



## BC's CORNER

by 2LT William Lewis

As the Cadet Battalion Commander for spring quarter 2007, I wanted to ensure that all the training conducted during the quarter would be focused on preparing the junior Cadets (MSIIIs) for the Ft. Lewis Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) held during the following summer. My intent was to develop a tough and realistic training program that would be similar to the training they would receive at LDAC. I told the Cadet Battalion at the beginning of the quarter that the training they received would only be as intense as they make it. If they didn't take it seriously, the training wouldn't be realistic.

I also stressed to the Cadets the need to maintain a tactical mindset. Throughout the quarter the MS I, II and III Cadets



stepped up to the challenge and proved that they could complete the tough training set out for them for the quarter.

As the Cadet Battalion Commander for the quarter, I have enjoyed watching the Cadets work together and the Battalion come together as a team. Overall, I believe the Cadets are as ready as they can be to attend Warrior Forge at Ft. Lewis and for other training events, such as Airborne and Air Assault Schools.



Visit to our EWU ROTC website at: <http://www.ewu.edu/rotc>



## MSI EXPERIENCE

by Cadet Patrick Watts

Nine and a half months after being proverbially "thrown to the wolves," my year as an MSI Cadet has been quite a trip. Those first few weeks of being called to attention and ordered to "fall in" were a fun yet somewhat intimidating indoctrination into one of the most closely-knit social groups in existence. Little did I know that I would neither be hazed nor ostracized as is typical for an inductee of many societies. Instead, I was accepted by my fellow Cadets all the way up to the seniors.

All of us have stereotypes when entering a foreign place. I honestly expected to run into small cliques of elitist groups—I was dead wrong. Looking at my first year from its end, it seems as if there is no barrier of age or class ranking. We are all working towards the same goal: commissioning in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. The simple truth is that some of us are farther along than others and it is the task of the entire Battalion to make sure that those ahead of us succeed.

Although attending Military Science classes and Thursday Leadership Labs are central to ROTC at Eastern, it is not the only time the Cadets are organized as a unit. As an MSI Cadet, I have had ample opportunity to participate in ROTC events. I am currently a member of the Color Guard, and was a member of our Battalion's WSU 100k relay team. There are no truly exclusive events in ROTC—everyone is both invited and encouraged to participate.



I don't see any other way around it—I likely made the right choice in one of the most important decisions of my life. I could not ask for a better circle of friends, and later on, group of colleagues and fellow officers. The Cadre keep telling us that the Army is getting smaller and smaller—we will one day see each other again. Not only will we have traveled all over the world, but because of deployments and post assignments, we will know people all over the world. I can be honest when I say that my fellow Cadets have done their part during my first year in helping me to succeed and to be enthusiastic about my upcoming year.



## WSU 100K

### Relay Race

April 2007

Our team finished in fourth place.

*Left to Right:*  
Chris Obrine, Levi Floeter, Patrick Watts, Nicholas Charlton, James Appel, Veronica Neeley, Amber Ellis and Blaine Powers.

## Annual Spring Awards Ceremony

MAY 2007

BG (R) Neal Sealock presents The Military Order of the World Wars Award to Cadet Joshua Decker.



## SPRING 2007 FTX

*by Cadet Bryan Odonnell*

The Cadets of the Fighting Eagle Battalion recently participated in the Spring Field Tactical Exercise (FTX) from 18 – 20 May 2007. The three-day, two-night training event began with an air assault operation in which MSIII Cadets were transported by UH-1 helicopters to the Seven Mile Military Reservation. The training exercise included two nights of tactical patrol base operations, a series of night land navigation practical exercises, and one day land navigation practical exercise. However, the most physically and mentally challenging portion of the FTX was the platoon patrolling missions. During these missions, MSIII Cadets lead platoon sized elements in tactical missions such as ambushes, knock-out bunker missions, reconnaissance patrols, and traffic control points. The Cadets were further challenged by “variables” which included media and civilians on the battlefield.

The Spring FTX is the culmination of all the tactical training that the Cadets have been exposed to throughout the 2006-2007 school year. For MSIII Cadets, this FTX was the last training event in preparation for Warrior Forge 2007. Warrior Forge is the most important training event for the MSIII cadets. The 33-day training event, held at Ft. Lewis, WA, incorporates a wide range of patrolling events designed to develop and evaluate leadership ability. The MSI and MSII Cadets were given the opportunity to practice their warrior tasks and drills as well as learn, through observation, the components of good leadership. This final training event sharpened skills and inspired Cadets to work hard to stay motivated throughout the summer in preparation for the 2007-2008 school year.



## Airborne School Attendees

*September 2007*  
CDT Jason Lorenson  
CDT Rosalba Orozco  
CDT Blaine Powers

## Air Assault School Attendees

*August 2007*  
CDT Veronica Neeley

*September 2007*  
CDT Brian Johnson  
CDT Stephen Robinson

## CTLT\* Attendees

*August 2007*  
CDT Elizabeth Campbell  
CDT Nicolas Potter  
CDT Erin Priest

*\* Cadet Troop Leadership Training*

## **First Duty Assignments**

### **2LT Bryce Brown**

*Corps of Engineers (RC)  
Ft. Wainwright, AK*

### **2LT Susan Brown**

*Nurse Corps  
Ft. Wainwright, AK*

### **2LT Nicholas Charlton**

*Signal Corps  
Ft. Hood, TX*

### **2LT Mark Hardee**

*Signal Corps  
detailed Infantry  
Ft. Campbell, KY*

### **CDT Parker Hathaway**

*Ordnance  
Korea*

### **2LT Charles Hines**

*Signal Corps  
detailed Field Artillery  
Ft. Hood, TX*

### **2LT William Lewis**

*Aviation  
Fr. Rucker, AL*

### **2LT Erik Lokkins**

*Field Artillery  
Ft. Lewis, WA*

### **2LT Benjamin Neeley**

*Armor  
Ft. Bliss, TX*

### **2LT Caleb Newbill**

*Signal Corps  
detailed Infantry  
Ft. Bragg, NC*

### **2LT Amanda Rowse**

*Air Defense Artillery  
Ft. Hood, TX*

## **GRADUATION**

*by 2LT Charles Hines*

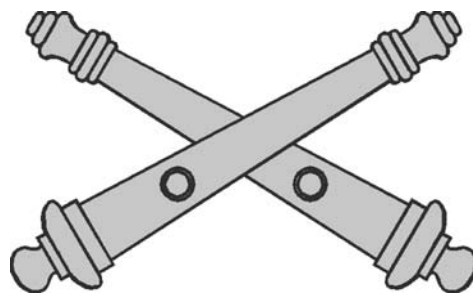
Coming to college and joining the ROTC program after serving as an enlisted soldier in the active component of the U.S. Army, was a significant change for me. I was used to a very strict schedule which included physical training five times a week and working long hours until the daily mission was complete. In addition, I had a senior non-commissioned officer always telling me what needed to get done and in return, I would delegate to my subordinates how to get the job done.

When I became a college student that all changed. No longer did I have non-commissioned officers telling me what to do. Nor did I have junior soldiers who I was responsible for. I have learned that success in college is based on your ability to manage your time and develop solid study habits and interpersonal and communication skills. Over the course of the academic year, I have grown in my ability to lead, manage and communicate to others. During fall quarter, I was assigned as the Battalion training and operations officer (S3). In winter quarter, I held the position of Cadet Battalion Commander. For spring quarter, I became the Battalion intelligence officer (S2). I also attended and passed Warrior Forge 2006 and Air Assault School.

Each of these positions and schools has helped make me the officer I am today.

Graduation day has finally come and gone. Attending EWU for two years, completing my bachelor degree and working toward my commission in the Army is now over. There were times of stress, lack of confidence and doubts about whether I could pull this off. But with my wife's support and the help from Cadre and other Cadets, I was able to achieve all my goals. Having such a strong support group really helped me out.

These have been fast-moving two years, with so many outstanding memories. Looking back and thinking about how people have grown and changed within these two years is amazing. I wish the best of luck to all those Cadets working toward their degrees and commissioning. With hard work and commitment they too will wear the gold bars of a Second Lieutenant.



Visit to our Cadet Command website at: <http://armyrotc.com/edu/easternwa/index.htm>

## **GEORGE C. MARSHALL ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY**

*by 2LT Caleb Newbill*

Every year, for the past 30 years, the George Marshall Foundation has held an annual award ceremony in Lexington, VA for Army ROTC Cadets. The George C. Marshall award is presented to the top Cadet from every Army ROTC Battalion across the country. This year 272 Cadets received this award and I was fortunate enough to be one of them.

During the seminar, we had the opportunity to hear from numerous distinguished people who are or have served our country in many different capacities. Speakers included Acting Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, the Commanding General of the US Army

Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), GEN William Wallace, Undersecretary of Homeland Security, the Honorable George Foresman and many more renowned persons.

Each Cadet had the opportunity to attend three roundtable discussions which were led by diverse and very experienced people. Also, every Cadet attended a discussion on the Role of the Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant and two other discussions, which dealt with national security issues. The national security issues included Homeland Security, Conflict in the Persian Gulf, Officer's Ethics, Media and the Battlefield, Peacekeeping and the U.S. Military, among other topics. This seminar provided me with the opportunity to meet other Cadets that I will serve with in the future. I left this conference more motivated to be an Army Officer than I ever have been before.

# MILITARY BALL 2007

by Cadet Steven Denhitt

The Military Ball this year was a great experience for both Cadets and their guests. It was also great to see so many of our parents attend this special event.

The Ball was held at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane Valley, WA on 11 May. The Hotel was a great setting for the Military Ball as it provided an elegant environment for the event. The guest speaker for the ball was The Honorable Tom Norris. Mr. Norris is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his ground rescue of two downed pilots in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam (the man who the movie Bat 21 is based on).

One of the main focal points of the night were the Seniors. All of the soon-to-be-commissioned senior Cadets were recognized in front of the entire crowd. In addition, there was a slide show and a cake cutting ceremony that honored them. The night also included a series of skits put on by the Cadets. The freshman and sophomores presented skits that poked fun at the upper classmen, while the juniors and seniors skits teased the Cadre. The evening concluded with pictures, dancing, and music.

Overall, the EWU Army ROTC Military Ball was a great success. The success of the event was due in large part to all the hard work and effort made by numerous Cadets who participated in the planning and execution of the Ball. I have no doubt that all of the Cadets are looking forward to next year's ceremony.

## LTC (R) JERRY MELLICK (1967)

Currently works at Anheuser-Busch



Information below taken from email from LTC (R) Mellick dated May 23, 2007:

I'm still actively involved with the Army even after 40 years from graduation and commissioning from Eastern's ROTC Program. I fly Hueys for the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation, and we were the main air show event at the Week Of Eagles at Ft. Campbell, May 2007. The 101st Airborne Division thought we were "Cool Looking Old Dudes. In addition to our Viet Nam shows and the Huey rides we give at air shows, we are under contract from the US Army Recruiting Command to perform at Army designated air shows to assist with Army recruiting. We use a four ship Cobra team and the aircraft are painted gloss black with all of the Army logos and signage.



LTC M. David Millet  
EWU ROTC PMS  
and The Honorable  
Thomas R. Norris,  
USN (R) Congressional  
Medal of Honor  
Recipient



Cadets Blaine and Blair Powers with parents.



2LT William Lewis  
and fiance Kirstin Price



CDT Katie Reid  
lights a candle for  
the fallen soldier.

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## **LTC (R) EDWIN G. HARVILL (1963)**

Retired August 1986. Retired from Pierce Transit 2005. Doing volunteer work with kindergarten reading program at Tillicum Elem. School. Also spends time woodworking with exotic woods.

## **LTC (R) ROBERT J. STOKKE (1965)**

Currently the Personnel Records Manager at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington.

## **BERT LOMAX (1967)**

Recently retired from U.S. Export/Import Bank in Washington D.C.

## **BILL THOMPSON (1967)**

Attended ROTC classes 1960-62, a participant of AUSA and ROTC Drill Team. Enlisted in 1962, served until 1965. Returned to EWU and received degree in 1967.

## **LTC (R) STEVE EPPERSON (1973)**

Retired from the USAR in 2001 with over 30 years service. Currently a VA vocational rehabilitation counselor stationed at Ft. Lewis working with disabled veterans.

## **LTC (R) JOE EMEHISER (1974)**

Currently the Ft. Benning Coordinator for GMC at Columbus, a Liberal Arts Junior College and lives in the Ft. Benning area.

## **COL JAMES PIERSON (1979)**

Currently the Chief of Staff of the 335th Signal Command (Theater), Atlanta Georgia. Served as the Signal Operations Officer in the V Corps Tactical Command Post during the entry phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as Signal Operations Officer for CJTF-7 Headquarters co-located with the Coalition Provisional Authority.

## **COL (R) FRANK P. TODD (1980)**

Currently working in HQDA G6 as an FA40 (Space Operations) focused on Space (both satellite communications and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities) and Airborne (both unmanned aerial vehicle communications relay and ISR capabilities) for the last four years. Served as a Signal Officer and NCO for 25 years. Currently resides in Virginia.

## **CPT (R) JIM VAN NOSTRAND (1981)**

Attended Infantry and Airborne schools at Fort Benning, served in 1st Infantry Division (FWD) in Germany 1984-86. Served a few more years in the Guard in Oregon and Pennsylvania. Currently resides in Maryland and is the web editor at McClatchy Washington Bureau.

## **LTC JOSEPH J. PIEK (1985)**

Public Affairs Officer for the first Stryker Brigade in Iraq, Oct. 2003. Retired 30 June 2005. Currently, External Communications Chief at Ft. Lewis and lives in Puyallup, Washington.

*(Excerpt from email)*

While serving as a Public Affairs Officer in Iraq from Oct 2003 - Aug 2004, with 3rd Bde, 2ID (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) and with Task Force Olympia in Mosul, I had a team of six Iraqi translators working with me. One of my translators, Samir, was killed by insurgents in Sept '04, shortly after I returned from Iraq. After that, the other translators quit working with Task Force Olympia for their own safety, except for one -- Ahmed. Eventually, the risk of working with U.S. forces became to great, and Ahmed and his family went into hiding. I have been working with Sen. Patty Murray's office for 2+ years on helping Ahmed, his wife and three

children to immigrate to the US. We're now in the final weeks of that process, and soon -- if everything works out -- they will come to Puyallup and live with my family until they get settled into a home of their own.

I never imagined my 20+ years in the Army would result in opening my home and caring for a family from Iraq, but that's what my family is excitedly preparing to do.

In my DA civilian job at Fort Lewis, I am a senior spokesman for the post. Currently, I talk to reporters almost every day about the Lt. Watada case. A simple Google News search with my name "Joe Piek" or "Joseph Piek" will tell you what story I'm talking about at Fort Lewis today.

If you're ever looking for a visiting guest speaker to talk about Iraq experiences, Army Public Affairs or Stryker Brigades, let me know.

All the best to the Fighting Eagle Battalion,  
Joseph Piek

## **COL ALEX MOMB, USAF (1988)**

Currently resides in Bothell Washington. Contributor to ROTC Foundation. Son enrolled in ROTC.

## **LTC RICH YADA**

Currently a Transportation Officer still on active duty with assignment as the S3, 10th Support Group, Okinawa, Japan.

## **DAVE CLARK (1991)**

Served on active duty until March 1997, stationed in Germany and Ft. Knox. Recruited by US West Communications (now Qwest Communications) as an Installation/Maintenance Supervisor in Spokane after working in San Diego at a software firm. Resigned his commission Summer 2001 and is currently a Sr. Design Engineer in the Construction/Engineering Department.

## **LTC (R) MARILYN 'SAM' LEITZ (1999)**



*LTC (R) Leitz receiving the 2006 Meritorious Unit Citation (MLCC)*

## **CPT BRIDGET A WETZLER (1999)**

Formerly 2LT Liles. Currently stationed at Ft. Lewis Washington, working in the Western Region CDT Command HQ S2 Shop as an Operations Officer.

## **CPT (R) CHUCK WAGONBLAST (2000)**

No longer with the 201<sup>st</sup>, in the IRR now, living in Spokane. Is Chief Operations Officer/Project Manager at ProVolve Solutions Inc. Received MS in 2000.

**DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**  
Send us an email at: [ROTC@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:ROTC@mail.ewu.edu)

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## NOTE FROM THE PMS

by LTC M. David Millet (dmillet@mail.ewu.edu)

It has been another successful academic year here at Eastern Washington University. By the end of this school year the EWU ROTC program will have commissioned 11 new Lieutenants into the U.S. Army; serving in Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Service Support branches. These Officers will serve in many posts throughout the country, representing this fine University with honor and pride. They will carry on the traditions established by generations before them.

During the summer months we will also send 18 Cadets to FT Lewis, WA for “Warrior Forge” – the Leadership Development Course, where over 4000 Cadets from across the country will come to train. This is an important step in the commissioning process for these young Warriors. These Cadets will come back to campus in the fall ready to take responsibility for training and teaching their fellow Cadets. We will also send Cadets to Air Assault and Airborne schools this summer. So I know we will have many great accomplishments to report in our next newsletter.

Lastly I would like to thank BG (R) Fred Wong and Dean Vickie Shields for allowing me to travel to Washington D.C. last spring to meet with a small group of EWU ROTC Alumni and spread the word on what great work our Cadets are accomplishing. They were all amazed with how much is demanded of Cadets in today’s ROTC program and how important GPA and leadership assessment are in the commissioning process. And I did assure them that “Goofy’s Bar” was still alive and well as a local watering hole in Cheney.

Please continue to share your Alumni information with us – we enjoy seeing current photos of what our EWU ROTC Alumni are up to today.

### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



*Front Row:* LTC (R) Marilyn ‘Sam’ Lietz, Elaine Lomax, Dr. Vickie Shields, EWU Dean; Victoria Wong, ‘73 *Middle Row:* BG (R) Fred Wong, ‘64, ‘73; LTC David Millet, EWU ROTC PMS *Back Row:* COL (R) Stan Johnson, ‘59; CPT (R) Dan Beyer, ‘74; BG (R) Neal Sealock, ‘74; CPT (R) Jim Van Nostrand, ‘81; Bert Lomax, ‘67; Mike Westfall, EWU VP for Advancement *Not Pictured:* Phil Kiever, ‘03.