



# Fighting Saints

## Commander's Corner

PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

By LTC James C. Fischer

To all the cadets, alumni, friends of the Fighting Saints, and members of the community, welcome to our little newsletter. You may not guess it from the stern look of my photo, but I am absolutely thrilled to be here. To have the opportunity to work with so many outstanding people would give anyone cause to pause and reflect. The positive reputation of this program, the proven excellence of its cadets, and the awesome responsibility of building the future of America's Army are inspiring. I am blessed to serve in such a fine organization and honored to take it to new achievements.

The summer has marked a period of great change for the cadre of the Fighting Saints Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Pederson leaves a great legacy in the wake of his retirement. Captains Simmons and Schaefer, Master Sergeant Hejhal, Sergeant First Class Held, and Mr. Steve Lundorff have contributed in ways, big and small, to the program over the years. Please join me in thanking them for their selfless service. While they will all be sorely

missed, I am confident that we will continue our tradition of leadership excellence. Those of us who have recently arrived dedicate ourselves to cadets, community, and country. I promise you we will maintain the standards necessary to provide quality of officers to the Army. Our Country deserves no less.

This newsletter will update you on the highlights of the last few months. As is always the case, the cadets have been busy learning, training, growing, and developing in preparation to earn that bar of gold. The Spring FTX was a success. We commissioned a superb class of new Second Lieutenants. Performance at Warrior Forge remains solid. When you are done reading these pages you should have a good idea about who we are and what we do.

As the summer draws to a close, I urge you all to be safe. Cadets, I look forward to seeing you soon, happy, healthy, and ready to go. If you are an alumnus, particularly one who has deployed to defend the Nation during the War on



LTC James C. Fischer

Terror, we would love to hear your stories. Contact me when you can.

If you have any questions whatsoever, don't hesitate for a minute to call us or email. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

LTC Fischer



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# New Lieutenants

By 2LT Chris Bingham

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This year the program was proud to commission nineteen new Second Lieutenants. This is the 54th Commissioning class for the Fighting Saints Battalion ROTC program. The Lieutenants of this commissioning class will be the first to go through the Army's new Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). The newly commissioned Lieutenants will start their careers in many different branches of the Army, from Aviation to Infantry to Nursing. We would like to recognize all the new Lieutenants by name:

1. **Eric Athman**
2. **Christopher Bingham**
3. **Christopher Blanc**

4. **Jeremy Caldwell**
5. **Kirk Chalmers**
6. **Scott Cummings**
7. **Kelly DeWein**
8. **Caitlin Ebbets**
9. **Michael Henderson**
10. **Christopher Lohmer**
11. **Karly Mangan**
12. **Shaun Meling**
13. **Jamie Neumann**
14. **Terrell Ormson**
15. **Benjamin Peterson**
16. **Maxwell Smith**

17. **Laura Strecker**
18. **Anton Swanson**
19. **Michael Thompson**

As the Lieutenants go their separate ways, please join our department in wishing all of them the best of luck as they start their new careers in our Army.



# Spring Semester 2006

By 2LT Chris Bingham

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This Spring Semester was once again a very busy time for the cadets. In addition to the rigorous schedule of typical college students the cadets also had the task of planning and participating in numerous training events.

One of these events was the annual Spring Field Training Exercises (FTX). Every year in the spring the Fighting Saints Battalion heads up to Camp Ripley for 4 days to participate in training exercises. The Seniors of the program are responsible for planning, coordinating and executing one of the training events. This year the senior's area of responsibility was the STX (Squad Tacti-

cal Exercise) lanes. These lanes give the Juniors a chance to hone their leadership skills before departing to their Leadership Development Assessment Course in the upcoming Summer. Other training events at the FTX include Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Rappelling, Land Navigation and Field Leadership Reaction Course. In addition to our program, schools from all over the state along with schools from North Dakota and South Dakota participated in these training exercises.

Not everything that the Cadets do is work. Every Spring the program holds its Military Ball. This gives both

Cadets and Cadre along with their families a chance to meet and socialize. At this Spring's Military Ball the Fighting Saints Battalion had the honor of having Senator David Durenberger as the guest speaker. Senator Durenberger was a member of the first commissioning class from Fighting Saints Battalion. His experience as one of the first commissionees from the program provided the Cadets with a unique look into how the program has changed and matured. The Battalion once again would like to say thank you to Senator Durenberger for sharing his time and experiences.



# Warrior Forge

By 2LT Jeremy Caldwell

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After your MSIII year in ROTC, all cadets are required to go to Warrior Forge, also known as the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), at Fort Lewis, Washington. The 33-day training event incorporates a wide range of subjects designed to develop and evaluate ones leadership ability. At Warrior Forge each cadet is placed in a variety of leadership positions in garrison and in the field, which are meant to simulate stressful combat situations. In each position, cadets receive an evaluation from an officer or noncommissioned officer that is assigned to the platoon. One's performance at LDAC is a

major component of the cadet's overall evaluation, which determines what branch that cadet will get within the Army.

During the 33 days of training at Warrior Forge, cadets are able to demonstrate their proficiency and knowledge in many military skills. Some of the training and evaluated events that are performed within this time are as follows: the APFT, Land Navigation (day, night, and written), Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Confidence training, First Aid training, NBC training, Fire Support, Hand Grenades, Field Lead-

ership Reaction Course (FLRC), Squad Situational Training Exercises (STX), and Patrolling. Besides the valuable training that you receive, cadets get to meet people from all over the country-people that you'll keep in touch with long after training has been completed. It is a great experience and you learn a lot, not just about military skills, but also about yourself and your leadership abilities. The training during Warrior Forge is meant to develop you and help you become a better officer in the United States Army.

## CTLT

By 2LT Caitlin Ebbets

The opportunities given to cadets are unique experiences that teach us lessons that are hard-taught in a classroom. In a perfect ROTC system every cadet would be able to attend extra training because you never know who you'll meet, what you'll see, or what you'll learn. Immediately following Warrior Forge 2005, I traveled to Ft. Polk Louisiana for three weeks of Cadet Troop Lead Training (CTLT). I was paired with a first lieutenant (1LT) who was the platoon leader for a military police platoon. The platoon was part of a new Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) which meant everything I knew about military organizations did not apply. During my time at FT Polk I participated in training, took on some of the duties a platoon leader does each day, and interacted with soldiers who all had unique experiences. Because the platoon was part of a BCT battalion, the 1LT worked with officers and NCOs from the infantry, chemical corps, military intelligence, and engineers. This set-up gave me the unique opportunity to interact with soldiers from different branches and experiences, in fact, many of my hours were spent sitting in the office listening to an infantry Master Sergeant tell war stories.

Some of the training opportunities I participated in involved helping, watching, or joining the soldiers of the military police platoon in their training. The first day I was with the platoon the soldiers were checking and storing their equipment after coming in from three weeks of field exercises.

One of the specialists taught me how to do the maintenance checks on humvees, another private first class taught me about the gear and equipment they have available to them as military policemen, and the squad leaders constantly showed me their roles and expectations for their soldiers. Throughout the next three weeks I sat in on the classes the soldiers were receiving as part of their training before being deployed to Afghanistan,

I acted as the officer in charge of an M203 range the squad leaders and team leaders did, I went through the OC pepper spray qualifications with the platoon, I sat in on field grade and company grade discipline hearings, went to the battalion commanders house for a hail and farewell and reception of the battalion coin, and I went and observed a different military police unit and a military intelligence unit during their field training exercises in what is known as "the box," which is the most realistic training US military units receive before their deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq. Overall, my CTLT experiences taught me a lot about what being a platoon leader is like, what military life is like, and about the military in general, I met extraordinary people who excelled at their job and inspired others to do their best, I learned more about myself and my personal goals for while I'm in the military, but most importantly, I took advantage of an opportunity given to me by ROTC and loved it.



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*This Newsletter was published to bring you the latest news of the Fighting Saints Battalion. This semester has seen a lot of activity, including excellent training, new programs, and other fun events. Cadets from all three schools contributed to the participation of events and the writing of the articles.*

*A special thank you goes out to all the cadets who provided articles for this edition*

*If you want to see yourself in the spring Newsletter, submit articles or pictures through your chain of command.*

*Thank you all for contributing so much to the Battalion and making this semester a great one.*

## Welcome our new Cadre

As the Cadets return to school for the fall semester they will notice some new faces around the department. The new Professor of Military Science who has taken over for Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Robert Pederson is LTC James C. Fischer. LTC Fischer comes to the Department of Military Science from Fort Hood, TX where he served as the Air Defense Officer for the First Cavalry Division. He brings with him many years of invaluable experience and expertise. For those of you have been with the program for a couple of years, you may remember LTC John Zeitler. LTC Zeitler was deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. LTC Zeitler will be returning this fall as the MS I Instructor, replacing Captain Rob Simmons. Our new Battalion Executive Officer is Major (MAJ) Alfloyd William Jr. He

comes to the Battalion after two years of supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Field Artillery Officer. The new Battalion Recruiting Officer replacing Captain (CPT) Simon Schaefer's duties is MAJ Robb Mattila. MAJ Mattila is a member of the Minnesota Army National Guard as an Engineer Officer and is a SCSU ROTC alumnus. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Derek Fussell will be taking over SFC Held's duties as the MS II Instructor. SFC Fussell comes to the program following an extensive tour in Germany as an Air Defense Platoon Sergeant. Mr. Harlan Grams has assumed the duties of our Supply Technician from Mr. Scott Forsyth. Mr. Grams served as a Supply Sergeant in the Minnesota National Guard. His expertise in this area is a great attribute to the program. Mr. Grams will be the point of contact for

any Cadets with supply issues. As cadets visit the ROTC office at St. John's University they may notice that Steve Lundorff's office is empty. Mr. Lundorff was our Human Resources Assistant and this summer, after almost ten years of service to the Fighting Saints Battalion, he has retired. In addition, Master Sergeant Mark Hejhal who was with the program for a couple of years, and served as a mentor for many of the Cadets has also retired. Join me in extending a warm welcome to all the new Cadre, and a hearty farewell and best wishes to all those who have left.

## Sights from Spring / Summer 2006



