This is Our PROGRAM

SY 2008-2009
Who we are
By LTC James C. Fischer

College is considered a time for personal discovery and learning; so 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, 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 taking staff rides to Gettysburg, competing in the Bataan Memorial Marches, 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, developing their leadership through scholarship, physical fitness training, Ranger Challenge, Warrior Forge, Leader’s Training Course, 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 1,300 officers have been commissioned from the three schools served by the Tri-College Exchange through the end of school year 2005-2006.

Initial Week 4
Army Ten Miler 5
Ranger Challenge 6
Fall FTX / Veterans Parade 7
Dining In 8
Winter Commissioning 9
Staff Ride 10
Bataan Memorial March 11
Spring FTX 12

The Army Values
Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers.
Duty: Fulfill your obligations.
Respect: Treat people as they should be treated.
Selfless-Service: Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.
Honor: Live up to all the Army values.
Integrity: Do what’s right, legally and morally.
Personal Courage: Face fear, danger, or adversity (Physical or Moral).

Front Cover
The Fighting Saints Battalion standing tall at November 2008’s Annual Dining In.
Initial week gave new Cadets a glimpse into the training they would encounter as future Cadets in the Fighting Saints Battalion as well as a chance to get to know their cadre and peers. Over the three days at Saint John's University and Saint Cloud State University new Cadets encountered new challenges and began the process of becoming an Army ROTC Cadet. The new Cadets participated in daily events including filling out contracting documents as well as getting their first Army uniforms and equipment issued to them.

The Cadets were also given a chance to get to know one another, and share in the camaraderie that makes the Army great through events like a bonfire and a movie night. Each of these events assisted the Cadets in building relationships that will last throughout their time in the Fighting Saints Battalion. The new Cadets also faced new challenges during initial week. Cadets took the Army Physical Fitness Test. Which measures Soldiers overall physical strength and endurance. They also participated in Combat Water Survival Training, which teaches Soldiers how to swim in their gear and uniform. Both events forced Cadets to face their fears, and tested their determination. The culmination of initial week was the family barbeque.

New Cadets invited friends and family to take part in this key event. Family members got a chance to meet the cadre, and ask questions about the FSB program. The Cadets also took the oath of an ROTC Cadet, as they were sworn in by LTC Fischer. Overall, initial week offered new experiences for the Cadets and started them down the road to become future leaders in the United States Army.
During the weekend of October 4-7, four Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets travelled to Washington, D.C. for the 24th Annual Army Ten Miler. The event, the largest ten-mile race in the country, was held on the morning of Sunday, October 5th. During the course of the race, which begins and ends at the Pentagon, runners pass such D.C. landmarks as the White House, the Federal Reserve, and the Vietnam War Memorial. Representing the Fighting Saints were MSIV Cadets Cody Martin and Aaron Rindahl and MSIII’s Adam Larson and John Oemig. They finished with an average time of approximately seventy minutes and handily defeated their University of Minnesota Rivals. Fighting Saints cadre members Mr. Alberto DeJesus and Lieutenant Colonel Fischer also participated in the race.

The trip to Washington included more than just the race itself. On Monday, Cadets had the opportunity to attend the Annual Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Convention, which included a presentation from AUSA and an Expo which included exhibits from dozens of defense contractors. The Cadets also attended the ROTC Luncheon that day in which TRADOC Commander General William Wallace gave the keynote speech.

Among unstructured activities, Cadets typically toured the landmarks and memorials of Washington, D.C. and attended the Football Party the night of the Convention. The trip, which only a select few Cadets from across the country have the opportunity to attend, is considered a unique privilege among Cadets. Such an opportunity, therefore, should never be passed up.
This year the Fighting Saints Battalion sent two teams to the annual Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Ripley. A total of ten teams competed in several events throughout the weekend. These events consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test, Orienteering, Patrolling, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Hand Grenade Assault Course, One-Rope Bridge, Weapon Assembly & Disassembly, and a 10k ruck run. The black team had strong finishes in the 10k run, Weapon Assembly & Disassembly, Patrolling, the Hand Grenade Assault Course, and finished in an overall fourth place. The gold team had a good showing in orienteering and finished eighth place overall.

The teams began training for the competition back in August. Training consisted of physical fitness in the mornings for five days a week and practice for each of the events in the afternoons four days a week. The 18 Cadets who participated in the competition put in a lot of time and hard work during the months leading up to the competition itself and it showed in their performance.

The goal for the Ranger Challenge team is to improve from one year to the next and this year’s team did just that. This year’s team was young, which means that next year they will be able to use their experience to build on the lessons that were learned this year. I would like to congratulate the team for meeting the challenge and thank the cadre for their support.
When you think about college classes, you usually do not think about a class that teaches leadership, discipline, and patience. However, that would best describe the class myself and other Army ROTC Cadets have been taking this past semester. Each year we test and learn new skills through our participation in fall Field Training Exercises (FTX). The FTX is a weekend long event packed full of activities which give Cadets a little insight into what will be expected of them at the Army’s Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC).

The weekend began with night land navigation, to help Cadets develop the skills needed to use a map and compass. Following the land navigation training Cadets were given instruction on how to conduct Army battle drills. These drills consist of: squad attack, react to contact, taking out a bunker, reconnaissance, and setting up a road side ambush. The next day started with breakfast followed by day land navigation. After land navigation we conducted Squad Training Exercises (STX) lanes where we practiced the battle drills that we rehearsed and received feedback on the training we had conducted the previous evening. STX lanes created team unity, trust in one another, and self confidence.

Once we completed STX lanes we were split into two groups. The first group then conducted patrol base operations while the other group practiced their marksmanship with the EST 2000 simulator. The EST 2000 is a computerized M16 range simulator that helps Cadets with their marksmanship skills. The culmination of the weekend’s training occurred on Sunday morning. The Cadets were split into two squads that would oppose each other in one big battle. One squad set up a road side ambush, while the other squad performed a route recon. Both squads utilized valuable lessons learned throughout their training. As we walked back to civilization, we all felt the same thing, accomplishment. Accomplishment of what we had completed and that we know we started out the year in a great way.
November 9, 2008 Cadets from the Fighting Saints Battalion participated in a parade of remembrance for all of the veterans that have served our country. The Fighting Saints met up at the parking lot in the Veterans Affairs hospital in Saint Cloud, MN to prepare prior to marching in the parade for hundreds of past veterans and families of currently deployed Soldiers to show them the honor and respect that they deserve.

The origins of Veterans Day traces back to the end of World War I. What Americans celebrate today as Veterans was known as Armistice Day to remember the day that the Treaty of Versailles took place and ended World War I, which was known then to be the war to end all wars. Armistice Day was first celebrated on November 11, 1919 when President Wilson proclaimed that to be the day to commemorate all of those that died in service to their country.

With Veterans from World War II and the Korean War, President Eisenhower wanted the day of observation of this holiday to be accepted by all veterans and not just Veterans from World War I. So, on June 1, 1954 President Eisenhower changed Armistice Day to what we know today as Veterans Day.
After countless hours of preparation and squaring away of Class A’s, the Fighting Saints Battalion finally gathered for their annual Dining In event. The Dining In is a long-standing military tradition conducted annually by our Cadets. This formal event involves a social hour, dinner, and several entertaining activities that allow us to have fun and build camaraderie. This year the event was yet again marked by laughter and fun.

President of the Mess Cadet Rindahl along with Mr. Vice, Cadet Treanor, led the entertainment with the traditional Grog ceremony headed by Master of the Punch, Cadet Loher. Mr. Vice, from the moment of completion of the grog (a mixture of numerous substances that represent America’s first battles), made sure all discrepancies were found and that those who violated the rules of the mess were dealt with justly (via drinking from the grog).

Between the drinking of the grog, various old games (combat twister), new games (orange balls), and finally the highlighting of hilarious events of the semester with the unique MS class skits, again made the Dining In a successful side-splitting evening.
The end of the 2008 Fall Semester was a pivotal time for three Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. It marked an important transition of three young Cadets to lieutenants. The accumulation of over four successful years through ROTC led to the commissioning of Alex Tatone, Aaron Rindahl, and Daniel Gimm as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

This was a pivotal moment for these young men as it pointed them toward a new direction in their lives as an army officer. They successfully completed all necessary training as a Cadet to have the honor of earning the bar of gold. They will now move on to further training at BOLC II and continue to the Officer Basic Course of their selected branch before arriving at their first duty station.

On behalf of the Fighting Saints Battalion, we congratulate them on a job well done; we wish these newly commissioned lieutenant's the best of luck in their careers as military officers.

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."
The Fighting Saints Battalion senior class, accompanied by LTC Fischer and MAJ Errington, conducted a staff ride on the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to analyze this major Civil War battle on the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. They conducted the staff ride from March 6th to March 9th with each day focusing on a separate day of engagements that occurred during the battle. Prior to the staff ride, Cadets studied a specific Civil War leader and prepared to discuss key actions during the battle. After each day's analysis the Cadets and cadre spent time visiting the various Gettysburg tourist shops and eating as a group to further share our thoughts about what we learned that day. The MS IVs arrived at the Minneapolis airport at 05:30 on Friday morning to begin their trip. Upon arrival at Gettysburg we visited the new Visitors Center/Museum. Here everyone watched an introductory movie on the Battle of Gettysburg and walked through the museum to view fascinating historical artifacts and replicas of items from the time. The day was finished with food and conversation at O'Rourke's Restaurant.

On Saturday, we all drove to the west and north of Gettysburg where we visited the locations of the first engagements between the Union and the Confederates. The class moved to each point in order to see what the Soldiers saw back then and understand how terrain and tactics were used. We learned how the fighting started with a meeting engagement and grew throughout the day to the north and northwest. We followed the events up until the end of the day when the Confederates had pushed the Union back through Gettysburg into a defensive fishhook south of town. Day two was ended with a Revolutionary War themed dining experience at the historic Dobbins House.

The Cadets and cadre greeted Sunday with a scenic run along Cemetery Ridge all the way to Little Round Top and back to the museum once again to see the Cyclorama: a 360 degree life-size painting of Pickett's charge, an amazing visual experience. We also gained an understanding of the positions and engagements of both armies south of the town on July 2, 1863. We visited places such as the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, Devil’s Den, Little Round Top, Cemetery Ridge, and Seminary Ridge discussing the implications of the movements by each side's Soldiers and what effect it had on both armies' decision making. As the sun set the class visited the First Minnesota Regiment Monument and proceeded to actually charge to the position they held on Plum Run. The choice of dining that night was at the Appalachian Brewing Company and Pub, followed by a council of war where we discussed the issues facing General Meade and his corps commanders after the fighting.

If you are interested in supporting our staff ride or learning more, please contact LTC Fischer at jcfischer@stcloudstate.edu.
Seventeen Cadets and cadre members of the ROTC Fighting Saints Battalion traveled to New Mexico to participate in the Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon on March 26th through the 30th. The Bataan Memorial Death March honors a special group of World War II heroes. These brave Soldiers were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines.

The opening ceremony is a somber affair, reminding all present of the grave event we are memorializing that day. A symbolic roll call is called, beginning with those who are no longer with us and ending with the few survivors remaining today, loudly shouting “here” to both proclaim their defiance of the terrible trials they endured and to honor those who have passed on. The survivors marched to the starting line with bagpipes accompanying them, a heart-stirring sight. The race kicked off with all participants shaking hands with the survivors before setting off.

The Fighting Saints ran along endless sandy trails, up and around a mountain, and through a treacherous stretch full of sand dunes, in eighty degree weather, of the high desert of New Mexico. Fighting through sore feet, battered knees, pinched nerves, repeated falls, and mental anguish, the Fighting Saints let nothing stand in their way, keeping their spirits high they fought through the pain. They learned the true meaning of mental toughness.

Over 4,500 runners from all over world participated and honored the veterans of WWII. All of our members completed the 26.2 or 15.2 mile competition and one of our teams took 2nd place in their division, while the other took 3rd place.

**The Military Coed Light Team I**

CDT Haider  
CDT Day  
CDT Heagel  
CDT Hogan  
CDT Elden

**The Military Coed Light Team II**

CDT Lieder  
CDT Larson  
CDT Zilka  
CDT Kostiuk  
CDT Gerdes

**Individual Competitors**

Mr. DeJesus  
MSG Arnold  
2LT Tatone  
CDT Kasel  
CDT Carlson  
CDT Huebner  
CDT Jacobson
Every year the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB) along with The University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota, North Dakota State University and Mankato State University meet at Camp Ripley, MN, to prepare their MS III’s for the rigors and stresses they will encounter at the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington.

This Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) also allows the freshmen and sophomore Cadets the opportunity to partake in a few exciting activities like Basic Rifle Marksmanship, rappelling off a tower, patrol base operations, running through an obstacle course and being part of a squad and conducting tactical squad missions.

This year the Fighting Saints Battalion spearheaded the task of planning and operating an M16 rifle range to familiarize Cadets with Basic rifle marksmanship. At completion of the range, 129 Cadets from all schools got the chance to test their skills with an M16. The FSB also conducted the obstacle course in a resounding success where after the Cadets were familiarized with how to maneuver through the obstacles, they were timed in a competition to see who could complete it in the fastest time. At the conclusion of the field training exercise the Cadets marched back to the barracks in what is called a Victory March, where the motivated Cadets celebrated a successful operation and showed their enthusiasm by singing cadences and marching back to a nice hot meal.
Friends & Sponsors
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.

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To stay in touch with our activities visit our website www.armyrotc.com/edu/mnstjohns.

The Soldiers 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 Our Program