



Gonzaga Bulldog Battalion

Welcome Back Bulldogs!

Welcome to the second edition of the Bulldog Battalion Newsletter. The purpose of the Bulldog BN Newsletter is to highlight achievements of our cadets, cadre, and alumni, and to serve as a forum for comments, interesting stories pertaining to our program, and to serve as a reminder of upcoming events.

The fall semester was new and exciting for all of the cadets in the battalion. The MSI's were introduced to new terminologies and concepts essential to their development as cadets. The MSII's experienced the responsibility required as team leaders during training and garrison operations. The MSIII's were exposed to the challenges of running the show in various leadership positions as they prepare for LDAC. The MSIV's had the chance to train, guide and mentor the underclassmen, passing on knowledge and experiences to the MSIII's in preparation for LDAC.

The fall semester also provided some great training opportunities for the Battalion. Cadets were able to show off their military prowess to friends and family during Fall Family Weekend. A week later, they were able to further their training during Fall Field Training Exercise which included day and night land navigation as well as tactical operations.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome back to LTC Alan Westfield, who has returned to us after spending 6 months in Iraq.

We are thrilled to have him back! Additionally, we would like to extend a gracious thank you to LTC Alan Patty who filled in for LTC Westfield during his absence.

As we quickly approach spring break, let us heed some excellent advice from an anonymous author. "Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny."

Bulldogs lead the way!!

*The mission of the
Gonzaga University
Bulldog Military
Science Department
is to commission the
future officer
leadership of the U.S.
Army.*

*Officers of:
competence,
character and
commitment*

*Who are: scholars,
athletes, and
leaders.*

PMS

Cadets, parents, friends and family of the Bulldog Battalion,

The 2nd Semester here at Gonzaga and Whitworth is off and moving at a fast pace. Hard to believe we are giving midterm tests to the Cadets already.

This year I decided to switch the Battalion leadership positions for our MSIVs between semesters. I did not make this decision lightly as it involves more work for the MSIVs and for the Cadre but the professional development and growth opportunities for our Cadets was too great to pass up. In the Army as officers, as many of you know, more often than not the minute we start feeling competent, capable, and comfortable in our jobs is about the time we are moved or reassigned to a new duty position. It is one of the things I love about the Army; that constant challenge to learn and grow as a leader and a person. I think our Cadets are enjoying the change and most certainly they are rising to the challenge. Our first semester leadership team did an outstanding job, setting the bar high, and I'd like to thank them for that.



The seniors at this point have purchased their Blues (Army Service Uniform) for commissioning and are in the process of getting them tailored. They just received their Basic Course dates and eagerly await their follow on duty locations. I expect some of our Cadet's follow on duty locations to be released around mid March; others will not receive their follow on assignments until they actually report to BOLC-B. We are on glidepath to commission them, 21 line and one nurse, this May 6th.

Our Spring FTX this semester will once again be held at Ft. Lewis. We have conducted a recon and I have reviewed the plans and I am convinced it will be another high quality training event for our Cadets; one that enhances their leadership skills, teaches them resilience, and presents the challenge of operating for over 24 hours on little sleep in a tactical environment. Day and night land navigation, LDAC orientation, and running through the confidence obstacle courses are also on the menu.



The quality of all of our Cadets continues to amaze me. On our record physical fitness test the past December we had zero PT failures and a 284 average (out of 300 possible); higher than any other ROTC program in the nation. Our Cadets and their values and esprit de corps continue to be our biggest recruiting tool. I had one visiting Cadet Candidate when asked what she thought of her visit tell me, "Sir, I have witnessed the amazing quality, values, and character of your Cadets and I want to be part of an organization like this". Enough said.

As I close my report let us keep in mind our soldiers and alumni that are deployed and in harm's way. Please pray for them and their families, and for their safe return. Jordan Hinkle deploys with 10th Mountain Division to Afghanistan in March, and many of his classmates are close behind him. God bless the soldiers and families of the Bulldog Battalion.

Proud to serve,

Gregory K. Jacobsen
LTC, Armor
GU Professor of Military Science

BC's Corner

Bulldogs, Pirates, Family and Friends,

Welcome to 2011!

We are starting off the New Year based on the strong foundation we built during the fall semester. Last semester represented smashing success for everyone involved in the Bulldog Battalion in events ranging from rappelling with the MS I's, through our victory at the Ranger Challenge Competition in Montana, and on to our excellent Fall Field Training Exercise.

As you may have noticed, I am not the same Battalion Commander whom addressed you in the last edition of our Battalion newsletter. In fact, LTC Jacobsen felt things were going so smoothly here in the Bulldog Battalion, he threw us a curve ball and changed the staff positions for the battalion leadership at the end of last semester in order to further our development as a battalion and particularly an MSIV class. I, and my new staff, have been - and will continue to be - hard pressed to lead our organization as well as the previous staff, led by c/LTC Barnes. However, I feel we have the skill and motivation to take on the challenge.



After a restful Christmas break, things are back in full swing on campus. Classes are well underway, extracurricular activities are filling up every rare and precious moment of free time, and ROTC is pushing us harder than ever. We

are looking forward to a busy semester to include such events as Military Ball, Spring Field Training Exercise, Squad Training Exercise, and Basic Rifle Marksmanship.

The time for the MSIII's to ship off to Ft. Lewis to attend LDAC is drawing near, and we are giving our best effort to ensure the MSIII's are well trained and prepared to undergo the exciting yet difficult training which crowns their ROTC career and readies them to commission in less than 16 months.



Bulldogs and Pirates, I am honored to lead our organization because of the amazing people whom form it. Friends and Family, I respect and appreciate all the support you give to the Battalion, Cadre, and Cadets. We are looking forward to a great semester finishing off this academic year, and I look forward to addressing you again soon!

Scotty Oplinger

c/LTC, GU ROTC

Battalion Commander

Fall Family Weekend 2010

Last semester, on 23 October, 2010, we invited family and friends to Camp Seven Mile to watch our cadets show off their knowledge and leadership abilities. Each year, parents and family members come to Gonzaga to see their sons and daughters in their new “homes.” The students enjoy showing their parents around campus, dorms, and the social hub of Gonzaga affectionately known as the “COG” (Center of Gonzaga).



The Saturday of this Fall Family Weekend, the cadets woke up at approximately four in the morning to report to first formation a short forty-five minutes later. After the Company made sure everyone was awake and present, the cadets departed from McCarthy Athletic Center and headed to Camp Seven Mile for a great day of training. While the cadets completed two missions in the mud and rain, family and friends enjoyed a continental breakfast and presentation by LTC Jacobsen at Cataldo Hall on campus. The warm and dry morning soon ended for friends and family as they loaded buses to head out to meet their cadets for lunch. Upon arrival at Camp Seven Mile, friends and family united with their cadets at the Tactical Operation Center (TOC) and proceeded to have lunch.

This year was different from years past, as Meals Ready to Eat, commonly known as MRE's, were provided for lunch. Most family and friends have heard about MRE's, but have

never eaten one. After this Fall Family Weekend, friends and family now know the culinary masterpiece achieved in such tiny packages!



After lunch, cadets, family, and friends headed out into the mud for a final mission of the day. During the missions, families saw the results of the hard work the cadets had done over the semester. Luckily for the families, the rain had stopped and the sun shone for the final mission!

We always enjoy having family members visit Gonzaga and see the Bulldog Battalion in action. Thank you to all the friends and family who attended Fall Family Weekend!

Visit us on our website at:

<http://www.gonzaga.edu/Academics/Undergraduate/Special-Programs/Military-Science/default.asp>

Or on our Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Gonzaga-University-ROTC-Bulldog-Battalion/116635248368450?v=info>

Or by phone at 509-313-6517

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Hours of Operation:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LTC Westfield

LTC Westfield sent LTC Jacobsen a SITREP from Iraq a few months ago. This was his report.

The US Forces-Iraq Deputy Commanding General for Advising and Training recently visited our staff section. Near the end of the session, he entertained questions. I asked him one. Multiple choice. "Who is most optimistic about the future of Iraq? Is it:

- a.) an American General
- b.) an Iraqi General
- c.) a US Embassy-Baghdad Department of State staff officer
- d.) an Iraqi citizen
- or, e.) an American Private?"

His answer, I believe, is insightful, reflective of conditions on the ground, and worthy of consideration.



He said, "I believe an **Iraqi General Officer** is optimistic. He has seen the re-building of his Army. The training and equipping initiatives under way have resulted in more stability inside the country relative to recent years, as well as Iraqi Security Forces that are better prepared to defend against external threats. The Iraqi General sees a better future for his country. An **Iraqi citizen**, while feeling safer in her neighborhood compared to the past several

years, is most concerned about shortage of services such as electricity and clean water, and desires better health care and education for her family. She is frustrated with politicians, wants action, and is perhaps the least optimistic. A **State Department official** is doing all possible to prepare for next year when we transition the lead for US interests in this country from the Department of Defense to the Department of State. The US Embassy possesses a talented and dedicated group of people who are working hard to get ready. However, they will be assuming new responsibilities such as force protection, security, transportation, logistics, and medical matters that they have heretofore relied upon the military to provide. They are cautiously optimistic but have some apprehension.



An **American Private** is likely to be optimistic. She is 18 or 19 years old, deployed overseas for the first time, and was present in September when we changed our mission from combat operations to stability operations. She is currently advising, training, assisting, and equipping Iraqi Security Forces. Today Privates are doing good things well, often in danger, and feel pride in what they are accomplishing. Finally, an **American General** is a realist. He knows the violence that existed in the past, is aware of the fragility of the relative stability of the present, and is acutely aware of the bad actors that exist and who continue to test us and the Iraqis at every chance. The General is frustrated with the slow formation of a

Government of Iraq after credible and just elections last March. He would like to see the jobless rate drop while the economy improves. He is worried about what will happen after the transition to the Embassy and the Iraqis, yet understands the military cannot stay here forever. He has seen improvement in the Iraqi military and police forces, and is heartened by the desire of the people to be involved in moving Iraq forward. Finally, the General knows about the costs of the past eight years in terms of blood, sweat, tears, and treasure.



For those reasons and others, he contends, we owe it to Iraqis, Americans, allies, and the wounded and Fallen to do all possible in the next 305 ½ days to do it right. Therefore our guiding purpose is to support the continued development of a sovereign and stable Iraq which is our long-term, self-reliant partner that contributes to the peace and security in the region.”

I concur with his assessment. Thank you for your support, service, and sacrifices. You have stepped forward in the past and present and therefore, are deserving of our respect and admiration. Finally, thank you for keeping in your thoughts and prayers those in harm’s way, especially those in Afghanistan and Iraq like Jonathan Peterson, Tim Busch, Mark Anderson, John Moffatt, Megan Morgan, Chad Murphy, Nolan Johnson, and others. Thank you all. See you soon. Bulldogs and Pirates!

LTC Westfield



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Military Ball: 18FEB11

Spring Break: 07MAR11-11MAR11

Spring Field Training Exercise (SFTX):
31MAR11-03APR11

Squad Training Exercise (STX) and
Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM):
16APR11-17APR11

Easter Holiday: 22APR11-25APR11

Awards Ceremony: 28APR11

Finals Week: 02APR11-06MAY11

Commissioning: 06MAY11

Graduation: 08MAY11