

The Fighting Eagle Battalion  
NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2008



**BC's CORNER**

*by 2LT Veronica Neeley*

This quarter the Cadets have put their efforts and hard work into conducting Platoon sized missions such as ambushes, recon's, traffic control points and setting up patrol bases.

The final test for this year's MS III's class was to take what they had learned throughout the year and apply it to the situations that arose during the Spring FTX. From a basic traffic control point

to helping a sick villager, the Cadets met or exceeded the standards that were set out for them. In the end the Cadet's hard work was rewarded by being picked up by helicopters and being flown back to campus to enjoy Longhorn Barbeque.

From the time that school started back in September to the point where training ended for the year, the Cadets acquired a great deal of knowledge and confidence. The efforts of this year's Senior leadership were reflected in the hard work and knowledge the Cadets put into accomplishing the tasks that they had been assigned and the fun they had throughout the year.

Although training within the Battalion has ended for this school year the Cadets of this battalion will go on to conduct additional training during the summer and come back to share their knowledge with next year's freshman class.

It has been a great year and I wish everyone the best of luck as I depart after four years in the program, now a commissioned Second Lieutenant.



Spring 2008 FTX article and more photos on Page 2

*Taking off from the EWU practice fields with a view south.*



*Left to right:  
WA State Archive Bldg, EWU Red Barn, WA State Crime Lab*

## 2008 Spring FTX

by Cadet Patrick Watts

The Field Training Exercise (FTX) for spring quarter 2008 was a much different experience than I expected it to be. Typically, the Cadets are broken up into their respective platoons, with the MS III Cadets taking leadership roles. This quarter, it was quite different. All of the MS III Cadets were formed into a single platoon, alongside a separate platoon composed of MS I and MS II Cadets. Myself and two fellow MS II Cadets, however, were thrown in with the MS III platoon to “make the numbers right.” We were used to fill the squads, but we would essentially be third year Cadets for the weekend.

The FTX began with a convoy to Seven Mile Military Reservation on the Spokane River. We completed our first mission during the early evening and set up our Patrol Base — a location for the platoon to secure, eat, sleep and prepare for the missions to come.

Later the platoon moved out to complete a night land navigation course at a location we had never been to before. This made it especially challenging because of the unfamiliar terrain, but it did a great job preparing us for Warrior Forge at Fort Lewis.

Saturday was full of missions along with more land navigation. It was exhausting carrying a 40 pound “ruck-sack” while moving tactically over long distances in near ninety degree heat for each mission. We did not get much sleep. But again, all of this training is supposed to mimic, as close as possible, the training we will receive at Warrior Forge.

Awaiting us on Sunday was yet another land navigation course, but the effort was worth the reward. We were met by UH-1 helicopters from Fairchild Air Force Base and flown back to the soccer fields at EWU. Longhorn Barbecue was catered for us at Cadet Hall on Sunday evening which was a nice touch after the long afternoon of cleaning weapons. Overall, it was an awesome experience.



*Above – Cadets conducting AAR after Ambush mission*

*Below – Cadets E. Walling and K.Monk cleaning weapons and eating dinner after Spring FTX*



*Cadet Nicole O'Brine providing security during Spring FTX*

# WSU 100K Relay Race

by CDT Blaine Powers

On Sunday, 20 April 2008, LTC Millet and eight cadets gathered in Pullman, Wa. for the Washington State University 100K Relay Race. This is a 10-leg relay race covering over 62 miles. The EWU ROTC team included team captain Cadet Chris O’Brine and Cadets Jim Appel, Blaine Powers, Chris MacGeorge, Patrick Watts, Nicole O’Brine, Scott Bradley and Veronica Neeley. Each team member ran between 4.1 miles and 8.7 miles.

After several months of training for the race, the team was ready to compete on that cold morning with Cadet Appel taking point. During the sixth leg of the race the team gained ground with the help of Cadet Bradley, who took on an almost non-stop hill for over six miles. Cadet Chris O’Brine served as the tail of the relay, running his second leg of the day to finish the race with an overall time of 7:23:40.

By placing fifth out of twenty-eight teams in the Open Division, our finishing time improved from last year yet again! Next year will be our strongest year yet.



Left to right: Cadets James Appel and Patrick Watts

## First Duty Assignments

**2LT Erica L. Block**

*Nurse Corps  
Walter Reed Army Med Ctr*

**2LT Sonny J. Cain**

*Branch Requested:  
Chemical Corps*

**2LT Elizabeth Campbell**

*Quartermaster Corps  
Ft. Campbell, KY*

**2LT Levi J. Floeter**

*Infantry  
Ft. Lewis, WA*

**2LT Parker W. Hathaway**

*Ordinance  
Korea*

**2LT Stephanie A. Hockett**

*Branch Requested:  
Quartermaster Corps*

**2LT Brian S. Johnston**

*Adjutant General Corps  
Ft. Shafter, HI*

**2LT James Ko**

*Air Defense Artillery  
Ft. Bliss, TX*

**2LT Tyler W. Mayes**

*Field Artillery  
Ft. Bliss, TX*

**2LT Veronica O. Neeley**

*Military Intelligence Corps  
detailed Chemical Corps  
Ft. Bliss, TX*

**2LT Brian D. O’Donnell**

*Military Intelligence Corps  
Ft. Huachuca, AZ*

**2LT Nicolas W. Potter**

*Medical Service Corps  
Ft. Hood, TX*

**2LT Erin E. Priest**

*Military Intelligence Corps  
Ft. Bliss, TX*

**2LT Stephen M. Robinson**

*Military Intelligence Corps  
detailed Infantry  
Ft. Benning, GA*

**2LT Richard A. Senkler**

*Military Intelligence Corps  
detailed Armor  
Ft. Benning, GA*



*MG Scott West on a BN run  
the morning of the 2008 Military Ball*



*Presentation of EWU ROTC Plaque from 2LT E. Campbell  
to Guest Speaker MG Scott West at the 2008 Military Ball*

## **Military Ball 2008**

*by 2LT Erin Priest, Committee OIC*

The EWU ROTC Military Ball 2008 was a great success! With nearly 200 people in attendance, excellent entertainment, and Major General Scott West as our distinguished guest speaker, the event was truly unforgettable.

For most of the MSIV class, it was the last formal event celebrating their careers as Cadets and bringing them one step closer to the day they embark into the real world as Second Lieutenants. The festivities began with time to socialize, talk about the year gone by and share excitement for what is to come. The highlights of the night included the traditional consumption of Cadet-concocted grog, recognition of the senior class, and a dinner that received an array of compliments. Guest speaker MG West gave words of insight, instruction and inspiration, and the members of the Whitworth Jazz Band delighted everyone with their performance.

None of this would have been possible without the amazing support from the Cadre and the members of the Military Ball Planning Committee. Several compliments and stories of the wonderful times that were had have been made by many of the attending guests, and the Cadets even had good things to say about the food! Special thanks to the Committee NCOIC CDT Hockett, and to the class representatives and committee members who gave up all those Friday afternoons to help organize this event. Congratulations to the MSIV class, and good luck to all in your future adventures!



*MS IV Class at the 2008 Military Ball Cake Cutting Ceremony*

### **Airborne School Attendees**

*Cadet Joshua M. Decker*

*Cadet Phillip S. Figuerres*

*Cadet Aaron Peterson*

*Cadet Patrick B. Watts*

### **Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) Attendees**

*Cadet Phillip S. Figuerres*

*Cadet Jason A. Lorenson*

*Cadet Stanley M. Stadelman*

# MS I Report

by Cadet Joe Lee

I was in search of a challenge and thought the ROTC program would have a lot to offer. I enrolled in Army ROTC during spring quarter of my freshmen year, then enlisted in the Washington Army National Guard. I never imagined myself enlisting in the military, but I was seeking a challenge. So, on July 10, 2007, I was shipped off to Fort Benning, Ga. for my Basic and Advance Individual Training.

At first, I wanted to give up because I did not expect the training to be so difficult. Going through the tough obstacles and long road marches were very difficult for me, but the drill sergeants did not accept defeat or quitting as an option. They pushed me beyond what my capabilities were. The challenges that I had once endured became a challenge no more. I pushed myself even further to see how far I could go and realized there is no limit to what I can accomplish. As long as I push myself, I can get there.

I am now back at Eastern Washington University and still enrolled in the ROTC program. I look forward to my sophomore year and to continuing to work toward my commission as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army.

# MS IV Article

by 2LT Elizabeth Campbell

I gazed mindlessly out the window as my professor droned on and suddenly realized that the seemingly endless class lectures, term papers and ROTC labs weren't that endless after all. The end was in sight, and all of our hard work would finally be rewarded. The past four years of our college careers stealthily slipped by even quicker than I could imagine. We must enjoy these last few weeks of being able to use the occupational alibi "college student" to justify our unexplainable actions.

Because once we walk across that stage, people are going to expect big things. College has had its ups and downs, and at times we were unsure if we would ever make it through. Yet, the Class of 2008 survived and we couldn't be more ready to graduate! Our families, friends, professors and Cadre have provided us with vital support networks that have motivated us to always push ourselves and achieve success in all that we do.

As the big day draws nearer, we must prepare ourselves for what is about to become one of the greatest adventures of our lifetimes. As new graduates and 2LTs we will embark on a journey that will test us physically, mentally, and emotionally. Wherever our career paths lead us, we will never forget who we are and where we came from, as our past experiences will forever shape who we are to become.

**"Eagle Strong"**



*End of the year BBQ at Clear Lake Recreational Facility*



*2LT E. Priest and  
2LT J. Ko at the  
2008 EWU  
Commencement Ceremony*

## June 2008 Commissionees & EWU ROTC Cadre

*Left to right: MSG T. Schledewitz, SFC E. Bermudez, 2LT R. Senkler,  
2LT V. Neeley, 2LT E. Campbell, 2LT J. Ko, 2LT E. Priest, 2LT T.  
Mayes, MAJ K. Van Vleck and LTC M. Millet.*



## — ALUMNI PAGE —

### LTC (R) RON SPERBER (1959)

Former director of the EWU Sports and Recreation Center. The last 5-½ years of career at EWU—director of Public Safety. Retired in 2000 then worked part time (2003-2006) as liaison to orchestrate the Seattle Seahawks summer camp. Resides in Spokane, Wa.

### LTC (R) GARY LAWHEAD (1962)

Retired and resides in Augusta, Ga.

### WALLACE CAVINESS (1963)

Served 1963 to 1966 - Tank Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon, 1/37th Armor BN. 4th Armored DIV, DIV Special Services Officer, HQ BN, 4th Armored DIV

*(E-mail dated April 24, 2008. Edited for brevity.)* HELLO, TO ALL OF YOU FELLOW EWU ROTC MEMBERS! Have you ever thought about why you joined ROTC at EWU? After reading the FALL 2007 issue of “The Fighting Eagle Battalion” newsletter and reading about the latest news and developments of EWU ROTC Alumni, the newsletter got me to thinking of way back to the fall of 1958.

As a freshman at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, one of my dorm mates was enrolled in the BYU USAF ROTC program and convinced me to join the USAF ROTC over the Army ROTC, because you would not have to “WALK” as much. Boy, how, I would later prove him wrong!

I had suffered a severe ankle sprain playing football at Coulee Dam High School my junior year in 1957 and I just thought that the USAF ROTC would be better for me. Also, all of my brothers—Bob, Ernie, Jim, Ray and Herm had been in the military service, so I guess I just felt it my family duty to also join. Being from a small high school, BYU overwhelmed me and as a result, I transferred to EWCE in the spring of 1959. Many of my Sutton Hall dorm mates were in Army ROTC. They convinced me that with my two quarters of USAF ROTC to join the EWCE ROTC. One of my instructors was a CPT Robert L. Gregory. He was a straight laced Armor Officer who I greatly admired. He convinced me and several other Cadets that Armor was the choice for us. (You would not have to “WALK” so much!) Did you ever practice running, falling to a prone position and pretending to fire your M-1 on the old practice football field in the mud? I did and one time when I fell to the prone position, the rear site posts knocked out two of my teeth right at the gum line.

I graduated from EWSC spring quarter 1963 with a BA in physical education and health education with minors in geology and ROTC. My first assignment in the Army was to go to AOB-3 (Armor Officer's Basic Class III) School at Ft. Knox, Ky. I was one of the first 2LTs in AOB-3 to be assigned a unit and was assigned to the 1st BTN of the 37th Armor BTN, 4th Armored DIV, stationed in Crailsheim, West Germany. At Crailsheim, I was assigned to be the 3rd Platoon Leader of “B” Company and after about three months, the BTN MAJ and I were assigned to a month of umpire duty at the winter training base in Grafenwoehr in the eastern side of West Germany near the Polish border. The BTN MAJ thought that I, as a brand new shavetail or 90 day wonder, needed to see how tanks were to be used properly on the battlefield. As an umpire, I followed the various tank commanders in a jeep as they did their battlefield maneuvers. I had a checklist on a clipboard to rate and evaluate their actions as they ran through their 24-hour training test. I will give the MAJ credit, I really learned a lot of tank strategy during that month. Remember, at the first of this article when my dorm mate at BYU told me that once you were in the USAF you would not have to “WALK” as much as when you were the US ARMY? Well, one of my umpire duties was to follow along with an infantry patrol at night and evaluate their actions. The patrol went out for about six hours down hills, up hills, through streams, through mud and everything else that made me SWEAR that I should stay in the USAF ROTC! Finally, after going on the same course many times, when I knew that the patrol leader was going in the wrong direction or just plain lost (I did not want to “WALK” more than I had to), I led the patrol back to camp.

I traveled throughout the beautiful West German countryside as the Division Sports Officer, then later the Division Special Services Officer stationed at the 4th Armored DIV HQ in Goepingen. I went to Bonn and then up the Rhine River with all the castles and wineries on the banks, to the site of the Remagen Bridge, to the site of the 1952 Winter Olympics in Garmish, to Berlin, site of the 1936 Summer Olympics, to OktoberFest in Munchen, to Nurmberg, site of Hitler's famous rallies and parade at the stadium, to the Dachow Prison death camp, to Shaffhausen, Switzerland and to Pisseau, West Germany on the Czech border. I took my German wife Gisela most of the time on these “duty trips” to act as my interpreter.

I want to thank the EWU ROTC cadre for allowing me and others like me to fulfill our roles as officers in the various military branches of the USA!

### MAJ (R) GREG K. McNEILLY, AR (1971)

Served nearly three years in Germany and stayed another eighteen years in the reserves. Retired from US Army at the end of Desert Storm. Retired in 2003 from the Washington State Patrol after 28 years of service. Resides in Spokane, Wa.

### MG SCOTT G. WEST (1976)

As of May 2008: Commanding General, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command.

### PETE FORGEY (1976)

Attended ROTC classes in 1973. Currently the Language Arts/Journalism teacher at Canyon Creek Middle School, Washougal, Wa.

### COL GEORGE A. ABBOTT, AR (1981)

Update: Was the commander of 1-303 AR. Currently assigned as the G-3 for the Washington Army National Guard and named as the incoming commander for the 96th Brigade (Troop Command) also in the WANG as of June 8, 2008. Civilian occupation: Branch Underwriting Director for CNA Insurance in Seattle.

*(Excerpt from COL Abbott e-mail dated 2/17/08)* I stopped by the EWU campus and the ROTC building a few months ago. In many ways, little has changed. I honestly do not think I have changed that much, but upon contemplating that I graduated over 25 years ago, I had to think again. In any case, my EWU ROTC experience was followed by 5 years in the Army followed by duty in the National Guard. This included an 04/05 tour in Iraq. It has been quite a ride and thankfully I am not finished yet.

### LTC DAVE KNIGHT (1988)

Commissioned as an Military Intelligence Officer. Served ten years with the WA ARNG, then transferred to the Air Force. Currently a Security Force Squadron Commander with the 141 ARW Fairchild AFB. Has been deployed twice to Afghanistan, and once to Iraq since 11 September 2001.

### ANDREW W. OAKES (1990)

Recently took over the Recruiting Command out of Seattle.

### CPT CHARLES MARKLEY (2002)

Recently returned from second tour in Iraq. Currently: Bravo Company, 202nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade, FT Lewis WA. BS Engineering Technology.

### 1LT ALEXANDER JAMES SPORLEDER (2006)

Recently promoted to 1LT and currently serves with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Also the company XO for the 184th MI Company. Will be deployed to Iraq in September.

### 2LT STEPHEN E. DEWHITT (2007)

*(From e-mail dated 8/17/08)* I am done with BOLC 3 and am starting Scout leaders course on Monday. I did well in BOLC 3 and am happy I am done with it. I learned a huge amount. It seemed that if I didn't learn something every day I must have fallen asleep. The instructors were tough on us but they were always willing to take their time to help us far more than any professor I have ever had. We had five guys get recycled which was about average for the course. Again, I was all around very happy with the course and would tell anyone going into the armor branch that the course is very tough but it is worth it at the end. I am still going to airborne and ranger as of now but I am worried I am going to have a hard time keeping my motivation up for another six months especially since I am getting anxious to get back to Washington. But I am as of now just reminding myself that more schools are good for my career so as of now I am going to try and just suck it up and push through (this is mostly concerning ranger).

**Don't forget to send us your current info!**

# NOTE FROM THE PMS

by LTC M. David Millet

It has been another successful academic year here at Eastern Washington University. By the end of this academic year the EWU ROTC program will have commissioned 15 new Second Lieutenants into the US Army; one of our largest commissioning classes in many years. 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.

I would like to thank a great group of Cadre who support this program. As with any military unit it is time for a change of personnel within the department. We say a fond farewell to LTC Bob Underwood who departed in June for NATO HQ's in Naples, Italy. As the Recruiting Officer for the last 3 years he has been instrumental to the success of this program. MAJ Kraig Van Vleck departed in July for FT Leavenworth, KS for a year of military schooling enroute to a follow-on assignment. His work with the MS III Cadets is reflected in the future leaders who will commission from this program. And lastly, SFC Elvin Bermudez will retire in September after 20+ years of service to his country – his expertise, guidance and counseling will be sorely missed.

We replace these fine Officers and NCO with outstanding personnel who will carry on with the ROTC mission. CPT Garry Nestler is the new MS I instructor and advisor. He is part of the Washington State National Guard and arrived here from Yakima, Wa. CPT Paul Schmidt comes to EWU after supporting a Civil Affairs mission in Iraq; he will act as the new Recruiting Officer. CPT Alexander Fisher comes to EWU from Ft. Drum, NY as our new Training Officer. MSG Travis Schledewitz arrives from FT Lewis, Wa. after serving honorably as a company 1SG with the Stryker Battalion. And SFC Brandon Babyak, also from FT Lewis, arrives as our new training NCO after serving in an Engineer Platoon. We welcome them all to the Fighting Eagle Battalion.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our Alumni who have contributed to the ROTC Foundation through their generous donations – these monies are put to good use in supporting our Cadets as they strive to achieve their academic and commissioning goals.

Please continue to share your Alumni information with us – we enjoy seeing current photos of what our EWU ROTC Alumni are up to today. Contact me at my email address: mmillet@ewu.edu or contact our secretary at rotc@ewu.edu

## 2008 George C. Marshall Award

by 2LT Veronica Neeley

This year I had the privilege of attending the George C. Marshall awards seminar. The journey began with a long flight to Roanoke, Va. where we were picked up and escorted to Lexington.

The three day seminar began the next day at 0600 with guest speaker MG Douglas Carver, Chief of Chaplains. From there we were escorted to the campus of the Virginia Military Institute where we were treated to a tour of historic Lexington and attended the opening ceremony with guest speaker Senator James Webb. Over the course of the next few days we had the opportunity to pick the minds of high ranking officials of the US Army, attend round table discussions based on the contemporary operating environment and speak with acting Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants about our role as new lieutenants in our assigned units. The seminar ended with the Commander of TRADOC, GEN William Wallace, giving us a few words of wisdom.

From the standpoint of being an attendee of the seminar this was a once in a lifetime experience. I attended the round table discussions based on homeland security and the Israeli conflict. From these two conversations, I learned about the conflicts surrounding the protection of our borders and how the conflict in Israel started. From our platoon leader, platoon sergeant discussion I learned of characteristics a platoon leader must possess in order to be successful.

In conclusion, a lesson learned from our guest speaker was that many would love to be in our position and have the opportunity to mold the minds of our Army's future leaders. With that in mind, I left the seminar with more knowledge and the desire to have my own platoon.



EWU Army ROTC Color Guard serving at the 2008 City of Cheney Memorial Day Procession



The Howitzer is still kicking at the EWU Football Games!