FIGHTING SAINTS ALMANAC

This is Our PROGRAM

SY 2011 - 2012
Who We Are
By LTC Thomas M. Nelson

College is considered a time for personal discovery and learning. It should come as no surprise that students often ask a very basic question: who am I? Our Cadets are normal college students in so many ways, but they already know who they will be: LEADERS. Through ROTC, they learn exactly what it means to be a leader.

Creeds are statements of what we believe. They provide an ideal, a standard, and a goal to which we aspire; they help define who we are. Our Cadet Creed is no different. It tells us what we ought to be, what we can be, and what we will be. This Creed and others help our Cadets learn what it means to be a leader. Our Cadets show their dedication and their potential for leadership in all they do.

THE CADET CREED
I am an Army Cadet.

Soon I will take an oath to become an Army Officer committed to defending the values which make this nation great.

Honor is my Touchstone. I understand mission first and people always.

I am the past - the Spirit of those warriors who have made the final sacrifice.

I am the present - the scholar and apprentice Soldier enhancing my skills in the science of warfare and the art of leadership.

But above all, I am the future - the future warrior leader of the United States Army.

May God grant me the compassion and judgment to lead and the gallantry in battle to win.

I will do my duty.

As you look at our year in review, you will see how your Cadets pursue leadership excellence.

You will see that they connect to the past by participating in a staff ride of the Dakota Uprising of 1862, competing in the Bataan Memorial Marches, touring the National Mall and memorials, providing the color guard at the September 11th commemoration, and participating in the St. Cloud Veterans’ Day Parade.

You will see that they are the present. They are developing their leadership through scholarship, physical fitness training, Ranger Challenge, Warrior Forge, Leader’s Training Course, Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the Army Ten-Miler, and by volunteering in our community.

You will see that they are the future- living the Army Values, studying the Soldier’s Creed, learning the Code of Conduct, and earning their commission.

Who are we? We are America’s Future Leaders. We are the Fighting Saints!
A Proud History—A Bright Future

The Saint John’s University ROTC Battalion has been proud to help develop the leaders of tomorrow.

After the United States’ entry into World War II, St. John’s University began formal military training when, on 4 March 1943, a contingent of 150 airmen arrived on campus and became the first members of the 87th College Training Detachment of the Army Air Corps under the command of Captain Casey. In less than one year to February 1944, St. John’s prepared over 1,000 men for their roles as airmen and, in the process, developed a training program ranked fifth in the nation and first among the participating colleges in Minnesota.

With the breakout of the Korean War, the student population, especially in upper division courses, began to decline. On 25 January 1951, the Council of Seniors indicated its willingness to consider ROTC “to show our willingness to cooperate with the government in its defense program.” Negotiations to secure a Navy ROTC program began but did not merit much attention, “since the NROTC requires a swimming pool.” Efforts with the Air Force failed when the last available units were awarded to other small colleges in Minnesota.

Negotiations with the Army began and were completed on 13 May 1952, with Colonel Benjamin Chapla as the first professor of Military Science. The mandatory ROTC program began with school year 1952-53, and the first eight officers were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in May 1955. Among the original commissionees and, in fact, the top-rated Cadet in his class was the Honorable David F. Durenberger, who has represented the state of Minnesota for many years in the United States Senate.

With the passage of the ROTC Revitalization Act of 1964, St. John’s took advantage of all the changes and additions offered by that law. The program became voluntary and the new curriculum option was introduced in SY 1964-65. Enrollment in the basic course was mandatory until school year 1965. Beginning in 1968, students from neighboring St. Cloud State University were accepted into the program through the tri-college exchange. When ROTC was opened to women in 1974, female students from St. Cloud State University and the College of St. Benedict were also included. In 1987 the College of St. Benedict was recognized as a co-host, expanding its ability to attract four-year scholarship winners.

From 1990-1993, ROTC was offered to three additional schools: The University of Minnesota-Duluth, The College of St. Scholastica, and the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

From a relatively recent and humble beginning, approximately 1,500 officers have been commissioned from the three schools served by the Tri-College Exchange through the end of school year 2010-2011.
On the morning of 14 May 2011, a 12 person team representing the Fighting Saints Battalion set out individually to earn the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) hosted by the Mankato State University. The GAFBMP competition was established in the 1970s to recognize and reward Soldiers within the German Armed Forces whom possessed superior physical abilities. United States Soldiers are authorized to compete individually and wear the badge on the Class A, Class B, and Army Service Uniform. The FSB team that was led by Cadet Lentz and SFC Tajirian had 12 Cadets that were tested rigorously for three consecutive days; both physically and mentally.

To begin the competition, over 55 competitors from various ROTC programs around the area were ushered into the pool to partake in various swimming events. Proving to be a demanding full body workout, competitors had to maintain their strength as they moved to the indoor field house for the high jump or long jump event. Day one was finally capped with the 3 and 5 kilometer runs that demanded the remaining energy of every competitor. Day two started where day one ended, at the track, only this time contenders were sprinting 200, 400, and 1000 meters. To end the track and field events, muscular strength was tested with the shot put or bench press. Day two drew to an end with the 9MM pistol shoot and the first aid test.

Day three would break every participant mentally, physically, and emotionally! This day consisted of one event, one event that many people begin to dread as it approached; the road march. With up to 18.7 miles to march everyone stepped off to exceed every demand this event offered. To conclude day three and the competition, SGM Berg, the representative from the German Army, presented us with our certificates and the badge which you received.
August 24th was the start of Initial week for the incoming MSI class this year. It started when they arrived at the St John's campus and received help from Cadets in the MSII class with moving into their dorm rooms. The parents had a chance to meet the Cadre and the new Cadets got started on paperwork. The new Cadets had opportunities to have some fun with a bonfire, watching a movie, and going to the ropes course at St Cloud State. They took their first PT test and had their first CWST (Combat Water Survival Test).

There was also plenty of learning time, as the Cadets had lessons in Drill and Ceremony, Land Navigation, Marching and Formations. They also had an opportunity to use the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST).

Finally, they received instructions on how to use the equipment they were recently given such as their uniforms, backpacks, and Load-Bearing Vest (LBV) and/or Load-Carrying Equipment (LCE). Initial week came to a close at the welcome dinner Friday evening that was sponsored by the MN Army National Guard. LTC Nelson gave a welcome speech and the Cadet Battalion Commander introduced himself to Cadets and their parents. Several contracting freshmen took their oath of office and formally became Cadets. It was a great week and fun was had by all.
During the 9\textsuperscript{th} and 10\textsuperscript{th} of September 2011, the senior class of the Fighting Saints Battalion Army ROTC enjoyed a Staff Ride battle analysis of the Dakota War of 1862. Due to many factors, including cheating traders, unfair treaties, starvation, late annuity payments for land, and prejudice, about a third of the Dakota tribes along the Minnesota River conducted a war against the American settlers in 1862. The MSIV's toured battle sites from the war, such as the Nicollet Historical Society, the town of New Ulm, and the Upper and Lower Sioux Agencies to name a few. Assisted by the knowledge of friendly tour guides such as John LaBatte, Terry Sveine, or Mr. Anthony, the MSIV's learned much about the Dakota way of life, what injustices they had suffered in dealing with the American Government, and how they fought back against a civilization they knew would defeat them. How the Dakota people fought, seeking to have the advantage in numbers, a surprise attack, and excellent cover and concealment from enemy eyes, was just one of the many interesting factors of the war that the MSIV's learned and discussed. Extending their knowledge of battles, especially a war that happened so close to home for many of the seniors, was a cherished experience. As students of warfare and how it is conducted by differing peoples, the Staff Ride of the Dakota War was a valuable learning experience for the ROTC class of 2012.
On September 11, 2001, terrorists strategically hijacked four American planes, diverting their courses to crash into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and while the passengers attempted to regain control of the fourth plane, a field in Pennsylvania.

As a direct result of these attacks, 2,762 people lost their lives. Our country still mourns that loss. "A Day to Remember," was an event held at the St. Cloud Police Department on the tenth anniversary of the attacks.

This ceremony honored first responders and police officers that died as well as the service men and women that have died fighting the war on terror since the attacks. The program included speeches from Mayor Dave Kleis, clergy from area churches, and representatives from the police and fire departments.

Cadet Jennifer Strege led fellow Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion including Nathan Illies, Dakota Huset, Jacob Oestreich, Michael Johnson, and Matthew Lahti in the color guard for this event.
The Fighting Saints Battalion was once again fortunate enough to send a team to the Army Ten Miler on October 8, 2011. The team consisted of Cadets Pittman, Marschall, Charpentier, Zilka, Gjevre, Lillehaug, and Heagel from Saint John's University; Cadets Holte, Stobb, and Leyendecker from the College of Saint Benedict; and Cadets Alex DeJesus, Ramos-DeJesus, Majkrzak, and Johnson from Saint Cloud State University. When the Cadets arrived in Washington DC they were struck by the beauty of the city and its monuments, the patriotism of the people around them, and of course the highest ranking officials in the Army walking around them.

For many Cadets it was the first time they had seen a Colonel, and still rarer, a General walking towards them. On October 9th the Cadets awoke at 4:30am in order to prepare for the race. They knew that they were going to be competitive today because their time trials were all in the 60 minute region. As they walked to the pentagon, where the race started, they saw many other teams assembling as well and not just from the army. Finally at 8:00am the race started with cannon fire. Looking back at the people behind you was amazing because there was no end in sight. The race ran all through D.C.’s monuments and past the Capitol.

The Fighting Saints Battalion was the overall first place team in the ROTC division with a total time of 4 hours 3 minutes and 35 seconds. CDT Gjevre came in first for The Fighting Saints Battalion team with a time of 56 minutes 32 seconds. The FSB brought home a trophy for winning their division and a travelling cup for beating all the teams out of Minnesota. The next day the teams went to the AUSA Convention and saw all the new technology that the Army is developing as well as listen to speeches given by the Secretary of the Army and Cadet Command Commanding General. Finally on Tuesday the team headed back to Minnesota to relax and prepare for the Ranger Challenge Competition.
It was a rigorous two months of training, extending from the end of the hot August month, to the beginning chills of mid-October, but the Fighting Saints Battalion Ranger Challenge Team doesn’t quit when the going gets tough. They trained not to the standard, but ultimately above and beyond the standard, exactly the way they wanted to compete.

With many experienced Cadets returning and a handful of the strong freshmen class, the team knew that to be successful, they had to push their limits. A new cadre member, CPT Martinson, volunteered his time and knowledge to the team, which was also led by MSIV Captain Ben Zilka and MSIII Assistant Captains Jake Lillehaug and Jarod Krog. The early mornings and the hot afternoons consisted of physical exhaustion and mental discipline; the two essential ingredients in being successfully. Whether it was push-ups, planks, for several minutes, rope bridge rehearsals, or the occasionally sandbag sprints, the team put all they had into their training. Through all the blood, sweat, and time put into the season, it was clear that the Fighting Saints came to Camp Ripley to compete and turn some heads while doing so.

After a strenuous and competitive event, the Fighting Saints Black Team was able to come away with a solid 3rd place overall only falling short of 1st by a two points. In the meantime, all the Fighting Saints teams showed off their skills and placed well in specific events such as the Obstacle Course (Black Team -1st/ Gold Team - 2nd), Weapons Disassembly/Reassembly (Black Team - 1st), Land Navigation (B Company Team - 2nd), and the 10K Ruck Run (Black Team - 2nd). With great success this fall, the FSB Ranger Challenge Teams looks to piggy back from that and make greater things happen next year.
Every fall in the month of September Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets participate in what is called the fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). During this training event Cadets are exposed to a wide range of training activities, among them being land navigation, squad tactics, and patrol base activities. When conducting patrol base training Cadets learn the skills necessary to construct field expedient lodging for themselves when forced to rest outdoors at night.

This year’s FTX was a great success. Cadets underwent classroom training on Friday evening that directly pertained to the tasks that would occur on Saturday and Sunday. Cadets sat through map reading classes and squad training exercise classes so that all training events went smoothly over the course of the weekend. Friday night after completion of the classroom blocks of instruction, Cadets ruck-marched out to a patrol base or assembly area adjacent to Durenberger Soccer Field and slept outdoors. The next morning Cadets enjoyed an early 5:00am wake-up call and would travel to Camp Ripley, MN to continue with the training. Once at Camp Ripley Cadets conducted a five kilometer road march with a full pack and, immediately following the march, ran through the grenade assault course in which Cadets practiced throwing “training” hand grenades into fixed enemy positions. Training for the rest of the day consisted of both day and night land navigation.

Cadets had to rely on skills learned in the classroom to find points in the woods that were several hundred meters from the start point. Sunday concluded with squad situational exercises. Every Cadet had various opportunities to learn and practice a variety of basic combat skills over the course of the weekend.
On October 1st, 2011 the Fighting Saints Battalion hosted the Second Annual FSB 5K run/walk in the beautiful St. John's Arboretum. "The Arboretum is the perfect place to go for a run! The 5K had such a positive atmosphere as the runners and walkers were getting ready to set off!" reports Cadet Mollie Holte, an ROTC participant and winner of the overall female category with a time of 20:44. The 5K run provided a great leadership opportunity for Cadets, as well as a way for the community to become more actively involved in an Army ROTC event. Many participants were friends and family members of Cadets participating in the ROTC program.

Race day began with upbeat music, snacks, beverages and a lively crowd of participants. Following the singing of our National Anthem, over 180 runners/walkers took off into the course. Age groups ranged from 12 and below, to 60+! All participants received a race bag and a Fighting Saints Battalion 5K t-shirt. Additionally, first and second place winners in various age groups received metals. The winners of overall male and female categories won both a trophy and a gift certificate. Connor Gjevre from Clearwater, MN took the overall male title with a time of 16:50. A lot of hard work and preparation went into the organization of the event. Thank you to all our supporters, sponsors and participants that contributed its success!
On November 6, 2011, Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion participated in the Veterans Day parade held in St. Cloud to celebrate and remember all veterans who have served our country. The parade started at the St. Cloud Veteran Affairs Hospital and ended at St. Cloud Apollo High School. The Cadets marched along with past veterans, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and other groups supporting veterans and their families. The Fighting Saints Battalion’s participation in the Veterans Day Parade was the culmination of weeks of planning and rehearsals.

The hard work was well worth it, as the parade watchers including many veterans praised the Cadets marching along the parade route. The Fighting Saints Cadets and Cadre were proud to participate in their 4th St. Cloud Veterans Day Parade and plan to continue marching in the parade for years to come.
The end of the 2011 Fall Semester was a pivotal time for Cadet Jakob Reding. It marked an important transition of this young Cadet to Lieutenant. The accumulation of over three successful years through ROTC led to the commissioning of this future leader as Second Lieutenant. 2LT Reding 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 Medical Service Officer Basic Course before arriving at Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The commissioning ceremony was a special event attended by family, friends and fellow Cadets. On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate 2LT Reding on a job well done; we wish him the best of luck in his career as military officer.

The Commissioning Oath
"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."
Looking up into the rugged mountains of New Mexico, ROTC Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion stood ready at the start line of the 23rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range. They were ready to defend the coveted ROTC Bataan Trophy. Cadets from St. John's University, the College of Saint Benedict, and St. Cloud State University compose the Fighting Saints Battalion. Together they travel each year to compete in the grueling marathon.

The Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion are aware of their close connection to Bataan in remembering the sacrifices of the MN Army National Guard's 194th Tank Battalion which deployed to the Philippines in 1941, were attacked on the Bataan Peninsula by the Japanese on December 8th, 1941 (the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor), fought for five months in sustained combat, and endured in April 1942 the Bataan Death March without food, rest or assistance. Thousands of Americana and Filipino Soldiers died, and those surviving faced prisoner of war camps.

In the opening ceremony of the Bataan Memorial Death March, an honor roll call is conducted, with survivor's names called before the marchers head out on the course. Each year it proves to be a moving and emotional reminder of what the survivors endured and a way to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Training for the Fighting Saints began in November and consisted of a rigorous training schedule including long runs on Friday mornings that built up to 22 miles. This training prepared them well for the challenging course which winds across the sandy desert, up and around a mountain, and through a two mile long sand pit. It is often referred to one of our Country's toughest marathons.

On March 25, the Fighting Saint's teams competed and finished the marathon with the one of the best times for the ROTC Light Competition in the event's history. The three SJU ROTC teams who competed in the ROTC Light category placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and their Civilian Coed Team placed 1st in their category. Additionally, nine individual Cadets completed their first marathon. As participants crossed the finish line, they had the honor to shake the hands of Bataan survivors and wounded warriors from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. It was truly an incredible experience that taught Cadets about the courage and sacrifices our WWII service member's shoulders for their country.

Training for such a meaningful event encourages hard work, camaraderie, and sacrifice while honoring Veterans of Bataan.
23rd Annual Bataan Memorial March/Marathon
White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
By Cadet Mollie Holte

ROTC Team 1 - Cadets McCoy, Gjevre, Francour, Pittman & Marshall

ROTC Team 2 - CDTs Dobesh, Tousignant, Oestreich, Illies & DeJesus

ROTC Team 3 - Cadets Powell, Johnson, Holte, Reamer & Skovera

Civilian Team - CDTs Huseth, Otterson, Wirtz, Lillehaug & LTC Nelson

Individual Competitors - (Front Row)Cadets Spjstrom, DeWitt, Weill & Martinez - (Back Row) Mr. DeJesus, Cadets Backer, Boettcher Hillyer, Geislinger & Boisjoli
Every spring brings a vital training event for the Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It is the time for first (MSI) and second year (MSII) Cadets to put the skills they have learned in the classroom to use and to learn new field tasks as bonding occurs through teamwork. It is one of the key training events the third year Cadets (MSIIIs) will participate in before they head to Leader Development Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

The Joint Spring Field Training Exercise (JFTX) is held every year at Camp Ripley, MN where ROTC programs from Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota come together with the FSB to lead different training events and to work together to complete the training. The JFTX began on Thursday with the MSIIIs on the rifle qualification range, and the fourth year Cadets (MSIVs) preparing the training areas for the following day’s events. Later that evening, the MSIs and MSII’s arrived and began basic skills classes and written land navigation exams. On Friday and Saturday the MSI, II, and III’s all participated in the rifle qualification range, Field Leader’s Reaction Course (FLRC), rappelling, and land navigation training. On Saturday, the MSII’s were assigned into squads consisting of Cadets from different universities and they completed a twelve-hour Situational Training Exercise (STX).

The entire weekend was filled with complex tasks and exercises that were both physically and mentally challenging. This allowed our Cadets to demonstrate how they can perform under stress while working with unfamiliar peers. All of our Cadets not only completed the training, but they also exceeded expectations, and many earned some of the highest evaluations amongst their peers. The FSB Cadets were direct reflections of the high quality training that had been done this past school year. The JFTX was a great opportunity for the Cadets to both plan and execute training events while observing how they compare to other Cadets in the brigade.
Sights From The 2012 Spring JFTX
Photos by Cadet Margaret Gregg
The Fighting Saints Battalion would like to publicly thank the businesses and individuals who have supported our program over the past year. Without these generous contributions, we would not be able to provide your Cadets the unique training and learning opportunities that help them achieve leadership excellence.

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Cadet Battalion Fund
VFW Post 494 Women Auxiliary Crystal, MN
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Please support our sponsors. If you are interested in joining their ranks, contact Mr. Alberto DeJesus at 320-308-3930. To stay in touch with our activities visit our website www.csbsju.edu/army-rotc.htm

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.
I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST.
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.
I WILL NEVER QUIT.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE.
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
I am an expert and I am a professional.
I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.
FSB5K Run/Walk
A Team Building Event For All Ages
This event is brought to you by the Cadets of Fighting Saints Battalion – Army ROTC, Association of the United States Army.

St. John’s University
George Durenberger Soccer Field, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321

Friday – September 28th 2012
9:00am – 9:00pm – Packet Pick-up/Check In
ROTC Classroom - Guild Hall, St. John’s University

Saturday – September 29th 2012
7:45am - 8:45am – Late Registration/Check In
9:00am – 5K Run/Walk Start

11:00am - 11:30am – Award Ceremony

This is a relatively flat course with mixed asphalt and aggregate surfaces within the scenic St. John’s University trail system.

This event will be chip timed with a link to results at www.pickleevents.com.

All registered participants will receive an event t-shirt. There will be a water station mid-way through the run, as well as water, drinks, and snacks at the finish.

The overall top male and female finishers will each receive a medal & gift certificate. Awards are given to the top male and female in the following age groups: 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+. 

Register Now!
You may register one of three easy ways:
1. Online at Register 2012 FSB5K Run/Walk or http://www1.csbsju.edu/rotc/
2. Via mail using the registration form
3. At the SJU or SCSU Military Science Department

Event day walk up registration will be available, however, amenities are not guaranteed.

Please make check payable to Cadet Battalion Fund

Mail this form to:
Military Science Department
Guild Hall
P.O. Box 7099
Collegeville, MN 56321

first name __________ last name __________
street address __________ city, state, zip __________
e-mail address __________ telephone number __________
M / F __________ gender __________
date of birth __________ MM/DD/YYYY __________ age on race day __________

t-Shirt Size __________

Please read: In consideration of acceptance for entry, I, for myself, my heirs, executors and anyone entitled on my behalf, waive and release the Department of Military Science and all sponsors, their representatives, and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event. I grant permission for all of the foregoing to use my photographs, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. Signature of a parent or legal guardian is required for all participants under the age of 18. This is to certify that my child has permission to participate in this event, is in good physical condition and that event officials may authorize necessary emergency treatment. I have read and understand statement above and accept the terms as presented above by signing this document.

Entry fees are not refundable.

participant’s signature __________ parent’s signature (if participant is under 18) __________

Registration pdf available at http://www1.csbsju.edu/rotc/
This is Our Program