The “All For One”

From the Commander’s Desk
By: Josh Kummerer, Cadet Battalion Commander

The “All for One” Battalion has begun another semester of training and I am confident that it will be an exciting one. As my predecessor alluded to in the previous edition, the long break was a challenge to all of us. However, from the seniors to the freshmen, we have worked hard to ensure that from the start of the semester we would hit the ground rolling. And that is just what has occurred. We are only a few weeks into the semester and plenty has taken place since our return from winter break. This can be attributed to the current Cadet S3 (Training Officer) Cadet Jason Chastang, who has ensured that all the training events have been planned and executed to the highest standards.

The MSI’s and MSII’s have been eager and focused in all the training that has already taken place. Both classes have exceeded expectations, not only have they responded to changes and guidance that have been thrown at them but they have also brought more members into their classes from the “other side of campus” to join them in their adventure and journey to become military officers.

That journey for the MSIII’s is quickly approaching and most of them are starting to get to the point where they can see the light at the end of the tunnel. That is due to the major fact that this semester is the final semester before they attend LDAC at Ft Lewis Washington, which is the last major hurdle in their journey. They will spend the majority of this semester making final preparations for that endeavor and their overall assessment as his personal mission. He expects only the best from himself and his staff and under his guidance I have no questions that these MSIII’s will be well prepared for their time at LDAC.

As for the rest of the MSIV’s, the light at the end of tunnel is almost in our grasp, however I assure you we have not checked out. All of us will continue to do our duties to ensure that the best training and guidance is shown to the rest of the members of the “All for One” Battalion.
Greetings to all and hoping everyone had a great holiday break and their 2010 is off to a great start. As usual the All For One Battalion has not slowed down as we continue in our pursuit of excellence in all that we do.

I must take a minute to thank some Cadets for truly outstanding work last semester. CDT Showman did a fine job leading the corps of Cadets through the Fall and has handed off a great battalion to CDT Kummerer, this semester’s CDT Battalion Commander. As well, CDT Chastang did such a good job as the lead MSIII trainer that he was rewarded the coveted position of Bn Operations Officer this semester. Both of these outstanding Seniors have shown that hard work in the Army is rewarded with more hard work!

All of the Senior Cadets are eagerly awaiting their first duty assignments and most of them already know when they will head off to their initial Officer training. The good news is that almost all of our Senior Cadets got the branches they wanted and will soon enough be sporting the brass of their branch of choice, a truly remarkable result that is a testament to their overall excellence as a class.

Our training has picked up the pace as well so far. The Juniors are feeling the pressure of all the attention as they prepare for LDAC and the added assistance in helping them achieve excellence is beginning to show. The Freshman and Sophomores have not gotten off easily though. A renewed focus on developing them earlier has raised the bar and they have responded very well.

Thankfully as this train is speeding along we have gotten some additional help. MSG Ronald Gaines has joined us as our new Senior Military Instructor. I must extend my thanks to SFC Sayles who held down two positions for all of last semester and performed magnificently. MSG Gaines joins us from Iraq via Fort Riley, KS where he was a 1SG for a tank company. His immediate presence has already been felt in the battalion. Also joining us is Maj Kovach from the KY National Guard. He will be the primary point of contact on the campus of Northern KY University. Maj Kovach brings a wealth of ROTC and operational experience.

Finally, a reminder of some important dates upcoming for all. Our 74th Annual military ball will be on 10 April 2010 and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Cintas Center for a fun filled night. Also the Annual Awards Ceremony will also be on 10 April 2010 a little earlier in the day. The 11th Annual Best Ranger competition will be on 24 April 2010 as we welcome teams from around the region to a daylong military skills competition to earn the coveted title of Best Ranger. Finally and most importantly for most of us is our commissioning ceremony, on 14 May 2010 we will welcome the newest All For One 2Lts into the Army.

Once again, anytime you want to come by and visit we welcome you to stop in. We always have time for members of the All For One family.
Hello everyone. My name is Jason Hidy. I am the detachment commander of all cadets at Miami University. The semester has been pretty busy thus far and will only continue to get busier as we enter the month of March. Some of the training events Miami cadets participated in over the past month include the APFT as well as CWST. The APFT is a test of the individuals’ level of physical fitness. The test consists of three distinct events. The first event requires the Cadet to perform as many push-ups as they possibly can in two minutes. The Cadet is graded on both proper form and repetitions. The next event is the sit-up event. In this event the Cadet is required to do as many sit-ups as they possibly can in two minutes. Similar to the push-up event, Cadets are graded on both proper form and the number of repetitions. The last event is the two-mile run. Cadets are graded on how fast they run the event. The APFT turned out to be a great success as the Miami Cadets performed extremely well on all events.

The other major training that Miami Cadets participated in over the past month was CWST. CWST stands for combat water survival training. The training consisted of five separate events. First Cadets had to swim the length of the pool for ten straight minutes. Next the Cadets had to tread water for five minutes. The third event is called the equipment drop. Like the name indicates, Cadets were submerged under water and had to rid themselves of all their equipment before coming up. The fourth event required the Cadets to swim the length of the pool with both a rifle and their combat vest. The final event consisted of a three meter drop off of a diving board into the water. The Cadets were required to hold onto their weapon and return to the surface after falling blindfolded into the water. I am pleased to say that all Miami Cadets completed each of the events and passed CWST. The past month has been very busy and it is only certain that it will become even busier as we prepare for such upcoming events as our spring FTX.
Four years ago four freshmen took on the challenge of what is known as Pershing Rifles’ Recruit Period. This year, those same four freshmen (now seniors) have taken on the challenge of passing on the torch of the fraternity. Pershing Rifles is a fraternity inside the Xavier Army ROTC community designed to teach wit, discipline and unity, through the use of difficult and intense tasks. Members must also become proficient in Drill and Ceremony during the five week period as color guards are one of the primary missions for Pershing Rifles’ members. Each winter, freshmen and sophomore cadets attempt the grueling five week pledge period hoping for the opportunity to become part of the elite fraternity. Candidates are placed in situations under maximum pressure, intensity, and stress. The candidates must then use their intelligence and teamwork to be successful in these situations. Although the five weeks are very difficult, the payoff is tremendous. During Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) last summer I realized that my training as a Pershing Riflemen had truly prepared me for intense situations. I knew how to control my emotions and stress levels as well as how to react and think quickly on my feet. Eight new members entered from last year’s pledge period and another eight have tried out this year. Behind the leadership of Captain Brienne Riker and First Sergeant Eric Showman, Pershing Rifles has the ability to continue the rich tradition of the program.
On January 27, 2010 the All For One Battalion decided to take a little swim. Not outside in the freezing cold, that would be ridiculous, but inside at the O’Connor’s Gym pool. It was time for all of us Xavier Cadets to complete the CWST (Combat Water Survival Test). The test consisted of four events. A swim test where cadets swim nonstop for ten minutes, treading water for five minutes, an underwater swim without surfacing, and a drop into the water in ACUs with an M16 and LBE (ammo belt with suspenders). In this event Cadets are required to take the LBE off before surfacing and then swim halfway across the pool.

The first event wasn’t that difficult since there is no real standard stroke, so the majority of cadets will swim as long as they can performing the freestyle stroke and once they become exhausted they lay on their backs and allow their legs to do most of the work while they float on their backs. The next event is probably one of the more enjoyable events where all the cadets jump into the deep end, bodies bobbing up and down in the water, and tread. Encouragement is heard from cadets as some struggle to keep their heads from sinking under the water.

After treading water we were introduced to a new event that we hadn’t done before during CWST and that was the underwater swim. While most of the cadets did not have a problem with this task a few of the cadets didn’t make it across because they swam down to deep or just simply ran out of breath. The last event had some changes made as well which made it more challenging. It used to be they would have you hold the M16 and have you put the LBE on without buckling it, then push you into the water from the edge of the pool. This year they required the LBE be buckled and that each Cadet remove both items before surfacing. They also had us pushed off into the water from the diving platforms so that there was actually distance between cadets and the water. Although a lot of cadets struggled with this task it offered a better challenge.

Overall all the cadets of the All For One Battalion enjoyed and continue to look forward to doing the CWST course. It brings something different to the normal physical training that the cadets are usually confined to especially during the cold weather months.

Combat Water Survival Training
By: c/SSG Zachary Vance
Every year there is a fundraiser held for the troops overseas. More exclusively, the Xavier University alumni who have deployed. There is a too-close-for-comfort reminder that one day that may be one of us, Cadets of the Xavier University’s Army ROTC All For One Battalion. Although fundraisers in the past have been borderline successful, this year we plan to go above and beyond to demonstrate our pride and appreciation for those fighting in today’s wars.

Like previous years on the other side of Victory Parkway, we are having a pie throw to really show our love and appreciation for each other and our cadre members. This will be held after a long and hard PT session on a Friday. Pies will cost a mere $2 to throw. So call out either your best battle buddy, or maybe that one cadre member who just gave you a hard time this year, and give him/her a pie! The format of this event will mimic past pie throws.

The one thing we are adding to this year’s pie throw is competition! A raffle for the seniors will take place after all other Cadets have thrown. This round, cost per pie will be $1 for seniors to hit an identified target from a specified distance. The top throwers (or “aimers”) will have a chance to win either a piece of Xavier ROTC history or another fun Army gadget. Prizes are being deliberated between the members of the Support Our Troops Committee, so any possible ideas should be directed to such. So Seniors, bring your “dolla-dolla bill y’all” and leave Xavier with a memento!

Yet another way we are spreading the word of support will be demonstrated at the Military Ball coming up sooner than realized (yes, April 10th, mark your calendars!). The Support Our Troops Committee is putting together a bulletin of pictures and information regarding those soldiers directly affected by our contributions. Current Cadets: remember your classmates who graduated only 1,2,3 years ago? Have a specific name in mind? Well that Lieutenant and their platoon of soldiers will greatly appreciate the care baskets and moral support we are sending. To widen the potential support even further, we will be sending out short letters informing your guests to Military Ball about the booth being set up at the event. This booth is designed to collect any monetary contributions from attendants, completely at their own will. The option will definitely be present, however make sure you notify your guests of how important it is to support the troops overseas once in your own position, as you will soon be in theirs.
As an MSI Cadet, I felt a little awkward in my dress greens. I was wearing them for the Battalion event known as Dining In. I've only ever seen a formal military uniform in the movies and I felt like I was right out of one of John Wayne's WWII movies. After polishing every metal pin on the uniform for a few hours, I arrived at Northern Kentucky University with my fellow Cadets. We spent the first thirty minutes or so in an open hall waiting nervously until we were allowed to take our seats in the dining hall. Our seats had all been assigned and I found myself sitting next to Captain Lunsford. She began to tell me her strategy to make sure our table would not have to drink from this thing called "The Grog". Just as I was about to inquire what a Grog was, the formal ceremonies began. Cadet Showman was the acting President of the ceremony and Cadet Martin was the acting Mr. Vice. They had a dialogue where the President would instruct the Vice to sample the food and drink. After tasting, Mr. Vice would tell us of its "most excellent qualities". After this, a representative from each class was instructed to come forward, and to begin adding one ingredient to the Grog. I now understood why Captain Lunsford did not want to drink from the Grog. Each class added their own disgusting ingredient, from baby food to Cocoa Puffs and hot sauce. The Grog became a repulsive concoction. Unfortunately, Captain Lunsford's strategy of remaining quiet didn't save our table from drinking the Grog. We were all given Dixie cups to drink the Grog, and as you can imagine it was not pleasurable. After dining, each class performed a skit. My MSI class was not at all sure what to do so we put together a simple slide show. The other classes however, blew us away with the hilarity of their dramas. Dining In was a wonderful time. The traditional ceremonies that initially made me slightly nervous, ended up being the thing that made it special. After a semester of hard work, Dining In was a great way for the Battalion to come together and unwind.