As the always stressful finals week approaches, the seniors of the All For One Battalion are feeling a little less stress than normal. After a four-year wait, we finally have found out where our life’s next step will take us after commissioning and graduation in May 2014. Some of us are very happy with the branches that the Army has assigned to us and some of us are disappointed. However, no matter what, we will all become Officers in the United States Army, which is the ultimate goal. I am so proud of all of my fellow classmates and I am confident that the Army will be getting sixteen of the very best young officers in just a few short months.

It is always fun and interesting to see all the new faces at the start of each school year. Most of these faces will only be in the Battalion for a few short months, this is the harsh reality of the time commitment that ROTC demands. With early mornings and long hours of training, ROTC is not for everyone. ROTC is the definition of a love/hate relationship. We all love the comradery and brotherhood it provides and most of the training, but we all hate the early mornings, the occasional homework assignments that must be completed, and of course the ever-hailed ROTC drama. This is the nature of the ROTC beast, but we wouldn’t have it any other way.

As seniors it is our job to pass the torch of leadership at the end of the year to the current MSIIIs, or juniors, who are all anxious to go to the dark cloud known as Leadership Development Assessment Course or LDAC. This camp in Fort Knox, KY is the final step towards becoming an officer besides completing academic requirements. The late General George S. Patton once said, “lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way.” I believe that this is the mindset of the Battalion as a whole and that is something to be proud of. I am confident that all the current MSIIIs will do very well at LDAC and I am confident that the All For One Battalion is in good hands for the foreseeable future.

Cadre come and go and so do Cadets. In my four years here, there has always been one thing that has never changed, (besides Mr. Harmon). I have found that there are always people that truly care about the All For One Battalion and carrying on its traditions and values. I have learned so much in my time here at Xavier University and with the All For One Battalion, and I am so thankful for that. The lessons learned will last forever, and the friendships will last even longer. Long live the X.

Happy Holidays to the All For One Battalion. Follow ME!

Cadet Leadingham

Your Editor:
Cadet Nelson
The Xavier University Ranger Challenge Team went down to Ft. Knox, Kentucky this past month to compete in the annual 7th Brigade Bold Warrior Challenge. But this wasn't just your average Bold Warrior Challenge, this was the "Extreme" Bold Warrior Challenge as Brigade Commander Colonel Knight pointed out on multiple occasions over the course of the competition. The nine person team competed admirably lead by its Captain Cadet Nathan Leadingham and First Sergeant Cadet Even Demott, and seniors Cadets Michael Nelson and Benee Bessler.

The team looking to improve off its already strong performance at last year's Bold Warrior Challenge faced events such as marksmanship, a timed ruck march, a fitness course, evacuating a casualty, a recon, securing enemy prisoners of war, and one rope bridge. All of these events were completed along a 13.1 mile course from the range where the marksmanship event was held to the one rope bridge site. Each team member carried a 35 lb ruck, along with a rubber duck, in full uniform including Kevlar and their LBE for the entire duration of the "Extreme" Bold Warrior Challenge.

Xavier excelled in the fitness course and timed ruck march events, but like many of the teams, ran out of time to complete all of the required events in the allotted time. Only 13 of the 38 teams were able to complete the required one rope bridge event and make it back to the final checkpoint in the given time period. Michigan State ended up taking home the first place trophy, with Eastern Kentucky in second, and Michigan in third.

Though faced with setbacks, there were several bright spots for the All for One Battalion. This year's competition in addition to the main event also had a competition for the two man alternate team. Cadets Nick Chesrown and Dominic Geraci were tasked with representing Xavier in the two man team competition. They did an outstanding job winning the timed ruck march event in the alternate competition, and turning in a solid overall performance.

Other cadets that turned in impressive performances included Madalyn Robbins the only female on the team. Robbins had no problem keeping up with the boys over the length of the 13 mile course and was key to the teams' success in the timed ruck march event and the fitness course.

In an environment that younger cadets often struggle, freshman Corey Mulvey showed both physical and mental toughness throughout the day. He was awarded the coveted Xavier Battalion coin for his efforts. Another noteworthy performance came from senior Michael Nelson who in addition to carrying extra weight in his ruck also managed to navigate the team successfully for the entire 13.1 miles. He displayed exemplary senior leadership by remaining positive and encouraging to the younger cadets throughout the competition, doing the things that others did not want to do, and always volunteering to do more. He will certainly be a big loss for the team going forward.

Although the team did not bring home any hardware, the "Extreme" Bold Warrior Challenge was a success for the cadets and cadre who went down to Ft. Knox. Every individual on the team left everything they had out on the course and it will certainly give the team something to build on going forward. Now the teams focus shifts to defending Xavier's title in the Best Ranger competition hosted by the school each spring. You can be sure the XU Ranger Challenge Team will be working harder than ever to ensure they bring home the gold in both the spring and fall competitions for 2014.
Preparing for FTX was a mix of emotions as I knew my skills would be tested. I felt a combination of fear, excitement, concern, and confidence; fear of making a mistake that could put my squad in danger, excitement to test my knowledge, concern of not retaining material covered in the classroom, and confidence that I could apply what I had learned.

After I had everything packed and ready to go, the emotions hit full force. With the vans loaded and everyone piling in, I settled in the front seat next to Lieutenant Colonel Wissel. He then said, “After all of our duties are done as officers, we sleep.” There was no sleeping. I quickly learned that while in the Army, you don’t have time to think, only time to react. I constantly ran through a mental checklist, making sure I was prepared for anything that could possibly be thrown at me. This was a necessity if I wanted to perform at the highest level.

When first arriving to Miami Whitewater we didn’t know what to expect. After unloading the vans, we quickly had to fall into formation. MSI’s remained behind and we began learning how to build our tents. Finally, we were given the instructions to set up our campsite.

The next day, the core of FTX began at 4:30 in the morning. Up bright and early, we stripped down our campsite and threw our rucksacks on our backs to proceed for the rest of the day. After about ten minutes of marching we were halted and split into squad formation to begin our missions. One thing remained constant: hurry up and wait. Hurry up get to your next objective, set up security, begin sector sketches, eat if you have time, wait to proceed with the briefing of your mission, and finally carry out the mission.

When reflecting on FTX, I realize how much I learned as an MS1. When arriving to Miami Whitewater, I was confident in what I knew but was concerned in how much I didn’t know. My biggest concern was that my lack of knowledge could hurt my squad by either slowing them down or by hindering a mission. Those worries were quickly put to rest as my comrades surrounded me. They were confident in their leadership skills and taught me what I needed to learn to be successful. That point quickly turned into a learning lesson to me; it’s not always how much you personally know, but also entrusting your squad members, believing in them, and collectively working together to complete a set of missions. Even though I didn’t know as much as I thought I did, I was fortunate enough to have leaders such as Cadets Chesrown, Robbins, Strugarek, Geraci, and Hoffman to push me in the right direction and guide me through FTX. With the leadership present in my squad, my fears quickly diminished and I felt nothing but confidence and excitement. FTX turned into an enlightening and confidence-building experience for myself as a MS1.

Above: Senior Cadet Caroline West briefs a terrain model of the night land navigation course to MSII and MSIII Cadets. The ability to navigate using only a map and a compass is one of the most basic skills an Army officer must master. However, this task can be challenging during the day, and even more-so at night.
While participating in CWST, Cadets were required to complete an equipment drop and 15 meter swim, a ten minute tread water and continuous swim, and an underwater swim. They were also given a chance to use military boats.
Service and Community: Mission Accepted

By: Cadet Michael Nelson

This semester, our cadets have been very busy studying up on their school work and tactics. However, I am always amazed at the time they are able to find to participate in activities outside of their basic everyday ROTC and academic requirements. From running 5k’s to bowling at mentorship events— they stay busy.

This December, the Pershing Rifles hosted an Angel Tree service event outside of the school cafeteria. In order to prepare for the event, the Pershing Rifles bought a Christmas tree and spoke with Crossroads church in Cincinnati to arrange receiving forty angel tags to put on the tree. Each tag had listed on it a toy or clothing item that a child needed for Christmas that their parent was unable to buy for them. Cadet Madalyn Robbins, the orchestrator of the service event, commented, “We were overwhelmed by the amount of support that we received by the students on campus. We can’t wait for the event to grow even more next year.” Amazingly, all forty tags were taken in just a little less than three hours. Through participation in service projects, our cadets show that they are not only scholars and athletes, but leaders as well.

As Leaders, and officers to be, our cadets know that just putting in the minimum amount of work isn’t going to cut it. In mid-November, a few of the Senior cadets hosted an optional training event for all cadets on a Saturday at 10:00 A.M. In my four years as a member of Xavier’s ROTC program, I have found that on average cadets have to give up at least 15-20 hours a week for ROTC. This is why I was amazed when thirty of our cadets showed up to the optional event to discuss questions ranging from how to properly conduct an attack, to tips on to stay awake during the school day after PT. Everyone was wide awake that Saturday, (thanks partly to Dunkin Donuts), and freshman cadet Kristen Osborne commented, “The extra training we received was a great opportunity to get a head start on more advanced material that is to come”.

As a Senior looking back I remember something an Officer said to me as an MSI, “It doesn't matter if you’re digging holes, anything can be OK if you’re with the right people”. I would say that in our battalion that holds true. Our cadets make the program what it is—and it’s outstanding.
Happy Holidays from the All For One Battalion!

FIVE SCHOOLS, ONE BATTLESHIP
ALL FOR ONE