Spring 2009
Fighting Saints Leader

The End of the Beginning
By Cadet Andrea Lieder

On May 9th in the presence of our families, friends and special guests, the MSIV Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion took the Oath of Office and were pinned as Second Lieutenants. Of the sixteen Cadets, seven commissioned into the Active Component and nine into the Minnesota Army National Guard. This ceremony marked the end of our ROTC and college careers and the beginning of our careers as Army Officers. The rest of 2009 and 2010 will find us, along with the other newly commissioned Second Lieutenants, training at BOLC II and our branch specific Officer Basic Course at Army installations around the country. A select few of our FSB commissioned lieutenants will be serving immediately as evaluators at the Leaders Training Course (LTC) and Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer before they begin their officer basic course. Congratulations newly commissioned Lieutenants, this is just the beginning! Best of luck to you all from the Fighting Saints!

Cadet Commander’s Corner
By Cadet LTC Leroy Christiansen

The Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion are ready to meet the challenges before them, as they have demonstrated excellence in many areas this past semester. The Cadets’ days have been filled with physical training, Situational Training Exercises and land navigation, and culminated with our Brigade’s Joint Field Training Exercise at Camp Ripley where our battalion excelled in performance and won praise from other battalions, Cadre and Cadets alike. Our rigorous training exercises have prepared our Cadets for summer training at Warrior Forge, the 'Robin Sage' course, Airborne school, and Air Assault school. I am confident they will all exceed the standard. As I end my ROTC studies, I am very proud of this battalion and thankful for their hard work and dedication. I wish all of the Cadets the best as they continue on their paths to being Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.
From the Professor of Military Science
LTC James C. Fischer

Welcome to our newsletter! This semester, I want to introduce you to an elite corps: the Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion. They are elite in the most humble definition of the word; elite meaning they are a choice part of our society. Why would I say this? Our Cadets are elite because they have volunteered to face a great undertaking without expecting any fame, fortune, privilege or power. Instead of reward, this elite corps only expect more demands, more challenges, and maybe even hardship. They relish this opportunity. They see the satisfaction that comes with accomplishment. They see the value in sacrifice and purpose in their service. That is reward enough. Our elite know that they will build a team, train them, and serve with them to achieve the most important of missions: defending our country. They will be the platoon leader on patrol in a combat zone. They will be the captain commanding a hundred or more Soldiers who secure the combat zone. They might even command a Ranger company or maybe even the general directing complex operations in a foreign land. Someday, they will be the battalion commander or maybe even the general directing complex operations in a foreign land. They know they will make a difference in ways big and small. This elite will be constantly challenged, always learning, always improving in victory and defeat. Not every day will be perfect, there will be lows, but the highs will be higher than most can ever imagine. What has this elite, these future leaders, our Fighting Saints, done during the last twelve months to prepare for the great undertaking of leadership? We have grown to over 110 Cadets active in the program. We will commission a total of 22 this year and offer four-year scholarships to 16. We met our commission and nurse missions to earn recognition from Cadet Command. The performance of our 17 Cadets at Warrior Forge was in the top five of the schools in our Brigade. We continued our March battlefield study at Gettysburg and our alumni events in December. Our MS Is have learned a lot about the Army, the MS IIs have accepted every challenge, our MS IIIs are fine tuning themselves before Warrior Forge, and our MS IVs have proven to me that they are ready to serve as lieutenants. We sent one team of four Cadets to Washington, DC last October to compete in the Army Ten Miler, the largest ten mile race in the country, where we defeated our friends and rivals from UofM. We sent two teams of nine Cadets each to the Ranger Challenge Competition at Camp Ripley. Our Cadets participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March events at White Sands, NM and Brainerd, MN to honor veterans from Minnesota who faced the Japanese in 1942. Our GPA is 3.12. Over thirty Cadets have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and above. Six Cadets presented their research at the recent creativity and scholarship day. At least four Cadets will graduate with honors from their program this year and 13 Cadets are on the Dean’s list at their school. Cadets studied abroad in Chile and in Spain. Our physical fitness continues to improve. More than 35 Cadets scored 270 or above on their PT test. We sent 30 Cadets and Cadre to the Snowflake Shuffle run at CSB and 24 participated in the CSB Women’s Walk. Many do marathons, triathlons, and bike races. Four Cadets went to Airborne, one to Air Assault training, and four to CTTL. From football, track, wrestling, lacrosse, baseball, rugby, water polo, swimming, and Frisbee, we contribute athletes to the university teams and clubs. We are active in our communities: running for office; serving on the volunteer fire department; helping at the Arboretum; setting up blood drives and giving blood; working with campus fraternities to earn thousands of dollars for charity; donating over $500 to Toys for Military Kids; serving with our religious orders; marching in the St. Cloud Veterans’ Day Parade; recommending a change that saved our employer millions; performing in a production of Our Town on campus; presenting the colors for September 11, Vets Day, and sporting events. We have built one of the best subchapters of the Association of the United States Army in the country. What we do helps define who our Cadets are: the future leaders of our great Nation. The Cadre and I are thankful to be part of such an elite organization -- a select group of young Americans who are willing to pay any price and bear any burden that government of the people, by the people, and for the people might never perish from the earth. If you want to know more, give us a call or email. If you want to help, please consider a tax deductible donation to our Bataan trip or Gettysburg staff ride. At a minimum, continue to support our Cadets as they prepare to defend us all.

From the Senior Military Instructor
MSG Keith H. Arnold

Congratulations Fighting Saints on a very successful school year. The past semester has seen significant challenges for all of our Cadets. The MS IV class was able to conduct a staff ride to Gettysburg and visit the battle grounds from our past to learn and apply that to opportunities in their future. Fourteen Cadets and Cadre took the challenge to embark on the Bataan Death March at White Sands Missile range, NM. This year our marathoners were able to bring home hardware. Representing our battalion with the highest of standards, both physical and mental toughness were two teams which finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the coed military light division. The Corps of Cadets also plans to send 21 members to the Bataan Memorial March at Brainerd, MN. The Joint Field Training Exercise allowed the Fighting Saints to measure their skills with other Cadets from our neighboring programs. The hard work and preparation paid off in a very successful event and renewed confidence in our MS III’s prior to moving out to LDAC for the summer. More than 300 family, friends, alumni and Cadets joined in for military ball. This was the Cadre’s opportunity to show off all your hard work to our guests. We are pleased to announce it as a tremendous success. The culminating event of not only this year but of four years of hard work is the Fighting Saints’ Commissioning Ceremony. We are officially welcoming 16 new 2LT’s into the Army, National Guard and Army Reserve; congratulations to each of you. Many Cadets and Cadre will be moving out to additional training throughout the summer. Remember to continue to prepare yourselves and work as hard as you have this semester. Some of you will be catching up on some much deserved rest while others on additional school work. No matter what your goals or assignments are during this summer, remember to stay safe and continue to do PT. I look forward to seeing each of you next fall as we begin a new semester with fresh leadership from the MSIII and MSIV classes. I would like to wish a special good luck and safe travels for two of our Cadre who will be moving on to more trials and opportunities with new assignments. Master Sergeant Fussell and Major Mattila thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication to the battalion and the corps of Cadets; no words or praise can articulate the debt that we as an organization and fellow Soldiers owe to each of you.
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, and 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. On the final day we returned to Seminary Ridge to understand the position of the Confederates and the culmination of the battle known as Pickett’s Charge. We explored the Union position at the angle where the Pickett’s Charge converged. We then visited the National cemetery to contemplate the aftermath of the battle. The Fighting Saints left that afternoon on a flight back home after regrouping and discussing the overall lessons important to us as future officers.

20th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March
By Cadet Jacob Haider

17 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.
January Lab
By Cadet Joseph Watson

The advanced lab on January 17th was the site for Cold Weather Survival Training this year. MS III Cadets learned several important skills they will be able to utilize if they are ever forced to survive in cold weather or other perilous environments. Squads rotated between three different stations including: cross-country skiing, snow-shelter construction, and low visibility Dakota stoves and snowshoeing. For some, the day started with building Dakota stoves, this type of stove is ideal for building in windy environments where a conventional above ground fire would not be possible. Frozen ground forced Cadets here to build their Dakota stoves in snow banks, but they would normally be built directly in the ground. Other Cadets started off with a class in the construction of snow-shelters. These snow shelters provide warmth and safety from the wind and cold temperatures, as well as a sense of security. Cadets learned how to pick an appropriate site, build the shelter and then fortify it. This skill could undoubtedly prove beneficial should they need shelter in a cold environment, ideal for that January morning! The third rotation that Cadets attended was cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Cadets learned the best way to utilize the equipment in both activities as well as the proper way to fall and recover themselves on skis. The Fighting Saints wishes to thank the instructors from St. John’s University’s Nordic ski team that led the class with the assistance of a member of the St. Ben’s Cross-Country Ski team; their expertise allowed the Cadets to successfully complete these tasks effectively and efficiently. You never know in Minnesota when you might have to spend more time in the cold than expected! Learning to properly utilize each of these three abilities gives the Cadets an important skill set that prepares them for their future.

March Lab
By Cadet Mitchell Goenner

On March 21st, the Cadets of the Fighting Saints Battalion took to the St. John’s woods for their monthly leadership lab where MSIII Cadets are evaluated on their proficiency in basic leadership skills, planning, and basic infantry tactics. The intent of ROTC leadership labs is to train the MSIIIs to be successful and prepare them for their upcoming summer evaluations at Ft. Lewis, Washington. This particular lab's emphasis was on Situational Training Exercise lanes (STX) which give MSIIIs hands on training on the necessary preparations prior to the mission, and maneuvering their squad once they reach the objective. The lanes themselves consisted of the basic infantry battle drills: squad attack, knock out a bunker, set up an ambush, and area reconnaissance. Each lane presented different challenges, from steep hills surrounding the bunker to low concealment on the reconnaissance lane. As the Opposing Force (OPFOR), my role was to walk down a path in the woods, while the Cadets initiated an ambush. The ambush lane was initiated with the most casualty producing weapon the squad had, usually a claymore anti-personnel mine or AT4 rocket launcher. From there the squads would assault to the path and secure the enemy personnel. Once their tasks were completed, the squad leader would move them back off of the lane and back to their objective rally point. Then the next lane would begin and the squads would move to their next objective. Motivation remained high throughout the day, even with the wet terrain and cool weather. Overall the MSIIIs did well, and the underclassmen gained valuable experience for their future training.

Spring FTX

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 IIIs for the rigors and stresses they will encounter at the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington. This training exercise also allows the freshmen and sophomore Cadets the opportunity to partake in a few exciting activities like Basic Rifle Marksmanship, rappelling, patrol base operations, an obstacle course and tactical squad missions. This year the Fighting Saints Battalion planned and operated 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 where they celebrated a successful operation with a nice hot meal.
The Fighting Saint Battalion (FSB) held their annual Military Ball on the evening of April 24th hosted by LTC James Fischer. The night was filled with joy as friends, family, and comrades in arms joined together at the Best Western Kelly Inn, in downtown St. Cloud. This event has become a very important part of the Fighting Saints Battalion because it allows Cadets to experience one of the Army’s many great traditions. The night began with a social hour where many new faces became acquainted with one another. As an additional part to this year’s Military Ball, the Fighting Saints also hosted a raffle to raise money for our many different events that we will take part of in the upcoming school year. The night continued with dinner and the awards ceremony to recognize the many accomplishments of the FSB Cadets over the past school year. Following the awards ceremony, the FSB Cadets, friends and family cut loose as the dance carried us into the late hours of the night. In all, the night was filled with laughter, accomplishments, and memories that will continue to follow us throughout our careers.

Cadets Jacobson, Gerdes, Haider and Christiansen were this year’s recipients of the Cadet Superior Award.

SFC Sean Tajirian joins the Fighting Saints as its new MSII Instructor and Training NCO. SFC Tajirian came from Fort Hood, Texas, where he was a Platoon Sergeant for Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery. He has held a variety of leadership positions throughout his more than 19 years of service to include PATRIOT Launcher Section Chief, PATRIOT Radar Section Chief, the PATRIOT Electronic Missile Maintenance Officer, US Army Active Duty Recruiter, Launcher Platoon Sergeant, and Headquarters Platoon Sergeant. He has completed tours in Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Fort Bragg, Fort Bliss and Fort Hood.

As Cadets visit the ROTC offices at St. John’s University and St. Cloud State University, the offices they are used to seeing MAJ Mattila and MSG Fussell working from are now occupied by different Cadre members. Major Robb Mattila, who was the FSB’s Enrollment and Scholarship Officer, will deploy to Afghanistan later this summer. Additionally, Master Sergeant Derek Fussell has had a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to become a First Sergeant in Kaiserslautern, Germany. MSG Fussell has been with the FSB for the past three years serving as an instructor, the training NCO and Color Guard advisor. For MAJ Mattila and MSG Fussell, their dedication to duty and “Mission First” approach will be greatly missed in the Fighting Saints Battalion.
The Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft Lewis, WA, is the baptism by fire that every Cadet must endure to become an Army officer. The 33-day course incorporates a wide range of subjects designed to develop the technical proficiency of the Cadets, while simultaneously testing and developing their leadership abilities. This past year, FSB’s 22 junior Cadets have been training in preparation for LDAC. They have been tested by their MSIV graduates of LDAC, as well as their Cadre. The year leading up to LDAC places many challenges and responsibilities on the MSIIIs. They plan and execute PT three times a week, complete monthly labs, and endure weekend long, bi-annual FTXs. The MSIIIs are tested in squad and patrol level tactics, land navigation, garrison leadership, and of course, physical fitness. In addition to the morning PT sessions and weekend exercises, the MSIII class takes eight credits of classroom studies, where they learn the technical skills unique to Army leadership. When asked to comment on the readiness of his class, the Senior Military Instructor, MSG Arnold, said plainly, “they’re ready.” Cadet Christiansen commented on his development as a leader over the course of his MS III year. “At first I was nervous to be in control”, he remarked. Upon assuming command of a patrol sized element consisting of Cadets from five different schools at Spring FTX, Christiansen’s nerves had steadied. “I was given some guidance on what I needed to do, and then he told me to do it, so I did. I felt confident, in control, and ready for LDAC.”

The 2LT Jeremy Norberg Sub-chapter of Association of the United States Army hosted a bowling team building event on March 25th to enhance Esprit de Corps within the Fighting Saints Battalion, as well as welcoming new AUSA members into the sub-chapter, and providing a great opportunity for Alpha and Bravo Companies to get to know one another better. This event was attended by 48 existing and 10 prospective members. Joy and entertainment was the order of the night as the Cadets demonstrated and compared their bowling skills and partook in the pizzas that were sponsored by the General John Vessey Jr. chapter of AUSA. Prizes were even awarded upon a Cadet bowling a turkey or demonstration of similar skill, prizes ranged from hats to polo shirts. This event was a welcome opportunity to build camaraderie outside of the routine ROTC training environment and will undoubtedly be repeated in the future.

The Phi Kappa Tau fraternity of St. Cloud State University completed a nine-hour push-up event called "Pushing for Summer" on April 13, 2009. Each year, this fraternity does different philanthropic events to raise money for a charity called The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps. The camps are free for children who are terminally ill and who cannot normally even leave the hospital. The Hole in the Wall Camps rely on donations made by Newman's Own food company (which was founded by Paul Newman who was a member of the fraternity) and the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Fighting Saints Cadets from the Army ROTC at SCSU assisted with counting the participants’ push-ups so they did not have to keep track themselves. The ROTC Cadets were present in one hour shifts to cover the nine hours that the event would last to determine what a correct push-up was and what wasn’t quite up to the Army standard. There were at least two Cadets present at all times. Lewis Goldstein (Vice President of the fraternity) said, "We would like to continue this next year and possibly have another fraternity do it with us; or maybe the ROTC."
Sights from Spring 2009

Fighting Saints compete at a triathlon event.

Cadet Lefever ready for CWST.

CDT Poepping during the 2009 Military Ball

CDT Heagel during rappelling training.

B Company during sports PT.

FSB Cadets after the 2009 Bataan March.

FSB Cadets during the March Lab.

FSB Cadets during the January Lab.

2LTs Fargen & Kostiuk—Commissioning Ceremony.

CDTs Breuer & Gilbertson–The 2 Mile Run.

Daughters pin goldbars on 2LT Ayala.
2009 Women’s Walk
By Cadet Francesca Jacobson

This year, thirteen of our female Cadets participated in the Annual College of Saint Benedict (CSB) Women’s Walk, which took place on April 26th at the CSB. The walk raises money for campus recreation and the twelve varsity sports teams at CSB, and this year the event raised over $39,000. In addition to being a good bonding experience for the CSB Cadets, we were proud to partake in an event that promotes women’s physical fitness.

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**Fall 2009 Calendar**

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<td>August 17-21</td>
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<td>Fall FTX</td>
<td>September 18-20</td>
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<td>Army 10 Miler</td>
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**Do you know a future Cadet?**

If you know a young person who has the potential to be an Officer, tell them about us!

They don’t have to be from Minnesota!

We have great opportunities for Green-to-Gold; two/three/or four year scholarships
(CSB/SJU/SCSU even pay for room & board);
and the Simultaneous Membership Program.
Call 320-363-2717 for more info.

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If you are interested in ROTC or have any questions please feel free to visit our offices at either St. John’s University or St. Cloud State University campus. At SCSU we are located downstairs Stewart Hall room 11 and at St. John’s we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:

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