This is Our Program

SY 2012 - 2013
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!**

Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion take off for the 2 mile during the Army Physical Fitness Test at the 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Dodge, IA. The FSB Team placed 6th in the regional competition.
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 commissionedees 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 1,600 officers have been commissioned from the three schools served by the Tri-College Exchange through the end of school year 2012-2013.
JBLM, Washington - In the summer of 2012, Cadets from across the country and Puerto Rico assembled at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA to participate in Operation Warrior Forge, also known as the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). Over 6,000 Cadets participated in the 29-day training operation, as well as 4,000 support personnel to facilitate the training over the fourteen different training regiments-cycles. During LDAC, Cadets participated in various training exercises, including the Army Physical Fitness Test, Land Navigation, Land and Water Confidence Courses, Field Leaders Reactionary Course, and Patrolling Lanes. All while conducting this training, Cadets were assigned to various Platoon and Company leadership rotations, being evaluated by a Teacher, Assessor, Coach also known as a TAC. Every Cadet was evaluated on 17 different leadership dimensions during their time in the various positions, as well as the seven Army values. Overall, evaluating their potential and leadership to become a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Our FSB Cadets had completed anywhere from one to three years of training just for this specific event, while the Cadre ensured that each and every Cadet would be able to perform to a high level, and set the standard for those to come in the near future. The results of the hard training paid off for the FSB, graduating all Cadets that were sent, and having over 30% of the Cadets obtain the RECONDO standard. Their successes are a testament to the hard work and dedication put in by the Cadets and Cadre long hours spent preparing for LDAC.
Collegeville, MN - On August 26th 2012, the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) was happy to welcome 16 newly contracted Cadets into the FSB family. It all began with an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), which all new contracting Cadets passed with excellent scores. Following the APFT, the newest members of the FSB completed their contracting paperwork, were issued their first set of Army uniform and equipment. They also received their first official Army briefings and orientation.

While each new Cadet was preparing for swear-in ceremony, the parents had the opportunity to meet with the Professor of Military Science, LTC Darrell Bascom, Senior Military Instructor, MSG Thomas Biggerstaff, and two current seniors Cadets Boosalis and Gonsior for a question/answer session regarding their son or daughter’s upcoming experience during the next three to four years as a FSB Cadet. Once all the formalities were completed, the families and Cadets were invited to a luncheon hosted by LTC Bascom. Following the luncheon, LTC Bascom had the honor and privilege of swearing in all the new Cadets with their family and friends in attendance. We are confident that all the new Cadets will make excellent additions to the FSB family during the three to four years they will be a part of the program.
Morton, MN - On the 25th of August 2012, the senior class of the Fighting Saints Battalion Army ROTC conducted a Staff Ride and 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 MSIVs toured battle sites from the war, such as the Birch Coulee Battlefield, Historic Fort Ridgely, and the Lower Sioux Agency. Assisted by the knowledge of friendly tour guides such as John LaBatte and Anthony Morse, the MSIVs 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 MSIVs 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 2013.

If you are interested in supporting our staff ride or learning more, please contact LTC Darrell Bascom @ dbascom@csbsju.edu
St. Cloud, MN - The terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11th, 2001 will always be remembered. Four American planes were hijacked and crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania all of which claiming 2,762 lives. “A Day to Remember,” was an event held at the St. Cloud Police Department on the eleventh 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, Chief of Police William Blair Anderson, a prayer from a local minister, and representatives from police and fire departments.
Washington, D.C. - The Fighting Saints Battalion went back to the Army Ten-Miler to defend its ROTC division title on October 21, 2012. The FSB elite team consisted of Cadets Lillehaug, Reamer, Charpentier, Gjevre, De Jesus, Pittman, Marschall and Anderson. Everything was placed in perspective when they went to the Arlington National Cemetery and saw the sacrifices made by the servicemen while protecting our country. On October 9th, the Cadets awoke at 4:30am in order to prepare for the race. LTC Bascom gave words of encouragement before stepping off to the race. The FSB Cadets knew that this race would be one of the hardest they had ever done.

Last year they walked away with title without breaking a sweat, however this year there were huge targets on their backs. Power houses Virginia Tech and Michigan State were after them. Everyone expected the race would be very close due to the fact that all the teams were running around 60 minutes. As the Cadets walked to the pentagon, where the race started, they saw many other teams assembling, to include teams of wounded warriors who had lost limbs in recent combat. Finally at 8:00am the race began with cannon fire. The vast amount of people that ran this race was amazing as there was no end in sight when you turned your head back. The race ran all through DC’s monuments and past the capitol building. The Fighting Saints Battalion elite team placed first in the ROTC division with a total time of 3 hours 58 minutes and 54 seconds and the Vessey female team placed fourth in the Women open division. CDT Gjevre took first place for the entire Cadet Command with a time of 54 minutes 55 seconds. The FSB received a trophy for winning their division and a travelling cup for beating all the teams from the 5th AUSA Region.
Camp Ripley, MN - Ranger Challenge 2012 was a year which began with challenges and ended in triumphs. Training began in the middle of August and ended in the beginning of November. We went through many personnel changes having our coach and team captain replaced. This year’s team was led by Team Captain CDT Jacob Oestreich and Coaches CPT Wright, MSG Biggerstaff, and SFC Stonebarger. Training was long and rigorous as the RC team held 2 practices every day of the season and trained on numerous weekends in order to be as prepared as possible.

Coming off of a third place finish in the Task Force competition at Camp Ripley last year, the Fighting Saints were eager to surpass that mark. At this year's Task Force competition, the Fighting Saints took second in the male and female categories, and earned a wild card slot to the 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Dodge, Iowa. This was the first time in nine years that the Saints were able to reach this competition. At Brigade, the competition was extremely stiff and we placed 6th overall. This made us the sixth best Ranger Challenge team in a brigade of over 100 teams. With the invaluable knowledge and experience gained at the Brigade competition this year, we will be a serious force to be reckoned with next year as our goal will be to take that first place trophy home.
Camp Ripley, MN - As a fresh group of Cadets come into the new school year, so does another weekend of Fall FTX at Camp Ripley. Every fall semester, the Fighting Saints travel to Camp Ripley where incoming MSIs begun to learn, hands on, about: land navigation, STX lanes, setting up a bivouac site, Ruck marching, zeroing weapons on a range and FLRC. For many, this is their first time experiencing such tasks out in the field but for MSIIIs and IIIs, this is a chance for them to enhance upon each one of the skills previously mentioned. This weekend is important for every Cadet because it helps Cadets take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to a real life situation. It also gives the MSIII’s more experience leading younger Cadets in their preparation for the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC).

Although weather may have interfered, these Cadets were well prepared to not only work through it but created field expedient tents to sleep outside. Many Cadets took the chance to get creative with building their hooch with only their equipment and whatever nature provided. The weekend was a great success and a great learning experience for all. This year’s MSIs got a firsthand look at the program and the MSIIIs and IIIs received the opportunity to sharpen their skills as well as improving on any weak areas. Fall FTX was a success for all Cadets.
Collegeville, MN - The 3rd Annual Fight Saints Battalion 5K Run/Walk took place on a wonderful Saturday morning in the fall month of September with the sun shining, the leaves bright, and the air clear. AUSA Sub-chapter leadership took the reins on the event early on in the year to organize a successful event. And that it was. Friends, family, alumni, co-workers, and cadets all participated in the event creating tremendous support for the Fighting Saints program. As the starting air horn echoed through the air, the runners were off for a gorgeous trek through the Saint John’s Arboretum trail system.

Whether running or walking, participants were able to catch a glimpse of the peaceful wooded acres of Saint John’s while enjoying the company of their friends and family. Cadets and cadre showed their appreciation for their supporters by volunteering for information booths, offering refreshments, and providing music for the audience. Each participant also received an FSB ROTC race bag and a 5K T-shirt. Medals and trophies were also awarded to those who placed top overall in their respective age category. In the end, the FSB 5K Run/Walk was a great leadership opportunity for FSB Cadets and allowed the community to support and become actively involved in the FSB Army ROTC Program. Thank you to all who supported and participated! Hope to see you next year!
St. Cloud, MN - On 11 November 2012, Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion marched in the annual Veteran’s Day Parade in St. Cloud, MN. This parade starts at the Saint Cloud Veteran Affairs Hospital and ends at the Saint Cloud Apollo High School. The parade included veterans, girl scouts and different organizations in support, appreciation and remembrance of all those who have served our great nation. The Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets who participated ranged from first year to fourth year and was a great experience to all, especially those who had never experienced this event.

The support of all who came out on such a cold afternoon was amazing. This was a great morale and team building event. After the parade the girl scouts presented Cadets with pictures they had drawn to show their support and was much appreciated. Many veterans and their families came out to enjoy the parade along with other community members. This was the 5th year the Fighting Saints have participated in the event and plan to continue for years to come to show support and appreciation.
St. Cloud, MN - December 15, 2012 marked the end of Cadet Steven Poepping’s college education, his pursuit of a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting, and the beginning of an Army Officer career. This was an important time for Cadet Poepping in his military career as he transitioned from Cadet to Lieutenant by commissioning into the Active Duty Army Armor Corps. He successfully completed all essential training with excellence.

2LT Poepping attended the Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia for the Armor Corps prior to arriving at his first duty station. The commissioning ceremony was a special event attended by family, friends, fellow Cadets, and Cadre.

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."
White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico - The Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon is held in honor of those who were part of and those who lost their lives in the horrifying battle of Bataan during WWII. Everyone who participates in the marathon has the privilege of meeting and shaking the hands of the final survivors after completing the race. All of the Cadets dedicated five months to training and come from many walks of life and have their own personal reasons for participating in one of the most extreme marathons in the nation. Despite the personal reasons involved, the Cadets learned to put their differences aside to come together to honor the fallen and surviving Soldiers of Bataan.

"Today, we have a chance to achieve greatness". These were the words that LTC Darrell Bascom left with the 26 Cadets from Saint John’s University, College of Saint Benedict, and Saint Cloud State University as they took their starting positions before the race. This was the moment that all of these Cadets had been waiting for since training started in November. The three-time defending champions of their division, the ROTC Light team, were faced with a decision that they could not have prepared for prior to the competition. One of their own was injured after 22 miles of the race. The team maintained the core ethos of the Army and stayed with a team member until he received medical treatment. Unfortunately their teammate was not able to continue the race due to his injury. Overall, the Cadets proved their hard work paid off taking 1st and 2nd in the Civilian/Open Light category, 2nd in the ROTC Heavy division, with one individual Cadet completing the half marathon in 4th place overall and five individuals Cadets completing the full marathon in the Civilian and ROTC Heavy categories.
Cadets De Jesus, Gjevre, & Pittman were honored when one of the Bataan survivors requested their autographs on the Annual Bataan event program.

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The Fighting Saints and Schools from Minnesota and Wisconsin traveled to White Sands Missile Range via U.S. Navy DC-9 – Military Air Support.

Cadet Lillehaug enjoyed the support of his brother Isaac.

Fighting Saints / SY12-13
Camp Ripley, MN - Every spring brings a vital training event for the Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It is one of the key training events the third year Cadets (MSIIIs) will participate in before they head to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The Spring Field Training Exercise is held every year at Camp Ripley, MN where ROTC Cadets come together to lead different training events and work together.

MSIII and MSII Cadets arrived at St. John’s University on Friday night to begin preparations for this year’s Spring FTX. All Cadets were assigned to squads and the designated leadership began carrying out the training plan which included, building terrain models, pre-combat inspections, and equipment layouts.

Early Saturday morning the FSB Cadets and Cadre convoyed to Camp Ripley Training Center to conduct patrolling operations. Throughout the training day Cadets rotated through leadership positions and were continually assessed on their troop leading procedures, military decision making process, critical thinking and tactical skills. The patrolling lanes challenged the Cadets on a variety of simulated attacks, ambushes, and reconnaissance missions. This year, the MSIII Cadets were challenged to employ critical thinking and analysis as they were evaluated on variable lanes. Their decisions contributed to the overall outcome of their evaluations.

Despite the cold temperatures and over a foot of snow, the Fighting Saints Cadets demonstrated dedication to mission accomplishment, esprit de corps, and commitment to teamwork by maintaining high morale and motivation in this challenging training environment. After twelve hours of patrolling, each Cadet received valuable feedback from upper classmen through after action reviews and the leader development process. This feedback was essential to the underclassmen to further sharpen their own leadership skills.
Sights from the 2013 Spring JFTX
Photos by Cadet Steven Middlebrook
Friends & Supporters
Thank you for your support!

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.

FSB Family & Friends
TK Loney Promotions LLC - St. Paul, MN
HI Way Federal Credit Union - St. Paul, MN
Rocky Boots - Nelsonville, OH
AUSA GEN Vessey Chapter
Best Western Kelly Inn - St. Cloud, MN
5th Region AUSA - Minneapolis, MN
Benton’s Trophy - St. Cloud, MN

Please support our supporters. 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

If you are interested in making a donation please contact (320) 363-2715 or send to Military Science Department, Attn: Cadet Battalion Fund, P.O. Box 7099, Collegeville, MN 56321.

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.
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.

The first 150 pre-registrants will receive one short-sleeved cotton t-shirt printed with the "FSB5K" logo and sponsors. Anyone registering after the last day of registration cannot be guaranteed that a shirt will be included for their fee. 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 2013 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 guarantee.

Registration pdf available at http://www.csbsju.edu/rotc/