help to build us into the future leaders of the Army. The Cadre pushed us all semester, and some of us may have been yelled at, but remember, it was because the Cadre know we can be better and they have to push us to reach our full potential. Upperclassmen, keep mentoring the younger Cadets and helping them improve on a daily basis. It was an honor and a privilege to be the Cadet Battalion Commander for such a great group of Cadets. Give the same respect to the new Battalion Commander and make his job as easy as mine was. Make sure to continue doing PT over the break, you do not want to lose everything you have worked so hard for this semester. Taking a few weeks off from PT will make those first few PT sessions very trying for you. I had a great time working with everyone this semester! Be sure to congratulate CDT Gerald Loher III on his commissioning as a 2LT into the Army National Guard as an Engineer.

Do you know a future Cadet?
If you know a young person who has the potential to be an Officer, tell them about us! They don’t have to be from Minnesota!

We have great opportunities for Green-to-Gold; two/three/or four year scholarships (CSB/SJU/SCSU even pay for room & board); and the Simultaneous Membership Program. Call 320-363-2717 for more info.

Cadet Commander’s Corner cont’d
The Fall FTX was a demanding task for all involved. The training was tough, and will help to build us into the future leaders of the Army. The Cadre pushed us all semester, and some of us may have been yelled at, but remember, it was because the Cadre know we can be better and they have to push us to reach our full potential. Upperclassmen, keep mentoring the younger Cadets and helping them improve on a daily basis. It was an honor and a privilege to be the Cadet Battalion Commander for such a great group of Cadets. Give the same respect to the new Battalion Commander and make his job as easy as mine was. Make sure to continue doing PT over the break, you do not want to lose everything you have worked so hard for this semester. Taking a few weeks off from PT will make those first few PT sessions very trying for you. I had a great time working with everyone this semester! Be sure to congratulate CDT Gerald Loher III on his commissioning as a 2LT into the Army National Guard as an Engineer.

Have a very safe holiday and enjoy the time that you will have with your families. Stay safe and stay motivated. Another Semester is around the corner!

Spring 2010 Events

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<td>Bataan, White Sands</td>
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<td>Spring FTX</td>
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