PMS Corner
MAJ(P) Jon Britton

Friends of Lock Haven University ROTC, please continue reading about some of the accomplishments our Lock Haven Cadets achieved this past summer. 19 of our Cadets graduated from the US Army Cadet Command’s (USACC) Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, proving they are ready for placement in the Army. Two of our Cadets graduated from the USACC Basic Camp, also at Fort Knox. These Cadets are poised to complete their junior years at Lock Haven and graduate from Advanced Camp next summer. After Advanced Camp, they will be eligible to complete some exciting training, such as Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), an internship with an industry that supports the US Army and Department of Defense, travel abroad to work with a foreign military in our Cultural Understanding and Proficiency Program (CULP), or complete an actual Army school such as Airborne or Air Assault to name a few.

Enrollment in an ROTC class for freshmen and sophomore students is non-contractual, no obligation, and counts as a free elective credit here at Lock Haven University. If you want to bring out the leadership abilities you were born with, schedule our class or come talk to us in Ulmer Hall. We will bring out your best, as displayed by your peers in the articles below. Talons Out!

SMSI Corner
MSG Steve Kowatch

As the fall semester begins, I would like to welcome the cadets and students back to Lock Haven University. Besides the addition of new cadre, there have been several adjustments to the ROTC curriculum, as well as the training the cadets will be exposed to in the program. With the implementation of these changes and the integration of new cadre, I envision the Bald Eagle Battalion soaring to new heights as it continues to prove itself as one of the top ROTC Battalions in 2nd Brigade.

During the summer, many of our cadets’ attended the US Army Cadet Command’s (USACC) Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY and did an outstanding job. These Cadets set the example for the next group of cadets attending in the summer of 2018.

As the new Senior Military Science Instructor, I learned many valuable skills throughout my time in the service, and I am looking to sharing my knowledge and experience with this the next generation of leaders throughout the semester and into this new year.

Our focus for this semester has not changed from the previous years. The LHUP ROTCCadre are committed to providing our cadets with the best mentorship and training as possible. We will push them both physically and academically. We will ensure they are trained, and provided with the skills and tools to be successful in not only their military careers, but as a model citizen in a competitive world. Talons Out!

“Talons Out!”
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From Our Cadets

**Advanced Camp**
Marlene Yi
26 June 2017 - 27 July 2017

One of the major requirements in order to commission as a second lieutenant through the Army ROTC program for all Cadets is to complete Advanced Camp in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Cadets are typically sent in the summer between the end of their junior year and beginning of their senior year of college. Not only are Cadets challenged physically and mentally, but they are asked to demonstrate their leadership skills acquired over the course of their training at their home universities. Throughout these 31 days, Cadets faced a battery of required tests while attending Advanced Camp such as leadership confidence courses, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, CBRN training, basic rifle marksmanship, day and night land navigation, and plenty of foot marches. While at camp, Cadets are also given opportunities to demonstrate their leadership skills through rotating time in the various platoon level leadership positions as a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, or Platoon Leader. This time is invaluable in assessing a Cadet’s ability to lead Soldiers in the future, as well as preparing them for their senior year as they return to university to assist in preparing the next years seniors for their time at Advanced Camp.

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Advanced Camp gave me the opportunity to learn more about myself as a Soldier and a leader. I overcame obstacles I would have never expected to face alone. Of the 31 days, 20 of them were spent conducting field training. I had the opportunity to bond closely with my peers thanks to our shared experiences together. I was able to rely on my fellow Cadets as we gained a shared understanding prior to beginning our days in the field. This made my time as platoon leader much more effective. Prior to going to Advanced Camp, I was hesitant about many of the expectations that cadre would be looking at such as my tactical leadership and the 12 mile foot march requirement. I was nervous about the fact that we were all being graded individually. Despite that, the people in my platoon helped assist me through those points in order to help me succeed. They helped to show me that I can overcome stressful environments and think quickly under pressure, because I had my whole platoon on my side to assist me; I never felt alone. As platoon leader in the field, I shared my responsibilities among the leadership and learned to trust them. With this shared responsibility and overall trust, we were able to successfully complete our mission. From these experiences, I have learned that in the U.S. Army I am never alone. When I commission I know that I will faithfully fulfill my mission as well as my duty to those men and women under my command.

ACE Internship
Matthew Holt
10 July 2017 – 4 August 2017

This summer, I was incredibly fortunate to participate in the Advanced Cyber Education Internship (ACE) immediately after Advanced Camp graduation. The ACE internship is hosted every summer for 40 lucky ROTC Cadets of all branches at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, The Air Force Institute of Technology, and takes place over 4 weeks.

The ACE Internship consisted of 4 different phases, all of which revolved around cyber space. Each day was completely different from the previous, with a new professor or subject matter expert to teach us what they know about cyber security and cyber offense. At the end of each phase, Cadets would attend secret security level briefings revolving around the Departments of Defense’s Cyber Mission Plan.

ACE was a great experience for me, not just to learn about a subject that I am incredibly passionate about, but I also got to experience the differences between the Army and the Air force. I also found this internship to be the best learning experience that I have ever had, and I now feel a lot more confident in my skills in cyber security, and as a leader.

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Air Assault School
Greg Senft

Among the many blessings I have received, one of them was the opportunity to go to Air Assault School. The end of my summer training was conducted at the Third Armored Corps Phantom Warrior Academy Air Assault School at Fort Hood, Texas. Air Assault School is a grueling course meant to test the will power and attention to detail of any Soldier. Each Air Assault course is broken down into three phases. Each phase is focused and oriented on specific tasks that you ultimately will be using down range in combat and garrison environments.

Each phase is difficult in their own ways. Phase one is centered on aircraft orientation, including a written test in which you had to pass with a 70 or higher, concluding with a 6 mile foot march in less than an hour and a half.

Our welcoming to phase two began right after passing phase one, where we turned our attention to learning sling loads. This is the Army’s way of transporting supplies by helicopter to forward units that are in need of support. We had to rig and properly inspect 6 different pieces of equipment that can be transported downrange. We were tested on all of them to ensure that the loads would be safe for travel. This proved to be particularly difficult for some students for multiple reasons, one of which being we only had 2 minutes to inspect roughly 60-75 things!

After passing phase two we graduated to phase three, rappelling operations. Here we learned how to safely rappel using our handmade Swiss seats from the tower and a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter. You rappel from the 55 foot tower a total of 4 times and the UH-60 once. The final part of phase three and air assault school as a whole is the 12 mile foot march. Completing the 12 mile foot march in under 3 hours resulted in earning the coveted Air Assault Badge. Starting with nearly 170 students we ended with 93 newly Air Assault qualified Soldiers and I was one of them! AIR ASSAULT!

Basic Camp
Addison Duvall
12 July 2017- 12 August 2017

In the spring semester of my sophomore year at Lock Haven University, I made the decision to join Army ROTC. The stipulation for me joining this late was I had to attend Basic Camp in Fort
Knox, Kentucky. I was nervous and excited when I heard this news because everything was still very new to me. I left for camp on July 12th and returned home on August 12th, so I was in Kentucky for exactly 30 days.

Those 30 days consisted of covering the two years of training that I had missed due to joining the program as a second semester sophomore. We learned many basic warrior tasks including land navigation, combat first aid, and proper care and maintenance of a weapon. I learned the Army Values, the Soldier’s Creed, and how to live by them once my time was over in Fort Knox. I also came home with a new-found discipline thanks to the drill sergeants that were with us throughout camp.

At times, Basic Camp wasn’t all work. There were many exciting opportunities at Basic Camp. One of my favorite experiences at Camp was being introduced to CS gas. We learned how to properly don the protective gear, and then were instructed to remove our mask and feel the effects that CS gas has on skin. The obstacle/confidence course was the highlight of Camp for me, it involved a high ropes course, rope swings, zip lines and climbing walls. The field training exercises that we participated in, although not as fun as others, helped me develop and gain confidence with my own capabilities as a leader, and helped me tie together all the new found skills I learned at Basic Camp.

**Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)**

Richard Alexis  
26 June 2017 – 15 July 2017

This summer I was selected for a position in Cadet Command's CTLT program. CTLT stands for "Cadet Troop Leader Training," and allowed for junior level Cadets preparing to enter their senior year to join an actual active duty unit to develop their leadership abilities, and develop skills they will use throughout their careers. Most of the slots within this program placed Cadets with regular Army units over a 3-4-week period, but in my case, I was placed with a TRADOC unit stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia. TRADOC (United States Army Training and Doctrine Command) is the US Army command responsible for overseeing and facilitating all training for Army Forces. At first, I was skeptical as to how much I could learn from a unit which was not part of the regular Army, but by the end I took away far more tools and skills then I probably would have if I was sent to any other unit.

For the duration of my time in Fort Benning I was attached to Delta Company, 2-58th Infantry out of Sand Hill. While there I was allowed to participate in all of the training events for recruits at Sand Hill as well as the training events scheduled by Cadet Command. Most of my time at Sand Hill was spent improving my basic marksmanship skills. For five days out of the week I improved my skills with events such as: shooting pop up target, shooting moving targets, and utilizing the M320 Grenade Launcher Module. Aside from marksmanship with the M4 we were expected to become experts with the belt-fed, gas-operated M240 medium machine gun, and the M249 light machine gun. We were given an introduction to and allowed to operate on a range the: M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun, the Mk 19 grenade launcher, and the 84-mm unguided, portable, single-shot recoilless smoothbore weapon known as the AT4. As part of infantry basic training, recruits were expected to conduct and complete the Night Infiltration Course. The objective for this training was to secure areas and advance through obstacles after dark, all while simulated explosions and actual machine guns were firing right over heads. It created an atmosphere similar to a war scene from any film involving armed conflict, but this was an important part of recruits getting accustomed to the great noise and confusion that come from battle. This was also in an effort to prevent Soldiers from freezing on the battlefield when engaging the enemy as they would be accustomed to the sound of incoming fire. This was the last event I conducted with the recruits, and was one of the events I would not mind doing a second time.

I was provided with two sets of training for CTLT. The first was my training with Delta.
Company, which I was attached to, but the second was training conducted and facilitated by Cadet Command and took me from my unit for a time to look at other aspects of Army training. One such training event was vehicle familiarization, which allowed Cadets like myself to get hands on with some of the Army's most battle tested combat vehicles. Some of the vehicles that we interacted with were: the IAV (Interim Armored Vehicle) Stryker armored fighting vehicle, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV), and my personal favorite the M1 Abrams main battle tank. We weren't allowed to drive any of these vehicles unfortunately, but we were allowed to operate all other systems and get comfortable with the different positions within these vehicles such as the driver, gunner, loader, and commander. As part of vehicle familiarization, we were brought to one of TRADOC's many virtual simulation centers. These centers allowed units to conduct training virtually, which in turn put less strain on planning and conducting training for a unit and placed less cost on the Army as there would be no need to provide all the actually equipment necessary to conduct a day of training in the field. While there we were able to engage enemy tanks on the M1 Abrams virtual trainer. As a part of this training, individuals were placed in the gunner seat of an Abrams tank while they engaged four enemy tanks. I was able to score 4 out 4 tanks destroyed on my first go which led to a few of the tankers facilitating the training to attempt to get me to go the armor route upon commissioning. Besides this form of training with vehicles, I was introduced to the United States Army's Airborne School. This is where Soldiers are taught the fundamentals of parachuting from airplanes and landing safely. I was able to take on their 34-foot tower which was used to teach Soldiers how to exit an aircraft properly while taking advantage of gravity to make for more realistic training. This was also used to identify those with a deathly fear of heights, as a result those who are unable to complete this event at 34 feet would not be able to complete an actual jump at 1250 feet.

During my training, I was introduced to the commander of Delta Company who I found to be a very knowledgeable CPT (Captain). He was supported by an experienced and dedicated 1SG (First Sergeant). They took both me under their wings during those three weeks, with CPT Cash introducing me to the officer side of commanding an element, while 1SG Brew made sure I understood the day to day responsibilities of an NCO and how an NCO-Officer relationship was supposed to look. They both had the great responsibility of providing the Army with the greatest infantrymen in the world, and I had the privilege of observing the progress of the first gender integrated element entering infantry basic training. One of the most important takeaways from the CPT's side of training was the importance of taking responsibility. He taught me that as an officer I would be responsible for the completion of a variety of missions, while ensuring my Soldiers were prepared in advance to carry out these missions. He made it clear that at any given time, I could be responsible for millions of dollars' worth of military equipment. 1SG Brew made it clear that as an officer I would be expected to be a "jack-of-all-trades" when it comes to duties outside the role of an officer. He used an example pertaining to a leader expecting his/her Soldiers to do something they couldn’t do, or expecting their Soldiers to go somewhere they wouldn’t go themselves. This resonated with me and pushed me to place more emphasis on learning and carrying out my duties according to doctrine, while gaining the knowledge required to command elements efficiently, not only
as Cadet but as a new officer commanding my first unit.

**Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP)**
Alexandra Reel

My time in Argentina has taught me several life lessons. Going there, I expected the country to be much more advanced than it was. I also expected it to look fairly similar to the United States. Right away there were jarring differences, such as the lack of traffic laws and the abundance of stray dogs on the streets. However there were also similarities, such as the slums in inner cities, which can be pointed out by their usage of bars on the windows as well as trash being thrown haphazardly everywhere. In my one class, I experienced an older Argentine professor who insinuated racist remarks about how the United States treats its African American citizens. This put my fellow Cadets and myself in a very uncomfortable position, however, we reacted quickly and respectfully when we corrected him. This encounter taught me that some countries might have predetermined biases about Americans. Since these biases are so easily created, it will be my job as a Lieutenant to make sure myself and my troops are not culturally insensitive or make offensive remarks while representing the United States Army.

This CULP mission has also opened my eyes to how different countries perceive their militaries. In the United States, we think highly of our military and greatly appreciate it, however, that same feeling isn’t shared around the world. This trip has given me a new appreciation for how our Army is treated by its citizens and government. Due to past political conflicts, Argentina’s Army was not liked or appreciated by its citizens, and therefore suffered the backlash of it. Once we got to the Colegio de Militar, their military academy for officers, my fellow Cadets and I realized the even bigger difference between our military and theirs: funding. This cut directly impacted their funding for food, forcing them to serve less food and smaller portions to their Cadets. Many of their Cadets complained to us that they were not being served enough, however, in the United States, we would never allow that to happen to our troops, so this was another jarring difference between the two countries. This situation further showed me that you must take care of your Soldiers and give them what they need for proper sust ainment, or morale and motivation levels will be low.

This CULP mission was important because it forced me out of my comfort zone and threw me into an entirely new culture and environment. It made me learn how to adapt to my surroundings and interact with the locals. It also gave me a taste of what to expect when I am active duty, rather than being thrown into a situation similar to this for the first time as a Lieutenant. CULP also taught me how to cope with leaving my loved ones behind while I went overseas, and allowed me to talk to different kinds of people and gain their knowledge on how to balance a life at home and a life in the military. It is much harder than I expected to leave your loved ones behind to go to a foreign country, but it is very important that I become acclimated to the lifestyle now instead of later. I am very grateful to have had this learning experience while I am still in a training environment. Ultimately, my CULP mission was a very humbling and eye-opening experience that I fully believe will positively impact my leadership capabilities as a Lieutenant.
Advanced Camp Graduates
Richard Alexis
Thomas Bates
Devon Blair
Joshua Daniels
Catherine Eccker
Eric Flick
Jennifer Francescon
Lane Hassenplug
Matthew Holt
Susan Janfrancisco
Matthew Lumia
Austin Miller
Megan Reel
Colin Reinert
Tayrn Ross
Greg Senft
Ryan Stuart
Benjamin Tripoli
Marlene Yi

Basic Camp Graduates
Addison Duvall
Zachariah Inch

Cadet Troop Leader Training
Richard Alexis
Thomas Bates
Greg Senft

Internship
Matthew Holt
Marlene Yi

Air Assault School Graduates
Devon Blair
Greg Senft

Airborne School Graduates
Alexandra Reel

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Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP)
Alexandra Reel - Argentina