



THE PIRATE SCROLL

FALL 2016 PIRATE BATTALION



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Pirate Battalion's Fall Semester

With the return to campus for a new semester, Pirate Battalion's training began again in the Fall. Between the months of September, October, November, and December, Cadets completed events such as but not limited to, two Leadership Development Exercises (LDX), one Joint LDX with Rutgers and Princeton ROTC, the Freedom Brigade Fitness Challenge, and the annual Captain Dalessio 5K Run.



PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE'S REMARKS

The Pirate Battalion is making the most of a mild winter and using physical training, military labs, public service, and athletic competition to sharpen leadership skills. This Spring we will be busy with coursework, training at South Mountain Reservation, alumni outreach, community service, color guard support, a Joint Leader Development Exercise with Rutgers and Princeton Universities (7-9 April at Fort Dix), Raider Challenge (22 April), the Best Pirate Competition (28 April), the Pirate Ball (29 April at Montclair State), and our commissioning ceremony for 16 outstanding seniors (12 May). We invite all of our alumni to join us for any of these events. We will continue the tradition of honoring our Hall of Fame inductee at the Pirate Ball. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so by 1 March at: <http://www13.shu.edu/offices/rotc/alumni-hall-of-fame.cfm>.

Thank you for your continued support of our cadets and the future of our Army. Can Do, Never Quit!

-Major Russell Lemler

LDX's: Leadership Development Exercises

Operation Mako



Pirate Battalion held its first Leadership Development Exercise of the semester, dubbed Operation Mako, on 23 September 2016 in order to improve each Cadets basic understanding of land navigation and prepare them for the upcoming JLDX. Cadets trained their land navigation skills by using both the classroom and South Mountain Reservation.

Being the first LDX of the year, the new cadets were introduced to many concepts that they weren't used to. In the classroom, they were taught terrain association, how to use a map, using a compass, as well as how to resection and navigate around an obstacle. When they finally stepped onto the mountain they took those concepts from their classes and applied them to real life.

The exercise began with the entire Battalion meeting around a simulated sandtable, explaining the limits of the operating area, notable terrain features and hazards, and objectives.

Each squad was paired up with a MSIV guide, with Headquarters Platoon MSIIIs falling into the company. While they were present to lead the squads on the mountain, focus was placed on letting the MSIs lead their squads from point to point.

Overall, the operation was a great way to take information learned in class and connect it to the real world in a practical sense. The ability to lead and make mistakes and learn from them was reassuring and helped prepare the new cadets for their experiences at JLDX later in the semester.

-CDT Alvarado

Operation Blacktip Reef Shark

The Cadets of Pirate Battalion continued to learn and develop into our nation's future leaders as they finished their second Leadership Development Exercise of the spring semester on 04 November 2016. In this LDX, Operation Blacktip Reef Shark, Cadets trained in squad sized operations in order to gain a fundamental understanding of squad offensive operations. After grasping the basics of squad-sized operations, Cadets of all levels were able to improve and refine their leadership skills. Operation Blacktip Reef Shark simulated squad raids, ambushes, and reconnaissance operations.

As an MSI of Pirate Battalion, at that time I had only seen the conceptual operations played out on pen and paper. To go out into the field and see how a squad operates was very different, and while there was a learning curve, my leadership was able to make it easier for me. I soon knew what was expected of me as a team member and what I needed to do to successfully complete the mission. Whether a mission was an ambush or recon operation, unit cohesion was an essential factor for mission success. This was evident my squad's ambush of three enemy forces during the last lane. The timeline was met, every Cadet knew their respective mission objectives, communication was effective, leaders were

calm making critical decisions, and the squad remained undetected by the enemy. As a result, the squad conducted its most successful ambush yet. Pirate Battalion continues to grow and its Cadets are in line to become exceptional military leaders of the future.

-CDT Alvarado



Commissioning 2016

On October 3, 2016, Pirate Battalion commissioned another well-deserving cadet, now Second Lieutenant Christian Jamandre. Originally from Roselle Park, New Jersey, 2LT Jamandre studied nursing at Seton Hall University and pursued a commission through Seton Hall University Army ROTC program. He actively participated in various organizations within the battalion and the community. 2LT Jamandre held several leadership roles such as the commander of the Color Guard team, an honorary member of Pershing Rifle Company K-8, and as a leader within his church community. After Company K-8's long hiatus, 2LT Jamandre started the revival of the company in 2015 and successfully re-chartered the company on March 12, 2016. 2LT Christian Jamandre's first assignment is at Ft. Wadsworth in Staten Island, NY as a Medical Services Corps Officer. We know that 2LT Jamandre will do great in his future careers because of his kindness and willingness to help others before himself. Congratulations to 2LT Jamandre and Pirate Battalion wishes him the best. Can Do Never Quit!



-CDT Blaza



2nd Brigade Fitness Challenge

2,100 burpees, 3,500 pushups, 300 miles, 350 minutes of planking, 2,100 body squats, 2,100 lunges, 650 pull-ups, 1,250 jumping squats, 1,250 jumping lunges, the combat PT event, an 8 mile ruck march in under two hours and twenty minutes, 100 jump ropes, pushups, and air squats in under 7 minutes, and 100 consecutive all-Americans in under 9 minutes throughout the semester was the goal to earn recognition and the Freedom tab for the Brigade Fitness Challenge. Some persevered, and others could not. A total of 5 cadets were able to pass the challenge that lasted all semester long. With rigorous physical fitness Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, these 5 cadets were able to find time throughout their busy academic and life schedules to workout on their own and complete the task. Along with this rigorous task at hand, Brigade Commander Colonel Mintz made an appearance at Seton Hall, testing cadets on their abilities to low-crawl, high-crawl, and conduct 3-5 second buddy rushes. COL Mintz spoke with the cadets, giving some motivational words before beginning the challenge. In the cold wet grass in the early morning, cadets took on this challenge and began crawling. Crawling with faces full of grass and dirt, cadets finished the challenge presented by the Brigade Commander. In the end, while the challenge was both mentally and physically demanding, the personal satisfaction was worth all the pain.

-CDT Chalhoub



Cadets low-crawl through the dirt and mud for Combat PT



The triumphant cadets after having been awarded the blue "Freedom" tab



CDT Blaza hustles during 3-5 second buddy rushes

Physical Readiness Training

Physical readiness and training is a key aspect to life in ROTC and in a career in the military. PT not only increases the fitness of incoming cadets, but also sharpens the leadership skills of all other Cadets in leadership positions who are responsible for preparing the newcomers ultimately for the Army Physical Fitness Test, and eventually life as an Officer. Physical training is important because it increases fitness and promotes a healthy lifestyle. PT also builds comradery amongst Cadets do to its challenging nature.

-CDT Van Sickell

CWST

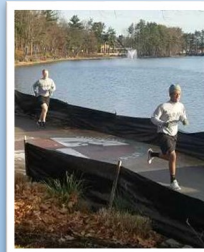


The Combat Water Survival Test is a confidence testing event which pushes Cadets far outside their comfort zone. Cadets progress through five different CWST events throughout the morning including: 15-meter swim with Load Bearing Vest and M-16 Rifle, an equipment ditch while fully submersed below 14 feet of water, a 3 meter drop while blindfolded while retaining control of their M-16, and lastly, 10 minutes of swimming and 5 minutes of treading water.



Record APFT

The record APFT is a critical component for measuring Cadets state of fitness and is comprised of two-minutes of pushups, two-minutes of sit-ups and a two mile times run. The APFT is designed to measure cadets physical strength, physical endurance, flexibility and anaerobic and aerobic endurance. Pirate Battalion had success on this record APFT from all classes.



Sports PT

Once a month a Sports PT plan is executed under the extensive planning and prepping by company leaderships. Sports PT includes, but is far from limited to dodgeball, soccer, football, and ultimate Frisbee. Sports PT is normally organized in a tournament format which breeds healthy competition, and precipitates great fun.



JLDX: Joint Leadership Development Exercise



One of the Pirate Battalions field exercises is the Joint Leadership Drill Exercise, also know as JLDX. JLDX was a three day training event held from 30 September 2016 to 2 October 2016, and was located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL). The purpose of the JLDX was for Seton Hall's Pirate Battalion, Rutgers' Scarlet Knight Battalion, and Princeton's Tiger Battalion to come together and train. The weekend's forecast was unfortunately rainy with cool temperatures. However, throughout the weekend the cadets learned some of the most basic tasks a soldier should know. They learned how to assemble, take apart, and fire weapons systems such as the M-4 carbine, M240-B machine gun, and M249 squad automatic weapon. With instruction from National Guard Field Artillery officers, they were taught how to call in for fire support on an enemy position. The cadets practiced how to breach and clear rooms full of enemy combatants and secure a compound. And finally, reinforced their land navigation skills learned at LDX1 on a preset course.

Along with this operational training also came a lot of hard physical training. The Pirate Battalion was the only battalion to ruck into the operation. Every cadet marched in full uniform for six miles, with a full combat load and 35 pound ruck. The cadets raced one another on an obstacle course, traversing elements that required personal fitness and teamwork. For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, they would eat every cadets favorite; MREs, also known as Meals Ready to Eat. Finally, the Pirate Battalion slept in patrol bases, and every junior cadet was taught how to conceal themselves from the enemy at night.

The JLDX was a very fun time for myself. I learned a lot of information I never knew. I also learned a lot about myself, as a cadet and a person. As a cadet, when you are out in the field with your brothers and sisters, you realize that teamwork is crucial to succeeding. Teamwork, the whole time, was what JLDX had been meant for. Throughout your entire time on base, you are not alone. You have a fellow cadet with you. As a person I had personally grew from this experience. I had grown up learning how to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. however, I have never done it to the extent of what we had done at JLDX. Not once in my life have I ever camped in the woods, or train in cold wet weather for a period of two days. But, now that I have done it, something that was very exhausting, is so much more simple now. This experience allowed me to step out of my comfort zone. JLDX and the training given, was challenging in some aspects. When you are not used to being in cold and wet weather for a long time, it can seem hard. However, it also showed what it takes to be a soldier and a leader in the United States Army.

-CDT Garrett



ROTC and NCAA Athletics

I attend Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey where I am also a member of the Varsity Wrestling Team. I commute with a fellow Cadet to Seton Hall to participate in the ROTC program. Going into college I was nervous as to how I would be able to balance a rigorous academic curriculum, achieve my goals as an Athlete, and thrive as a Cadet in the ROTC program. All of this was new to me, and I didn't have much time to adapt to my new surroundings, and life. On more than one occasion, my time management skills and work ethic were challenged. My time management was tested the first week when I managed to attend both Stevens and ROTC Orientations. A regular day consisted of waking up before 0600 to get ready and commute over to Seton Hall. Once there, I work tirelessly to better myself. No matter what the PT plan was, I made sure that afterwards I was breathing heavy. After PT I would either return to Stevens and partake in my own set of courses, or carry on at Seton Hall and fall under the instruction of Sergeant Moore in the MSI class. After classes either at Stevens or Seton Hall, I would have workouts for Wrestling, where once I again I pushed myself to the brink of exhaustion. And of course, when all of this was said and done, I would be responsible to complete any and all assignments outside of my classroom.



When the Wrestling team began traveling for matches and tournaments my schedule became even more hectic. Some weekends I would submit assignments from my hotel in Rhode Island, Ohio, or even as far as Iowa. Admittedly, it was stressful and at times it even seemed like too much to handle. But with the help of amazingly supportive and constructive people like, Sergeant Moore, Mr. Samayoa, Ms. Glad-den, my coaches Joe Favia and Anthony Bonaventura, and my fellow Cadets and teammates. it was possible for me to seemingly be in three places at once. Not only have I figured out how to balance ROTC, Wrestling, and academics successfully. I whole heartedly agree that each of these facets have supplemented the success of the others. ROTC has given me a resurgence of pride and purpose that has translated into success of the wrestling mat and in the classroom. Wrestling has kept me in top physical condition which has correlated to a great sense of accomplishment in the APFT. My rigid schedule has led me to stay on top of all my assignments. Being a varsity athlete, and also participating in ROTC has done nothing but benefit me. Not only have I been benefited in the present, but I can also see how my future will be positively impacted in by being so active now. All of the obstacles that I have and will overcome in ROTC, Wrestling, and school are only preparing me more to become an effective leading Officer in the United States Army.

-CDT Van Sickell



CPT Gregory T. Dalessio Memorial 5K Run

On a cold Saturday morning in early December, hundreds gathered to celebrate the life of Captain Gregory T. Dalessio, an Army infantry officer who gave his life serving his country in Salman Pak, Iraq in 2008. Men and women of all ages, from an impressive 5 years old to a possibly even more impressive 78 years old were in attendance. The memorial 5K run/walk is held each December at the Christ Our Light Church in Greg's hometown of Cherry Hill, NJ, and has been held annually since his death. This year marked its 8th occasion. Maureen and Thomas Pagano, Greg's mother and stepfather from whom he was raised, organize the race each year with support of the community. Many cadets from Greg's alma mater proudly attend the 5K each year, with this race resulting in several Pirate prizewinners. Cadets Nicholas Keyes, Joseph Klimas, and Katherine Wilson, as well as Pirate Battalion's Assistant Professor of Military Science Captain Eleanor Baldenweck won medals.



Captain Dalessio was killed when his patrol encountered small arms fire on June 23, 2008 while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Just 30 years old, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based out of Baumholder, Germany. Captain Dalessio graduated from Seton Hall University with a degree in Diplomacy and International Relations, and commissioned from Pirate Battalion Army ROTC in 2004. Before the race, family and friends spoke admirably of Greg's selflessness, recounting stories of his consistent involvement in the community and church, as well as his desire to serve his country as an Army officer. He has been described as nothing short of kind, caring, and genuine. He was a soldier of his family and of God. Pirate Battalion looks forward to continuing our strong relationship with Greg's family, and continues to honor him by upholding the values that he lived by so powerfully.

-CDT Dixon





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up to during the school year
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“SHU_PIRATEBATTALION”

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<http://www.shu.edu/offices/rotc/>