



Warrior Spirit

Sun Devils Excel at Warrior Forge 2009

BY: John Pedraza

MSII

Leadership Development and Assessment Course, otherwise referred to as LDAC, is a month long course that every ROTC cadet preparing to commission as a 2LT in the U.S. Army must attend.

Located at Fort Lewis, Washington, LDAC, aka Warrior Forge, is a mandatory training event all MSIIIs must attend. Cadets usually attend LDAC during the summer between their junior and senior year, and, as its name implies, LDAC evaluates cadets on their leadership performance and potential.

The majority of the events at LDAC are for familiarization and confidence building purposes, as well as evaluations. However, there are certain events you must pass or risk dismissal.

The first evaluated event while at LDAC is the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), which includes push-ups, sit-ups, and the 2-mile run. Another GO/NO-GO event is day and night land navigation. During day and night land navigation cadets are expected to find 5 of 8 points during the day, 3 of 5 points at night, and pass a written exam.

Warrior Forge is a culmination of all the training that cadets have received at their respective schools, all wrapped into one 28 day training event. Training at LDAC is split between a garrison environment and, as of last year, a Tactical Training Base (TTB). Some of the training conducted are squad situation training exercises (STX), Patrolling lanes, field leader's reaction course (FLRC), and the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear orien-



C/MAJ Henderson's squad during their patrolling lanes at Ft. Lewis, WA.. Photo courtesy of CDT Henderson.

tation course (CBRN). Cadets also conduct US Weapons familiarization, First-Aid training, cultural awareness training, and both an obstacle and water confidence course. The cadets attending Warrior Forge will be evaluated throughout training based on their application of the Army's leadership dimensions and the Army values.

All cadets that attend LDAC will rotate through, and be evaluated in, several different leadership roles. Those positions include squad leader (SL), platoon sergeant (PSG), platoon leader (PL), first sergeant (1SG), and company commander (CO). Cadets can receive several different assessments based on their leadership performance: E (Exceeds the Standards), S (Satisfies the Standards), and N (Needs Improvement).

"Its always better to make mistakes here, now I've heard of

cadets that try to correct themselves while they're up at camp, and they usually get lower marks for it because they stumble along," said Cadet Battalion Commander Lance Bailey. "That's why we train here so you can get it right by the time you go off to LDAC."

LDAC is an important milestone in a cadet's career; it is something you must succeed at if you want to commission and your performance there can also have a major effect on the branch you pick as well, among other factors.

"My advice for anyone that is going to LDAC is you want to be as vocal as possible from the moment you get there" Said Cadet Bailey. "They'll notice you right away if you know cadences, and refer you for leadership positions more often if you can take charge and lead the formation during pt."

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Cadre Profiles



Name: Major James Barklay (MS I Cadre)

Branch: Artillery

Hobbies: running, biking, and reading

Why did you become a ROTC instructor?

After I retired I wanted the opportunity to pass along the lessons I had learned to the future leaders of the Army.

What are your goals for the Battalion?

Continue to meet the commission mission goal and try to get cadets high on the OML (order of merit list)

Comments: I think it's going to be a good year. This is the largest class I have seen. I just want to enjoy it and I look forward to what this next group brings in.



Name: Master Sergeant Myles Stover (MS 3 Cadre)

MOS: Infantry

Hobbies: Playing guitar, running, and hiking

Why did you become a ROTC instructor?

I like to teach. And my biggest complaint in the Army was the officers so I wanted the chance to have some effect and try and change it.

What are your goals for the Battalion?

I want the cadets to be more proactive. I want them to go out and find leadership opportunities instead of always waiting on us.

Comments: I think with our new Battalion Commander we will see some good changes both for the cadre and cadets. It should be a good 3 years with Colonel and I think we are doing well so far.



Name: Major David McAleer (Assistant Enrollment Officer)

Branch: Field Artillery

Hobbies: running, biking, and reading

Why did you come to ASU ROTC?

I love Arizona and the job was available.

What are your goals for the Battalion?

Same as any place I go. I want to see improvement and I want to help these future Lieutenants get ready for this crazy crazy world.

Comments: Excited to work here. After my 20 years in the Army I hope to share my experience with cadets so they can learn.

Cadre Profiles



Name: Lieutenant Colonel Craig Best (MS 4 Cadre)

Branch: Military Police

Hobbies: Martial Arts, weight lifting, and motorcycling

Why did you become a ROTC instructor?

I made the decision when I was in Iraq. I saw some issues with young officers and wanted to have an impact on them based on my experience. And after 5 years of being on active duty I wanted to come here to spend some time with my son.

What are your goals for the Battalion?

My goals are in accordance with PMS. I want to accomplish these set goals in a timely fashion. That includes getting every MS 4 to commission and graduate on time and train the MS 3's to successfully complete LDAC. Bottom line up front train good strong officers for the future.



Name: Captain Elias Otoshi (MS 2 Cadre)

Branch: Armor

Hobbies: Golf, fly fishing, and video games.

Why did you become a ROTC instructor?

I wanted to make a difference on the next generation of Lieutenants. I had a bad ROTC Lieutenant as a Troop Commander and several after that so when the job was offered I thought I could make more of a difference here then if I would have been become a General's Aid.

What are your goals for the Battalion?

Overall I want to commission worthwhile officers so in the future someone can say "hey you sent off a good group of Lieutenants." And I want to continue to train them for their future as officers and make them realize that this is a job about service to your country. I want to make them want that.

More Cadre Profiles to come in next month's issue of *Warrior Spirit!*

Warrior Forge 2009



Warrior Forge 2009



Army sets goals for Year of the NCO

Objectives recognize enlisted leaders' contributions

BY: Jim Tice

Army Times Staff Writer

Senior Army leaders issued an operations order Jan. 7 officially implementing the Year of the NCO, a multifaceted initiative for enhancing and acknowledging NCO contributions to the Army.

In addition to involving the redesign of several institutions and programs, the Year of the NCO will prompt some major policy changes, such as authorizing the wear of NCO rank insignia on the beret and the expansion of civilian education opportunities.



At a joint press conference Jan. 5 at Fort Bliss, Texas, Army Secretary Pete Geren, Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston said they wanted to inform the country, Congress and young people about NCOs, and the career opportunities available to those who join the Army.

In a letter announcing the Year of the NCO, the leaders said, "NCOs are the keepers of our standards, from the recruiting station to basic training, to combat zones, from civil affairs to medicine, to logistics, natural disaster assistance, to graveside attendance at Arlington — whether active, Guard or Reserve, our NCOs take the

lead."

The order (OPORD 08-12-161200) and annexes together total nearly 50 pages.

The document assigns specific tasks to field commands and staff agencies throughout the force in support of the program's four major objectives:

- Enhance the education of the NCO Corps through several initiatives, including the launch of the online Army Career Tracker system; the transformation of the NCO Education System from the Warrior Leader Course to the Sergeants Major Course; an increase in the number of schools participating in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges-Army Degree program; and the establishment of structured and guided self-development programs.

- Enhance physical and mental fitness by implementing a health-screening program in NCO schools, much like that conducted at the Army War College for senior officers, and by establishing master fitness and mental health courses as part of the structured self-development system.

- Enhance leadership skills in the NCO Corps by formalizing the Audie Murphy and Sgt. Morales Club competitions throughout the Army; field a new NCO promotion certificate that will be signed by the secretary of the Army and the chief of staff; establish a four-day pass system that can be used by commanders to recognize outstanding NCOs; and establish an NCO "Wall of Fame" at the Pentagon to identify soldiers who exemplify the competencies, dedication and commitment of the

NCO Corps.

- Launch several "pride in service" initiatives that acknowledge the value of the NCO Corps to the Army and the nation.

Included will be the second publication of "Long Hard Road," a book recounting the contributions of NCOs to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; maintaining a Year of the NCO Web site; authorizing the wear of NCO rank insignia on the beret; changing the name of the Sergeants Major Academy to better reflect its focus on the entire NCO Corps; producing an "Army Strong" television ad that focuses on NCOs; and upgrading the NCO Museum at Fort Bliss, Texas.

While work on the initiatives is underway, dates for implementation have not been announced

Article Courtesy of the Army Times

For more information about the Year of the NCO go to:

<http://www.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.html>

And you can look forward to other articles about NCOs in future issues of the *Warrior Spirit* written by none other than the Sun Devil Battalion's very own NCOs.



The NCO Creed

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!



New Leadership Takes Charge



BY: CDT Sebastian Diaz
MS II

For all incoming and returning Sun Devils, the fall 2009 semester is now well underway. With this new academic year the Sun Devil Battalion has a new senior cadet staff and, with that, a new direction.

The new attitude being brought forth by the senior staff is one that exemplifies pride, accountability, and efficiency.

The new cadet battalion commanding officer (BC) is Cadet Lieutenant Colonel (C/LTC) Lance Bailey. He is currently completing his Bachelors degree in Political Science with a minor in history. Cadet Bailey participated in the Navy's JROTC program in high school and the experience has served him well. The formalities and traditions learned from JROTC have inspired Cadet Bailey to improve the Sun Devil Battalion's current customs and courtesies.

The executive officer (XO), C/Major John Larson, is on his way to completing his degree in Global Studies. He has 4 years of active duty service with the 75th Ranger Regiment, 2nd Ranger Battalion, where he achieved the rank of Corporal.

The C/Command Sergeant Major (C/CSM) Derrick Owensby is not only busy within the ROTC program but also with his Business Management coursework. He served 3 years active duty with the 25 Infantry Division, 3rd Brigade, 2-27 Battalions and earned rank of Sergeant.

The goal of ROTC is to develop competent and responsible officers for the US Army, Army reserves, and National Guard. The battalion leadership hopes to establish an esprit d' corps within the battalion and encourage cadets to excel during their training to be future leaders of America. "I would love to see the junior leadership establish a solid foundation here," said Cadet Bailey.

The Cadet Battalion Commander wants to ensure that cadets' training here at ASU is a learning experience, where they can take the experiences and directly apply them to the Leadership Development and Accessions Course (LDAC) or their future as 2LTs in the US Army.

"My job is to coordinate the vision and goal desired by the BC," said C/ Larson.

It is C/MAJ Larson's responsibility, as second-in-command, to manage and coordinate the MSIV staff. With the large number of senior cadets in the program this year, C/ Larson must ensure the staff is working toward the battalion commanders goals.

"We had a lack of example last year, people need to be held accountable" said C/ Bailey. "Opportunities to develop as leaders are profound with the plethora of resources available. Peers are holding each other accountable and it's no longer just the cadre. Chain of Command is now being heavily implemented and utilized."

Appropriate training is also

being emphasized as the command group strives to achieve a standard that will prepare cadets for what will be expected of them as an Army officer.

"I enforce and maintain the standards of the Army regarding uniform, Physical Training (PT) and On Campus Labs (OCL)," said C/CSM

Owensby

When asked if there are any problems that may hinder the success of the battalion, it came down to a "Lack of optimism" said C/ Bailey or "Scholarly and civilian responsibilities that conflict and take precedence with cadets" said C/ Larson.

C/ Owensby attributed it to, "Improper or missing equipment, the lack of funding that the active duty or even National Guard receives, coordination [that] is complex with Papago Military Depot; ROTC is last in line to receive anything."

This year the staff has grown, and C/ Larson pointed the fact out, "There are more people to spread the workload," he said.

"The staff is and will continue to operate efficiently and professionally," said / Owensby.

This fall, under the new MSIV leadership, the Sun Devil Battalion is headed towards a successful and fun semester that will train its cadets to learn what it means to be a commissioned officer in the US Army.

FEEL THE HEAT!

Coming Up This Month...

PMI 06OCT

BN Ruck March 09OCT

Land Nav Orientation 13OCT

BN Halloween Run 30OCT

And Remember...

The BN FTX is from 6NOV-8NOV, so plan accordingly!

So Far This Semester...



Commander's Corner

BY: LTC Roderick Hammond

Battalion PMS

Welcome back Sun Devils. Although we are well into the Fall Term, the battalion is off to a tremendous start. This year we have seen a 30 percent increase in new ROTC cadets. This is due to a tradition of excellence, esprit de corps, and a willingness to grow and learn as demonstrated by each cadet class. This success is further demonstrated by the 11 LTC and 32 LDAC graduates who returned from a summer filled with quality military training – well done.

I arrived in early July and have been very pleased with the quality of our program and the commitment of cadre and cadet leadership. I expect Army Values to be the cornerstone of how we do business, academic requirements to be paramount, and physical fitness goals to be fueled by personal initiative and motivation. Everyone must realize that this is a leadership development program designed around a four-year core curriculum. As such, we should set expectations for each year group based on class level. Accepting new members into our ranks requires that we implement procedures to receive, socialize, develop, and mentor each year group so that they understand tasks, conditions, and standards. When done correctly, we continue to grow the program, impart standards of conduct, and curb expectations to avoid appearing arrogant.

We have a great semester ahead of us. Two critical events include Ranger Challenge and the Battalion FTX. The Sun Devil Battalion has been selected to host the Ranger Challenge competition on behalf of the 5th Brigade for all Arizona schools. So far, we are expecting more than 90 cadets to arrive at ASU on 16 October. However, we will conduct the majority of the events in Florence, AZ at the Florence Military Reservation. I'm sure we will do well and hope both of our teams bring home a trophy for their respective category of the competition – thanks for your support.

We also look forward to the Desert Ranger and Battalion FTXs. It will be your first big opportunity to showcase the skills learned during class and OCLs. WE will focus the BN FTX on three main events; day and night land navigation, Field Leader's Reaction, and obstacle courses. The FTX is designed to enhance then test individual skills. We will have fun and we will be safe – SAFE FUN.

Sun Devils, let's make this a great and safe year. Please remember to engage your mind and conscience as you conduct a personal risk assessment before attempting acts which could injure you or someone else. Also, I will never tolerate drug or alcohol issues nor let them violate the integrity of our program.

I'd have it no other way that being here in the Valley of the Sun and with the Sun Devil Battalion.

Smile and Hustle – "Feel the Heat!"

Top's Corner

BY: MSG John Garrison

Battalion SMI

As we start this new semester, I want to welcome all the new cadets to the Sun Devil Battalion and welcome back all of you returning back to campus in new leadership positions. Army ROTC is a challenging "class", that demands a lot of your time. In order to assist all cadets, we have launched a mentorship program that we hope will make the demands of college and cadet life easier for you.

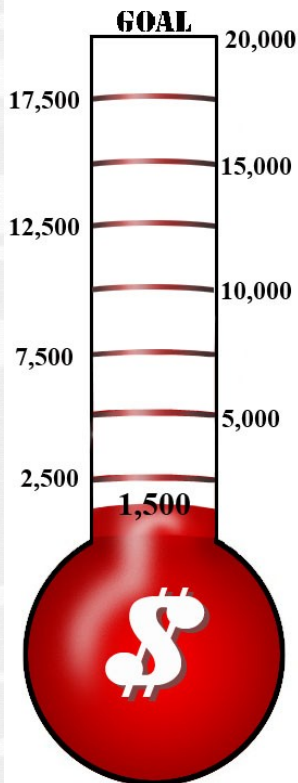
For those cadets who find themselves being mentored by fellow cadets, I encourage you to take advantage of the advice of your mentor. Hopefully, your assigned mentor will have experienced some of the problems that you are faced with now. The advice that you are given ideally will prevent you from making some mistakes and will help you in all areas of your college experience.

For those cadets that are mentoring other cadets, I challenge you to take this responsibility seriously. Your efforts in helping your fellow cadets, closely mirrors what you will be doing as a platoon leader in the Army. Counseling your underclassmen and looking out for their welfare are just a few things you will be expected to do as a leader.

Help Our Battalion

This semester our fundraising officer, C/2LT Kukta is working on getting our battalion events so we can inject some funds back into our account! We currently have \$987 at our disposal, leaving our battalion extremely short on funds. Ask your chain of command, or check blackboard for upcoming events. If you would like to help out our Battalion with a donation, please make checks out to the "ASU Army ROTC Cadet Fund" and send them to:

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