



# Gorilla Gazette

[www.pittstate.edu/departments/military](http://www.pittstate.edu/departments/military)

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## Professor of Military Science

LTC Christopher Lambert

This time last year, I was just finishing up my first ever trip to Pittsburg, KS. My wife, Karen, and I were visiting looking for a new house and spending some time with the Stoner's before they headed off to Europe. I was impressed then with how integrated the ROTC department was within Pittsburg State and the community. After reaching the end of my first full year with the department I am still impressed by the outstanding program and corps of cadets I have been given the privilege to work with.

This year has been one change within the cadre. Not only have I replaced LTC Stoner, but we also said farewell to MAJ George Johnson and CPT Josh Shay. While the departure of leaders is not easy; the change allowed for the arrival of 1LT Tim Wilkins, SSG Dallas Ripper, and re-arrival of LTC (R) Scott Craig; all three gentlemen quickly integrated into the team.

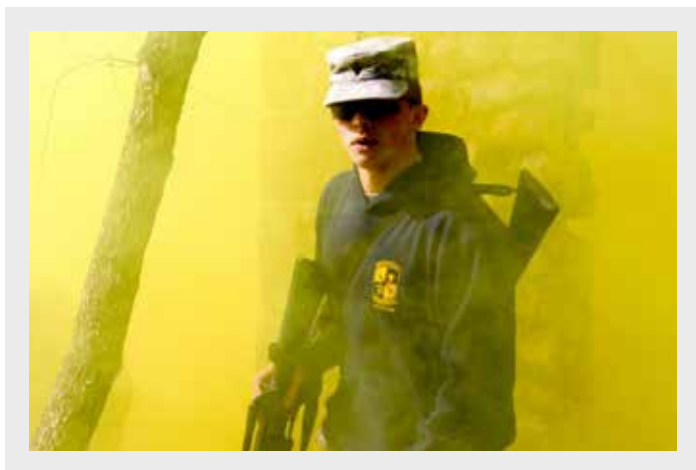
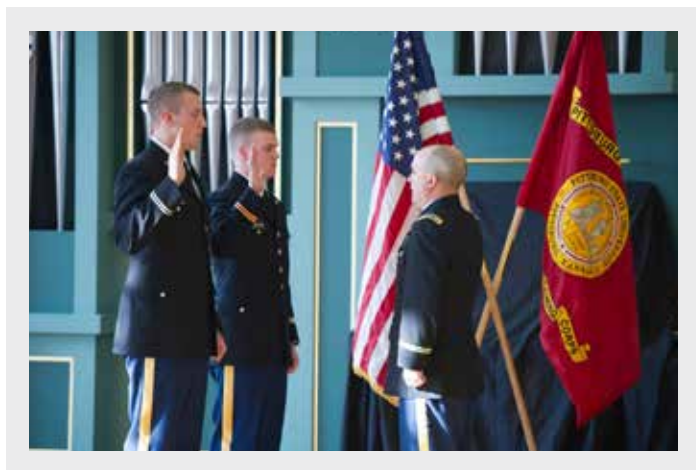
Last summer, this year's graduating class went off to LDAC at FT Lewis and accomplished a feat only a handful of programs in the nation matched. Every cadet that went to camp completed every event without receiving an overall N. The cadets going this year are expected to maintain that standard of excellence.

During Ranger Challenge, our teams fell a little short of their original goals, but set the benchmark for teamwork and resiliency. After some stumbles throughout the competition, the teams were offered a chance to quit and head to bed, but chose instead to work to after midnight to complete all events and earned a respectable 5th and 7th overall placement.

Last semester all saw two other key events; the dedication of the Crossland Rappel tower and the departments sweeping of homecoming king and queen. The dedication ceremony for the rappel tower culminated a year and half of hard work by the department, the university, the community, and an outstanding alumni base. The result is an on-campus, state-of-the-art tower that will be used to enhance the training of our cadets. The fact that both the homecoming king and queen were ROTC cadets highlights the level of involvement and recognition our cadets have across the PittState campus.

This Spring semester has been just as busy. I must admit that prior to arriving I expanded a relatively quiet academic workload as a PMS. The actuality is quite different. This semester has been filled with prep work for our Buddy Challenge teams, multiple field training exercise (FTXs), and other cadet inspired activities. So of the specific cadets activities include; supporting the local Big Brothers/Big Sister during a bowling fund-raiser, the organizing and executing the cadet of the semester/cadet of the year boards, and planning the Gorilla Dash event. The Gorilla Dash is scheduled to become an annual fund raising event. The concept and development of the idea has been 100% the cadets further proof of the great leaders being developed here.

As the academic year draws closer to completion, I want to thank the cadets, my staff of cadre, the university personnel, and our great alumni for their support. A great year is wrapping up and PittState ROTC is poised for even better years in the future.



# Proud Year to be a Gorilla



CPT. Drew Polen

This past year has been a remarkable step in continuing the strong posture of the Gorilla Battalion. Special thanks should go towards our dedicated alumni base for the new rappel tower located east of the Student Recreation Center. We successfully threw our first cadets off the tower and the Cadet Battalion thoroughly enjoyed our new “toy”.

The Gorilla Battalion again had a strong showing during the Buddy Ranger Challenge, placing first in the Co-Ed division. Also, Senior Cadet Sergeant Major Hal Rivard (Infantry) was on the 2011 National Championship football team. Sophomore Cadet Kristina Willis was a member of the Gorilla Women’s basketball team which set multiple records and made it to the elite 8 for the Div. II basketball tournament.

This upcoming spring is set to be a busy time for us once again. The Gorilla Battalion will make a trip to Ft. Riley, KS to conduct a Field Training Exercise with 4 other schools (KU, KState, CMSU, and MOWEST). We’re also conducting a high ropes course at the Greenbush Education Center. Additionally we’re set to commission a large number of seniors on May 11th into the service. We’d like to see our alumni at the commissioning ceremony set for 1000hrs at the PSU Veterans Memorial. Please help us welcome these newly commissioned Officers.



*ILT Kyle Kunkel (2009 graduate) received his Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) 20 July 2011; while engaged in active combat. He is currently stationed in Afghanistan with 2nd Bde, 4th Infantry Division.*

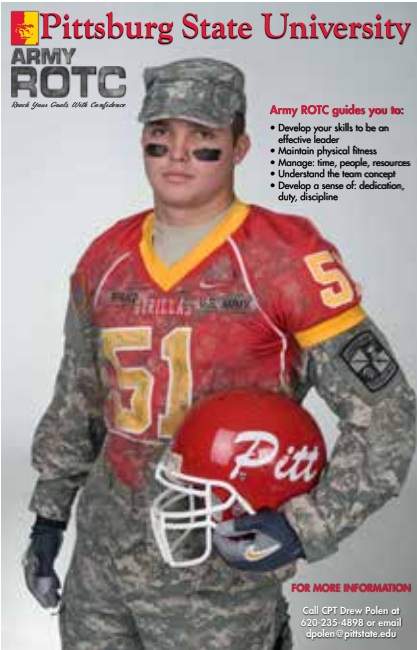


PSU ROTC Would Like to Thank the Following for Their Kind Donations to Military Science Aug-Present:

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## Contact us!

We love to see your photos! Send your deployed and non-deployed pictures to [dpolen@pittstate.edu](mailto:dpolen@pittstate.edu).

## Gorilla Hall of Fame

There is now a link on the Pittsburg State University ROTC Website. It currently contains a general outline for Hall of Fame nominations, as well as the form needed to make a nomination. Please take the opportunity to review the link and learn about current Hall of Fame members at [www.pittstate.edu/department/military](http://www.pittstate.edu/department/military).

## Spring 2012 Schedule

**Mar 31:** Buddy Ranger Challenge

**April 12-15:** FTX at Ft. Riley

**April 19:** Aviation Lab

**April 21:** German Proficiency Badge

**April 28:** Gorilla Dash

**May 11:** Commissioning

