



Gorilla Gazette

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58 Years of Army ROTC at Pitt State Celebrated with Reunion Weekend



by CPT Josh Shay

On October 2, 2010, 58 years of leadership and excellence returned to Pittsburg State University in order to celebrate the proud history of PSU ROTC. Over 60 alumni spanning from the graduating classes of 1955 to 2009 attended several events throughout the day, a day that has become referred to as "Gorilla Warfare Day." Alumni were able to get a current glimpse into the status of the Gorilla Battalion as well as interact with the cadets on a personal level.

LTC Don Stoner, Professor of Military Science, and Cadet LTC Christopher Porter, Cadet Battalion Commander, began the day with a brief to alumni on the state of the battalion. They outlined where the BN is right now, where it is going and how ROTC has changed over the years, noting that one thing that hasn't changed is the quality of officer we produce. Following the brief the alumni were treated to a tailgate party on the lawn of the university presidential house. During lunch two KSARNG Blackhawks landed next to the tailgate and set up a static display for all to see. Cadre then walked the alumni over to the stadium and into their end zone seating area to view the game, and a special surprise. The ROTC program sponsored the game and outfitted the football team with special ACU pattern jerseys that were unveiled for the first time at the beginning of the game. A second special event during the game was the participation of alumni in a contracting ceremony for 13 cadets on the 50 yard line at halftime. Alumni had the honor of placing the school patch on the cadet's right shoulder, symbolizing their commitment to the program.

To bring the day to an end, alumni gathered at the Holiday Inn ballroom for a social and dinner. BG (R) James AuBuchon was the guest speaker for the night, and spoke about the lasting friendships with those in the room as well as how well current cadets are trained and prepared. It was also during the dinner that the posthumous induction of COL Paul Buchanan as the 30th member of the PSU ROTC Hall of Fame occurred. Present at the ceremony on behalf of COL Buchanan were his wife Carolyn Buchanan, son BG Jeffrey Buchanan via webcast from Iraq, and daughters Cynthia Horen and Susan Samborowski.



PMS Section

by LTC Don Stoner

It is hard to believe this is my sixth and final semester here at PittState. As I reflect on the past years I am proud of what we deliver to students, and of the quality lieutenants produced by PittState ROTC. We focus on recruiting the right candidates and develop them through continuous coaching, teaching and mentoring. Our goal is to help students achieve to their maximum potential, and launch them into life with leadership skills that ensure their success. A start in life with officership in the active Army, USAR or National Guard provides our students with a competitive edge over other college graduates.

Over the past three years we achieved consistency in the size and quality of our program. The number of Cadets we produce against our mission is consistently strong, and the academic and physical achievements of our Cadets are impressive when measured against our peers. The average GPA of our Cadets is currently 3.46 compared to a national cadet average of 3.1 and our cadets rank in the top 10% in physical fitness, scoring an impressive 276 average out of 300 points on the APFT. This mental and physical toughness is proven each year as we consistently rank as the best Ranger Challenge Team in Kansas and among the best in the Midwest.

Hopefully you are also proud of this legacy here at PittState ROTC, and to be counted among the 1,183 graduates of PittState that entered service as Army Officers. We are working hard to sustain that tradition of excellence, and appreciate the efforts of our alumni. Your financial support and help telling the story of PittState ROTC helps us recruit, retain and develop an impressive group of students. This legacy is important to all of us, and your generosity is not taken for granted. Thank-you for your continued support of PittState Army ROTC.

Cadet LTC Christopher Porter



Pittsburg State University ROTC has been the most successful program on campus this year. As many of you know, we began this year with an Alumni Reunion event that allowed us the opportunity to

bring back many of our distinguished Alumni and brief them on the state of the Gorilla Battalion. We were also able to explain how we function now; compared to how the program was when they were attending Pittsburg State. This event acted as a kickoff for many more successful events to follow.

Shortly after the reunion, we took twenty cadets to Camp Dodge, Iowa and competed in the Ranger Challenge. The results there proved that once again, Pittsburg State ROTC is the powerhouse of the Midwest ROTC programs. Our teams took 2nd and 3rd place overall, and brought home four first place event awards. We left Camp Dodge as the most decorated team attending, defeating other programs including KU, K-State, Nebraska, Iowa, and Iowa State.

Throughout the year we will send more teams to compete in various events. Some of these events include, the Bataan Death March, the German Armed Forces Badge of Military Proficiency, and Buddy Ranger Challenge. Events like the German Badge will be located on our campus in Pittsburg, but events like the Bataan Death March require travel to White Sands, New Mexico. The cadets here at Pittsburg State are dedicated to our program, and they treat all of the events with the same seriousness one would expect of an athlete. These events allow cadets to travel to new places, and push themselves in ways that no other Pittsburg State student is able to. These events build lasting memories for the cadets, and develop the ethic that will eventually make them the Army's best leaders.

All of these events are possible due to the help that you, the Alumni, provide. The cadets participating in these events recognize that they would not be possible without the support of our Alumni. As cadets, we do not have many opportunities to speak with our Alumni. When you have the opportunity, do stop by the program and visit with the cadets. We are eager to hear the stories of your ROTC days and to show our appreciation of everything you have done for our program. On behalf of all the Gorilla Battalion cadets, we thank you for making Pittsburg State ROTC the most successful program both on campus, and in the Midwest.

Cadets Rise to the Challenge of Fall Field Training Exercise

by 2LT Matthew Boyd

The Cadets of the Gorilla Battalion got off to a running start this year with our Fall FTX at Camp Clark in Nevada, MO. Upon arrival at Camp Clark, the cadets were instructed on how to properly occupy a patrol base and construct poncho shelters. After patrol bases were occupied, classes were conducted in the evening with a three course rotation. The first class was field craft and hygiene, second was prisoner search and Aid & Litter team procedures, while the third was call for fire and nine line MEDEVAC. The cadets then went back to their patrol bases to do hygiene and final alterations to their sleeping areas.

Stand to was at 0500 after which the cadets prepped for the day's training. Squad Situational Training Exercises (STX) lanes began at 0800 with four squads rotating through various tactical scenarios, while squad leadership rotated through the various cadets. All STX training this year was executed with paintball guns to increase realism and violence of action. They were ideally suited to the thick vegetation and short lines of site at Camp Clark. STX continued until noon when we transitioned into day Land Navigation. This year was the first time that we allowed MSI's to navigate the course without help. Following Land Navigation classes and the practical day LANDNAV course was a short break and then the night LANDNAV course. At 2230 the last cadet completed the course and all cadets were accounted for and bedded down by 2300. Land navigation both day and night was very successful; all cadets passed both sessions of the course, many completing it with all points. Sunday morning saw another 0500 stand to followed by a quick breakfast and more STX lanes for the remaining cadets to be evaluated.

This year's FTX was a great training experience, and the credit goes to the MSIV's who took the time and effort to plan it in detail. The cadre helped facilitate the training and ensured that the battalion was getting proper instruction and trained to standard. All cadets in the Gorilla Battalion stayed motivated and showed that they could lead so well this early on in the year. If they continue to build on the performance they showed at Camp Clark, they will excel at LDAC this summer!

Gorilla Ranger Challenge Teams Dominate Competition



by 2LT Matthew Boyd

Hard work, determination, perseverance and downright grit are what it took to complete this year's Ranger Challenge competition. The 2010 Ranger Challenge Competition at Camp Dodge Iowa proved to be the hardest competition to date. The competition received a face lift by adding new factors to the events. The teams in the past logged around 10-12 miles total on their feet for the day long competition, with teams traveling by van between events, this time it was 16 plus miles with a rucksack and squad equipment involving foot movement between events. New events were also added like

the Sensitive Site Exploitation (SSE), which was a realistic intelligence mission, and The Combat Crucible lived up to the hype of being the most physical event.

New training techniques ensured the PSU teams entered the competition in top form and confident in their abilities. The teams confidence could not have been higher, riding to the competition and to the event start in the PSU athletic travel bus, with AC/DC cranked on the speakers. Our motivation carried over to the first event where we had seven cadets score a 300+ on the APFT and also received the highest APFT score. The next event was the 10k rucksack run, where both teams finished in the top five. The fun really began after that with the Land Navigation/ Events portion. The Land Navigation was set up so that certain points were events and you were timed in between each event, and it was to be completed with full battle rattle and rucksacks. The day consisted of completing the field events; Hand Grenade Assault Course, Weapons Assembly, SSE, and The Crucible. At the conclusion of the field events, the teams had been going hard for 10 hours and were muddy and wet. Pitt States best event was coming up and we regrouped and refocused for the last push. The One Rope Bridge and Basic Rifle Marksmanship was competed in the dark and one Pitt State team took first



in each event, wrapping up the day with a win. By the end of the day the distinctive bus with the split face painted on the side was nicknamed the "Gorilla Cage" by the other schools at the competition.

Pittsburg State ROTC took second and third out of sixteen teams making us the best overall school in the brigade by far. The dedication that both teams displayed throughout training and competition is something to be commended and recognized. I hope that future cadets can learn from the accomplishments of the Ranger Challenge cadets that are the best in the Brigade.



Renovation of Commissioning Photo Display

The ROTC Department is renovating its Commissioning Photo Display from its old cork board format to something a little newer. The biggest problem we are having is some of the photographic prints we have of the commissioning photos are of poor quality. We are trying to find photographs of commissioning. If you have commissioning photos of an entire commissioning class taken before 1960 or from 1980 to 1989 please email gjohnson@pittstate.edu or call (620)235-4859. We have already tried Kanza back issues with no luck.



PSU Veteran's Memorial

The Veteran's Memorial Amphitheater is one of the finest veteran's memorials in the nation and is a tribute to the Veteran's and Servicemen who have or are serving currently in the United States military. The amphitheater features a replica of the Vietnam wall in Washington D.C.

with flags from all 50 states surrounding the north side of the amphitheater. Covering the floor of the amphitheater are more than 3,000 engraved granite stones (pavers) paying tribute to individual veterans or veterans' organizations.

These pavers pay great tribute to a veteran that you know personally and will remain there for years to come. If you are interested in purchasing one of the pavers they come in two sizes: an 8"x8" paver for \$150 and 12"x12" paver for \$300. For additional information on pavers, call the PSU Office of University Development at 620-235-4768, or email lmetro@pittstate.edu.



The Ranger Challenge Team on the firing line preparing to fire for score at Camp Dodge, IA



Cadet Sean Gilbert taking his turn carrying the wounded dummy during the Ranger Challenge Competition, following behind preparing to carry is Stephen Cuff

Recruiting Cadets is a team effort



LTC Stoner administers the contracting oath to Cadets Paul Hartfield and Orey Parks during the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the PSU Veteran's Memorial

Enrollment Officer

CPT Eric Hollingsworth

Alumni Involvement

As a graduate from PSU ROTC I see how important it is to continue to build a legacy here. Please contact us if you know someone who is considering ROTC as an option. We treat all alumni referrals with special care during the campus tour and give them special consideration for campus-based scholarships. It is great to see PSU ROTC Alumni involvement and any time you are in the area stop by for a visit.

Cadet Recruiting Incentive Program

Remember the future of the Army ROTC Program is in your hands. Contracted cadets who bring a qualified prospect to the department for a visit receive \$100 in cash for every contract.

Cadet Recruiting

There is no better recruiter on campus then our current cadets. Most new students learn about Pitt State ROTC from a current cadet

who shines on campus. Thanks for passing the word, telling the ROTC story, and explaining the leadership and career benefits of ROTC. Students on campus are more apt to listen to you than any other source. So tell the story, and if you have anyone interested get in touch with the Enrollment Officer.



The Gorilla Battalion Push-Up Platoon supports a PSU volleyball game. All were wearing pink shirts as part of the game's fund raiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

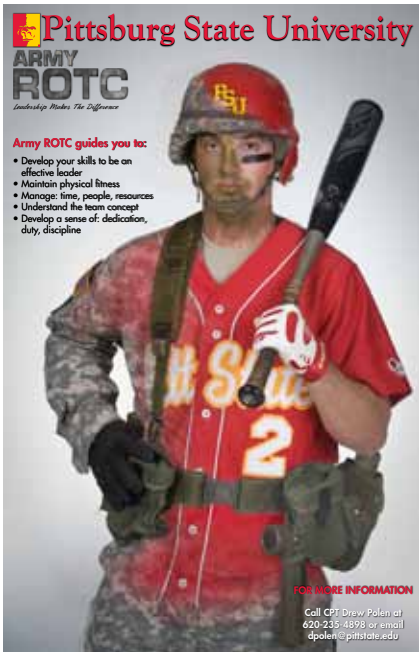


The Ranger Challenge Team conducting the tire flip during the Combat Crucible event at Camp Dodge, IA

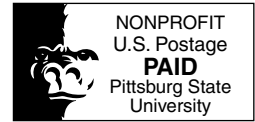
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Pittsburg State University
 Military Science/ROTC
 1701 S. Broadway
 Pittsburg, KS 66762-9987



Contact us!

We love to see your photos! Send your deployed and non-deployed pictures to jshay@pittstate.edu.

Spring 2011 Schedule

Gorilla Hall of Fame

There is now an alumni link on the Pittsburg State ROTC Web site. It currently contains a general outline for Hall of Fame nominations, as well as the form needed to make a nomination. Please take an opportunity to review the link and learn about current Hall of Fame Members at www.pittstate.edu/department/military/.

- 24 FEB 11:** Rappel Lab
- 4-5 MAR:** German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Competition
- 10-12 MAR:** MS III FTX
- 27 MAR:** Bataan Memorial Death March (White Sands, NM)
- 1-3 APR:** Buddy Ranger Challenge
- 8-10 APR:** Joint FTX (Fort Riley, KS)
- 28 APR:** Greenbush



The Trophy case for the Gorilla Battalion Ranger Challenge Team, recently renovated by SFC Forrest Robertson

Yes! I want to help build the Pittsburg State ROTC Rappelling Tower.

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