

Spring 2013 Fighting Saints Leader



It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it.
-General Douglas MacArthur



Fighting Saints Battalion 2013 Commissioning Class

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New Beginnings

By Cadet Keith Sand



Collegeville, MN - On May 11th, at St. John's University the Fighting Saint's Battalion Class of 2013 Commissioned in the company of friends, family, and Cadre. Commissioning signifies the oath that these Cadets take to serve their country as officers in the US Army, and is the culmination of their careers as ROTC Cadets. Each senior worked extremely hard

physically, academically, and mentally to learn and grow while in the program, becoming ready to take on this responsibility and honor. As each senior departs, they will enter one of the components of the U.S. Army, each as important as the other. The Army Reserve, National Guard, and Active Duty will bring new challenges and opportunities for these new officers. We wish them all luck and look forward to following their future successes. You will serve the country well. Congratulations!

Cadet Commander's Corner

By Cadet LTC Tiffany Wirtz

As this semester comes to a close, we can look back on all the hard work and achievements of the Fighting Saints Battalion (FSB). The Cadets' exceptional performance in events such as Army 10-Miler, Ranger Challenge, Battalion Memorial Death March, Ranger Buddy and LDAC training, display our continuing success as an ROTC Battalion. Our Cadets participate in all these ROTC events in addition to early morning physical training (PT) and demanding college courses; while many Cadets also balance them with collegiate athletics, jobs, volunteering, internships and families. This 2013 spring semester has been especially challenging - as our Cadets conducted a large amount of their training through Minnesota "spring" weather. Once again, FSB Cadets displayed their resilience and physical endurance by persevering through low temperatures, ice, and up to waist-high mounds of snow. As a Battalion, we were able to achieve our training goals and objectives through the support of the FSB Cadre, resilience of the un-

derclassmen and hard work of the MSIV class. The MSIVs, planning all the training and acting as the Cadet Battalion Staff, displayed exceptional mental agility, as they were able to adapt and overcome all the challenges presented throughout this year. The MSIVs worked as a team, planning and executing training that not only prepared the MSIIIs for LDAC, but also developed the senior class as competent and resilient future 2LTs. There is not a doubt in my mind that our underclassmen are several steps ahead of their peers, and that our MSIIIs are more than prepared for the challenges of LDAC. Overall, our Cadets consistently maintain a high level of performance and prove time and time again that they are amongst the best in our Task Force. It was a pleasure working with the Cadets and Cadre of the Fighting Saints Battalion. I wish the Cadets the best of luck in all their future endeavors and congratulations to the Commissioning Class of 2013!

From the Professor of Military Science

LTC Darrell D. Bascom



What a phenomenal semester and year! Our program continues to grow with quality and is 128 Cadets strong. The emphasis on quality cannot be overstated. This year our program was recognized as one of the top 3 in the Brigade (out of 41 Universities) for accessions, and the most improved overall. 32% of our MSIVs earned Distinguished Military Graduate status, an achievement only awarded to the top 20% in the nation. Two of these Seniors graduated with Honors (one of which was Cum Laude), one was the only Army Officer in the nation selected for a prestigious Fellowship on Leadership, and one was singled out by his campus as one of 19 exceptional leaders. Our program continues to set new milestones, with improvements across the board. Together, your Cadets have learned, practiced, and demonstrated leadership to a level few of their peers can match. They are "Leaders from the Heartland" and what I consider the "Best of the Best". During this past semester we sent two teams to KU Buddy who

finished 2nd and 7th out of 150 teams, and we sent 4 teams to compete in the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon where we finished 1st and 2nd in the Civilian COED and 2nd in the ROTC Heavy Rucksack Divisions. We also had Cadets coordinate a trip to Nicaragua to provide medical aid to those less fortunate to ourselves, coach sports teams for children with challenges, and provide aid to our disabled veterans. When this is coupled with a 1st and 4th place finish at the Army Ten Miler and a 6th Place finish out of 108 teams at the Brigade level Ranger Challenge from last semester it shows a ferocious desire to achieve greatness. This year we also received national recognition for the third consecutive year as having the most active, largest, and best AUSA ROTC Sub-chapter. All of this was done while maintaining a program cumulative GPA of over 3.4, which is critical given that our Cadets are students first. On May 11th, we commissioned 21 new Second Lieutenants into the Army bringing our total to 22 for the year, which is well over our mission. They have more than proved that they

are ready to take this next step and we are very proud of all of their accomplishments. The goal of our organization remains unchanged; challenge and stretch each Cadet to maximize and achieve their potential across the full spectrum of academic achievement, physical fitness and leadership development. Based on their individual and collective efforts during a grueling semester of training, our MSIIIs are positioned to perform exceptionally well at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer. They have displayed and lived up to the highest standards of discipline, integrity, and honor. They have demonstrated a fierce loyalty and respect for each other. They care for and mentor each other and are always focused on improvement. As we look forward to next Fall, we are already poised to bring in another exceptionally talented group of young Cadets. I look forward to watching them develop into the leaders we know they can be. Good luck to our Cadets attending training and in all their endeavors this summer. Train hard, excel, and be safe!

From the Senior Military Instructor

MSG Donald R. Hansen



Talk about "out of the frying pan and into the fire"! I began my time here in the Fighting Saints Battalion not really knowing what to expect. I arrived in December, right as the Cadets went on their holiday break. I quickly integrated myself into the Cadre and began teaching in the Spring semester. Not knowing what to expect from this assignment, I was thoroughly impressed with the seniors' ability to train and develop the Juniors for LDAC. I, along with the other Cadre of the Fighting Saints Battalion, am excited to see how well our Cadets will do this summer at Fort Lewis, WA. The Cadet Battalion Staff remained extremely flexible as we made changes to the training plan to meet the Brigade's updated training guidance. This class of MSIIIs showed commendable determination in all training events, despite the extreme weather that they had to endure. They are an impressive class of Cadets whom I look forward to observe while they continue to develop as MSIVs next year. The MSIIIs will have big shoes to fill as MSIIIIs next year but I feel that they are up to

the challenge. The majority of the MSIIIs participated in the predominance of the training that was scheduled for the MSIIIs; which better prepared them for this upcoming year. The competition teams that the battalion fielded in Ranger Challenge, Army Ten-miler, Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon, and KU Buddy lead the way in true Fighting Saints fashion with top finishers throughout the competitions. Through the dedication and determination of Mr. DeJesus and CPT Wright, the Cadets who competed got the best training possible to be successful. Anyone would be impressed with the amount of hours the Cadets put in to training for this grueling event while most of us are still resting comfortably in our beds. The Field Training Exercise at Camp Ripley was a success, the Cadets stats in Land Nav, Patrolling, and Platoon Operations fared quite well in comparison to the other Cadets in Task Force Ripley. Every Cadet that participated in the JFTX represented the battalion well. Fellow Cadre and I, owe you all a debt of gratitude as we continuously say to others with pride, "that's one of my Cadets". During this year, as I entered this program, I replaced MSG Tom Biggerstaff. He was truly a mem-

ber of this team that will be missed due to his rapport with the Cadets and his immense knowledge and ability to train Cadets for success. I only hope that, I too, will be able to do as well. I am quite sure the Fighting Saints will continue to succeed on the back of the hard work you put into the program. The Cadre has done an excellent job over the past four years in preparing these young men and women to lead our Army into the future. This is my first look into the process of commissioning young Officers, and I must say I am very impressed. Because my son currently is an active duty Soldier, I say with confidence that I am confident in the abilities of our newly commissioned officers in leading the sons and daughters of America. I charge all of you young professionals to conduct yourselves in accordance with the Values you have come to embrace. Keep summer safety a top priority and continue to exercise composite risk management in everything you do. I want to see everyone back this fall ready to train. Many Cadets and Cadre will be moving out to additional training throughout the summer, again STAY SAFE and represent the Fighting Saints Battalion well.

Military Appreciation Night Wrestling Match

By Cadet Noah Gosswiller

St. Cloud State University, MN - On the evening of February 2nd, the number one ranked St. Cloud State University Wrestling Team, and the number eight ranked St. John's University Wrestling Team, battled on the mats at Halenbeck Hall of the SCSU Campus. This was no ordinary wrestling meet, but one dedicated to the members of the United States Military. The SCSU Wrestlers were decked out in ACU camouflage uniforms, and a large portion of the Cadets that make up the Fighting Saints Battalion Army ROTC were in attendance. A special commemoration ceremony was executed for two highly decorated former Fighting Saints Cadets out on the mat. One of them, Major Matt LeBlanc, currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Major LeBlanc served as an instructor in the Fighting Saints Battalion for the last two years. He has been a valuable asset to the Cadre of the FSB and will be missed. In addition to this, Cadets provided a color guard and singers for the national anthem prior to the beginning of the match. T-shirts were handed out to the crowd, popcorn was eaten, and the gym was full of lively crowds cheering in support of our nation's veterans and the hard working wrestlers. The SCSU Wrestling Team ended up winning the match, but in this particular night, it wasn't all about who won, but about showing appreciation for those serving the United States. It turned out to be a successful night and a great opportunity for everyone who participated in the event to show gratitude to those in uniform.



24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March

By Cadet Emily Boettcher



White Sands Missile Range, NM - The Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon is held in honor of those who were apart 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. 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. The remaining members of the team finished the race in 2nd place in their division despite being forced to accept disqualification, showing their determination and inner fortitude to complete their mission. 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.

Accepting the Challenge of Army Leadership: Are We Ready for LDAC?

By Cadet Matthew Garrett

Collegetville, MN - ROTC is an experience that develops the lives of young men and women who wish to pursue the chance to become the nation's next great leaders. Through the first three years of training, it was easy to see that each and every Cadet grew a little more as time passed. The rigorous training, discipline and dedication to the program are only one half of what is put into molding Cadets into future Army officers. It is the MSIIIs jobs to conduct all training at the highest level to exceed all standards. If it were not for the long hours put in by the MSIVs and Cadre, the Fighting Saints Battalion would not have the success it has today. The experience from both MSIVs and Cadre has helped take training to a whole different level, thus preparing Cadets for their first big test with leadership, the Leader Development & Assessment Course (LDAC). This is where Cadets take all of the knowledge that they have accumulated over the past three years and put it into play. MSIIIs have been asked to push themselves to limits that average college students cannot even begin to imagine. The dedication has truly shown dur-

ing pre-LDAC training which took place during the first two weeks after the semester ended. MSIIIs were given a final taste of what to expect at LDAC and more. This group of MSIIIs have been exposed to successful training and have each had the opportunity to lead in many positions. LDAC better be ready for the FSB Cadets to come marching in.



Spring Field Training Exercise

By Cadet Keith Sand



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 skills.



61st Annual Military Ball

By Cadet Eric Blonigen

St. Cloud, MN - On the evening of April 19, 2013 the Fighting Saint's Battalion held their 61st annual Military Ball at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The evening was filled with fun, friends, and celebration of the year's activities and event. The evening began with a social hour where Cadets, Cadre, and guests mingled, went through the receiving line, and had photos taken. Following the social hour, everyone entered the ball room for a formal sit-down dinner, followed by a speech from the Commander of the Warrior Transition Brigade and honored guest COL Michelle Fraley. After COL Fraley's speech the formal FSB award ceremony took place, honoring Cadets and all of their accomplishments from this academic year. The night concluded with the presentation of the senior class and a casual dance. For many Cadets this is the most fun event of the year, and it is looked forward to by all.



Cadets Steven Middlebrook and Brian Zenzen jointly received the 2013 FSB Cadet of the Year Award from LTC Bascom during the 61st Annual Military Ball.

Ice Fishing Tournament Support

By Cadet Keith Sand



Brainerd, MN - On January 19th, 2013, 39 Cadets and 3 Cadre of the Fighting Saints Battalion set out to assist the Brainerd Jaycees in the execution of the 23rd Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza. True to its reputation, the Minnesota winter weather didn't make it easy for the Cadets. While the temperature was above zero degrees throughout the day, by mid-afternoon, gusts of wind in excess of 30 mph began to drive the temperature down. However, the Fighting Saints Cadets persevered. The Cadets arrived at Gull Lake at approximately 6:30 a.m. and proceeded to establish a secure perimeter around the tournament area to check contestants for glass containers to prevent issues with litter, and check for smuggled fish, which could be used to cheat in the contest. By 3 p.m. the contest had ended and the Cadets' mission had changed from securing the perimeter to assisting the contestants with loading their fishing gear onto the busses so that they could get back to the parking area. With the weather being extremely cold and windy throughout the day, the contestants quickly packed onto the busses and the Cadets finished their task an hour ahead of schedule. With bus loading completed, the Cadets, eager to warm up, quickly piled into the vans for transportation back to Saint John's University.

General MacArthur Leadership Award



Washington, D.C. - CPT Lukas Wright was 1 of 28 officers selected Army-wide to receive the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for calendar year 2012. In the photo left, General Raymond Odierno, the 38th and current Army Chief of Staff, presented CPT Wright with a bronze bust of General MacArthur during an awards ceremony held at the Pentagon on May 30, 2013. The General MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood -- duty, honor, country -- and promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army. A total of 28 officers were selected for the award: 25 commissioned officers and 3 warrant officers.

Cadre Farewell



The Fighting Saints Battalion would like to bid a warm farewell and heart felt wishes to SFC Joshua Wiemann and MSG Thomas Biggerstaff. SFC Wiemann and MSG Biggerstaff has been an integral part of the success of the Fighting Saints Battalion for the past three years. SFC Wiemann will be in charge of the Marketing Department for the Minnesota Army National Guard in Rosemount, MN. MSG Biggerstaff concluded his 22-year career in the U.S. Army when he retired on 1 June 2013 and is now residing in the St. Cloud area. We will miss their competitiveness and continue striving for excellence.

AUSA—Voice of the Army Support



Consider joining the Fighting Saints Sub-chapter of AUSA. Since 1950, the Association of the United States Army has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members. AUSA provides our Cadets numerous Professional Development Opportunities at a variety of events both local and national.

Visit the MN Vessey Chapter's website at www.vessey5401.org/ or call Mr. DeJesus @ (320) 308-3930 to learn more.

U.S. Army's Newest Second Lieutenants



This spring marked the 70th Commissioning Class for the Fighting Saints Battalion ROTC Program where twenty one new Second Lieutenants received their Gold Bars. The Lieutenants of this commissioning class will now move on to further training at the Basic Officer Leaders Course. As the Lieutenants go their separate ways, please join our department in wishing all of them the best of luck as they start their new careers in our Army.

We would like to recognize the new Lieutenants by name, degree, and branch:

1. Lucas Wuebben - BA Political Science - Engineer
2. Tiffany Wirtz - BA Biology - Medical Service
3. Benjamyn Anderson - BS Electrical Engineering - Engineer
4. Vincent Gonsior - BA Business Management - Aviation
5. Eric Schilling - BA Political Science - Field Artillery
6. Sandra Freeman - BS Business Management - Quartermaster
7. Shane Sjostrom - BA History - Military Police
8. Jacob Lillehaug - BA Studio Art - Ordnance
9. Mollie Holte - BS Nursing - Army Nurse
10. Matthew Lahti - BA Liturgical Music - Quartermaster
11. Steven Middlebrook - BA Natural Science - Aviation
12. Keith Sand - BA Business Economics - Military Intelligence
13. Tanner Petersen - BA English - Quartermaster
14. Alexander Boosalis - BA Communications - Infantry
15. Natalie Majkrzak - BA International Relations - Field Artillery
16. Jennifer Strege - BA Psychology - Adjutant General
17. Alex De Jesus - BES Criminal Justice - Military Police
18. Brian Zenzen - BA Business Management - Finance
19. Aaron Osgood - BES Business - Military Police
20. Andy Philips - BA Criminal Justice - Transportation
21. Samuel Chase - BS Nursing - Army Nurse

Congratulations!

Sights from Spring 2013



Fighting Saints Open Division Coed Champions at the 24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March.



Mr. Leonard Sippel from the SCSU Admissions Office was the recipient of the 2013 Fighting Saints Guardian Angel Award.



61st Annual Military Ball Speaker; Warrior Transition Brigade Commander Colonel Michelle Fraley.



MSIII Cadets during the 2013 Spring Training Exercise.



Fighting Saints Battalion Cadets & Staff during the 2013 Veterans Home Clean-up.



CDTs Pittman & Marschall received the second place overall awards from the 3rd ROTC Brigade Leadership Team during the 2013 KU Buddy Ranger Challenge Completion.



2LT Tanner Petersen received the traditional first salute from MSG (R) Thomas Biggerstaff



MAJ Matthew LeBlanc administered the Oath of Office to the newest 2LTs Boosalis, Holte, Osgood & Wirtz.



2013 Spring Commissioning Guest Speaker; Fighting Saints Alum MAJ Mark Weber.



Cadets Oestreich & Illies during the 2013 Kansas University Buddy Ranger Challenge Completion.



Cadets Schilling & Sjostrom enjoying the dance during the 61st Annual Military Ball.



Fighting Saints Battalion - 8 May 2013

Fall 2013 Calendar

Initial Week	August 20-24	Army Ten-Miler	October 17-22	4th Annual FSB5K	October 5th
Ranger Challenge	October 18-20	Fall FTX	September 20-22	Winter Commissioning	December 21
Battalion Picnic	September 4	Dining Inn	November 8		

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.

4th Annual FSB5k Run Walk

A Team Building Event For All Ages

This event is brought to you by the Cadets of Fighting Saints Battalion – Army ROTC & Association of the United States Army (AUSA).
St. John's University Rugby Field

St. John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321
Friday – October 4th 2013

9:00am – 9:00pm – Packet Pick-up/Check In
ROTC Classroom - Guild Hall, St. John's University

Saturday – October 5th 2013

7:45 am - 8:45am – Late Registration/Check In

9:00am – 5K Run/Walk Start

11:00am - 11:30am – Award Ceremony



Do you know a future Cadet?

If you know a young person who has the potential to be an **Army 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 information.



FIGHTING SAINTS BATTALION
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY,
COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT
& ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY



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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 campuses. At SCSU we are located downstairs Stewart Hall room 10 and at St. John's we are located downstairs Guild Hall room 20.

This issue was compiled by:

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