

Impossible is a word found  
only in a fool's dictionary.  
Napoleon

Spring 2008

# FIGHTING SAINTS LEADER



FSB 2008 Commissioning Class

## What's Inside:

- ◇ From the PMS and SMI pg 2
- ◇ Staff Ride pg 3
- ◇ Bataan Death March pg 3
- ◇ Military Ball pg 3
- ◇ Broomball pg 4
- ◇ Leadership Labs pg 4
- ◇ Norwegian Exchange pg 5
- ◇ Ice Fishing Tournament pg 5
- ◇ LDAC –Are we ready? pg 6
- ◇ SVRC at CSB/SJU pg 6
- ◇ SCSU Veterans Program pg 6
- ◇ Sights from Spring 08 pg 7

## The Army's Newest Officers

By Cadet Kymberly Koenig

On May 10, 2008, the Fighting Saints Battalion commissioned twelve of the Army's newest Second Lieutenants. This marked the end of our class' lives as cadets and served as the beginning of our lives as officers. After successfully completing all the requirements of ROTC, we took the Oath of Office and were pinned with the bar of gold of a Second Lieutenant.

We will now join other newly Commissioned Officers from across the country and continue

training at BOLC 2 and the Officer Basic Course of our selected branch.

Many new lieutenants will serve as trainer and evaluators or cadets at the Leaders Training Course (LTC) and Leaders Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). Upon completion of this temporary duty, the Lieutenants will move on to officer basic course.

Congratulations to all the newly commissioned Lieutenants and best of luck in the future!

## Cadet Commander's Corner

By Cadet LTC William Durbin

After this last semester, the cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion are ready to meet the challenges that they will face. The last several months have been filled with physical training, Situational Training Exercises and land navigation, ending with our Brigade's Field Training Exercise at Camp Ripley where our battalion excelled in performance.

Our rigorous training exercises have prepared our ca-

dets for summer training at Warrior Forge, Airborne school, and Air Assault school, where they will surely excel.

As I end my ROTC career I am very proud of this battalion and wish all of the cadets the best as they continue on their paths to being Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.



## From the Professor of Military Science

LTC James C. Fischer



Thanks for taking the time to read about our Cadets and their achievements. They are an incredible group of people. The Cadre and I are honored to serve with them and watch them grow. Our battalion is doing well.

We are expanding. This year

17 new Lieutenants came from our schools and over 20 Cadets joined. Next year, we forecast 22 will take the oath of office and over 30 will join our program. We should send seven prospects to the Leader's Training Course at FT Knox where they will qualify for a scholarship. We have over 100 people participating on our campuses. We contacted local high schools to connect students to our opportunities. Young people remain interested in serving their country.

We are training. You read in previous editions about our success over the summer, at the Army Ten-miler, and at Ranger Challenge. We continue to teach Cadets to lead under pressure. We just returned from the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Ripley where our MS III's did VERY well. We have high expectations for this year's juniors as they travel to Fort Lewis for Warrior Forge, the capstone Leader Development and Assessment Course.

We are learning. Our GPA is still over 3.0. Several Cadets are double majors; several are above 3.8. They are studying abroad, completing internships, and writing their theses. Among the Cadre, CPT Hintgen has completed his master's degree, Major Mattila is progressing toward his and Major

Errington is attending several Army schools this spring. LTC(R) Dave Grossman spoke to us about the "Bulletproof Mind."

We are serving. Our Cadets judged a science fair, gave blood, were EMTs, were members of civic groups, and sat on the board of their student veteran organization. Several are Big Brothers/ Big Sisters. Over forty Cadets are members of the Association of the United States Army. LTC Zeitler remains deployed to Afghanistan. We pray for his success and safe return.

We are leading. Our Cadets are team captains, club officers, members of organizations, and advisors in the dorms. They lead shifts at factories, manage restaurants, and supervise facilities. Some work full-time to support families. They set up the first Student Veterans' Resource Center at a private university in Minnesota.

We are growing. Through physical fitness, mental toughness, managing college life, working while going to school, leader development or any of many other areas, we see young people achieving goals and taking increasing responsibility. Some unfortunately decided that ROTC is not for them; we wish them the best and ask that they serve their community in other ways.

We are remembering. Between spring breaks, the MS IVs, MAJ Errington and I ventured to Gettysburg to study this watershed battlefield. Fifteen Cadets raised funds to travel to New Mexico to and compete in the marathon that honors the veterans of Bataan. Twenty Cadets

did the same on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brainerd in memory of those from Minnesota who survived that harrowing experience. Our Cadets honor the values of their families, their communities, and their universities as they defend our Constitution and this Republic.

We are succeeding. Our graduates are doing well. Last year's class completed their officer training; at least two have earned honors. Some members of the class of 2007 are already serving in Iraq. Others have deployed or soon will. Our officers successfully command platoons, companies, battalions, and larger formations in theater. We hope that our graduates will join us for our second annual alum event on December 20, 2008. We thank CPT Dave Hintgen and 2LT Joe Genin and bid them farewell.

We are one battalion, one team. Every day, I see a Spirit of courage, dedication, excellence, and potential in these outstanding Americans. These are not your average college students. They put in extra time; they make the sacrifices. They discipline themselves toward a goal. They work together. With young people like these and their peers across the country, you can rest assured that the torch of liberty will pass into strong hands.

Please continue with your love, care, prayers, and support for our Cadets. Encourage other young people to join us. The program will move forward: recruiting young Americans who desire to serve and want to lead; representing the Army and the best of our country; training to achieve leadership excellence; and supporting our communities.

## From the Senior Military Instructor

MSG Keith H. Arnold



Congratulations Fighting Saints on a very successful school year. The past semester has seen significant challenges for all of our cadets. The MS IV class was able to conduct a staff ride to Gettysburg and visit the battle

grounds from our past to learn and apply that to opportunities in their future. Sixteen cadets and cadre took the challenge to embark on the Bataan Death March at White Sands Missile range, NM. Our Military Light team finished third in their category. The Corps of Cadets also sent 21 members to the Bataan Memorial

March at Brainerd, MN. Two cadets earned first place finishes and another a third place in the civilian category. The Joint Field Training Exercise allowed the Fighting Saints to measure their skills with other cadets from our neighboring programs. The hard work and preparation paid off in a very successful event and renewed confidence in our MS III's prior to moving out to LDAC for the summer.

More than 270 family, friends, alumni and cadets joined in for military ball. This was the cadre's opportunity to show off all your hard work to our guests. We pleased to announce it as a tremendous success. The culminating event of not only this year but of four years of hard work was the Fighting Saints Commis-

sioning ceremony. We have officially welcomed 12 new 2LT's into the Army, National Guard and Army Reserves; congratulations to each of you.

Many cadets and cadre will be moving out to additional training throughout the summer. Remember to continue to prepare yourselves and work as hard as you have this semester. Some of you will be catching up on some much deserved rest while others on additional school work. No matter what your goals or assignments are during this summer, remember to stay safe and continue to do PT. I look forward to seeing each of you next fall as we begin a new semester with fresh leadership from the MSIII and MSIV classes.

# MS IVs Study the Battle of Gettysburg

By Cadet Matthew Schwegel

The MS IV class spent part of their spring break this year with a visit to Gettysburg Pennsylvania. Fourteen senior cadets, led by LTC Fischer and MAJ Errington, took to the battlefield to complete months of preliminary study, exploring firsthand the terrain that commanded the most decisive battle of the Civil War. Formally known as a staff ride, the MSIVs analyzed the course of events of the battle, the behavior of key leaders, and their use of the topography before completing the experience with a thorough exploration of the grounds on which history was forever changed.

Sites visited included McPherson's Ridge, on which Buford met Heath, Little Round Top, where Chamberlain broke the Confederate attempt to flank the Union line, and Cemetery Ridge, where the Confederate hopes of imposing its will on the North were permanently dashed. Undisputedly, the most memorable ground for the FSB cadets and cadre was below the crest of cemetery ridge, where on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota charged and routed a Confederate Brigade, suffering

monumental casualties in the process.

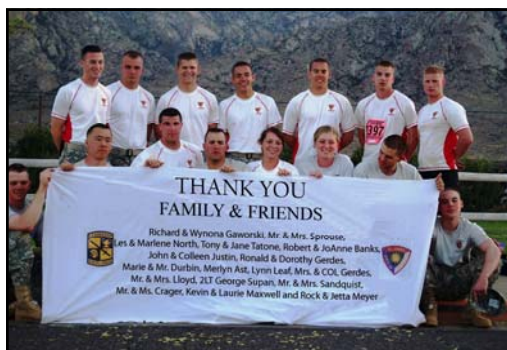
The cadets were able to discover, or, more precisely, taste 19<sup>th</sup> century culture with a 5 star dinner at a thematic post-colonial era restaurant. They were also privileged to enjoy the luxurious guest accommodations of the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, and the warm hospitality of the Philadelphia airport USO.

Undoubtedly, much was gained from this valuable experience that enhanced the cadets' appreciation for the complexities of war fighting. The importance of analyzing terrain and the difficulties of command and control are two topics not fully understood without a real world exploration of a battlefield. The temptation of criticizing commanders of that battle for 'obvious' blunders and seemingly foolish mistakes diminishes when confronted with their limited perspective at the time. Ultimately, the Gettysburg staff ride facilitated a stronger appreciation of the magnitude of military leadership that the MS IV class will soon undertake.

## 19th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

By Cadet Joseph Howe

On March 30th, fifteen Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Bataan Memorial Death March, at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The Death March pays tribute to the men and women who were captured in the Philippines during World War II. The march is a 26.2 miles of sandy and mountainous Chihuahuan Desert terrain that is challenging for everyone who participates. This was one of the most physically and mentally challenging thing that we have ever endured in our entire lives, resulting in a feeling of great accomplishment when we completed this march. It also instilled a great new respect to what the soldiers who were captured went through. Even though this was very challenging I recommend this to any cadet who wants to honor the survivors and fallen soldiers of Bataan.



## 2008 Military Ball

By Cadet Anthony Muccio

On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the Fighting Saints Battalion held their annual Military Ball. The Military Ball was held in at the Kelly Inn, in Saint Cloud. The Ball brought Cadre, Cadets, Family, and Alumni together for an evening of celebrating the achievements of the FSB. The night featured a social hour and dinner, LTC Fischer's State of the Battalion speech, and presentation of awards recognizing the efforts, achievements, and commitment of our Cadets of the Battalion. The night was finished out with a dance, where cadets of all classes got together to cut loose. Overall, the night was a great success. The goal of celebrating the year was met and everyone made it home with all of their fingers and toes. As Military Balls go, the notch of excellence has been raised, presenting a challenge to the new MSIVs and incoming MSIs to put on an even better ball next year.



# Broomball

By Cadet Charles Morin

In early February our cadets had the opportunity to engage in a game of broomball with our counterparts in the Norwegian military. These Norwegians came to Minnesota to learn about the US army and American culture. While based out of Camp Ripley the Norwegians traveled across our state visiting sites such as the Twin Cities, The Mall of America and the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.

While at the National Hockey Center the Norwegians met with cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion to play a friendly yet competitive game of broomball. Cadets and Norwegians were mixed together into teams; then the action began. Conversations broke out and new friendships were formed. On the ice the language barrier was non-existent, however as it turned out, the Norwegians spoke excellent English. The game knew no international barriers. The concept was simple; get the ball in the net. This was much easier said than done when running on ice. Several sore knees and a few hours later

it was time for the Norwegians to head back to Camp Ripley. Farewells were said as the Norwegians got back on their bus and headed north and so ended the night the Norwegians came to town, until next year.



# February Lab

By Cadet Alex Tatone

Crunch, crunch, crunch. . .no this is not the sound of cadets eating their morning bowl of cereal. It is the sound of feet crunching through the frozen snow just after sunrise on a pristine February morning. The Fighting Saints Battalion's February training lab consisted of three squad situational training exercise lanes in which MSIII cadets led squads consisting of MSI's, MSII's, and MSIII's through assigned missions, including movement to contact, an ambush, and knocking out a bunker.

MSIII cadets applied tactics and decision making processes learned in the classroom while leading their squads through practical field scenarios. Although the training's main purpose was to prepare MSIII cadets for Warrior Forge this summer, it was still an excellent learning opportunity for the first and second year cadets as well. Many MSII cadets had the opportunity to function as team leaders within their squads, giving them the opportunity to practice

their leadership skills and develop a better understanding of squad tactics.

MSI Cadets had the opportunity to learn from several different vantage points throughout the training event. As squad members, first year cadets held the roles of special team members. One of these is the EPW search team which is responsible for searching civilians and enemy soldiers. A few first year cadets also had the opportunity to see how a squad maneuvers from the vantage point of the opposition force. Under the guidance of an MSIV cadet they were able to get a view of how the overall functioning of a squad works from the outside looking in.

The training was a success. The MSIII's showed that they have a strong grasp on basic infantry squad tactics and were able to identify areas that they need to improve and fine tune before camp.

# April Lab

By Cadet David Rothstein

April lab found the cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion fighting both nature and enemy forces. As the number of enemy soldiers cleared by each squad rose, so did the amount of snow in their boots. Still, they could not be discouraged from accomplishing their mission. MS III's finalized their STX leadership skills in their last opportunity before being assessed at the brigade level exercise held at Camp Ripley. Select members of the battalion were

to play the role of the opposing force, gaining insight into leadership techniques from a viewpoint outside of the squad. In the second portion of the lab, cadets had their first experience of the year leading patrol sized element. With a group twice the size of a squad, the MS III's wrestled with the difficulties involved in controlling a larger group. The lab was a testament to the finely tuned skills of the MS IV's, who planned and executed the events with minimal cadre supervision.

# Norwegian Exchange Program

By Cadet Ulises Ayala

During the last month of February, I had the opportunity to visit the country of Norway, thanks to the Minnesota National Guard, the ROTC program, and the bond of friendship between the U.S and Norway. During the Norwegian exchange I had the opportunity to see a new country and participate in an exchange of ideas between two cultures. It was an experience of a lifetime for all who participated. The exchange, the hospitality of the people of Norway gave us the opportunity to spend a weekend with a host family and learned more about the culture. It was hard finding a person that didn't have a relative or some connection to Minnesota, and the similarity in climate and landscape left little doubt as to why.



# Ice Fishing Tournament

By Cadet Brett Rosequist

As has been done for many, many years now, the Fighting Saints Battalion was in charge of perimeter security for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Tournament on January 24th. After arriving at 7am, we enacted the plan our MSIV cadets had created during a MDMP (Military Decision Making Process) session at the end of last semester. This plan was strained over, but the task at hand wasn't small. Our cadets needed to properly check over 10,000 anglers on to and off of the ice this year! And since there were over \$150,000 in prizes to be had, we needed to be on top of things as much as we possibly could. There were a few disturbances, including the tipping of a porta-potty. However, most of the anglers were mild mannered, wanting only to be part of this huge social festivity on the ice. As a bonus, a couple of our Cadre from the South took pictures to shock their friends from the less-wintery climates with. Participating in this event was a great way for the program to raise money towards the required travel costs that will be incurred by the Bataan marathon team and the MSIV class's staff-ride field trip to Gettysburg.



# Military Science Club

By Cadet Andrea Lieder

The Military Science Club has spent the year coordinating several events for the purpose of spreading awareness of military values and methods among the student body at Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict. The main events included hosting a discussion with guest speaker Lt. Col. Lieder of the Minnesota National Guard, a showing of the film *300* with a discussion about Army Leadership with LTC Fischer, and showing of the film *Black Hawk Down* with a presentation from U.S. Somalia veterans Lt. Col.'s Matthew and April Snyder. The year concluded with the capstone event: a paintball tournament.

The first event, held in November, was a presentation from guest speaker LTC Lieder. His presentation focused on the situation he faced in Iraq and what it takes to lead soldiers in combat. Turnout for the event was impressive, with over fifty students present representing both cadets and civilians.

The next event, held in January, was a viewing of the film *300* followed by a discussion about Army Leadership Assessment hosted by the Professor of Military Science, LTC Fischer. In the discussion, cadet evaluations were used to compare the leadership abilities of historical figures King Leonidas and Emperor Xerxes.

March saw the next event, a showing of the film *Black Hawk Down* followed by a presentation from veterans of the Somalia Conflict, LTC Matthew and Ms. April Snyder. The presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session, focused on their separate experiences overseas and the challenges of being an Army couple.

The final event will be held in May, which is a Paintball Tournament. For the event, 30-40 students will be organized into squads and will play several matches to gain an understanding of military tactics and leadership.

A drastic reduction in budgets for most campus clubs and organizations has caused a significant difficulty in planning and coordinating events on par with previous years. Overall, however, difficulties were overcome and the Military Science Club has seen another successful year of spreading military awareness on campus.

# The Ultimate Test of Leadership: Are We Ready?

By Cadet Angela Spiess

---

The Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft Lewis, WA, is the baptism of fire that every cadet must endure to become an Army officer. The 33-day course incorporates a wide range of subjects designed to develop the technical proficiency of the cadets, while simultaneously testing and developing their leadership abilities.

The past year, FSB's 22 junior cadets have been training in preparation for LDAC. They have been tested by their MSIV graduates of LDAC as well as their cadre. The year leading up to LDAC places many challenges and responsibilities on the MSIIIs. They plan and execute PT three times a week, complete monthly labs, and endure weekend long, bi-annual FTXs. The MSIIIs are tested in squad and patrol level tactics, land navigation, garrison leadership, and of course, physical fitness.

On top of the morning PT and weekend exercises, the MSIII class takes eight credits of classroom studies, where they learn the technical skills unique to Army leadership. When asked to comment on the readiness of his class, the Senior Military Instructor, MSG Arnold, said plainly, "they're ready."

Cadet Christiansen commented on his development as a leader over the course of his MS III year. "At first I was nervous to be in control," he remarked. Upon assuming command of a patrol sized element consisting of cadets from five different schools at Spring FTX, Christiansen's nerves had steadied. "I was given some guidance on what I needed to do, and then he told me to do it, so I did. I felt confident, in control, and ready for LDAC."

---

## SVRC at CSB/SJU

By Cadet Andrea Lieder

---

This past semester, Cadet Caroline North and I founded the first Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) at CSB/SJU. After many coordination meetings with both the St. John's and St. Ben's Vice Presidents of Student Development, we were given an office in Murray Hall in the Haehn Campus Center. Our SVRC falls under the central region of the Minnesota Department for Higher Education and James McAuley, the regional coordinator based out of St. Cloud State University.

CSB/SJU is home to many veterans, including three recently returned veterans from the Minnesota National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> BCT deployment. These three Johnnies have been the main focus of our efforts. In honor of Veterans' Day, we handed out yellow ribbons and sold SVRC t-shirts with the help of many Fighting Saints. Our speaker for that Monday night, a WWII fighter pilot and POW survivor, spoke of the freedom that we must all be willing to defend. His story of the sacrifices made while a soldier in WWII affirmed our organization's motto that "*Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice.*" We are trying to make our campuses more aware of the sacrifices our veterans have made and continue to make.

In pursuit of this goal, spring semester revolved around LTC David Grossman's presentation on *The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill*. For the 2008-2009 school year, we are preparing to meet with the Veterans organization at St. Cloud State to establish a closer relationship. In fall semester 2008 we intend to have a monthly support group started for those involved with the military on campus. We will continue to hand out yellow ribbons on Veterans Day and intend to help organize a Veterans Day Run in St. Cloud. We will continue to spread awareness of our veterans here at CSB/SJU.

## SCSU Higher Education Veterans Program

By Cadet David Wickman

---

The SCSU veterans office has been busy this last semester, we had a table at Side Street to represent our office and to promote the services we provide to our veterans on campus. At this event we signed up numerous students for our listserv which is an e-mail list to keep those interested in us informed of the issues we face.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> which was a day off for students and a forum day for faculty, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon event was hosted by SCSU's student veterans organization, career services, advising center, and the Higher Education Veterans Program Regional office. The keynote speakers were Don Pfeffer and Chaplin John Morris of the MN National Guard who spoke about how we as a community and as a state university can be more helpful in the reintegration of our soldiers into college and civilian life.

The veterans office has also wrestled with the issue of getting a larger office area provided to us on the campus. This issue has been at the forefront of our concerns for at least a year. We have negotiated back and forth with the college over the size and location of our office, finally deciding that it would be in the administrative services building. We have now finally got word that we can start our move effective April 30, 2008, so stop by anytime and see us.

The Higher Education Veterans Programs (HEVP) mission is to create and manage on-campus veterans resource centers, support institutional readiness, coordinate veterans services, and to provide higher education outreach and information to veterans and their dependents attending institutions of higher education. In the central region we have James McAuley who has assisted with veteran centers at SCSU, SCTC, CSB/SJU, ATC, RW College Willmar and CLC Brainerd.

# Sights from Spring 2008



MS IV Class at Gettysburg



CDT Rindahl at the March Lab



CDT Koeberl received the AUSA Award



The heavy team arrives at White Sands, NM



CDT Haider at the Cathedral of Notre Dame



FSB Color Guard



FSB Cadets training at the Spring FTX and April Lab



FSB new 2LTs during the 2008 Spring Commissioning Ceremony at St. John's University

2LT Jeremy Norberg Sub-Chapter  
 By Cadet Gregory Sandquist

This year the Jeremy Norberg Sub-chapter at SJU/CSB/SCSU has more than doubled in size since last May. In September, four cadets participated at the Camp Ripley Open House and helped to increase membership to AUSA. Early in October, four cadets traveled to Washington D.C. and ran the internationally recognized Army Ten Miler. In addition to that, they saw the sights of Washington D.C. and attended the AUSA National Convention. Here they learned how AUSA is trying to give soldiers and their families more of a voice on Capitol Hill. When the Toys4Military Families program was underway in December, \$200 was donated by the Jeremy Norbert Chapter to help give children of military parents Christmas presents. Two cadets in January went to help celebrate AUSA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner at Fort Snelling and also helped set it up. With the help of the General Vessey Chapter, fourteen cadets traveled to New Mexico in March and participated in the Bataan Memorial Marathon. Throughout the year, the sub-chapter president, Cadet Greg Sandquist, attended the general chapter meetings at Fort Snelling. It has been a busy and rewarding year, but it has been invaluable to our education of Army culture and organization.

**Fall Calendar**

Initial Week	August 18-22
Fall FTX	September 19-21
Army 10 Miler	October 3-5
Ranger Challenge	October 10-12
November Lab	November 15
Dining In	November 21
December Lab	December 6
Alumni Event	December 20



Fighting Saints during the 2008 spring semester battalion run



**Organization**

**FIGHTING SAINTS BATTALION  
 ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,  
 COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT  
 & ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY**

Department of Military Science  
 Guild Hall, Room 020  
 Collegeville, MN 56321

Phone: 320-363-3218  
<http://armyrotc.com/edu/mnstjohns>  
 E-mail: [rotc@csbsju.edu](mailto:rotc@csbsju.edu)



**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.

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 11 and at St. John's we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:

CDT Brett Rosequist, C/S-5/S-6