

INSIDE

A Rare Feat: FEMALE CADET FROM MARYLAND TOPS ORDER OF MERIT LIST

TESTUDO



The CADET

U.S. Army Cadet Command's quarterly magazine

Winter 2011 Vol. II Issue IV

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Cadets in Missouri, Georgia JROTC programs help their communities and each other rebound from spring tornadoes



HOPE
HIGH SCHOOL

Road to San Antonio

Command prepares to promote its mission to the masses at annual Army All-American Bowl

Cadet Command news online at www.army.mil/rotc

Contents



A sign outside the local Joplin TV station expresses the thoughts of many within the community. Photo by Steve Arel



Inside

- 4 Mission accomplished**
Fiscal Year 2011 proves a successful year for Cadet Command as it surpasses its commission mission.
- 5 All-American outreach**
As jerseys are presented to some of the top high school football players nationwide, command gears up for major awareness push.
- 6 Leading the way**
University of Maryland Cadet is the first female to top the prestigious National Order of Merit List since 2006.
- 8 Familiar faces**
Francis Lewis and Smith-Cotton high schools repeat as champs in annual National JROTC Raider Challenge Championships.
- 10 Challenging times**
Battalions from across the country face off in brigade Ranger Challenge competitions.
- 12 Road to recovery**
JROTC programs are engaged in helping people in Joplin, Mo., and Ringgold, Ga., rebound after spring tornadoes.
- 15 Going the distance**
The University of St. John's in Minnesota wins the ROTC division at the 2011 Army Ten-Miler.
- 16 Smooth moves**
Michigan JROTC program boasts the nation's only ice skating color guard.
- 18 Heartfelt salute**
Senior and junior Cadets spend Veterans Day paying homage to the men and women in uniform.

The Cadet

The official magazine of U.S. Army Cadet Command
www.cadetcommand.army.mil
www.army.mil/rotc

Commander: Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald
Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel Turner
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Matt Hackathorn
Editor: Steve Arel

Staff writers: Forrest Berkshire, John Wayne Liston and Jeremy O'Bryan
Contributors: Catrina Francis, Sally Harding, Gregory Pizarro Jr., Rob Shook and Mike Sweeten

Contact: Fort Knox: (502) 624-5706 & (502) 624-1842
E-mail: matthew.hackathorn@usacc.army.mil

The Cadet is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Cadet are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the public affairs officer, U.S. Army Cadet Command.

On the cover: Joplin High School was destroyed by a May tornado that passed over the structure. The JROTC program, which had its offices and storage space in the basement, lost uniforms, computers, trophies and other mementos. Photo by Steve Arel

JROTC Cadets embody leadership

Service by students in tornado-stricken towns illustrates values



This spring, our country was hit by the deadliest tornadoes it has experienced in more than half a century. Whole communities in Joplin, Mo., and Ringgold, Ga., were devastated.

It is in times of difficulty and danger when true leaders step forward, when words are replaced by actions and the strength of one's character is shown.

I am proud to say some of the youngest members of Cadet Command are living those leadership principles.

The cover story for this edition of *The Cadet* focuses on the role Junior ROTC Cadets in Joplin and Ringgold played in these natural disasters. You can read about how third-year Cadet Sarah Stephens spent a half-hour digging out her family from the rubble of their home and treating her mother's injured foot using first-aid training she learned in JROTC. Once she knew her family was safe, she went on to aid her neighbors.

Or read the comments of Ringgold High School's principal, who praised the school's Cadets who volunteered just after the storm to stand guard against possible looters.

But their efforts did not end immediately following the deadly winds that killed nearly 160 people. Long since the news trucks left and the nation's attention turned to other issues, the Cadets in these communities are still playing a part in the rebuilding.

Although they are still high school students, these Cadets provided an example for all of us regarding the Army's service to the nation. Although they are not Soldiers, these Cadets have demonstrated how we all need to be prepared to step up at a moment's notice. There was as no specific training on how to handle such a situation as these deadly tornadoes, but by applying the lessons of leadership and displaying the strength of character that is a part of JROTC curriculum, these

Cadets have made a difference, both in the immediate aftermath and in the long effort of recovery.

We can learn a lot from these high school students.

For a decade, our Army has focused on counter insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan, but our involvement in these countries is evolving. We do not know what the nature of the next war will be, but what we do know is that, at some point in the future, the nation will turn to our Soldiers and look for help.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno recently released the vision for the Army's future. Under the section on leadership, he stressed the importance for developing "agile and adaptive leaders for complex, uncertain and changing environments."

These qualities we are trying to instill in our future Army leaders are important in the many humanitarian missions we undertake, as well as future combat missions.

Gen. Robert Cone, commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, touched on this point at October's Association of the United States Army ROTC luncheon in Washington, D.C., when speaking about shaping the Army of 2020. As part of his briefing, he told the audience two of the challenges our Army faces in the near future are "hybrid threats" and "complex operational environments." In essence, the Army is looking for leaders who can think on their feet and have the mental fortitude and strength of character to tackle unexpected scenarios.

The actions and response of the Junior ROTC Cadets in Joplin and Ringgold demonstrate what our Army needs in leaders. These are qualities that have always made good leaders. These qualities will only grow in importance as our Army's missions evolve in the future.

I encourage all of you to take these lessons to heart. As a brave group of high school students have shown us, it is never too early to prepare for the unexpected.

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald
Commanding General
U.S. Army Cadet Command

ROTC graduate earns historic promotion as first African-American female to attain rank of major general

A Creighton University ROTC graduate has become the first African-American female in the Army to attain the rank of major general.

Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson was promoted Sept. 29 in a ceremony at the Human Resources Command headquarters at Fort Knox, Ky., where she served as the command's deputy commander. She has since moved on to become deputy chief of the Army Reserve at the Pentagon.

"Those who attended (the) proceedings witnessed history," said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command and Fort Knox, who co-hosted the ceremony with HRC Commander Maj. Gen. Gina Farrissee. "We honor a leader, an officer, a lawyer, a wife, a mother and a grandmother — summed up, a great American."

The HRC commander lauded Anderson, a Reserve Soldier, for being an untiring advocate for consolidating the active and Reserve component functions at HRC.

"She has been very much the force behind the integration itself," Farrissee said. "She has worked



Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson was promoted by her husband, Amos, right, and Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, U.S. Army Accessions Command commander. Photo by Sally Harding/Fort Knox Visual Information

diligently on total-force solutions, while at the same time not letting the command forget the unique needs of the Reserve component Soldiers we serve. Marcia's tenacity for integration extends into cyberspace. One of our top priorities has been for the HRC website to reflect virtually the integration we've turned into reality."

In roughly a year as HRC deputy commander,

Anderson helped guide the command through the Base Realignment and Closure process.

Looking back at her 32-year career, Anderson said her journey to become the Army's first female African-American major general was made up of things largely unplanned.

"I firmly believe that we are never in control of very much," said Anderson, who commissioned in 1979 after earning a bachelor's degree in political science. "The most we can do is have a set of values and beliefs, and adhere to them as closely as possible."

Anderson said she valued curiosity, tolerance and striving for excellence, learning from peers and senior officers what it means to be a good leader. She incorporated their advice into her personal leadership style.

"Good leadership is not about telling people what to do or how to do it — it is knowing how to listen, when to delegate, how to provide space and resources to your staff, making sure they get the praise for a job well done," she said, "and that you take the responsibility when a plan fails."

ROTC staking roots back on Ivy League campuses

ROTC units are making comebacks this fall at Ivy League schools after their departure was cheered decades ago — first in objection to the Vietnam War and more recently because of the now-repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law banning gays and lesbians from serving openly in uniform.

With both objections now history, ROTC programs are returning to more campuses.

The University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Cornell universities and Dartmouth College never dissolved their long relationships with ROTC. Cornell hosts Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC. Princeton and Dartmouth sponsor Army ROTC. Penn has a Naval ROTC program.

More sister schools are following suit. Harvard, Yale and Columbia approved the reintroduction of ROTC to their campuses earlier this year.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a longtime educator himself, was a staunch advocate of restoring ROTC to the nation's elite schools. During a September 2010 visit to Duke University, which sponsors three ROTC programs, he called

on other universities to follow Duke's example.

"Over the past generation, many commentators have lamented the absence of ROTC from the Ivy League and other selective universities — institutions that used to send hundreds of graduates into the armed forces, but now struggle to commission a handful of officers every year," he told the Duke assembly.

Gates applauded efforts to restore military recruiting and officer training programs to these schools, and encouraged some of the country's most gifted students to consider joining them.

But the change this fall is mainly symbolic on campuses where a new generation of students is neither organizing against them nor lining up to join.

Yale, for instance, has only three students pursuing ROTC through off-campus arrangements, but Dean Mary Miller says it's important to the university to make a path to military leadership available for students. The number will grow over time, she said.

Technology helps father administer oath to son

POTSDAM, N.Y. — Andrew Nelden was one of nine Army ROTC Cadets from Clarkson University's Golden Knight Battalion to recently sign his contract and take his oath.

But Nelden was the only one to be sworn in by his father, Lt. Col. Jeffery R. Nelden, who administered the oath via Skype from Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Nelden serves as the Regional Command South provost marshal and chief of the Afghan National Police Development Office.

At the ceremony, Cadet Nelden stood before a laptop in Clarkson's Cheel Campus Center in Potsdam and raised his right hand as his father administered him the oath.

Attending the ceremony stateside were Andrew Nelden's mother, Jennifer, and his grandparents, Cynthia and Douglas Goodhue.

Around the command

News, notes and updates from across Cadet Command

Birthplace of Cadet Command closes

Army officers presented Gov. Bob McDonnell with the key to Fort Monroe, Va., in September in a ceremony marking the deactivation of the historic military installation that was the home to Cadet Command for its first quarter century. The command relocated to Fort Knox, Ky., in November 2010 as part of a Base Realignment and Closure Commission mandate.

"This is a landmark day in Virginia's history," McDonnell said. "For hundreds of years, Fort Monroe has been a tremendous asset to our nation's military. But it is perhaps most important as a pivotal location in the telling of the amazing story of America."

He went on to detail the area's role in slavery and emancipation – first as a landing site for Africans brought to the New World in 1619, and later as "Freedom's Fortress," the destina-

tion of thousands of fugitive slaves during the Civil War.

The property will be controlled by the Fort Monroe Authority, which is working on preservation and redevelopment plans, including a possible national park.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said in a news release the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service are working with state and local officials to evaluate the potential of the fort to be included in the National Park System. Leaders on every level support the idea, he said.

"Fort Monroe helps tell the compelling story of our nation's arc from the Civil War to civil rights," Salazar said. "With such a rich history, it's no wonder that so many feel passionately about ensuring the site is preserved for future generations."



Giving thanks

Chaplain (Maj.) Kelvin Todd, deputy chaplain for Cadet Command, bows his head as Kelley Parks delivers a prayer for the nation's leaders at the Cadet Command Spritful Fitness Breakfast recently at Fort Knox, Ky.

Photo by Steve Arel

Family funds South Dakota confidence course for Cadets

BROOKINGS, S.D. – A new obstacle training course awaited South Dakota State University ROTC Cadets when they returned to campus this fall. Nestled near the school's Performing Arts Center, the course includes a rappel tower, small incline wall and 10 Ranger stations.

The Goodale-Renz ROTC Confidence Obstacle Course was funded with a \$49,000 donation from alumni Gene and JoAnn Goodale of Pekin, Ill., in honor of their family's military service.

Named in honor of the Goodales' generosity, the course was dedicated Sept. 30.

"Our hope is that the confidence obstacle course will strengthen SDSU's ROTC program and encourage future young men and women to serve their country," Gene Goodale said.

Gene was active in Air Force ROTC as an

SDSU student from 1953-57 and attained the rank of captain during his service as a communications officer. Nearly 30 years later, Gene and wife JoAnn's daughter, Diane, met her future husband, Evan Renz, as Army ROTC students at the school.

Diane was a distinguished military graduate and commissioned in 1983, the same year she earned her bachelor's degree at SDSU. Col. Evan M. Renz earned a bachelor's in chemistry from SDSU in 1983 and received his Army commission into the medical service corps that year.

The obstacle course was constructed during the summer as a joint training exercise by the 153rd Engineer Battalion of Huron, S.D., and the 424th Engineer Company of the Vermont Army Reserve.

Former Army secretary visits Wyoming program

LARAMIE, Wyo. – Former Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee returned to his alma mater this fall, visiting the University of Wyoming's military science department.

Brownlee, a 1962 grad who hadn't been back to the school since 1964, spent time with ROTC Cadets during the visit. He spoke about his service as an infantry officer and the challenges he faced while in uniform.

Brownlee earned honor graduate honors at the Infantry Advanced Course, U.S. Army Ranger



Brownlee

School and the Command and General Staff College. Though he was selected for promotion in front of his peers several times during his career, when asked for advice from one Cadet on how to stand out among his peers, Brownlee told Cadets to concentrate on doing

their jobs and take care of people.

Brownlee's advice was drawn from several of experiences he shared. One, for example, from when he was in Ranger School on a long run where he was feeling tired and had the potential of dropping out when he looked around and saw the person next to him looking a bit worse. He said he reached inside himself and found the strength to not only pick himself up, but also the person next to him, grabbing his arm and telling him he was not going to let him quit.

Pretty soon, the entire platoon was doing the same, and everyone made it through. That lesson carried on throughout his career and he found that by helping others, he helped himself.

After the Army, Brownlee served 18 years as a Senate staffer in Washington, D.C., and then as under-secretary and later as acting secretary of the Army from May 2003 to November 2004. During his tenure, he served alongside another University of Wyoming grad, then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Pete Schoomaker.

Brownlee told Cadets he attributes much of his success to the leaders who were around him and to Soldiers and civilians associated with the Army.

Senior Cadet Zach Goldman said the exchange was a valuable experience, and he was glad to be able to gain a greater perspective of the Army and its future.



Done Deal

Command eclipses FY 2011 mission

Second Lt. Perla Kimes has her bars of gold pinned on during a commissioning ceremony this summer at the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo by Mike Sweeten

By Steve Arel

U.S. Army Cadet Command

When Cadet Command came up just short of its commissioning goal a year ago – though it might have seemed somewhat odd – the organization still declared success.

After all, the 4,994 Cadets who had taken their oath of office – a little more than 100 shy of the 5,100 the Department of the Army wanted – were the most officers produced by Senior ROTC battalions nationwide since 1990. It also marked the first time the command had met its target for nurse commissions, since a specific nurse mission was established a dozen years earlier.

“It was still good news,” said Gary Tatro, an operations research analyst who closely tracks the numbers.

This fall brought even more reason to cheer. Cadet Command surpassed its Fiscal 2011 commissioning mission at the start of September, a full month ahead of the Army-mandated deadline.

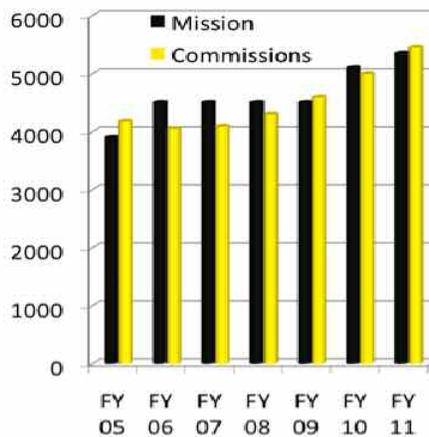
The command reached its goal Sept. 1 with the commissioning of Cadet No. 5,350 and closed out the fiscal year by welcoming a total of 5,451 new lieutenants to the officer corps. That tally now is the highest total commissions in more than two decades.

Fiscal 2011 marked the first time since 2009 that Cadet Command made its commission mission. It also represented the largest mission since the Army proposed raising the bar in 2007.

Since that time, the command’s mission has incrementally crept up,

By the numbers

A look at Cadet Command’s mission and commissioning totals since Fiscal 2005.



from 4,500 that year to 5,100 last year and now 5,350. The targets are based on the Army’s need for officers.

But meeting the need isn’t always immediate, Tatro said. Unlike recruitment for enlisted Soldiers, officer development is a lengthy process that at a minimum can take three years, from the time a Cadet is first recruited to the time they receive their gold bars.

“You really can’t influence the mission” in less time, Tatro said.

When Cadet Command’s mission rose from 3,900 in 2005 to 4,500 in 2006, it took four years to reach that mark. Though it took considerably less time to surpass even higher goals, a number of factors played into this year’s success, said Col. Paul Webber, who heads the Cadet Command division that tracks commissioning numbers.

Among them: adequate cadre and scholarship resourcing via the Army and economic conditions gravitating men and women toward stable employment such as the military.

But perhaps most significant, he said, is a propensity to serve. “American youth know what they’re signing up for,” said Webber, highlighting the fact that the nation remains at war. “They feel they want to be part of defending their nation and becoming troops. American youth have really stood up.”

In addition to making its overall mission, Cadet Command, for the first time since a target was instituted in 1998, eclipsed its mission of com-

MISSION, continued on page 20

In All-American fashion, command kicks off major outreach event

By **Jeremy O'Bryan**
U.S. Army Cadet Command

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Amid cheers in a packed high school gymnasium, D.J. Humphries, a 6-foot, 6-inch senior and offensive tackle for the Mallard Creek Mavericks, received an invitational jersey from Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, the first stop on the road to the famed Army All-American Bowl.

McDonald, commanding general of U.S. Army Cadet Command, pointed out that making the cut to join the bowl team – just as making the cut to become a Soldier – isn't easy and takes mental, emotional, and physical strength. Humphries is the top-ranked high school offensive tackle in the country.

"D.J. embodies the characteristics of the 'Army Strong' Soldier, and we're proud to have him wear the colors of the U.S. Army," McDonald said at the event in early October. "It is his strength as a leader and member of a team that has earned him the right to wear our colors – the colors of an Army All-American."

The presentation to the highly recruited Humphries, who will graduate this month and enroll at the University of Florida in January, kicked off the Army All-American Bowl selection season. Eighty-nine other players have received jerseys during the last couple months to officially form the East and West



Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, U.S. Army Cadet Command commanding general, presents an All-American Bowl jersey to D.J. Humphries in October at Mallard Creek High School in North Carolina. Photo by Jeremy O'Bryan

squads that will square off next month in a nationally televised contest from the Alamodome.

Mallard Creek's coach, Michael Palmieri, was also invited to the bowl game, set for Jan. 7 in San Antonio, to attend the Coaches Academy, which exposes coaches to top speakers and U.S. Army leaders from around the country.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl, coming up on its 12th year, is the single largest outreach event the Army conducts, said Keith Mills, U.S. Army Cadet Command's chief of events and outreach.

While the bowl is run by U.S. Army Accessions Command, Cadet Command plays a key role as well.

"Through the bowl's year-long outreach efforts, Army leaders are able to share information about the options available to young Americans through Army service," Mills said. "It's a great opportunity for us to enhance our connection with America, highlighting the unique strength and diversity of the Army Strong Soldier."

Cadet Command uses the event's exposure to hundreds of students and their families, as well as a nationwide television audience, to promote its mission of producing more than 60 percent of the Army's officers.

The command uses the added opportunity to bring to San Antonio around 30 professionals from academia, building important relationships and highlighting Army ROTC as a premier academic program that builds strong leaders.

The bowl also brings together more than 100 of the best band musicians from around the nation, comprising the All-American Bowl Band. Some of those members, in years past, have been Junior ROTC Cadets and future Senior ROTC Cadets.

"We see the seeds of personal strength and accomplishment, which are closely related to our Army values, in every player and musician selected to be involved in this event," Mills said.



2012
U.S. Army All-American Bowl
at a glance

When: 1 p.m. EST Jan. 7, live on NBC from the Alamodome, San Antonio

On the Web:
www.usarmyallamericanbowl.com

Past bowl players: Adrian Peterson, Tim Tebow, Percy Harvin, Reggie Bush, Ndamukong Suh, DeSean Jackson, Ted Ginn Jr., Vince Young, Terrelle Pryor, Brady Quinn

Soldiers attending 2011 bowl: 25,000

No. of Soldier Heroes: 100

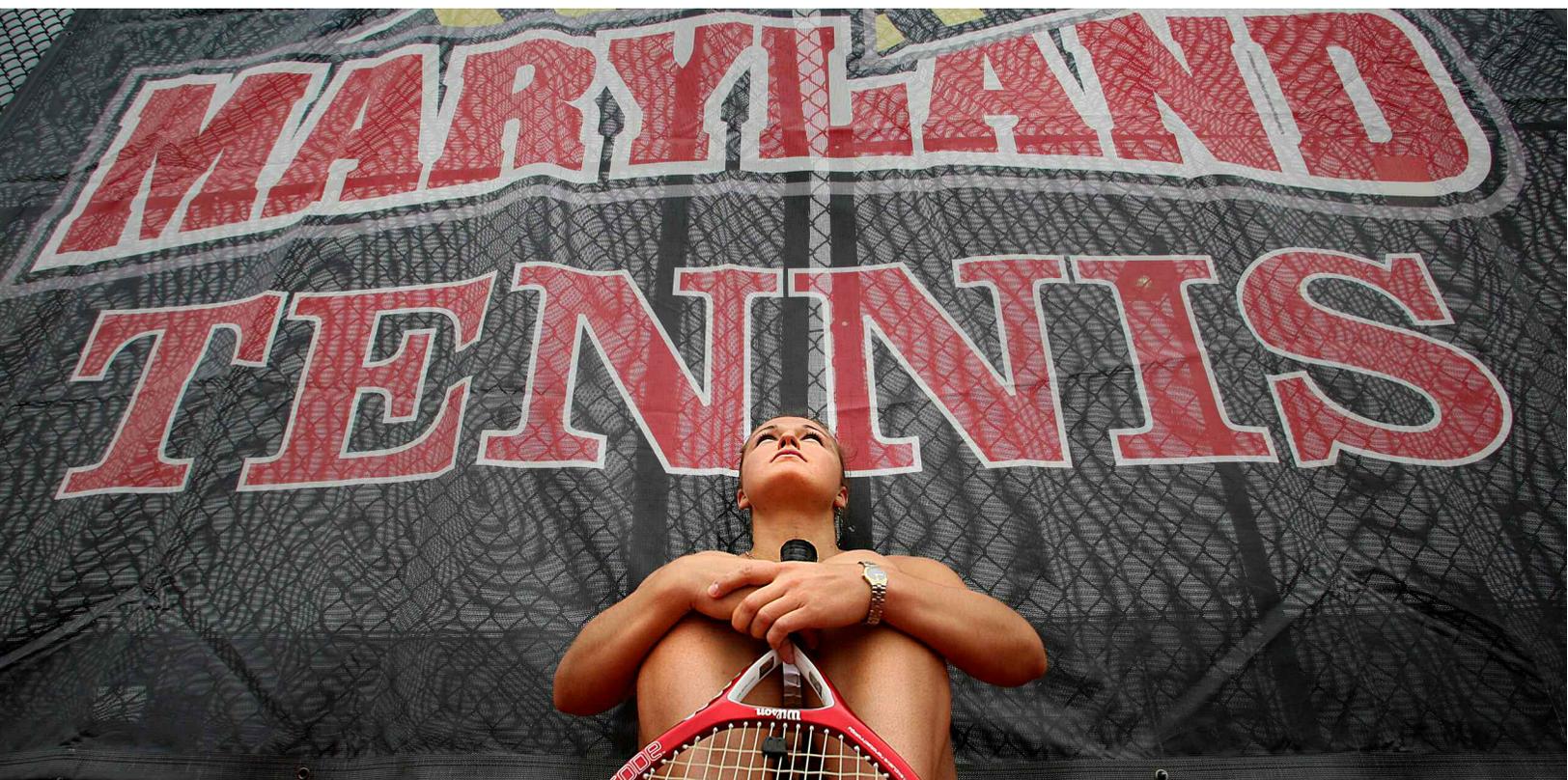
Bowl marching band members: 125

Fans attending AAB games through the years: 268,961

AAB players drafted by NFL: 158

Maryland Cadet tops this year's anticipated rankings to become

HEAD of the CLASS



Mariya Golotyuk came to the United States about five years ago to teach tennis at Trinity University in San Antonio before pursuing her education at the University of Maryland, where she still occasionally plays and teaches acrobatics. *Photo by John Wayne Liston*

By Jeremy O'Bryan

U.S. Army Cadet Command

It's a good thing Mariya Golotyuk can juggle.

Besides being a graduate student at the University of Maryland and a single mother of two, she holds a job as a programmer and auditor and as a Soldier in the Maryland Army National Guard's 244th Engineer Company.

Golotyuk (pronounced Goh-low-tuck) is also an Army Cadet. But she's not just any Cadet.

The versatile 29-year-old from Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine topped U.S. Army Cadet Command's order of merit list for the 2011-12 school year, making her the No. 1 Army Cadet in the nation ahead of 5,642 of her peers.

While the list's release is always significant, Golotyuk's position is significant, too, in the fact that she is the first female to top the list since 2006, when the current merit model was introduced.

Golotyuk's military science professor at the University of Maryland describes her as a champion

in every area of her life.

"She's truly exceptional in every way," said Lt. Col. Sam Cook, who heads the Terrapin Battalion. "It takes the heart of a champion to pursue and achieve the highest standards in academics, leader skills and physical fitness."

Golotyuk routinely scores above 350 on the Army Physical Fitness Test, and she maintains a 4.0 grade point average. She has a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from Maryland and will complete her graduate degree in accounting and internal audit in May as she commissions as an Army second lieutenant.

The order of merit list places each of the 5,643 Army Cadets in the Fiscal 2012 cohort in relation to the others based on academic and leadership factors. Cadets are scored by their grade point average, performance in a national leadership course and in specific leadership dimensions, observations made by ROTC instructor cadre and physical fitness test scores.

Golotyuk has a history of disciplined excellence.

At age 4, she started training in acrobatics with the Ukraine Olympic Reserve, an organization that prepares children to compete in sports at the highest levels. But training too intensely at too young an age, she said, left her injured and expelled from the program.

At 15, after more than a decade of training, and following recovery from a serious injury sustained during practice, Golotyuk turned to academics and sport at the National Technical University Ukraine in Kiev. After some years studying math, physics and tennis at the university, she landed an invitation to teach and coach tennis at Trinity University in San Antonio.

Golotyuk learned quickly about the differences between the Ukraine and America. She was particularly surprised by the opportunities for women in the military.

"When I got to the U.S., I heard that it's possible for women to join the military, so I asked questions and enlisted in the National Guard," Golotyuk said. "People were talking about becoming

an officer, so I asked more questions.”

She sought United States citizenship and went back to school to achieve a master’s degree – she knew enrolling in Army ROTC through the Simultaneous Membership Program was the next challenge.

A life of physical training and globetrotting led to Golotyuk’s inquisitive nature and ability to successfully compete physically in an array of activities, attributes learned from experiences with other athletes.

“We used to stay at schools in Olympic retreats and everyone had favorite things to do, so we’d all participate,” she said. “We used to play soccer a lot.”

Her desire for taking part in new and different things continues today. Golotyuk enjoys snow boarding and surfing. She recently began boxing, mainly for the healthy workout it provides.

Golotyuk makes time for all her interests and engagements by tilting life’s balance toward “doing.” In addition to staying on top of coursework and projects associated with her graduate degree in accounting, playing chess and building model airplanes with her sons, Phillip, 4, and Boris, 6 – who are currently staying with other family – she’s also the Cadet commander of the Terrapin Battalion.

“It’s a lot of managerial work,” she said of the post.

Golotyuk is up at 4:30 a.m. most days. The battalion conducts physical training, meetings, extra physical training to help Cadets who need it and planning sessions with her Cadet staff and with cadre to ensure training is fruitful.

Last year, Golotyuk was a member of the battalion’s Ranger Challenge team, which was selected to represent 4th Brigade in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition against international teams and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

“I’m not getting much sleep,” Golotyuk said. “At this time in my life, I don’t really care about it.”

Cook said her fellow Cadets respect and admire her performance as a student, athlete and leader. Undergraduate student and Army ROTC Cadet Elena Mateescu shares the military science regimen with Golotyuk, and sometimes breakfast or lunch as friends.

Mateescu, a veteran Army specialist who joined ROTC to become an officer, said the nation’s top Cadet leads by example.

“She really does not accept defeat. She does so many things in one day, it’s unbelievable,” said Mateescu, who has previously deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Germany. “You

can tell when someone cares and wants to make a difference, and (she) does.”

Gabrielle Mazzola, a Cadet in her second year of ROTC, spent a semester last year training with Golotyuk as the only other female member of Maryland’s Ranger Challenge team.

“We would work out at the gym five days a week, fill our backpacks with weights and run stairs,” Mazzola said. “It was good to have someone who would push me. When we were exhausted, she’d still keep going and not complain.”

Golotyuk’s high level of fitness pushed even the men on the team, who weren’t interested in being outperformed by a woman, Mazzola said.

Cook said that while he’s proud of Golotyuk’s accomplishments, he’s more excited about her potential and her future.

“Undoubtedly, she will continue to perform as a champion in everything she pursues,” Cook said, “and our Army will be a greater place because of the leadership she is going to provide to her Soldiers.”

Although Golotyuk’s opportunities seem numerous, she said she’s enjoying the ride she’s currently on. Her place in the Maryland National Guard works because she loves building and contributing to the community, and her engineer unit works on school reconstruction projects. Her place in Army ROTC works because she’s excited about becoming an Army officer.

“I have a goal of becoming a leader with an empathetic mind ... to

lead others to make the world a safer place for families” Golotyuk said. “And Army ROTC has given me the tools and experience to become resilient and self-confident. The program taught me that I am capable of accomplishing whatever I choose.”

Although she’s a National Guard member receiving a commission, Golotyuk has applied for active duty – but it’s up to the Department of the Army and the National Guard, she said. Barring approval, she is already working in a civilian profession that uses her strengths and education, and will continue to serve in her Maryland National Guard unit.

Whatever she chooses, Golotyuk wants to excel.

“Whether I become a military intelligence officer, or something else, I know I want to do it from my heart,” she said. “And while I like to do new things, technical things, and be good at it, at the end of the day I want to be there to lead my Soldiers.”



Mariya Golotyuk poses for a photo at a campus statue dedicated to the University of Maryland mascot, the terrapin. University of Maryland Army ROTC photo

Leading the way

A look at the top Cadets on this year’s order of merit list (name, school, brigade):

1. *Mariya Golotyuk, University of Maryland, 4th Brigade*
2. *Dacren Walker, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs, 5th Brigade*
3. *Andrew Petefish, University of North Dakota, 3rd Brigade*
4. *Kevin Bubolz, Marquette University, 3rd Brigade*
5. *Andrew Blair, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2nd Brigade*
6. *Joshua Varney, Columbus State University, 6th Brigade*
7. *Michael Miller, Pennsylvania State University, 2nd Brigade*
8. *Troy Warcewicz, Virginia Military Institute, 1st Brigade*
9. *Jordan Hancock, Texas A&M University, 1st Brigade*
10. *Michael Holly, Georgia Southern University, 6th Brigade*
11. *Christopher Buckingham, University of Virginia, 4th Brigade*
12. *Daniel Barbian, University of North Dakota, 3rd Brigade*
13. *Zachary Betts, University of Nevada, 8th Brigade*
14. *Edward Casey, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2nd Brigade*
15. *Nicholas Little, University of Utah, 5th Brigade*

Raider Rule



Retired Master Sgt. Peter Rompf, coach of the Francis Lewis High School Raider teams, celebrates with the male Cadets as the female team huddles next to them. Photo by Steve Arel

Second verse, same as the first: Francis Lewis, Smith-Cotton repeat

By Steve Arel

U.S. Army Cadet Command

MOLENA, Ga. – The kings from Queens reigning over Junior ROTC drill competitions might be building a Raider Challenge dynasty, too.

Francis Lewis High School of Fresh Meadows, N.Y., a Queens suburb, added two more national titles to its collection last month by besting the male and female divisions of the 2011 JROTC National Raider Challenge Championships at the Gerald I. Lawhorn Scouting Base.

Smith-Cotton High School of Missouri repeated in the mixed-gender category as well.

After dominating last year's meet, Francis Lewis had no clear advantage this time. And that didn't bode well for retired Master Sgt. Peter Rompf, the Raider coach.

"The competition is so tough, you don't know (if you won) till the end," said Rompf, who got a mere two hours of sleep the night before the finale of the two-day event as he contemplated

whether his teams would win.

"I'd rather not sit there winning every trophy. The electricity of this isn't good for my heart, but it's good this way."

In the five team categories, Francis Lewis's female squad won three events and the males won just one. Overall winners were determined by adding the cumulative finish of a team in each competition category, with the lowest total winning.

Rompf figured for his teams to win overall, they would need to have other schools finish in front of programs that could vie for the crowns. And that's what happened, as 13 different schools earned first-, second- or third-place trophies in a particular competition category.

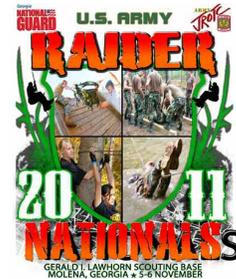
The males won by the widest margin, topping Osborne (Ga.) High School 14 points to 24 points. The Francis Lewis females barely repeated, edging Grissom (Ala.) High School 10 points to 12 points.

And Smith-Cotton won handily over fellow Missouri program Waynesville Career Center

JROTC NATIONAL RAIDER CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

MALE DIVISION

1. Francis Lewis High School, Fresh Meadows, N.Y.
2. Osborne High School, Marietta, Ga.



FEMALE DIVISION

1. Francis Lewis
2. Grissom High School, Huntsville, Ala.

MIXED DIVISION

1. Smith-Cotton High School, Sedalia, Mo.
2. Waynesville Career Center, Waynesville, Mo.

eight points to 13 points.

Jackie Chen and Tiffany Lee, commanders of Francis Lewis's male and female teams, respectively, attributed the victories to determination and hard work. They said they were particularly surprised by the wins, coming with a host of newcomers on the squads.

"We worked from the ground up and put a lot into it," Chen said.

Competing with so many new people on the teams made for a nerve-racking conclusion, Lee said.

"You never know" if you'll win, she said. "We just do our best. We leave the competition knowing we gave everything we had."

At the competition's awards ceremony, Col. Hubert "Ronnie" Bagley applauded the Cadets' effort and resiliency. The director of Army JROTC, after watching the participants in action, quickly admitted he couldn't have done what they did.

Bagley was in awe, he said, of the fact that no matter the physical and mental challenges Cadets faced throughout the competition, none of them quit.

"I'd venture to say there isn't a football player or a basketball player that can walk in your shoes," Bagley said. "So when you go back to school, hold your head high because you're the best your school has to offer."

In all, some 660 Cadets representing 35 schools from as far away as Wisconsin and Kansas competed, all but two of them Army programs. The reason: few JROTC units in other services field Raider teams, said Justin Gates, the national Raider competition director.

The Raider Challenge Championships put Cadets to the test – physically and mentally. Up against a number of obstacles, Cadets relied on their abilities – and each other – to succeed.

The five events Cadets tackled were a fitness test consisting of two minutes each of push-ups and sit-ups, a team 5k run, constructing and crossing a one-rope bridge, the cross-country rescue and something known as the Gauntlet, where teams race along a mile-and-a-half-long course over rough and hilly terrain while carrying four 35-pound rucksacks.

For several teams, the one-rope bridge proved particularly difficult. Unlike last year when its water could cover Cadets up to their waists, the



A Cadet from Elbert County (Ga.) High School works his way across a one-rope bridge constructed by his team in the male division. Photo by Steve Arel

creek they were required to cross contained only large puddles of water and a mostly muddy floor.

Several teams still finished the event soaked.

What tripped them up wasn't the crossing, but improperly strung rope bridges that sagged from not being tied tight enough between trees on opposite sides of the creek. At one point, the male team from Smith-Cotton had three Cadets lying in the mud in the middle of the creek bed, their collective weight forcing them down.

Richmond Hill (Ga.) High School didn't fare much better, in terms of keeping dry. One member of its mixed team cried out as her back raked the chilly water.

Devin Oliver was among the fortunate. He was one of the few Richmond Hill members who made it across still dry.

"I was lucky," he said.

Oliver chalked up the problems to inexperience constructing rope bridges at such distances – in this case about 100 feet in length.

"We're just not used to practicing that distance," he said.

The strenuousness of the competition shone on the faces of those competing.

If the grimace and sweat streaming down Danielle Jackson's face didn't illustrate the challenge she was enduring, her persistent grunting did. Maneuvering along the mucky route of a timed mock cross-country rescue through dense woods with a 35-pound rucksack strapped to her back, the South Gwinnett (Ga.) High School Cadet had been navigating the course decently.

Until she reached the low-crawl portion of the course – a 20-yard scooch along a berm that quickly went downhill.

Seemingly pinned down by the added weight, Jackson struggled to pull her way through. She stretched out her arms, trying to use the ground and her legs to propel her forward. But she could only move a few inches at a time.

Finally, when she emerged several moments later, exhaustion set in. Her shoulders slumped. She gasped for air.

But she tightened the rucksack and trudged ahead. The finish set just a couple hundred feet away.

"I didn't expect it to be that tough," a relieved Jackson said after the event. "That rucksack was killing my back. I'm just glad it's over."

For many programs, the chance to compete at the national level proved a major boost to Cadet morale.

The program at Jenkins County High School started in 2007. Many of its students come from low-income households, and poverty is rampant throughout the small Millen, Ga., community, said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Hayward Thompson, one of the school's JROTC instructors.

But Cadets haven't let their economic situations hamper their ability to succeed. Thompson said Jenkins County has won back-to-back state Raider championships, and competing nationally – something they don't normally do due to cost – was valuable exposure for his students to other programs from around the nation.

"This is Hollywood to them," Thompson said. "It's like going to the Olympics."

For an online photo gallery of the 2011 JROTC National Raider Challenge Championships, check out <http://bit.ly/rS7Wf9>

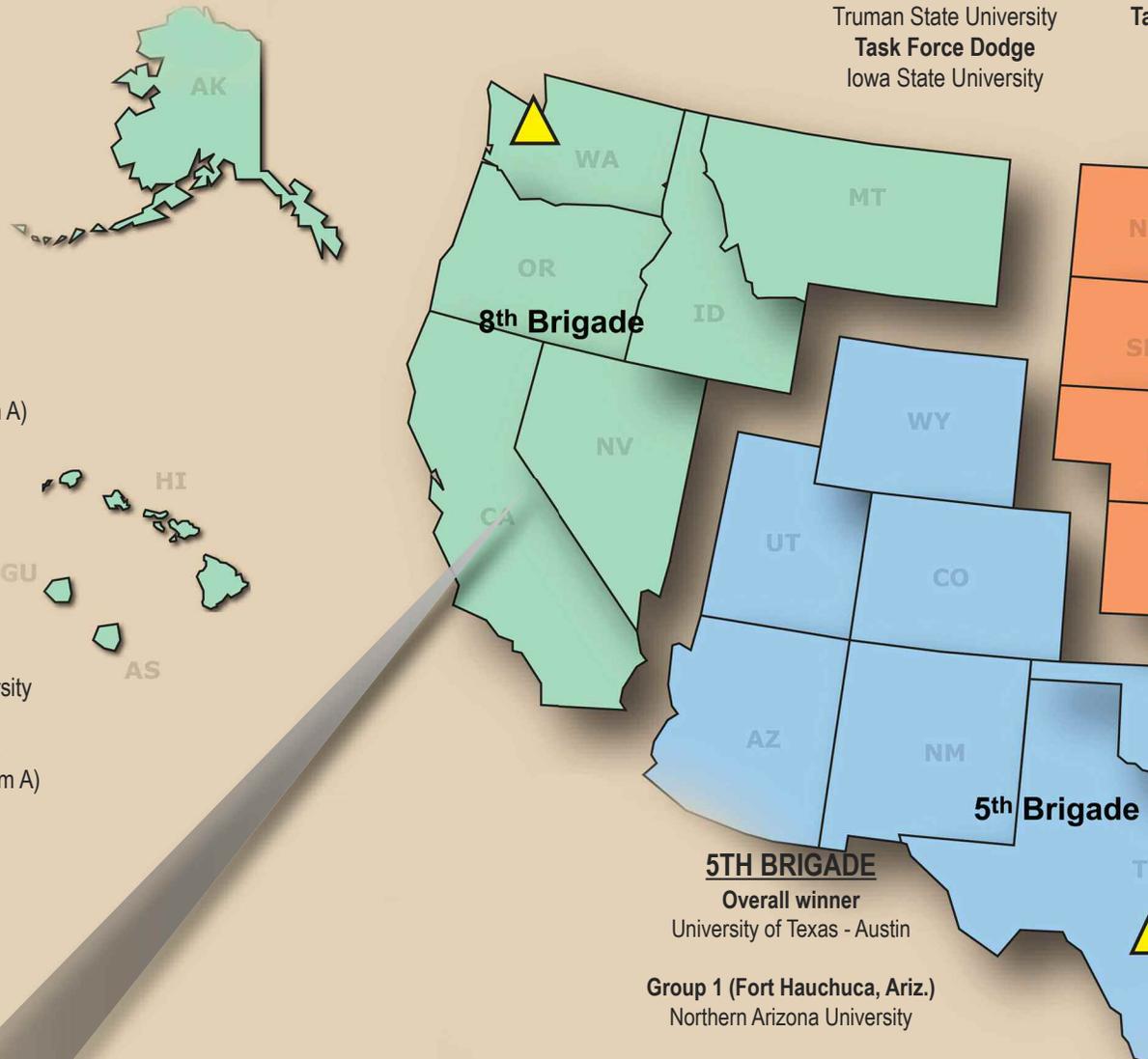
2011 Ranger Challenge

Most of Cadet Command's eight brigades held their annual Ranger Challenge competitions this fall. Here's a look at the winners. First Brigade holds its version, known as the Bold Leader Challenge, in February.



3RD BRIGADE

- Task Force McCoy**
Marquette University
- Task Force Leonard Wood**
Truman State University
- Task Force Dodge**
Iowa State University



8TH BRIGADE

Overall winner

Gonzaga University (Black)

Task Force Aggies

University of San Francisco (Team A)

Task Force Aztec

University of Nevada-Reno

Task Force Big Sky

Gonzaga University (Black)

Task Force Mustang

California Polytechnic State University

Task Force Pacific Northwest

Central Washington University (Team A)

Task Force Rainier

University of Idaho (Team A)

5TH BRIGADE

Overall winner

University of Texas - Austin

Group 1 (Fort Hauchuca, Ariz.)

Northern Arizona University

Group 2 (Jacks Valley, Colo.)

Brigham Young University

Group 3 (Camp Gruber, Okla.)

Cameron University

Group 4 (Camp Bullis, Texas)

University of Texas - Austin

Group 5 (Camp Bullis, Texas)

University of Texas - San Antonio

Group 6 (White Sands, N.M.)

University of New Mexico



A Cadet from Washington State University pulls himself to the end of a one-rope bridge during 8th Brigade's Ranger Challenge held Oct. 8 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, one of several sites for the competition. Photo by Jeremy O'Bryan



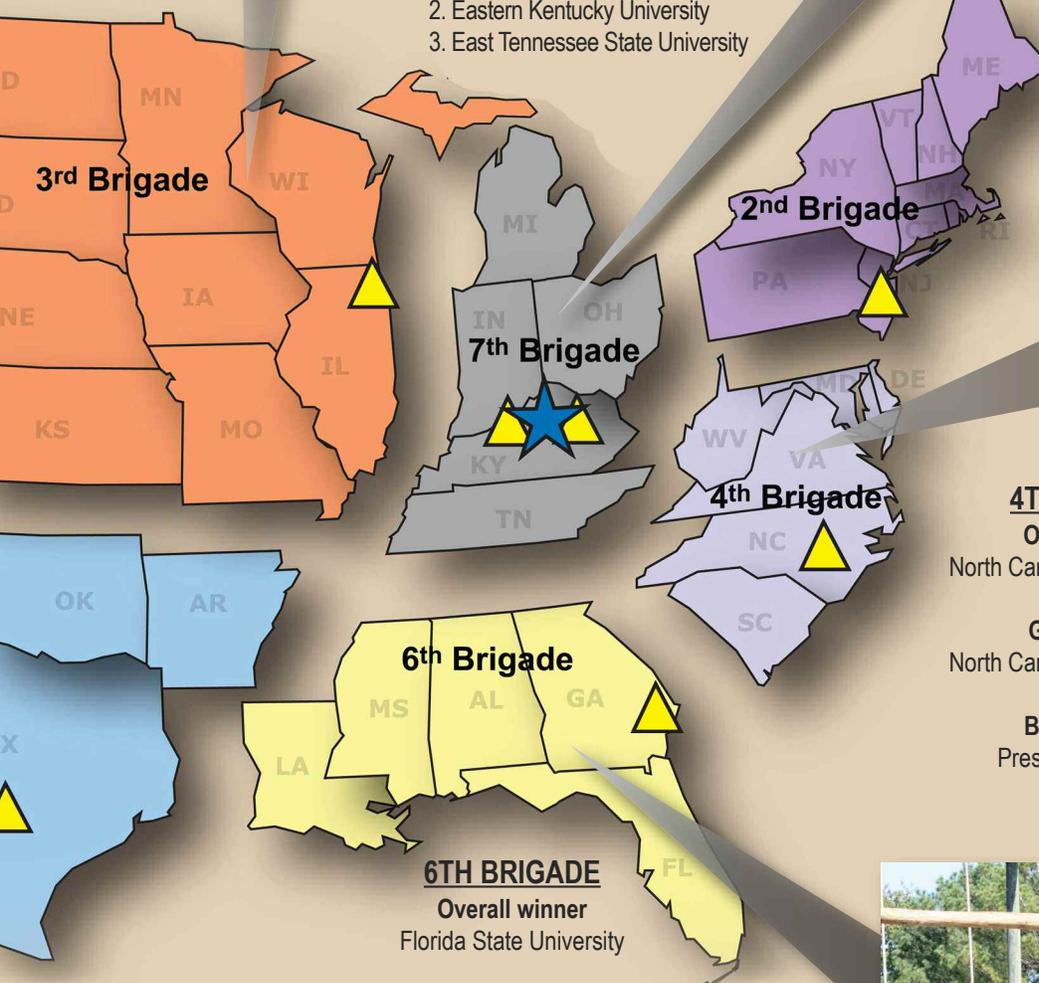
DE
Task Force Ripley
 University of Minnesota-
 Twin Cities
Task Force Marseilles
 Wheaton College

A Cadet executes push-ups during 3rd Brigade's Ranger Challenge competition. Submitted photo



Scott Stafford of the University of Louisville uses binoculars to identify a mock improvised explosive device along the 7th Brigade Ranger Challenge route. Photo by Steve Arel

*Overall winner will be decided in another competition in early 2012



7TH BRIGADE

1. Middle Tennessee State University
2. Eastern Kentucky University
3. East Tennessee State University

2ND BRIGADE

1. Penn State University
2. Siena College
3. Worcester Polytechnic Institute



4TH BRIGADE

Overall winner
 North Carolina State University

Gold Division
 North Carolina State University

Black Division
 Presbyterian College

Duke University Cadets maneuver a Zodiac boat during the 4th Brigade Ranger Challenge commander's challenge event. Submitted photo

6TH BRIGADE

Overall winner
 Florida State University

Red Tier
 Florida State University 1

White Tier
 Florida Southern College

Blue Tier
 University of South Florida

Green Tier
 Florida State University 2



Cadets work their way up and over a tower during the 6th Brigade Ranger Challenge. Submitted photo

Spring tornadoes killed roughly 160 people in Joplin, Mo., and Ringgold, Ga., decimating significant portions of the towns. Mother nature wrought havoc on the cities' Army Junior ROTC programs as well. But rather than focusing on themselves, the attention of Cadets and cadre immediately turned to their communities and helping people put their lives back together.

a new state of **NORMALCY**

Time wields considerable power. It possesses the power to forgive, possesses the power to forget.

In times of tragedy, time often possesses the power to help heal.

It's been roughly eight months since tornadoes remade the landscape in parts of Ringgold, Ga., and Joplin, Mo., taking lives and taking the innocence of people once largely apathetic to storm warnings.

In some ways, time has begun to heal the wounds. The months since have seen an outpouring of goodwill, much of it from strangers across the country who have donated money, supplies and their time to help residents rebound.

There are other signs, too. Mounds of debris laden with the mangled remnants of people's lives have been cleared away, businesses are reopening weekly and homes are being rebuilt.

Alongside the hired hands and armies of volunteers helping people pick up the pieces have been Junior ROTC Cadets, who have spent countless hours clearing land, resurrecting structures, collecting donations and providing a sense of normalcy – as much as normal can be now – to those who need it.

By the time the EF-4 tornado and its 175 mph winds formed and touched down April 27 in the northern Georgia town, a beleaguered Sharon Vaughn, the Ringgold High School principal, was already reeling. Earlier in the day, the same line of storms devastated sections of Tuscaloosa, Ala., where her children live, and Vaughn had no word on their condition.

Trying to sleep away the worry, she was summoned shortly after the Ringgold tornado moved on by fellow school administrators, who had gone to her home that sat outside the twister's swath. She remembers being

Story and photos by Steve Arel • U.S. Army Cadet Command

JROTC



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Larry Sisemore holds a special dog tag that was produced and sold by the Ringgold JROTC program as a community fund-raiser.

forced to focus on the havoc at home. She also remembers, amid the immediate chaos, finding some serenity in the sight of some Cadets and an instructor guarding the school from looters.

“That night, the Cadets were the only normal things I saw,” said Vaughn, who later learned her children were safe. “Anytime I need them, the Cadets are there. When they were there that night, I had an idea that everything would be OK.”

The tornadoes that barreled across Ringgold and Joplin collectively killed close to 160 people and injured more than 1,000 others in what went down as one of America’s most active tornadoic periods ever and the deadliest since 1950. Some 600 tornadoes touched down last spring nationwide, most of them concentrated in the Southeast.

As Joplin and Ringgold work to regain their footing, so too do the JROTC programs.

Tornadoes still dominate life in Ringgold and Joplin, and will for months and years to come. The scars – physical and emotional – are too deep still for even time to mend.

Work goes on to clear debris and reconstruct what used to be. But the mark of mother nature is inescapable – the splintered trees, the once-crowded subdivisions that exist now as only a collection of concrete slabs, the forested ridge with a distinct canvas of leafless and downed trees where one twister cut a path.

Cadre and Cadets with both programs consider themselves lucky in that they survived, most with their lives, their families and their homes intact. But they weren’t completely unscathed. They all knew someone who lost their home or suffered injuries.

Or worse.

Everyone has a story to tell.

Joplin, Mo.

Whether by fate or sheer luck, third-year Cadet Sarah Stephens spent the evening of May 22 watching her boyfriend graduate Joplin High in a ceremony on the city’s northwest side. Meanwhile, the tornado bore down on her home that sat directly across from the school.

As word of the twister and its movement quickly spread, Stephens knew she needed to get home. As panic set in, her boyfriend’s mother tried to calm her, telling her everything would be all right.

It wasn’t.

The force of the winds whisked away much of her home, including a dress she had bought a short time earlier she hoped to fix up and wear someday at her wedding.

Stephens could only make it to the start of her road because the street was blocked by debris. So she got out of the car and ran the rest of the way.



Without a gym to practice in at what is now the senior high school, members of the Joplin drill team run through marching movements during a 6:30 a.m. workout in a gym at what now houses Joplin’s ninth- and 10th-grade students.

Stephens got to her house, now a pile of rubble, and frantically called out for her mother, younger brother and step-father, who were there when the tornado struck. She found them injured, but alive. They were buried under a slew of items, including a mattress, part of the bathroom wall, pieces of the high school roof and one of the goal posts ripped from the ground at the football field.

Stephens spent a half-hour digging out her family. Her mother, injured the worst of the three, suffered a broken foot that was crushed by the weight of the debris.

After pulling her out, Stephens fashioned a splint for her mother – something she had learned in first aid training during JROTC classes – using sticks and pieces of cloth she tore from her shirt. Then, once she knew her family was safe and receiving medical care, her instinct was to find and aid others in her neighborhood who were injured.

She quickly consoled a shaking and crying woman whose children were lost in the tornado. “I told her, ‘God will help,’” Stephens said. “That’s the first thing that came to my head.”

Looking back, Stephens said she’s not so sure she could’ve coped well emotionally and would’ve been helpless had it not been for what she learned in JROTC.

“Just having the mechanical movements and knowledge of what to do kept me sane,” said Stephens, who now lives in a nearby mobile home park that was developed shortly after the storm.

Joplin High School stood in the path of the EF-5 tornado that hit there and had little chance in the face of winds that topped out at 200 mph. Much of the building was obliterated. All of the windows were blown out, the gym

collapsed, parts of the multi-story main building pancaked on each other and the JROTC classrooms were blocked by debris and then quickly overcome by an aggressive mold that flourished in the damp, warm environment that followed. All sorts of mementos, equipment and ACU uniforms were lost.

About the only items salvaged were a laptop computer, flags and a picture of Joplin’s first JROTC class. Members of the program hope to go back into the school to retrieve a plaque that had been dedicated shortly before the tornado to the school’s first enlisted instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Collins, who started the program in 1919.

It wasn’t exactly the way retired Lt. Col. Paul Norris anticipated wrapping up his first year as the program’s senior Army instructor.

Now he and his 190 Cadets are carrying out one of JROTC’s lessons – adaptability – adjusting to life split apart. Seniors and juniors attend school in a refurbished part of the North Park Mall, while freshmen and sophomores go to the former Joplin High, known as Memorial, that’s a 15-minute drive away.

Instructors shuttle back and forth to teach. Because the site for upperclassmen contains no gym, drill teams and color guard members must practice at Memorial at times that don’t conflict with other activities. That means training at 6:30 in the morning.

The program has received financial assistance from Cadet Command’s 3rd Brigade. But even when the program replenishes what it lost, Norris is uncertain how to logistically assemble all the Cadets together during the school day to get them measured and outfitted.

TORNADOES, continued on page 19



Cadet Craig Doran, of Ohio State University, runs along the Ten-Miler route, not far from the U.S. Capitol seen in the background. Photo by Forrest Berkshire

Fighting Saints rise up, capture Ten-Miler ROTC crown

By Forrest Berkshire

U.S. Army Cadet Command

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The road to winning the ROTC division of the Army Ten-Miler started months earlier for the St. John’s Fighting Saints Battalion.

The eight-person team’s top four runners finished the race Oct. 9 with a combined time of four hours, three minutes and 35 seconds. But members had been running since August to get ready for the competition.

“We trained hard,” said Patrick Heigel, the team’s captain. “We put in the time and a lot of early mornings.”

Heigel said they ran five days a week, including every Monday when they ran 10 miles and timed themselves.

The team was determined to improve on the prior year’s performance, when it placed 12th among ROTC teams.

Lt. Col. Tom Nelson, the professor of military science at Saint John’s University in Minnesota, said his Cadets were systematic in their approach to winning. They researched past ROTC teams’ performances to determine what time they had to beat, then set about training up to that standard.

“They conducted a military decision-making process on what it would take to win out here, and they put in the training,” Nelson said shortly after the winners were announced.

Two teams from Virginia Tech took second and third place in the ROTC division, with times of 4:11:41 and 4:17:35. Virginia Tech won the ROTC crown two years ago.

The annual race, in its 27th year, starts and ends at the Pentagon. The route takes runners through the heart of Washington, past such famous landmarks as the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and loops in front of the Capitol.

This year a record field of nearly 31,000 runners competed, including 58 ROTC teams, one shy of last year’s record team entries in the division.

While the race is the reason for the teams travelling to Washington, the locale affords opportunities for Cadets to experience the history and flavor of the city.

For several Cadets, the weekend marked their first trip to Washington. Several groups spent an extra day or two touring the National Mall and visiting the monuments.

Zachary Brodt, a Cadet from the University of Central Florida, said the Ten-Miler is unique both for its military ties (the race is sponsored by the Association of the United States Army) and for the scenic route it takes.

“I like running past the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial,” he said. “It’s inspiring and reminds you of the vision our founding fathers had for this country.”

Leader of the pack

A look at the top ROTC teams in the 2011 Army Ten-Miler (hours, minutes, seconds):

1. St. John’s University (Minn.): 4:03:35
2. Virginia Tech 1: 4:11:41
3. Virginia Tech 2: 4:17:35
4. Minnesota State: 4:18:26
5. Michigan State: 4:19:23
6. University of Texas-El Paso: 4:20:14
7. Clarkson: 4:20:18
8. University of Kentucky: 4:20:44
9. Cornell: 4:21:52
10. North Carolina State: 4:24:23





Cool performance

Michigan program home to nation's only
JROTC ice skating color guard

The Calumet JROTC color guard has performed their unique skating presentation of the colors at the Calumet Coliseum in Michigan since 1999. Pictured from left are co-commander Katherine Orr, Chase Peters, Dallas Jackovich and co-commander Cady Sever. Photo by John Wayne Liston

By John Wayne Liston
U.S. Army Cadet Command

CALUMET, Mich. – Crisp, white steam drifts up from every face as their breath hits the chilly early-October air. Roughly 20 Cadets of the North Star Battalion begin to lace up their skates as black skies still dominate the horizon.

In a land where hockey is king and ice time is always in demand, you take the ice whenever you can get it.

In this case, that happens to be 6:30 a.m.

The Calumet High School JROTC battalion, one of Cadet Command's oldest, founded in 1917, has been hitting the ice for 12 years to perform arguably one of the country's most unique color guard presentations.

When the Cadets take to the rink, the distinctive sound of several sharpened skates scraping across the ice echoes in unison through the silent coliseum as the patriotic citizenry of Michigan's Upper Peninsula copper country stands in respect as the stars and stripes glide by.

It is a highly synchronized special presentation of the colors that encompasses the whole playing surface and culminates in the center with several Cadets crisply saluting as they are circled around the flags with the national anthem playing.

Even visiting teams stand in rapt, awe-struck attention, turning in unison as the precession

moves past them.

Why skates? Why not just roll out red carpet and walk to center ice, as happens frequently in other venues such as the National Hockey League?

To answer that speaks to the heart of the Calumet community.

"Kids up here are born with skates on," said Carole Morris, senior vice commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3900 in Calumet. "The cold is part of us. We have at least seven months of the year covered in snow and ice."

That is no exaggeration.

Calumet, nestled on Michigan's northern tip north of Wisconsin and next to Lake Superior, averages more than 200 inches of snow a year. That is more than famously snowy Buffalo (93.6 inches), Minneapolis (49.9 inches) and Green Bay (47.7 inches) combined.

A record year in the Calumet area produced more than 30 feet of snow.

"When the snow flies, hockey is played in the yards, in the streets, in the alleys, everywhere," said Mike Hale, rink announcer for Calumet Hockey. "These kids are raised on ice, starting skating at 2 and most of them start hockey around 5 years old."

Entering the local ice rink, the Calumet Coliseum, a sign proudly proclaims it as the oldest indoor hockey rink in North America.

“We combined the two passions of the area, patriotism and hockey. It made our Cadets feel and contribute to their heritage,” said retired Maj. Michael Farley, Calumet High School JROTC senior Army instructor.

History greets visitors at every turn. Faces gaze out from 100-year-old weathered photographs, giving a glimpse of the past and an understanding of the importance of the sport to the people of the region. Old sticks, countless trophies, ancient goalie masks and even a hand-pulled Zamboni further immerse one in the true love of the game on the shores of Lake Superior.

The idea for a skating color guard began in 1999 when retired Maj. Michael Farley, the Calumet JROTC senior Army instructor, was sitting at a game.

“At that time, we didn’t post at hockey, but we did at basketball and football,” he said. “We started out on skates. There was no idea at all to walk; it wasn’t even considered. Skating is a part of these kids, it was a natural fit.

“We combined the two passions of the area, patriotism and hockey. It made our Cadets feel and contribute to their heritage.”

Some locals initially found the approach different, but quickly warmed to it.

“Vets were taken aback initially, but it was immediately obvious how hard they worked,” said Gene LaRochelle, who is part of the local American Legion. “You can hear the commands, the scrape in unison. It’s special.

“They combine the elegance of figure skating with patriotism. The crowd goes silent, and everyone is transfixed when the Cadets are on the ice.”

Cadets have taken advantage of the opportunity to be on the team and apply what they have learned in their JROTC classes.

The on-ice team consists of a minimum of 10 skaters, but some special events call for as many as 20.

They perform at every home hockey game of the Calumet High School Copper Kings, as well as the regional hockey championships, the occasional game at nearby Finlandia University and some figure skating shows. A more-enhanced and complicated routine is worked out for the skating shows.

“Skating color guard is the epitome of leadership in action within our JROTC program,” Farley said. “Cadet leaders schedule practices, create routines, conduct training, maintain equipment, schedule and conduct events and

solve problems.”

The life-lessons and learned experiences of participating on the team are not lost on the Cadets.

“I’ve learned that not everything goes perfectly and as planned, and skating color guard has given me the patience and understanding of this,” Cadet Dallas Jackovich said. “We may

Twenty-six students are currently on the team, and most get the chance to take the ice for at least three events. Cadets sign up for the various performances. They essentially try out at each practice and have to work on their skills until they are ready to hit the ice.

There have been mistakes, even a fall or two here and there. Cadet Amber Wade fell at the



Cadet Chase Peters leads the way with the American flag as the Calumet JROTC color guard practices its unique skating presentation of the colors at the Calumet Coliseum in Michigan.

(Below) Peters stands at attention with the American flag during a recent practice. The Calumet JROTC color guard has performed its skating presentation of the colors at the coliseum since 1999. Photos by John Wayne Liston

not get it the first 100 times we try, but if we’re patient and determined enough, we will. And even if a routine doesn’t go as planned on the ice in front of the community, it’s OK. You improvise; make it look good, and stay confident. Then you get out there and do it again.”

There are no specific prerequisites to be part of the team, including knowing how to ice skate.

“We take everyone, regardless of their skating ability,” Farley said.

“It may take a little longer if they come in not knowing how to skate, but we can get them up to speed rather quickly.”

end of a performance in her sophomore year.

“I was so embarrassed,” she said. “My teammates surrounded me and encouraged me, and I got right back out there the next time.”

The future is bright for the team. Cadet enthusiasm and community support promises the tradition will continue.

“We’re happy with our progress over the past decade,” Farley said. “But we’re not going to stop pushing the envelope. We want to move faster on the ice, be more synchronized and be recognized at the state and national levels. We are hoping to post the flags at other levels of hockey within the next year.”

It's a red-white-blue-letter day as Cadets celebrate veterans' service

From coast to coast last month, scores of Army ROTC Cadets on both the senior and junior levels paid tribute to the men and women who serve in uniform.

Units spent Veterans Day 2011 marching in parades, executing color guards and performing salutes.

At the University of Dayton, Cadets held an eight-hour memorial ceremony at the school's Central Mall, where more than 6,000 names of service members who died since 9/11 in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom were read aloud. Cadets earlier had staked 6,000 American flags across the mall area.

Also as part of the event, members of the battalion participated in a national moment of silence at 2 p.m. to remember all of those who had fallen in combat and had given their lives in military service.

Dayton Cadet Julia O'Neil, a senior criminal justice and sociology major, told the campus newspaper *Flyer News* that the event was meant to communicate to students "that freedom is not free."

The Universities of Louisville and Kentucky set aside their statewide rivalry to team up for a special run Nov. 12. The trek began in the morning on the Kentucky campus in Lexington and spanned 28.6 miles to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Frankfort, the state capital.

Nearly 200 Cadets from the programs participated, with 22 running the entire distance. Those who went all the way also signed a Louisville Slugger baseball bat that will be passed to Cadets participating in future runs.

"It feels great," said Matt Shay, a Kentucky Cadet. "Something I'll never forget."

Students with the LaPorte High School JROTC program in Houston paid homage to one of their alums, Cody Norris, a 2010 graduate. Cadets served as the color guard at an event honoring the 20-year-old, who died Nov. 9 in Afghanistan.

"He did something great for his country," said retired Capt. Tony Hernandez, La Porte's senior Army instructor. "He put his needs in back of everybody else's needs. It truly says something special about that young man."

Brigham Young University President Cecil Samuelson conducted a review of the school's Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets. The presidential review is an annual event held on Veterans Day.

"On behalf of a grateful university, we congratulate

all who are responsible for this day and for these wonderful programs in the Army and Air Force ROTC," Samuelson told the Cadets standing before him.

About 100 Kansas University ROTC students participated in a 24-hour silent vigil in front of the campus's three war memorials from 7 p.m. Nov. 11 to 7 p.m. Nov. 12. The volunteers took turns in a rotation standing in their dress uniforms and at attention



Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commanding general for U.S. Army Cadet Command and standing at left, served as grand marshal for the Hardin County (Ky.) Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11. Riding with McDonald were his wife, Connie, and Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel Turner, Cadet Command command sergeant major. Photo by Catrina Francis/Turret

for an hour or more. It's an annual joint-services tradition and though it takes place on campus, organizers said they hoped it would benefit the larger community as they celebrated the service of the men and women in all branches who had come before them.

"It's one hour done out of respect for those who have served and those who are serving, done by those who will serve," said Katherine Benson, an Air Force Cadet who was one of the event's key organizers. "It's a good time to reflect on why you're there, and our chance to stand for those who get to sit — those who are now done with their service."

TORNADOES, continued from page 14

The split operations are taking a toll on the program, mostly from a developmental standpoint. Because juniors and seniors attend school across town, there is little interaction between them and new Cadets. A secondary chain of command, consisting of underclassmen, has been assembled to direct Cadets at Memorial.

“Unless those kids are on the drill team, there are kids there who don’t even know their Cadet staff,” Norris said.

It’s uncertain what impact that might ultimately have on the program, Norris said. But until a new school is built that brings all the grades back together, he said leadership has to make do as best it can.

For now, there are no uniform days. But Cadets say they don’t need uniforms to honorably represent their program and community.

Many of them served as security around the high school in the days after the tornado, keeping people from going inside what was left of the unstable structure.

“Nobody told us to,” said Janene Woodruff, a junior and the battalion’s command sergeant major. “It was just something we did.”

Perhaps the most indelible mark being left by the Joplin program is through an idea to take a chainsaw to the toppled trees of a grove outside the demolished high school and turn them into sculptures of eagles, the school’s mascot. One was also carved into the likeness of a bear, the mascot of a former local high school that was merged into Joplin.

Cadets have spearheaded a campaign to put carvings, called Eagle

Drops, in each of the city’s elementary and middle schools and one will sit on the new high school campus, whenever and wherever it is built. They led fund-raising campaigns to pay for most of the carvings.

Cadets also are advocating for the construction of a local pavilion that would be dedicated to the donors and volunteers who helped after the storm.

“It’s a way to remember what they did for us,” senior Cadet Tanner Crawford said. “We’ve gone through it all, and nothing can stop us now. We want to do something great. Things like this pavilion will give us a lasting legacy. We’ll make sure they remember us.”

Ringgold, Ga.

After the tornado passed Ringgold, Cadets

donned their uniforms and headed into the community trying to help. But because most were minors and because of the dangers that existed with gas lines spurting fuel and power lines blocking roadways, they were turned away.

So they went to their home away from home, the high school. Besides serving as guards, they helped man roadblocks to keep passers-by from streets littered with debris from the school that peeled away as the tornado pummeled the grounds.

Still, many of the program’s 110 Cadets longed



One of the thank you notes from a local school hangs in the school used for Joplin freshmen and sophomores after Cadets presented them an eagle carved from a tree that once stood outside the now-demolished Joplin High School.

to be part of the recovery in any way they could. They delivered food to families in need and served as the color guard at an annual local prayer breakfast, which normally attracts a few dozen people but hosted nearly 700 earlier this year.

Those like junior Cadet Dayzi Green teamed with her step-dad to help people cut down and remove trees in the area.

“It was dirty and tiring work,” she said. “I felt I actually made a difference. If we were in the same position, those people would’ve helped us.”

Sophomore Austin Kiser learned to roof while helping a friend repair his home and cleared trees from the land, cutting it into firewood. He also assisted in reconstructing the side of a trailer for another friend.

“The Cadets knew what needed to be done,

and they just did it,” said retired Sgt. 1st Class Larry Sisemore, a Ringgold instructor.

“That is their nature,” said retired Maj. James Creamer, the senior Army instructor. “This whole school has a helping attitude.”

As donations from around the country flooded in, Cadets recently manned a large attic in a building where material was housed, sorting and distributing clothing and other items.

The JROTC offices on the far north end of the school suffered significant water damage, but little was lost. Because the tornado wiped out part

of the south end of the school, the JROTC offices were used as storage while other sections were repaired and to keep supplies – paper, pens and the like – that had been sent in from around the country. There was so much of it, months later a good deal still sits boxed in Creamer’s office to be used as needed.

Crews have since wrapped up work on the JROTC building, and Cadets are hanging posters and pictures back on the walls. They’ve returned to drill and Raider team practices, hanging out with each other outside the building long after the final bell. And in late-October, a number of them fanned out around the area surrounding the school to plant some three dozen maple trees as part of a larger Ringgold effort to bring new life to the community where lives were lost.

In the weeks after the tornadoes hit, many Cadets spent little time with others in their respective programs, focusing instead on getting their personal lives back in order. Returning to school for a number of them was something they eagerly anticipated, a chance to be with friends, get back to their educational routines and focus

their attention elsewhere.

“We didn’t really want to talk about it,” said senior Jordan Clark, a member of the Ringgold color guard. “We just practiced. It was a way to get away from the fact that half the town was gone.”

Having experienced such widespread tragedy has brought Cadets within the Joplin and Ringgold programs closer. Many say they’re quicker to set aside differences with others, more open to meeting new people and more aware of what might head their way when the skies darken.

“I knew tornadoes could be destructive,” Stephens said. “I just didn’t know how bad they could be.

“Having your friends there helps, but you never get over something like this.”

Time will tell.

Top JROTC shooters aim for national berths

By John Wayne Liston

U. S. Army Cadet Command

After a record-setting 2010-11 season that saw Army Junior ROTC shooters sweep the sporter class team and individual awards at last year's JROTC All-Service Championship, Cadets are taking aim at another successful run this winter.

The Army JROTC Service Championship is set for Feb. 9-11. And as the event nears, teams are working now for a shot at a berth in this spring's national meet.

Army teams last year were led by Daleville (Ala.) High School's Mikaelah Atchley and Ozark (Mo.) High School's Tessa Howald. Atchley, who has since graduated, set an Army record for the overall 3x20 sporter category and captured the individual title, and Howald led her battalion to the team crown.

A record-setting performance by two Marine Corps teams kept Cadet Kevin Cruz (third place individual precision category) and his Conquest Rifles squad of Del Valle (Texas) High School from the top spot in the precision category.

Cadets who qualified through the Army's recent JROTC Air Rifle Postal Competition will head to the Civilian Marksmanship Program's training centers at Anniston, Ala., or Camp Perry, Ohio, to compete Feb. 9-11 in the Army Service Championship. Cadets from Cadet Command's 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 8th brigades will go to Camp Perry, while those from the 4th, 5th and 6th brigades will head to Anniston.

Awards will be given at both locations, followed by the results being combined and the top scorers advancing to the all-services national championship March 22-24 in Anniston, Ala.

The CMP, a national organization created by law in 1996 and the organization that runs the competitions, is dedicated to training and educating responsible users of firearms and airguns. The organization trained 2,265 Army JROTC Cadets in 2010 and more than 8,000 Cadets from all United States JROTC programs, and also awarded 53 scholarships to Army Cadets during the past year.

"This sport reinforces the values we want to see in our Cadets: self-discipline, focus, personal

courage, integrity and accountability," said Leon McMullen, deputy director for Army JROTC. "You can't just walk out on the firing line and shoot competitively; it takes a lot of practice."

Ozark and Daleville expect to renew their rivalry, as well as get strong competition from other teams.

"Mikaelah is gone now, but we've got four (Cadets) now that can flat shoot it," said retired Lt. Col. Ralph Aaron, senior instructor for Daleville. "We are a more evenly matched team, and we will be competitive."

So will Ozark, despite a major change.

"Our sporter team decided to move up to the precision category after last year's national championship, and they are enjoying the new challenge of it," said retired 1st Sgt. Terry Thompson, Ozark instructor. "With our younger shooters moving up into the sporter team we have a chance to have two teams in the competitions."

"These competitions are a great time. These kids get to know each other. They compete hard, but it's always done in friendship and good sportsmanship."

MISSION, continued from page 4

commissioning nurses for the Army. The command swore in 258, ahead of the 230 targeted.

Cadet Command produces more officers for the Army than any other commissioning source. In fact, it commissions more officers annually than the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Officer Candidate School and direct commissionings combined.

The Cadet recognized as No. 5,350 for Fiscal 2011 is Alejandra Delrello. The Santa Clara University Cadet commissioned Aug. 26, branching adjutant general.

Neither Delrello nor her professor of military science were immediately aware of the milestone. But Lt. Col. John Tao called having one of his battalion's Cadets recognized as the mission-clincher was an "awesome" distinction.

Delrello, who earned a civil engineering degree, was part of the Santa Clara program for five years. Engineering degrees take longer to obtain, Tao said. During her time at the school, Delrello, who has since departed for the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, S.C., was part of the Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March teams.

"This is icing on the cake," Tao said.

Because it takes years to produce an officer through schooling at the collegiate level and other training courses, Cadet Command remains positioned to meet its Fiscal 2012 mission, Tao said.

As the Department of Defense scrutinizes spending and scales back financially, that ultimately will impact the number of scholarships Cadet Command can award annually, Webber said. Among Fiscal 2011 commissionees, 72 percent, or 3,887 Cadets, received some form of scholarship assistance.

What the fiscal belt-tightening will do is make students become more competitive for the educational dollars available.

"And we'll get even better quality," Webber said.

Much of the key to successful recruitment, regardless of the resources available, is the collective effort of the cadre at the battalion level, retired Capt. Robert Lovins said.

He should know. Lovins, the recruiting operations officer at Florida State University, was Cadet Command's Fiscal 2011 Recruiting Operations Officer of the Year.

In his 14 years at the Tallahassee, Fla., school, the program has grown steadily from 75 Cadets to 180 this fall. Success doesn't happen by accident, he said.

"You've got to work together as a team," Lovins said. "If you don't have your cadre and staff pulling toward the same goal – bringing in the brightest and smartest and leader-propensity students to be part of the program – you're never going to have success on your own."

At schools like Florida State, Lovins said he isn't exactly sure how much a smaller pool of scholarship dollars will affect the ability to recruit and retain prospects, particularly as the nation continues to face a volatile economy. But without the benefit of such plentiful financial resources, he isn't panicked when it comes to continuing the command's mission prosperity.

Generating interest is a matter of tapping young people's desire to serve, getting Cadets already in the program to help sell the benefits of ROTC through personal experiences and focusing recruitment messages on the potential end goal, Lovins said.

"The end goal isn't the scholarship," he said. "It's being a lieutenant and what that responsibility does for your future. I tell students all the time that if you talk to any general officer and ask them their favorite time in the Army, I guarantee 99 percent will say being lieutenants – that sense of camaraderie, leading the troops and training the troops. That's a thing not a lot of people get to experience in their lives, especially if they're not in the Army."

"At least at our campus, young people want to serve and make a difference. Talking to that is getting to the heart of what we want to see in our Cadets."

Cadet Spotlight

A quarterly look at some of ROTC's future leaders who are already making an impact on their campuses.



Lauri Blair, a Hampton University student, is a former enlisted Soldier who ran convoys in Iraq and Kuwait with the 546th Transportation Company before joining ROTC. She graduates and commissions this month.

Hometown

Houston

Major

Finance

Grade Point Average

3.0

ROTC Activities

Blair is serving as the battalion's Cadet assistant S3 and MSC II Tact, in charge of the sophomore class, designing training and preparing schedules for exercises and physical fitness.

Other Activities

Blair enjoys boxing to help her stay in shape and playing recreational basketball. She is also involved with the Financial Management Association.

Branch

Chemical

What motivates you to be an Army officer?

I love the idea of being in the service and being a leader all at once. For me, these roles aren't opposites. Being an officer means being dynamic. Once I reach a goal, I'm eager for the next challenge. Being an officer presents continuous opportunities for advancement.

What are your future Army goals?

My current Army goals are to become an active duty officer and to fulfill my duties as a second lieutenant to the best of my abilities.

What impact has ROTC had on you?

ROTC has developed my leadership skills, increased my physical fitness and given me the opportunity to build great friendships. ROTC at Hampton University has given me the opportunity to work with both enlisted and officers, to assure my understanding of both aspects in the United States Army.

What advice would you offer to Cadets who are underclassmen?

Never give up. Don't tell yourself no. Rely on human resources around you for support, the people who paved the path you're on.

Photo by Gregory Pizarro Jr.

LAST LOOK



Brian Dekay, a first-year Cadet, carries a fellow Cadet during an event at Rochester Institute of Technology's fall field training exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y. in October.
Photo by Rob Shook/Rochester Institute of Technology