April 2014
http://www.csbsju.edu/army-rotc

FIGHTING SAINTS

Best Program
ARMY ROTC
SY 2013-2014
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, the Bataan Memorial Marathon 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!

The Fighting Saints Battalion standing tall at Clemens Stadium, Saint John's University, 3 May 2013.
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 1,700 officers have been commissioned from the three schools served by the Tri-College Exchange through the end of school year 2013-2014.
JBLM, Washington - In the summer of 2013, 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 regiment-cycles.

Warrior Forge was a good test of all the skills and abilities that we have learned and honed throughout the first three years of ROTC. It was also a great learning experience with regards to learning to work with your peers that you have never met or worked with before. We were able to further our knowledge in many areas such as; tactics, first aid, garrison leadership, weapon systems, and numerous other warrior tasks and drills. Overall, it was a good culmination to the first three years of ROTC and transition into being an MSIV.
Collegeville, MN - On the 20th of August, the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) was happy to welcome 16 newly contracted Cadets into the program. The week started with an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), in which, several of the Cadets performed extremely well. Following the APFT, the newest members of the FSB finalized their contracting documents and received their first full issue of U.S. Army gear and equipment. Having completed all administrative requirements for the day, the new Cadets and several Cadre traveled to Camp Ripley Training Center for an action-packed afternoon of rappelling. They had the opportunity to rappel off of the side of a 40-foot tall rappel tower. By the end of the day, all the Cadets were able to fasten their own rappel harnesses and safely rappel to the base of the tower. It was a good team building exercise where they each learned a little bit more about the Army Value of Personal Courage. The rest of the week consisted of campus orientation at both CSBSJU and SCSU. On Friday, the 23rd of August, the Fighting Saints Battalion held its annual welcoming luncheon finalizing the weeks activities. The new Cadets, their friends and family, and the Fighting Saints Battalion Cadre all enjoyed each other’s company and had a chance to socialize. Following the luncheon, the Professor of Military Science and Battalion Commander, LTC Darrell Bascom, performed the swear in ceremony, thus making official the new Cadets place in the Fighting Saints Battalion. I have every confidence that all the new Cadets will serve as excellent additions to the FSB family as they work toward the ultimate goal of commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the finest fighting force on Earth!
Staff Ride
MSIVs Study of the Dakota War of 1862
By Cadet Thomas Grages

New Ulm, MN - On September 14, 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 engaged in a war against the American settlers in 1862. Due to the historical values the MSIVs toured battle sites from the war, such as the town of New Ulm, the Upper and Lower Sioux Agencies, and Birch Coulee to name a few.

Assisted by the knowledge of friendly tour guides such as John LaBatte, Terry Sveine and Mr. Anthony, the MSIV's learned 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, were a few interesting factors about 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, the Staff Ride of the Dakota War was a valuable learning experience for the ROTC Class of 2014.

If you are interested in supporting our staff rides or learning more, please contact LTC Darrell Bascom at dbascom@csbsju.edu

Class of 2014 during the Seniors Staff Ride, New Ulm, MN.
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. The 911 ceremony marked the 12th 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 global war on terror since. The program included speeches from Major Dave Kleis, Chief of Police William Blair Anderson, a prayer from a local minister, and representatives from police and fire departments. Cadet Mathew Garrett led the Fighting Saints Battalion represented by Cadets Lehmann, Eich, Berg, Maxwell, Nelson, and Boettcher.
Washington, D.C. - The Fighting Saints Battalion was once again fortunate enough to send two teams and individual runners to the 29th Annual Army Ten-Miler on October 20th, 2013. The elite team consisted of Cadets Gjevre, Zilka, Charpentier, Eich, Skovera and Erickson. Cadets Weill, Boerner, Cameron and Bahlmann were members of the Vessey Women's Team who placed 5th the Open Women Division. Cadets Gosswiller, Djene, Dobesh and Schumacher comprised the 2nd ROTC Team. When the Cadets arrived in Washington D.C. They were struck by the beauty of the city and its monuments, the patriotism of the people around them, and in that the highest ranking officials in the Army were present for the competition.

For many Cadets, this was the first time many had seen a Colonel, and even rarer, a General walking towards them. On October 20th, the Cadets awoke at 4:30A.M. in order to prepare for the race. They knew that they were going to be competitive because of their time trials were all in the 58-60 minute time-area. As they walked to the Pentagon, where the race started, they saw many other Army And sister-service Teams assembling. Finally, at 8:00A.M. the race started with a 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 Capitol Hill.

For the third consecutive year, the Fighting Saints Battalion was the overall first place team in the ROTC division with a total time of 3 hours 52 minutes and 10 seconds. Cadet Zilka came in first for the Fighting Saints Battalion team with a time of 55 minutes 40 seconds and Cadet Charpentier placed first in his age group with a time of 56 minutes 40 seconds. The FSB ROTC Team placed 15th overall out of 689 teams beating some of the Army's elite. 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 Annual Meeting and saw all the new technology that the Army is developing, as well as listened to speeches given by the Secretary of the Army and the Cadet Command Commanding General. Finally on Tuesday the teams headed back to Minnesota to relax for a few weeks and begin preparation for the Bataan Memorial Death March.
Fort McCoy, WI - Training for this year's Ranger Challenge competition commenced on 12 August 2013; with one goal in mind; to finally take first place in the Task Force Ripley competition. For several Cadets, this would be their last chance at glory and for many others, it was their chance to be part of something special and carry it forward into next year. Our Black Team, or varsity team, comprised of five Seniors: Cadets Oestreich (Team Captain), Illies, Huset, Marschall, and Pittman, and four Juniors: Cadets Francour, Witt, Brakner, and Gresback dominated the competition. The competition was supposed to take place at Camp Ripley, MN, but due to numerous factors this was unable to happen. As an alternate event due to the government shutdown, each university in the Task Force had to conduct three mandatory events on their respective campuses. Graded events included the Army Physical Fitness Test, a written knowledge exam, and a 10K forced march. As a Battalion, we had 40 Cadets participating in our Ranger Challenge training. The Fighting Saints Battalion had three 9-person teams, one 5-person all female team, and one 5-person Junior Varsity team compete.

The results of the competition ended with our Black Team taking first place in all three events and winning the Task Force Competition for the first time since 2003. We were now earned the opportunity to attend and compete at the next level in the Brigade Ranger Challenge competition for the second year in a row at Fort McCoy, WI. Once all the scores were compiled, our Black Team was again crowned champions. We took first place in four events; 10K forced march, one rope bridge lane, medical lane, and day land navigation. We also took second in four other events; patrol lane, APFT, knowledge exam, and the marksmanship challenge. Rounding out the events, we took third in night land navigation, obstacle course, and the hand grenade assault course. It was a spectacular accomplishment winning the Brigade Level competition. It was the first time St. John's University has won this event in since 1990, and now we will be heading to West Point, NY to compete in the Sandhurst Ranger Challenge Competition. Sandhurst is the pinnacle Ranger Challenge competition for an international audience. It consists of 36 teams from West Point, eight ROTC teams, one team from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and 10 other countries, some of which are Great Britain, China, Chile, and Afghanistan. No ROTC team has ever won this competition, and our goal as a team is at least a top ten finish. We are excited for this opportunity to go and represent our Brigade on an international stage.
Camp Ripley, MN - Cadets arrived at Camp Ripley at 5:00P.M. on 20 September 2013, where they shared a hot meal with Cadets from the University of South Dakota. Following dinner, Cadets took part in the first iteration of Land Navigation training. The next morning, Cadets enjoyed an early 4:30A.M. wake- up call to make their way to the Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC) and Situational Training Exercise (STX) sites to have their leadership skills tested and refined. Training for the reminder of the day consisted of both Day and Night Land Navigation, and Troop Leading Procedures. During Land Navigation Testing, 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 – the most commonly failed event at LDAC.

Throughout the exercise, Cadets were rotated through various garrison leadership positions and had various opportunities to learn and practice a variety of basic combat skills. The 2013 Fall FTX was extremely successful and prepared our Cadets to become effective leaders as they continue their ROTC development.
Collegeville, MN - On October 5th, 2013 the Fighting Saints Battalion hosted the 4th Annual FSB5K Run/Walk in the beautiful St. John's Arboretum Trail System. "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 Colin Charpentier, an ROTC participant and winner of the overall male category with a time of 17:42. 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 plus. 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. Colin Charpentier from North Branch, MN took the overall male title with a time of 17:42. 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!
St. Cloud, MN - On 10 November 2013, Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion marched in the annual Veterans Day Parade in St. Cloud, MN. This parade starts at the St. Cloud Veteran Affairs Hospital and ends at the St. Cloud Apollo High School. The parade included veterans, Girl Scouts and various organizations, in support to appreciation and remember all those who have served, and continue to serve our great nation. The Fighting Saints who participated ranged from first year to fourth year Cadets, where as the event was a great experience to all. Many had never experienced an event like this. The support of all who came out on such a beautiful Fall afternoon was amazing. This was a great morale and team building event. After the parade, Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets took part in a social at Apollo High School, getting to meet and greet with Veterans who served in the past. Many Veterans and their families came out to enjoy the parade along with other community members. This was the sixth year the Fighting Saints had participated in the event and plan to continue for years to come to show support and appreciation.
Saint Cloud, MN - December 2013 was a pivotal month for one Cadet of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It marked the end of his college education, his pursuit of a Bachelor’s Degree, and the beginning of an Army career for Nicholas Severtson. This was an important period for Cadet Severtson in his military career as he transitions from Cadet to Lieutenant, by commissioning into the Army Reserve. This moment pointed him in a new direction as an Army officer. He successfully completed all necessary training in an excellent manner.

Cadet Severtson will attend the Engineer Officer Basic Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri before arriving at his first assignment as a Engineer Platoon Leader with HHC, 367th Engineer Battalion out of Brainerd, MN. This special commissioning ceremony was attended by family, friends, fellow Cadets, and Cadre. We wish this newly commissioned Lieutenant the best of luck in his career as an Army Officer. On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate 2LT Nicholas Severtson on a job well done!

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, NM - As the two fastest teams out of a field of 6,200 runners and 224 elite teams, the FSB ROTC Light and COED Civilian teams both set new records for time in their respective divisions while on their way to winning 1st Place. In the true spirit of Bataan, and vowing to never leave a fallen comrade, the ROTC Light team carried a team member for over 4 miles of the event. The FSB Male Civilian Team showed great character and achieved a 2nd Place finish in a very competitive division. Comprised of Cadets from Saint Johns University and Saint Cloud State University, we are extremely proud of our Fighting Saints!
West Point, NY - The Sandhurst Military Skills Competition is a military skills competition at West Point that first began in 1967 with the presentation of a British officer's sword to the United States Corps of Cadets by the British Exchange Officer. The 2014 competition featured a record 57 teams and nearly 513 competitors. Besides the 36 squads from each of the West Point companies and one from West Point Prep, visiting service academy teams included the Naval, Coast Guard, and Air Force Academies, Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) teams "Red" and "Blue", Australia's Royal Military College Duntroon, Canada's Royal Military College (RMC), the Chilean Military School, PLAUST (China), Offiziershule Des Heeres (Germany), Heroico Colegio Militar (Mexico), and Nigeria Military Academy. This year saw eight ROTC squads: Texas A&M, BYU, Penn State University, Michigan State University, Florida State University, James Madison University, Central Washington University, and Saint John’s University-MN.

Each squad is required to perform a series of military tasks along a route which took most teams approximately 36 hours to complete. Scores are determined by combining the points they earn by performing each military task along the route, with the points earned for completing the course within the published timeline. Examples of events include building and crossing a one-rope bridge, rifle marksmanship, 12' wall climb, pistol marksmanship both (indoor and outdoor), land navigation, CBRN/TCCC, tactical vehicle recovery/TCCC, a DMI challenge, bivouac challenge, hand grenades and overall course time with route planning.

Saint John’s University finished 3rd overall in the ROTC category making us the 3rd best Ranger Challenge team out of 277 programs across the nation. We also finished 13th overall in the competition making us the 13th best team in the entire world. We individually placed 2nd in pistol marksmanship, 2nd in the tactical vehicle recovery event, tied for 1st in the weapons assembly, 2nd in hand grenades, and 3rd in the final event the DMI challenge. Overall, it was an amazing experience starting at the Task Force level back in October and finishing at the highest level possible in April. As a team, we made memories that we will cherish forever and forged bonds that will last a lifetime.
Camp Ripley, MN - With Spring always comes the Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX). During this event MS III cadets received training on critical tasks such as Day and Night Land Navigation, Platoon Operations, qualifying with the M-16s and learning core concepts of leadership. Every year the CFTX is held at Camp Ripley, MN to better prepare MS III Cadets (Juniors) for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) in the coming summer. At LDAC MSIII Cadets will be assessed by their proficiency in the skills practiced at the CFTX. Another aspect of the CFTX is that multiple universities and ROTC programs participate.

This vital training exercise, carried out prior to LDAC in the summer, goes over crucial skills and tasks. Cadets are split up from each university and integrated into platoons and squads. This is a great experience for the Cadets, because they get to work closely with others outside of their own program. While all programs train on the same material with the same goals, the methods to get there can differ slightly. It is good for Cadets to be exposed to the slight differences before attending LDAC and working with Cadets from the Region for a weekend.

Land navigation is a key skill for success at LDAC. All underclassmen were able to practice their Land Navigation skills on Camp Ripley’s course. Cadets were able to take it to the next level by doing Night Land Navigation as well. Platoon Operations is another capstone event for Cadets; especially, the MSIII cadets. They take on the responsibility of leadership in the platoon, serving as either a Platoon Leader, platoon sergeant or Squad Leader. Each position has different responsibilities but all positions work together towards the same endstate. Receiving training at Platoon Operations prior to LDAC is invaluable training. Cadets also qualified with the M-16 Rifle at the small arms range. For some this was the first time firing a weapon and was certainly exciting.

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 a long weekend, 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.
Lawrence, KS – On April 19, 2014 the University of Kansas ROTC hosted the 20th Annual Ranger Buddy Competition Elite Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets with 44 universities attending from across the nation. Two-cadet teams tested their physical and mental toughness with a 15-kilometer (9.3 mi) road march, an unknown distance buddy run, target shooting, weapons assembly, and an array of basic soldiering tasks. This is the premier training event for ROTC Cadet two-man teams to come out and mentally and physically challenge themselves. Fighting Saints Battalion sent eight (8) teams (six Male, one COED, one Female) to compete at this year’s competition. Throughout the day, several FSB teams posted multiple top scores in each of the lanes that they navigated. Cadets Tyler Brakner and Holly Spitzer achieved a 3rd place finish in the COED division, with many FSB teams finishing at the top of their respective divisions.
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
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Best Western Kelly Inn - St. Cloud, MN
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Advance Auto Parts – St. Cloud, MN

Please patronize 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.

The Soldier’s Creed

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 2014 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/