



On Memorial Day, remember those who served.

Spring 2007

# FIGHTING SAINTS LEADER

## From the PMS

PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

By Lieutenant Colonel James C. Fischer



LTC James C. Fischer

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## Cadet Commander's Corner

By Cadet LTC Kevin R. McCabe

Fighting Saints Battalion; as this semester draws to a close, I would like to leave everyone with a few ideas. The first is to use the resources around you. This program has a wealth of knowledge in our cadre. It is up to us as cadets to access this knowledge. The second thing is always strive to get better. Soon we will be officers and we need to lead from the front. The last thing is to thank everyone for all of the wonderful memories and knowledge that I and my peers have gained over the past four years.

When I started as a cadet in this program over three years ago I was lost and had no idea what I was doing. All I knew was that I had watched John Wayne's movie, "Green Beret", and knew that I wanted to be just like him. As the year moved along I listened to all of the great stories and lessons that the older ROTC cadets told along with the instructors taught. I also realized that John Wayne was not a good green beret but instead a good actor.

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# Bataan Memorial Death March

By Cadet Tim Biocic

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On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers were surrendered to Japanese forces. The Americans were Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines. The Bataan Memorial Death March was started in 1989 to honor those soldiers for what they endured together.

They were marched for days, as prisoners, in the scorching heat through the Philippine jungles. Thousands died. Those who survived faced the hardships of a prisoner of war camp. Others were wounded or killed when unmarked enemy ships transporting prisoners of war to Japan were sunk by U.S. air and naval forces.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2007, a group of 19 cadets and two of our cadre volunteered to compete in this commemorative march held annually at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The volunteers from The Fighting Saints Battalion ran 26.2 miles through rough terrain at an elevation of 4,100-5,300 feet in the desert. We had three 5-6 man teams and five individual runners.

## Team 1

Nathan Justin, Adam Larson, Cody Martin, Tyler Kostiuk & Timothy Johnson 6:12:44

## Team 2

Gregory Sandquist, Jacob Haider, Kevin Maxwell, Caroline North & Christopher Olson 8:52:26

## Team 3

Aaron Johnson, Michael Moore, Luke Thomsen, Brett Rosequist, LTC John Zeitler & Anthony Muccio 8:06:36

In the original Death March the prisoners had no hope of survival. They all came together and helped each other in a desperate time and kept the spirit alive. As I watched members of the Fighting Saints Battalion cross the finish line I saw how they had remembered the spirit of those soldiers that surrendered. Our cadets and cadre that ran the event pushed themselves as hard as they could to not only accomplish their personal best but also ensure that everyone made it across the finish line.

The trip to New Mexico was a fun and enlightening experience for everyone that went. I hope that the Fighting Saints Battalion will always have the resources to offer this opportunity to future cadets. It is a significant part of the lives of those who participate and is a good way to demonstrate the spirit I see in all of our cadets.

## Individual Times

Robert Bauleke	3:56:01
MSG Keith Arnold	5:06:43
Mr. Alberto DeJesus	5:25:06
Eric Neutkens	7:27:44



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# Spring Training

By Cadet Heather Mangen

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The spring semester has offered me the opportunity to see leadership labs from a very unique perspective. I have been able to train as an MSIII during each lab while continuing to play a role as an MSIV, albeit a minimal role, in their planning. Through the eyes of an MSIII, the planning and execution of lab training seems like a simple task. When viewed from the MSIV side of life, however, labs look quite different. Every aspect of a lab, from equipment to safety, must be planned for in order to achieve effective training. The heavy effort required to properly

plan lab is hidden by the smooth execution of each and every lab this semester.

The remarkable level of work that I saw go in to planning and coordinating every lab this semester is precisely what made it look so easy. All members of the cadet staff did their part to construct an effective plan which could be adjusted in the face of any unforeseen challenge. Extreme cold Minnesota weather posed one such challenge by forcing the cancellation of February lab. Training time was not lost, however, because creative course of action were immediately developed and assessed, and necessary adjustments were made to the

training plan. Other great challenges, such as numerous changes in Fighting Saints Battalion Cadre, were also met in stride to ensure the most positive training experience possible during leadership labs. I am confident that next years MSIV class will continue to meet new challenges and work for the most effective lab training possible in order to ensure that the cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion are prepared to lead their future soldiers.

# From the Senior Military Instructor

## MSG Keith H. Arnold

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Arriving only two months ago the cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) were in full swing with school, training and special events. In this short time our cadets have conducted lab training, a multi-school FTX, combat water survival test, Bataan Death March, Earth Day Half-Marathon, and challenging physical training. All this has been accomplished while maintaining good grades and an active social schedule. The overall Battalion Army Physical Fitness Test results improved more than 4%. This type of dedication from our Army and Nations future leaders is inspiring.

Being an Enlisted Soldier for more than 21 years I understand what Army Soldiers are looking for in a

leader. These young men and women are displaying these traits on a daily basis. They are being well educated in a myriad of disciplines that will enable them to deal with the challenges of leadership in our evolving world. FSB has a reputation of commissioning confident and competent leaders throughout the Army. Our latest credentials received their commission on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2007; the future still looks bright developing America's leaders for the next Quarter Century.

Once all of our cadets return from either summer training or just taking a break from school we will once again focus on continuing to develop our Battalion to its fullest potential. In the Fall Semester we will have

four lab training exercises, with one of them being an FTX that will last the entire weekend. This allows for our newest group of young leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Additionally we will compete in the Brigades Ranger Challenge Competition held at FT. Ripley. A small contingent will attend the Army 10 Miler at Washington, DC. These are only highlights of the commitment our cadet are making to prepare themselves for the rigors of leadership and does not include all the physical training they attend or the studying to maintain a high GPA.

## Joint FTX

By Cadet Aaron Johnson

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At this springs Brigade FTX a lot of things were going on, outside and in. As the S1 for the event, I was in charge of the personnel from five different schools. While other cadets were in the woods briefing OPORDs and running STX Lanes, I was in the TOC with the XO making sure everything went smoothly. The XO and I coordinated the movements between events, accountability of all cadets, and ensuring that the transition to the next event would be han-

dled smoothly.

A huge aspect of the military is keeping track of your soldiers. As the S1, I was responsible for making sure the whereabouts of over two hundred fifty cadets. Knowing who was leaving early, who was a sick call, and who was arriving late made it a challenge, but I can say that no one was left behind at this year's FTX.

The last aspect of spending FTX in the TOC was seeing all the behind the scenes work that ensures FTX is done well. In my previous three years attendance, I had no idea the amount of work that went into planning such a large scale event. Being in the TOC gave me first hand experience at what planning a large scale event entails. It gave me a perspective as to what operations will be like in my future career.

## Leadership Labs

By Cadet Justin Evander

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The 2007 spring semester has been a busy one for the Fighting Saints Battalion. In the past few months, and always, we have trained toward the goal of leadership excellence. In order to accomplish this goal, we are continuously assessing our MS III cadets to make certain they are reaching their full potential and ensuring our MS I and II cadets are developing their basic Army skills.

This semesters' training has consisted of combat water survival training, ruck marches and runs, physical training, squad tactical exercises and patrolling. In my eyes, our

biggest accomplishment this entire year was the successful completion of the four day Field Training Exercise with ROTC schools around the area. The FSB was in charge of this entire event and the MS IV's spent countless grueling hours during the planning stages and many went without much sleep during execution. During this FTX the MS I's were first introduced to our strenuous Army training, while the MS II's helped them increase their knowledge and basic Army skills. The MS III's used all the training opportunities to perfect their skills and to ensure they are prepared

to attend LDAC in the summer.

Overall, Spring Semester 2007 has been extremely successful in training our cadets toward leadership excellence. All of our training accomplishments would not be possible without our committed cadre and our enthusiastic cadets. I would like to send out thanks to everyone who has devoted their time to ensure our cadets were trained to standard.

# Commissioning Photos

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2LT Chris Olson and MSG Keith H. Arnold



SFC Derek Fussell and 2LT Heather Mangen



LTC John Zeitler swearing in 2LT Aaron Johnson



LTC John Zeitler swearing in 2LT Kevin McCabe



LTC John Zeitler swearing in 2LT Kyle Parker



Pinning 2LT Timothy Woolery

## Sights from Spring 2007



CDT North accepting an award at the Military Ball



CDT Moore at the Spring FTX



CDT Lundquist, CDT Kramer and CDT Koeberl at the Spring FTX 2007



BG Richardson and CDT Neutkens at commissioning



Bataan Death March in New Mexico



LTC John Zeitler and CDT Olson at the Military Ball

## Sights from Spring 2007 cont'd



CDT Thao during the 2 mile run at a PT test



LTC Fischer swearing in CDT Illies, CDT Huebner, CDT Thomsen and CDT Oemig



CDT Dietz and CDT Fair at March lab



CDT Bauleke grading CDT Sandquist' on sit-ups at the PT Test



Cadets at the Bataan Memorial Death March



CDT Kramer driving the LMTS at FTX

## From the PMS cont'd

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others about the opportunities available through military service. They brought in friends to join us. They met with other students to discuss military affairs and educate them on the selfless service, honor, and integrity of those in uniform.

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They are all on a path that will lead them to one of the highest callings of our land: an officer in the Armed Forces. This year we commissioned one officer in December, eight on May 12, and will commission two more this summer. We will send seventeen to Warrior Forge and nine to various summer training opportunities such as airborne, mountain warfare, or drill cadet training.

These are certainly not your typical college kids. If I had a dollar for everything they had learned since starting in the fall, I would probably be a millionaire (of course if I had to then give back a dollar for everything the cadre had learned, I probably break even).

The cadre and staff have not sat idly by, waiting to see what happens. Our new Senior Military Instructor, MSG Arnold, came to us from the 101<sup>st</sup> and is just a few credits from completing his bachelors. He, Mr. Dejesus, and LTC Zeitler completed the Bataan Memorial Death March this spring. SFC Fussell is taking credits toward his Associate's when he is not up at 4:30 am picking up cadets for events or preparing us for the next event. MAJ Mattila completed the Command and General Staff College- a critical milestone in an officer's development- and has completed several triathlons. Mr. Grams was promoted to GS 7 and earned employee of the quarter earlier this year. Mr. Dejesus also com-

pleted the recent half-marathon along with MSG Arnold and me. He stepped in to teach MSIIIs until MSG Arnold arrived. Mr. Joe Peterson, who came to us from West Point, has reorganized the cadet files and completed several that were delinquent. Our new University Secretary, Mrs. Molly Wiemann, was selected from a pool of over thirty well-qualified applicants. All were good she was the best and has proven our choice since joining. CPT Joey Errington, our new XO, recently returned from his second tour in Iraq and from the IAD in Germany where he successfully commanded his battery.

We live in challenging times. We are not the first to do so, and I doubt we will be the last. The thing that humbles me the most every day is that, despite the uncertainties and risks before us, our cadets have come forward to serve. Every day they show the same resolve, dedication, and devotion that our ancestors have shown during the Civil War, the Second World War, and the Cold War. They do this so that our Nation -you, me, our neighbors, friends, families, and communities- continues to live secure in a land governed of the people, by the people, and for the people. They still have much to learn, but with continued effort on their part, they will succeed and excel in their ability to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies.

If you are a veteran of our program, I appeal to you to contact us and let us know how you are doing. Would you be willing to speak to our cadets? Could you help build the Cadet Fund to pay for opportunities such as the Army Ten-miler, the Bataan Death March, or a staff ride to Gettysburg? Would you be willing to join Association of the United States Army as a member of our Fighting Saints Battalion/Travis Norberg Sub-chapter.

ROTC is an environment where the most up-to-date knowledge is brought to the cadets through the cadre. I have seen 2 PMS, and a complete change of all cadre since I have been in this program. I have also learned many different ways to solve a problem. Cadets gain these insights by asking questions and learning from the experts that teach us everyday. As my class moves on to become Lieutenants, we will be able to use the wealth of knowledge that we have had for the past four years to help us to be successful as the newest leaders in the Army.

As soon to be officers, it is our job as cadets to strive to learn and better ourselves everyday. A leader is someone who wants to take charge and be in front in order to demonstrate the skills necessary to accomplish the mission at hand. The best way to learn and enhance those skills is to never be satisfied with second place. Leaders motivate their soldiers from the front. The only way to be in front is to drive yourself to success. As we seniors graduate, we will be moving from the little pond into the big pond. The only way for a person who is successful here to be better there is through a drive to better yourself.

As the seniors leave, we would like to thank everyone who was a part of our path to becoming lieutenants. We would not have been able to learn and be successful without your help. I would especially like to thank the Cadre and younger cadets for your support and knowledge as we learned throughout this past year. Without your dedication to us and this program we would not be able to become officers. Lastly, a challenge to all remaining cadets, it is now your responsibility to surpass any milestones that we may have set this year.

Thank you and Good Luck,

C/LTC McCabe

## More Sights from Spring 2007



FSB Color Guard at College of St. Benedict basketball game



Cadets Johnson & Koeberl accepting an award at the Military Ball

# Military Ball 2007

By Cadet Chris Olson

The Spring Military Ball took place on Friday, April 27 as one of the major Battalion events of the school year. The Radisson Inn and Suites was chosen as our site and did not disappoint with outstanding service, enjoyable atmosphere, and delicious food. During the social, cadets introduced their parents and dates to our cadre giving many of them a first glimpse to the more sophisticated side of the military in the receiving line. A Fighting Saints' veteran, 1LT Richard Martinson, home on leave from his first tour of duty in Iraq honored us with his presence. He was a class of 2004 graduate and a mentor to the current MSIV class when they were young MSIs. Dinner and conversation followed the social hour. LTC Fischer gave a "State of the Battalion Address" which recognized the achievements of cadets and cadre and gave our guests an appreciation that we are not your ordinary college students.

This year's Military Ball and more important unit success would not have been possible without donations from family and friends. It was an honor having all of those contributors at the Military Ball with us this year to enjoy the food, celebrate our accomplishments, make friends, and dance the night away.

We would also like to mention and thank everyone that provided the awards for excellence and patriotism. Each year organizations donate time and money in order to present awards and gifts for our cadets. Thank you to all of the donors for their patriotism, their faith in the Army and their commitment to the excellence to the Fighting Saints Battalion.

For his genuine respect, selfless support, and steadfast loyalty to the Cadets, we recognized the SJU Athletic Director, Mr. Tom Stock, as this year's Guardian Angel of our program. Tom has supported

our access to the athletic facilities on Saint John's campus and helped us promote our program. Tom received a framed certificate, a battalion coin, and his name graces the Guardian Angel plaque that hangs in the SJU ROTC office.

To conclude, the Fighting Saints Battalion would like to thank all of the presenters and everyone who came to the Military Ball. We intend to move to a larger location next year so that we can invite more of our friends, family, and alums. Lastly we would like to leave an open invitation for all Alumni/ae to come and join us for next year's Military Ball planned for April 25. Please contact the ROTC email account at [rotc@csbsju.edu](mailto:rotc@csbsju.edu) if you have any questions.



## Organization

**FIGHTING SAINTS BATTALION**  
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Spring 2007 Battalion Run

If you are interested in ROTC or have any questions please feel free to visit our office either at St. John's or St. Cloud University campus. At SCSU we are located downstairs Stewart Hall room 16 and at St. John's we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:

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