The summer has brought our cadets many leadership opportunities and lifetime experiences. We had cadets travel from Seton Hall to FT Dix, FT Knox, FT Campbell, FT Riley, FT Benning, FT Lewis, Spain, Croatia, Thailand, and Albania. I could not be more proud of these young men and women. Each and every one of these cadets represented our program so well that we received nothing but laudable comments from everyone we supported or trained with over the summer. Their actions this past summer really make it that much easier to build on in this new academic year.

As I look at this coming year, I’m filled with nothing but excitement and look forward to all the great things the cadets will accomplish this year. Our cadets will plan many leadership exercises, community service projects and strengthen our relations with the surrounding communities of Northern New Jersey and Seton Hall. We will work to continue to build our relationship with our alumni. I’ve meet with some key alumni to take the role of an Alumni Council to build an ROTC Alumni Association. We will send another letter to all our alumni, who we have contact information, about the Second Annual Hall of Fame Nomination.

Finally, I ask that everyone keep track with what our cadets are up to on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pirate-Battalion-ROTC/117998755545) and visit our website (http://www.shu.edu/offices/rotc/index.cfm) to get reacquainted with our cadets and battalion.

LTC Trinidad Gonzalez
Pirate Battalion’s Summer Training

For most college students, summer break invokes thoughts of down time, beach vacations, and, most importantly, no school work! But for the cadets of Pirate Battalion, the summer is jam packed with training opportunities that supplement all the hard work cadets do during the school year. This summer, Pirate Battalion sent its finest cadets all across the globe. As you will discover in this newsletter, cadets traveled to Europe and Asia through ROTC’s Culture Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program. Our now senior cadets completed the revamped mandatory summer training, now called Cadet Leadership Course (CLC). Cadets participated in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) and the Cadet Initial Entry Program (CIET). These are only some of the training opportunities you’ll discover within this edition of the Pirate Scroll. With all the new experiences the cadets have had this summer, we’re looking forward to what new knowledge our cadets bring to this semester’s training.

CAN DO, NEVER QUIT!

CDT Osika (right) with an Albanian Soldier During his CULP trip to the Albanian NCO School

CDT Keyes posing with an assault rifle used by Croatian Special Forces

CDT s Divine, Duce and Warn volunteering at the 6th Annual Knights of Columbus Tank Pull Challenge in Clifton NJ

After returning from the tactics portion of CLC CDT Walker (Center) poses with his platoon mates

Senior and Junior ROTC Cadets during JCLC at FT dix
Cadet Leadership Course

Bye-Bye LDAC, Hello CLC

Last summer was the last time ROTC cadets participated in the infamous Leadership Development and Assessment Course, commonly referred to as LDAC or Summer Camp. This year, Cadet Command overhauled the MSIII training by removing the “assessment” aspect and replacing it with more focus on leading in complex situations. At the newly named Cadet Leadership Course (CLC) that took place at FT Knox Kentucky, Cadets received Basic Rifle Marksmanship training (BRM) and conducted team live fire exercises. Instead of the traditional 8-point land navigation course, cadets went through a complex problem solving course where teams of cadets had to rely on their knowledge of “land nav” and ability to critically think to negotiate diverse obstacles and problem sets to achieve the mission. Cadets participated in training consisting of cultural understanding, civilian interaction, and IED recognition. This training cumulated in the tactics portion of CLC which was a ten day field training exercise that focused on Unified Land Operations (UFO) and Combined Arms Maneuver (CAM). Cadets rotated leading missions that drew upon the knowledge they received at camps and the critical thinking and leadership skills they have learned throughout ROTC. On top of all the field training scenarios the cadets went through, they also took three written tests: the Miller’s Analogy Test, the Collegiate Learning Assessment, and the MSIII Comprehension Test. All these tests will be used by Cadet Command to determine cadets’ ability to critically think, problem solve, and communicate; all critical skills for young army officers. CLC jammed years of experience into 29 action packed days. Our now senior cadets have gained valuable experiences that they will draw upon through the rest of their time at Pirate Battalion and into their transition to officership!

Pirate Cadets Lead the Way!

One of our Pirates, Cadet Courtnaey Chelf, was recognized as one of the top 12 cadets in her entire Regiment! We are extremely proud of her growth and achievement! Below is how she described her experience at CLC...

“CLC provided a unique experience that allowed me to build my individual confidence as well as develop my leadership abilities from the team to platoon level. There was a constant stress on team work and critical thinking. They tested our ability as individuals to find common ground in order to work together to solve ambiguous problems. The training was not only rigorous and comprehensive but often fun and exciting! I plan on using those lessons learned to shape my own leadership style as I continue my development to becoming an officer. CAN DO, NEVER QUIT!”

CDT Courtnaey Chelf, Class of 2016
Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency

The Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program is an initiative by Cadet Command to develop more culturally aware leaders that are comfortable interacting with people of different nationalities. The Army is always looking for leaders who are able to bridge cultural gaps and understand different ways of life. CULP sends cadets across the world to engage and interact with people of different cultures and languages. Some cadets participate in military to military exercise where they interact with cadets and officers from different cultures. Other cadets spend time with civilian populations doing community service and teaching English. Our cadets traveled to Spain, Croatia, Albania, and Thailand.

CULP Spain

Over summer break, Cadet Command sent me to Spain as part of its CULP 2015 mission. I spent four weeks at a Spanish Army base in Catalonia, along with seven other cadets from different colleges across the United States. Our team was assigned to a Spanish Mountain Infantry battalion as part of a military-to-military mission. We learned basic rappelling and climbing techniques to scale the cliffs and slopes of the Pyrenees along Spain’s border with France. On weekends, our team left the base to take in Catalonia’s historic sites, such as the Roman ruins near Cadaques, the Castle of San Fernando and the city of Girona.

I also gained an appreciation of the difference and commonalities between fellow future U.S. Army officers and officers in the Spanish Army. While at the Spanish Mountain Infantry base, I met several highly motivated Spanish platoon leaders and company commanders who were all mountain terrain qualified and experts at mountain climbing using rappelling and climbing shoes. Over the course my time in Spain, I even received instruction on the use of the Mountain Infantry’s equipment and mountain survival skills.

CDT John Chideau, Class of 2017

CULP Croatia

This past summer of 2015, Pirate Battalion and Cadet Command sent me to Croatia for a month of training with their Navy. I learned basic Croatian phrases, trained with cadets of the Croatian defense academy and the Polish cadet command, and learned tactics and techniques used by the Croatian Navy and their special forces. I kayaked for miles, rowed zodiacs for hours, dived with scuba gear and rode rafts made of strung together RUCK sacks. I also got to enjoy the beautiful city of Split every night by going into town and eating local cuisine, while submerging myself in their culture by using my newly learned language skills at shops and different memorial sites we visited.

Continued on next page
CULP Croatia Continued

CULP has taught me about the whole process of deploying, both from online training, medical updates, medical examinations, loads of paperwork, and self-studying. Even though it may have seemed tedious at times, the work prepared my group for our mission and we completed that mission. We fostered relations with Polish and Croatian cadets and learned skills which most cadets will never say they were able to learn. I thoroughly enjoyed my deployment to Croatia and would strongly suggest any eligible cadet to sign up for CULP, knowing that no matter where they end up going, they will definitely learn something and set themselves apart from other cadets.

CDT Nicholas Keyes, Class of 2016

CULP Thailand

Less than a week after finishing final exams, I was on my way to FT Knox to prepare for my CULP mission to Thailand. I was sent to Thailand by Cadet Command to teach English to Thai military cadets at their Armed Forces Academy Preparatory School. I was in Thailand for three weeks and spent the weekdays on their academy grounds. I helped develop their future leader’s conversational English ability. I also had an opportunity to participate in some of their airborne training by jumping out of one of their jump towers. On the weekends, we explored the country and got to interact with the locals of Thailand and develop our cultural proficiency. I even got to ride on top of an elephant.

There are not many deployments to another country that do not have an immediate hostile enemy that is out to get you. Let alone, a deployment where the country welcomes you with open arms. This CULP mission gave me a unique experience that helped me develop my ability to adjust to a culture that I am completely unfamiliar with. I learned how to adjust and communicate with people of a different culture and language. CULP is a once in a lifetime chance to get valuable training and a great experience.

CDT William Sanchez, Class of 2016
CULP Albania

As an ROTC cadet of two years and counting, I have been presented with a variety of challenges associated with this occupation. I have trained long and hard, but nothing in my training has been more challenging, rewarding, and most of all uniquely special, when compared to the experiences I shared with a handful of other cadets in the small country of Albania.

Mahatma Gandhi said “A nation’s culture resides in the hearts, and within the soul of its people.” This rung true consistently and for the duration of my trip abroad. The task of unlocking our hosts’ hearts and glimpsing into what makes them who they are, was ultimately our goal on my CULP mission. On paper, we were to teach the NCO’s of the Albanian Armed Forces conversational English. This is difficult enough for a group of young people who do not speak the native language and who are, on average, several years younger than the people they are working with. Trying to get cadets to listen and understand other cadets is sometimes a difficult task; trying to get a Special Forces NCO with 3 combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq to sit in a hot classroom and listen to Americans speak English to him for 7 hours a day seems impossible - at least it did at first. This is what was is so rewarding about the CULP experience though, and what I take the most away from. That challenge of engaging a people who come from a very sensitive and heartfelt culture, is what ultimately had the greatest impact on me and my fellow junior officers in training.

That NCO, Sergeant Edvin Ziami, _Batalioni i Operacioneve Speciale_, is now someone I keep in contact with regularly and can speak with on the basis of an old friend. He has a wonderful family who I’ve met, and a great vision and passion in a country full of young people with visions and passions. Meeting him and learning to understand him and his many counterparts, has ultimately made me a better cadet, and will help me become a well-rounded officer. Most of all though, my trip and experiences has made me a better person as a whole. He has taught me to look at all people from a neutral standpoint, one from which I can understand them for who they are, not just quickly judge right and wrong, weird and normal, strange and accepted. These skills are invaluable in the complex world I live in and the diverse Army which I will serve, and are a priceless tool which I will continue to use going forth.

CDT Joseph Klimas, Class of 2017
More Summer Training

**Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET)**

In addition to revamping LDAC to CLC, Cadet Command has been experimenting with the Cadet Initial Entry Training. For four weeks, MSL1 and 2 cadets are sent to Fort Knox to train in basic soldiering skills so that when they return to campus they can focus more on leadership training. Cadets are instructed by Drill Sergeants as well as MSL3 cadets from across Cadet Command who have completed CLC. This allows MSL# cadets to further develop their leadership training and teach younger cadets.

“This summer cadet command sent me to Cadet Initial Entry Training or CIET. This year’s CIET is the first of its kind and I was part of the first regiment to go through it. The program took place at Fort Knox Kentucky over the course of just under four weeks. I was part of 1st Regiment, Bravo Company, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad. Having little to no information going into the training about what we were about to do, I was ready to just go with the flow.

The first couple of days were spent on basic soldiering skills. How to stand in formation, drill and ceremony, learning the rank structure, and other basic things about the army. The second week we practiced squad cohesion in the classroom and in practical exercises outdoors. Then we moved into tent city where we did some more training and conducted lanes. Our final task was to move into our AO and set up a patrol base where we conducted lanes without the supervision of Drill Sergeants or instructors. My time at FT Knox ended with out-processing and returning home. Attending CIET over the summer helped me gain a better understanding of the skills and techniques I learned in my MS1 year of ROTC.”

CDT Patrick Hurley, Class of 2018

**Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)**

After the completion of CLC, our top MSIII cadets are given the opportunity to participate in the Cadet Troop Leading Training (CTLT) program. For 3-4 weeks after the completion of CLC, cadets are sent to different active duty units and assigned to a First or Second Lieutenant and spend their time shadowing their platoon leaders. Cadets are given the opportunity to conduct PT, train with soldiers, at actually take time leading the platoon they are assigned to. CDT Michael Duce spent his time with the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley.

“I was imbedded with B Co, 82nd Engineers, 2nd BCT, 1st ID at Fort Riley, Kansas. There I worked closely with the Sapper Platoon Leader 1LT. Horey to see how his platoon prepared for their coming deployment to Kuwait. During this time period, I was tasked with various objectives to help the platoon accomplish its mission. From planning the execution of an M4/M9 range and briefing it to Battalion, to assisting in the property exchange of $7 million worth of Bradley Fighting Vehicles, to assisting in the operations of Bradley Gunnery for the Battalion. My experiences at CTLT opened my eyes to the immense responsibilities of a Platoon Leader and how hard he/she must work to ensure their platoon is ready. More than anything, this brief experience has let me even more excited to lead troops after I commission.”

CDT Michael Duce, Class of 2016
Junior ROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge

Our senior ROTC cadets aren’t the only ones training hard over the summer. This summer Pirate cadets helped staff the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge hosted by New Jersey Junior ROTC at FT Dix. During the “camp”, JROTC cadets participated in many team building, physically demanding, and educational activities. JROTC cadets did everything from water training, to drill and ceremony. Pirate Battalion cadets Garret Bluish and Alex Kim were privileged to spend time assisting in the JROTC cadets’ training and mentored them in both leadership and academics.

“Over the summer I was a Cadre member for the JROTC camp JCLC down in Fort Dix, New Jersey. Over the six day camp I was a member of the aquatics committee, where I helped the Cadets complete water exercises. I also mentored 4th platoon Bravo Company. I would go to each event with the cadets and talk to them about college, ROTC and life after school. This camp helped me develop my leadership skills and gave me the opportunity to work with some great JROTC cadets.”

CDT Garret Bluish, Class of 2017

Air Assault School

Everyone likes a little extra bling on their uniform, but not everyone is willing to do the work to get it. This summer, CDT Mark Von Cappeln earned the coveted Air Assault Badge. Air Assault school, based in FT Campbell, Kentucky, is the course in which soldiers learn to conduct operations with helicopters. Soldiers learn sling load operations, helicopter employment tactics, and most fun, how to repel out of helicopters. Air Assault school is open to both soldiers and cadets. And is extremely challenging both physically and mentally. We are proud of CDT Von Cappeln’s achievement.

“Representing Pirate Battalion at Air Assault school was a privilege and an honor. Walking up to the arches of the school on the first day made me nervous and excited. Staring at the huge black tower with “The Air Assault School” written across the side motivated every soldier there, even though it was slightly after 0300. The training was a ten day, high intensity, course that taught soldiers about the basics of Air Assault tactics, safety, rappelling, and sling loads. Over the course of these ten days, I was pushed to my limits, both physically and mentally, due to long, hot, and physically demanding training events during the day and studying for hours on end at night to pass the written exam portion. Whether it was obstacle courses, inspections, classroom lessons, sling load operations, learning how to rappel, or the dreaded six mile and twelve mile ruck marches, there was no time wasted in the short training period and every day was a new adventure. The highlight of the training was seeing all of the learning and hard work put to the test when we were allowed to rappel out of the UH-60L (Blackhawk) and touching down on the ground knowing that I had passed The Air Assault School.”

CDT Mark von Cappeln, Class of 2017
Pirate Adventure

On June 22nd, 25th, and 29th, Pirate Battalion ran team building exercise for the incoming freshmen class of Seton Hall University. Pirate Adventure is Seton Hall’s version of freshmen orientation. Incoming freshmen of the class of 2019 flocked to the South Orange campus to register for class, receive their student IDs, learn about their future at Seton Hall, and, most importantly, get acquainted with the Pirate Family. The cadets of Pirate Battalion helped the new students get to know each other through several different events. Cadets led freshmen in name games, human knots, rock climbing walls, and a water balloon toss that brought some needed relief from the hot June days. Our cadets played an enormous roll in building the class of 2019 into a strong team and helped welcome them to the Pirate Family.

Tank Pull Challenge

On June 14th, members of Pirate Battalion travel to Clifton New Jersey to participate in the annual Tank Pull Challenge! For the last six years, the New Jersey Knights of Columbus have put on an event where teams pull an 80,000 pound Korean War era tank as fast as they can. All the proceeds generated from the event are then donated to the Wounded Warriors Project and local veteran groups. Each year, Pirate cadets are privileged with helping the volunteers on the day of the event. Cadets assist in everything from helping block traffic and set up tents early in the morning, to breaking down the event late into the evening, and, most importantly, filling in for teams that need an extra bit of pulling power. Cadets are always thrilled to be able to contribute to such a generous cause and to be accepted into the army family by the many veterans that attended the Tank Pull. This year our cadets even boasted some strong scores, assisting a team come in second place for the fastest pull category, and just barely missing a podium finish in the lightest weight pull. Pirate Battalion looks forward to this day every year and love being able to honor our veterans while having a lot of fun, too.
To stay updated on what our cadets are up to during the school year follow us on Facebook by searching “Pirate Battalion ROTC” or on Instagram at “SHU_PIRATEBATTALION”

And don’t forget to visit our website at http://www.shu.edu/offices/rotc/