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Panther Tracks, September 2010

University of Northern Iowa. Department of Military Science.

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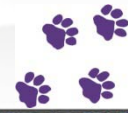
We're Back in Action!

Another summer has past and with that brings the return of all MSIII cadets from this year's Leader Development and Assessment Course. Twenty-one Cadets of the Panther Battalion traveled to Fort Lewis, Washington to put the skills they've acquired through UNI/UD ROTC to the test. Cadets were evaluated on their ability to lead, work with others from all over the country, and perform during training events. Training included an Army Physical Fitness Test, both day and night land navigation, a water confidence course, and situational exercises which tested each cadet's ability to lead and challenged all participants mentally and physically.

Cadets were graded on seventeen different dimensions of leadership that included their presence, intellectual capacity, abilities as leaders, and how well they developed others. All dimensions were evaluated with consideration paid to the achievement of personal goals and mission accomplishment. Cadets Luther Brown, Benjamin Ditri, Adam Calhoun, and Jay Craig exceeded the standards of the course and received the highest ratings as individuals who exceeded LDAC standards. In addition to these individuals outstanding overall performance, cadets Cameron Cook and John Echer received recognition for the physical preparation they underwent prior to camp. These two achieved a perfect score of 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Recognition for hard work and great performance was not only given on an individual basis but also by platoon. While at camp Cadet Carl Beck's relentless efforts helped his platoon earn the privilege to be distinguished as Honor Platoon. This is a title held by the platoon that outperformed all others and were often the group by which other platoon's drew upon for guidance.

All cadets are back on campus and training is underway. MSI's and MSII's are continuing to learn what it takes to be a great leader, MSIII's are preparing themselves for next year's LDAC, and MSIV's are ensuring that each cadet has the tools, support, and knowledge necessary to achieve greatness in the upcoming years.



Panther Battalion Cadets Get Their Wings

The Iowa National Guard made available a number of slots for SMP (Simultaneous Membership Program) cadets to attend Air Assault School in Camp Rilea, Oregon, and Airborne School. Seven cadets from the Panther Battalion were given AAS slots and the chance to get their wings, an opportunity few have. Cadet Doelz, a then MSII, accompanied by five MSIII's, seen below, arrived on the West coast on June 5th, 2010. Below is the experience in Cadet Doelz's own words:

Air Assault School was one of the hardest things I have ever done. With saying that it's also an experience I wouldn't trade for anything. The first day is called zero day and begins with getting physically pushed for two hours followed by a two mile run and an obstacle course. Personally, I didn't think the obstacles were anything too challenging but a lot of people failed that day. Getting pushed between each obstacle didn't help either. Then, right when we thought we were done for the day, we were challenged for a couple more hours. Zero day was the hardest day of Air Assault School! It's designed to select the best and determine who really wants to be there.

"When I say three hours I mean three hours."

My biggest challenge overall was the 12-mile ruck march we did the morning of graduation. The march was a required event and had to be completed in under three hours. When I say three hours I mean three hours. There was a candidate repeating the course who failed by three seconds his first time at school. I highly recommend this school to anyone interested and suggest they begin getting in shape now! Start rucking now and be sure to do it with no less than 50lbs. This may be more than most people are used to rucking with but it will pay off. It goes without saying, rucking 12 miles with a 50lb load is a difficult obstacle for anyone to overcome.



-Cadets: Echer, Cook, Wolff, Chase, Doelz, and Beck



UNI ROTC's Website is Given a Facelift

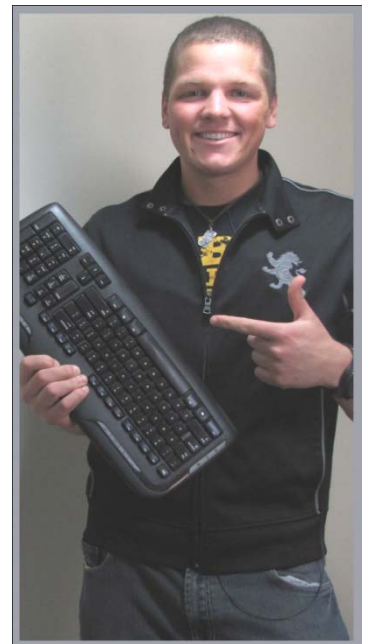
In recent years there have been major changes in the way companies, organizations, and individuals advertise and promote their product, service, or idea to others via the internet. An onslaught of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace have become attractive hosts for such marketing. Realizing the importance of an attractive web presence UNI ROTC looked within the organization for someone to assist them in realizing such a feat. It didn't take long before cadet Austin Wolff stepped up to the plate and offered his assistance.

"Although the previous website provided current cadets and future prospects the information they required it lacked an attractive design and the capability to update and maintain content easily. Technical issues also existed due to the ever changing environment of the world wide web and the servers on which the website ran.

Many options were considered with the design for the new website. I was only limited by LTC Roadcap's "Ethical, Moral, and Legal," guidelines setting the sky as the limit. After determining what content was most critical to display on the website I began to gather content from our previous web page, fellow cadets, and Cadre to publish online. After many tedious hours of trouble shooting programming code and getting the pictures 'justtt right' a final product was finished.

With the assistance of a few individuals on campus we were able to go live with the website in early April. Since then we've received great feedback from both students and faculty. We are working towards adding a page that features pictures and videos of recent training events and will keep you posted upon completion in the upcoming newsletters.

Lastly, if you haven't already visited the new website we encourage you to do so. You can find it online at www.Uni.Edu/ROTC. Available there are several pages regarding the battalion's history, cadre profiles, newsletters, photos from the most recent commissioning ceremony, and much more. We appreciate any feedback you can provide and look forward to providing you with new content in the near future." -Cdt Austin Wolff





6,127 Miles Away From Home

By: Bethany Fischer

Camp Adventure™ Youth Services is a nationally award winning program founded at Oregon State University and is now headquartered at the University of Northern Iowa. Camp Adventure works with Morale, Wellness and Recreation services on military bases and embassies to provide child and youth programs. Each summer they send hundreds of college

students to serve as counselors on installations across the U.S. and around the world.



This summer I had a great experience being an aquatics counselor with Camp Adventure on Yokosuka Naval Base in Yokosuka, Japan from 6 June until 21 August. I was placed there with about 60 other counselors from all over the U.S. As a member of the aquatics staff, during the week I would lifeguard at Greenbeach pool for half of the day and the other half I taught swim lessons at the BOQ pool on base. On weekends we were allowed to travel and explore our host country.

Some highlights from my summer in Japan included: making life-long friendships; discovering I am not a fan of Sushi; living on a military base with privileges to use the Commissary, NEX, Bowling Center, Mess Hall, Movie Theater and Outdoor Recreation Center; touring the USS Blueridge; visiting various

Shrines and Temples throughout Japan including the Great Buddha of Kamakura (Kamakura Daibutsu); experiencing community events on base like the Fourth of July; seeing the USS George Washington come into port; learning common phrases in Japanese; going to a Yokohama Baystars baseball game; taking the Bullet Train (Shinkansen) to Hiroshima and Miyajima; getting to know the families on base; exploring Japan's capital—Tokyo; canyoning in northern Japan; summiting Mount Fuji; and attending an X Japan concert (one of Japan's most popular bands).



Spending summer 2010 in Japan with Camp Adventure was phenomenal and I will value it for the rest of my life. It was an extraordinary experience for me especially interacting with the families of the men and women of the various military branches stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base. I am happy I had the opportunity to participate in the program and look forward to implementing the skills and knowledge I have gained this summer into other areas of my life.



One Month Out

A number of training events are planned for the upcoming month and we look forward to covering each in the upcoming September issue of Panther Tracks. Some of these events include Combat Water Survival Training, a newly implemented Physical Fitness routine, and a land navigation superlab which will act as an introduction to both day and night navigation for some and an opportunity to hone the skills already developed for others. Again, we encourage you to check out the new website at www.Uni.Edu/ROTC and look forward to providing you with more exciting news from the Panther Battalion. See you next month!



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