



# Portland Detachment Newsletter

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## Beacon

By: Cadet Abigail Tougas

While serving as a PL and SL in my platoon I found that I could effectively plan, communicate, and execute any task assigned. This was really the first time that I had an opportunity to demonstrate just what I am capable of and given the opportunity. I am extremely grateful for receiving it.

Fall semester, I, along with seven other cadets, raised our right hands and recited the enlistment oath to officially contract into the US Army. We were privileged to have General Jackson swear us in, something that doesn't happen often. It was truly an honor. His words were incredibly motivating and inspiring to not only newly contracted cadets, but all cadets present to hear him speak.

The contracting ceremony is a significant milestone in the life of a young college student. It is the official transfer of student to leader, civilian to cadet, and to a member of the United States Armed Forces. We have taken the oath to dedicate our time and service to learn how to be leaders in the US Army and motivate and inspire other soldiers to strive for excellence. We proudly enter the ranks of the men and women who have served before us. It is an experience that I will remember forever.



To me, the contracting ceremony was truly special. I am the first person of my family to enter the United States Military. Although the experience has been daunting, I have never felt so much pride and honor than when I raised my right hand and took the oath to defend the United States of America. Joining ROTC has been one of the best decisions I have made and contracting has made this decision more real than ever. I am looking forward to what Army ROTC has to offer me in these next three years and I am excited to eventually lead my peers as an officer in the United States Army.

# Advanced Camp

By: Cadet Matthew Booher

This summer I fulfilled my orders to depart to and complete Cadet Advanced Camp (CLC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Over the course of four weeks I was a member of the Colonel William Burke 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment and took part in several classes, BRM, and took part in a fourteen-day field exercise. Throughout the time at CLC, there were several positive and negative experiences. This article will elaborate on a few of those.

The first positive experience is one that is only positive with hindsight available to look back on the experience. I am talking about the fourteen-day field exercise itself. Besides taking part in a rotation at the NTC with my home MP unit, I've never really had the opportunity to take part in a long field exercise. Having to work through the tumultuous Kentucky weather, some stubborn peers, and long hours helped make not only the culminating exercise an exciting one, but a demonstration of the improvement that we had made along the way.

The second positive was the inclusion of the obstacle course in the training. My reasoning behind this being a positive thing goes beyond just merely stating that it was fun, because it most certainly was. The reason that I include it in this article is because I felt that for my platoon this was the single biggest contributor to fostering our teamwork and esprit de corps. Through this portion of the training we were all able to get an idea of what each of us was capable of, and how we could work together to compensate for what a team a member may have lacked.

The first negative experience was the lack of formal PT. Aside from the regimental run and one morning PT session on day three; there was no PT at all. I understood that the reason behind this was to eliminate any unnecessary injuries that could result in cadets having to be recycled. But the lack of PT had me leaving Fort Knox with significantly lower stamina than I had arrived. I am speaking mostly towards cardiovascular stamina as we could do push-ups and sit-ups in our barracks, but the addition of PT could have improved the way our platoons worked together as well as maintaining our physical readiness.

The second thing that I did not appreciate about my CLC experience was the repetitive briefs we had like SHARP and EO. By no means am I attempting to imply that these briefs are not important, rather I mean to say that before arriving at CLC, I not only had the briefs with my National Guard unit, but also during ROTC class and labs. I am not aware if every university gives these briefs to all their cadets, but if they do, then I believe that the abundant time spent on them could be better used for PT, sergeant's time, or even time for the platoons to go out doors and walk through battle drills.

Overall my experience at CLC was a positive one. I got to travel to a place in a part of the country that I had never been and I made new friends while I was there. Most of all, I felt that I built my confidence and command presence as a leader.

# FTX

By: Cadet Logan Crawshaw



All semester the Portland Army ROTC Detachment organizes and conducts a series of tactical and team building labs with the purposes of introducing the MS1 class (freshmen) to the Army basics, refreshing the MS2 class (sophomores) on what they should already know, and preparing the MS3 and MS4 classes (juniors and seniors) for summer training or even for the officership after they graduate and commission. Our campus labs are helpful in many aspects towards our training. There are just some things that you can never truly experience until you are out in the woods putting classroom knowledge to practical use. This is what the Field Training Exercise (FTX) is all about. Our upperclassmen work

tirelessly with our Cadre to organize a weekend during the semester where they gather all the cadets and ship us to a military installation nearby that can accommodate our training needs; which includes land navigation, weapon systems familiarization, first aid, squad and platoon tactics, and even international communication.

As a sophomore at UP, I have now experienced three FTX weekends. Each time our training is similar in some ways and different in others. However, one thing that remains the same, I always come home with new knowledge, not only about military doctrine but also knowledge of myself and my fellow cadets. We spend our time conducting drills, sleeping outdoors, and eating MREs; all the while we are building our own mental and physical resilience and establishing comradery and respect among peers and superiors. Personally, I tend to wake up grumpy on the morning we leave, mostly because of how early it is. By the time, we get there, I am excited to put to practice the things that we work on all semester while also learning from the experience itself.



It is safe to say that FTX is a unique and exciting time to be a cadet on campus. It is an experience that directly affects how we look at ourselves and others. In these situations, we can foster personal courage and adaptability that inevitably helps in our personal lives in addition to gaining important field experience for our Army lives. As a result of the valuable knowledge and the stimulating environment, I always take on these training events as opportunities to learn and develop and I am definitely looking forward to next time.



# CTLT

By: CDT Craig Samuel



When I joined ROTC as a junior, I knew that I had a lot of lost ground to make up. I had much less experience than my peers and unlike many, was not involved in Reserves or National Guard. In the middle of spring semester, I was fortunate enough to have a cadre member who realized my deficiencies and take a personal interest in me; Major Wood realized that for me to succeed, I would need an opportunity for extra hands-on training during the summer. He “asked”, a term which I use loosely, if I wanted to participate in the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) training program. I didn’t particularly want to spend any more time training during the summer than I had to, but I realized that my inexperience was holding me back. Reluctantly, I agreed. I participated in a three week program of CTLT right after my initial four weeks of Advance Camp training in one of the United States’ best military facilities: Fort Polk.

When I arrived at midnight in Louisiana, I was quickly shuttled to Fort Polk, upon arrival I couldn’t believe my luck when I received my own quarters in the Single Soldier Living facility (SSL), an apartment building for soldiers who live on post. The next morning, I met my Lieutenant, who had graduated from Virginia Military Institute the previous year. I was happy to hear that I was matched with a Quartermaster unit, one of the top three branches I was interested in. During the next three weeks, I spent the entirety of each workday shadowing my LT, in everything that he had to do daily. I participated in PT, helped with briefs during training meetings, and assisting in more tedious tasks like taking a cyclical inventory for the Commander who had just started the previous month. I participated in the planning for a 10-day field training exercise, participated in SHARP training, experienced a virtual counseling session, and got a chance to shadow the Company XO. The LT was exceptionally helpful, he would pick me up in the morning and drop me off at my lodging, give me online resources that I can use for assigned tasks, and generally give me tips that would help me after I commission.

While I was in FT. Polk, some of the branches conducted a day where all local cadets were invited to come and see exactly what that branch does in the service to raise interest and allow cadets to understand how the Army works. I attended two such events, Aviation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) day. I had the opportunity to take a ride in the oldest Blackhawks in service on post, wear an 85-pound Blast suit, and operate a bomb disposal robot. Cadets attending the course had weekends off. I wanted to visit New Orleans, but did not because there was extreme flooding in the area.

Overall, attending CTLT gave me a realistic view of what an active duty 2LT does during a typical work day. My time shadowing the LT and the XO gave me insights about leadership and how to facilitate the results that a Commander expects. The experience I gained was extremely useful. I learned skills that I will use in day-to-day operations when I commission. Although I did not look forward to attending the course, I am grateful Major Wood asked me to participate.



# Veterans Day

By: Cadet Thailer Tantchangsang

Veteran's Day originated on the first-year anniversary of World War I. At the University of Portland there's a 24-hour Vigil protecting the Praying Hands Memorial outside of Christie Hall. This memorial contains the names of the University of Portland commissioned officers, both Army and Air Force that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation, which dates back to World War I. This tradition has been going on for many years. Faculty members, veterans, and students arrive on Veteran's Day to see the final change of the guard, and the ceremony for those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces.

The guarding of the memorial shift begins at 11:00 am on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November and finishes on the 11<sup>th</sup> with one Army and one Air Force cadet standing in place. We had the pleasure of hearing from Matthew Robinson, a six year Oregon Army National Guard veteran, and our guest speaker for the ceremony. Following the guest speaker was a three-volley salute conducted by Army and Air Force cadets.



Veteran's Day is a holiday to recognize those who are currently serving or have served. It's one of the most powerful holidays that bring people together. As a junior in the Army ROTC and four years in the Oregon Army National Guard, it's an honor to participate in such an important ceremony. I currently have family in the Royal Thai Army and by continuing the tradition in the United States Army; it is an honor to say the least.



## Websites

By: Cadet Kevin Frankel, Cadet Erin Adelman, & Cadet Matthew Booher

I first saw the Portland State University (PSU) ROTC website over a year ago, when I decided to attend PSU. I knew I wanted to join the ROTC program, but the website, at that time, had very little information. It hardly had any information about being a cadet or ROTC life. Looking at it now, there is a huge difference in quality and clarity. Now you can find all the information you need about the requirements to join. The website clearly shows what is expected of cadets, whether it is physically or academically, and it shows things that cadets must do daily, like the dreaded/anticipated council crest run. When I first joined, I knew virtually nothing about the program other than the location and time I was supposed to show up on the first day. This website will be extremely valuable to any prospect student who is interested in ROTC. - Cadet Frankel

The Portland Battalion has expanded their outreach mission to include an updated website. With an updated look, it is easier to keep up to date on everything going on within our Detachment. On the new website you'll be able to find links to our social media accounts (Facebook, Shutterfly, and Instagram), a roster of current cadre, our up to date training calendar, and more information about ROTC and scholarship opportunities. The new website makes it easier to expand the Detachment's outreach on campus, and into the community! Take some time to look at it for yourself at <https://www1.up.edu/armyrotc/index.html>. - Cadet Adelman

The Eastern Oregon University (EOU) ROTC website does a good job to inform potential cadets about the ROTC program. The web page is thoroughly designed to be easily navigated on both mobile and desktop format. The website offers links to the goarmy.com website highlighting the many career opportunities available to an officer in the Army. Additionally, it offers an easy way to request information regarding the EOU ROTC program. - Cadet Booher

## How ROTC has inspired your life

By: Cadet Taylor Paschall

After having been in the ROTC program for a little over a year, I can say without a doubt I am a healthier, more confident, and well balanced person. The leadership skills I have learned and continue to learn in ROTC have helped in many different aspects of my life. As a cadet, I am required to maintain a good level of physical fitness which has improved my overall health. Working in leadership positions, and learning from my failures, has helped me to be a leader in other aspects of my life (academically, professionally, and socially) as well as present myself in a more confident manner. I also feel more balanced in my day to day activities. As an art major the physical and mental requirements of ROTC balance out the creative and carefree elements of my studies. I also have gained skills from the ROTC program which I wouldn't have gained in a regular civilian course such as: land navigation, rifle marksmanship skills, and squad/platoon level tactics. Anyone looking to enhance their life in a disciplined and fun way should consider the ROTC program. There is a place for everyone.





Spring 2017

## Pilot Detachment Staff Positions

**Cadet Battalion Commander:** CDT O'Connor (PSU)

**Cadet Battalion Executive Officer:** CDT Rackovan (PSU)

**Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major:** CDT Slingsluff (PSU)

**Cadet Battalion Administration Officer (S-1):** Cadet Samuel (PSU)

**Assistant Cadet S-1:** CDT Pieplow (UP)

**Cadet Battalion Intelligence and Security Officer (S-2):** CDT Adams (PSU)

**Assistant Cadet S-2:** CDT Peralta (UP)

**Cadet Battalion Operations Officer (S-3):** CDT Peterson (UP)

**S-3 SGM/MFT:** CDT Klein (UP)

**Assistant Cadet S-3:** CDT Brumbaugh (PSU)

**Cadet Battalion Supply Officer (S-4):** CDT Bierek (UP)

**Cadet Battalion Public Affairs Officer (S-5):** CDT Simms (UP)

**Assistant Cadet S-5:** CDT Booher (EOU)

**Cadet Battalion Signal Officer (S-6):** CDT Reynolds (UP)

**PSU Cadet Officer In Charge:** CDT Petit (PSU)

**PSU Cadet Detachment Sergeant Major:** CDT Melians (PSU)

**EOU Cadet Officer In Charge:** CDT Newkirk (EOU)

**EOU Cadet Detachment First Sergeant:** CDT Shimer (EOU)