

THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BULLETIN

FALL 2016

THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION VISION: DEVELOP LEADERS OF **CHARACTER** WHO ARE **DISCIPLINED, RESILIENT, AND PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE**

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Falling Into Place

Friends, Family, and Alumni of the Golden Buffalo Battalion: The Fall 2016 Semester has been one of excitement and success for the 151 Cadets in our program. We hope you enjoy this edition of the *Golden Buffalo Bulletin*!

Getting Oriented with the Class of 2020

Being a freshman at CU Boulder is like being thrown into the end of a very deep pool. Being in college without a purpose is like having your meal without taste. The purpose, which resides in the individuals around campus, is what makes it CU Boulder; discipline and resilience make it the CU ROTC program.

The senior students give new high school graduates a myriad of faces to look up to, but it is the personality residing within these students that make Boulder the experience that it is.

It is nearly impossible to tell the difference between two people who have a history of friendship and two random strangers. This automatic courtesy is imparted to everyone due to the intoxicating indigenous campus patrons who care about the future and the wellness of everyone surrounding them.



FIRST YEAR CADETS CONDUCT TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES AT THE ROTC ORIENTATION CAMPING TRIP.

If I had to give advice to an incoming freshman, it would be to experience CU Boulder for a week, and emulate the positive environment surrounding them.

I would also advise to work as hard as you can. The one most important thing I have learned during my first semester in Army ROTC is the ambition and grit it has helped me to show that I have had my entire life, but have not recognized until now. Education is by far the most important aspect of college, but it is followed closely by the experience of finding the best version of myself. Being a freshman at CU Boulder has given me a glimpse of the best person I can be.

Tri-Military Service Competition

The annual Tri-Mil Service Competition took place October 6th on Farrand Field at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Spectators witnessed participants from the Army, Air Force and Navy and Marine Corps ROTC programs compete for the Tri-Mil crown. In combat these sister branches are known for working in conjunction to complete their missions, but on one fall day every year they face each other in spirited and intense physical competition. A contingent from the Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional also competed in the 2016 Tri-Mil in a display of solidarity between Mexico and the U.S.

The events ranged from a litter carry race to an epic tug of war event to conclude the competition. Each event tested the Cadet and Midshipmen's physical and mental toughness, and encouraged them to work together to overcome their collective fatigue.

Army Team 1 secured the victory at the end of the competition with an Air Force and Army team following in second and third respectively. This represents the third year in a row that an Army team has taken home the overall first place prize, and that Army ROTC has won the overall competition.



GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION CADETS CHEER AS THE FIRST PLACE ARMY TEAM IS ANNOUNCED.

Cadet Brunk, an Army ROTC Cadet from Army Team 4, expressed his gratitude for getting the opportunity to compete at the Tri-Mil Service Competition. "I'm extremely proud of how all my Cadets and Midshipmen competed today, and it's great that an Army team could carry on the winning tradition with a third consecutive overall victory. I know every branch looks forward to this competition in the fall, and we'll all continue to train and improve in preparation for next year."

School of Mines Parade

It was a breezy fall morning, where Cadets from Bravo Company anticipated leading the parade for this year's Colorado School of Mines Homecoming. This year was different from most, where Cadets were on campus for the festivities as opposed to at their Fall Leadership Training Exercise (LTX), which usually occurred at either Fort Carson or Jack's Valley. This year, Cadets not only watched the festivities, but had the opportunity to participate.

Approximately thirty cadets formed up to march in the parade, each wearing ACU's and anticipating the orders called by the Platoon Sergeant and the cadences sung. As 9 AM approached, Bravo Company formed up, executed a left face, and then followed the police car that was escorting them to the beginning of the parade loop.



*COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES ARMY ROTC CADETS
LEAD THE 2016 HOMECOMING PARADE.*

The two Cadets that had the responsibility to hold the "Army ROTC" sign led the formation, reiterating what the civilian population knew already. Upon passing the President's house, Bravo Company stopped, rendered salutes to the president, and then continued on the parade path.

Marching in formation is an activity that requires not only concentration, but also a fair amount of self-awareness. Anybody can walk, anybody can march with a bit of practice, but it takes a special kind of awareness to march well in formation. Marching shows discipline with Cadets making every effort to stay in step with their leader, the Cadets next to them, and those that are in front of them. Several MSIV's were tasked to sing cadences, and upon hearing them, it transported each MSIV and those that had the opportunity to train at Fort Knox, KY, back to the previous summer. Cadet Bolstad, an MSII, when asked what training was like at Fort Knox responded bluntly. "It was tiring, grueling, long, arduous, and most importantly informative. You do not go to CIET (Cadet Initial Entry Training) or CLC (Cadet Leadership Course) to have fun, you go to learn." Cadences not only allowed for time to pass quickly, but it allowed for Cadets to bond with strangers from all over the country and

Upon completion of the parade loop, Cadets from Bravo Company felt a sense of. This year in particular, the Golden community has displayed an overwhelming amount of support for the Mines Army ROTC program. The feeling of relief stemmed from completing a task that many had never done before with the exception of those who were in marching band and similar extracurricular activities. The privilege to lead this year's homecoming parade is a memory and experience that will stay with Bravo Company Cadets for years to come, and who knows, maybe it will become a tradition.

Fall FTX

This fall, Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion traveled to the Centennial Training Center at Fort Carson to develop the skills they need to be prepared for the future careers in the Army.

Cadets began the FTX with a series of Land Navigation courses over a twelve square kilometer course. The Cadets conducted these exercises during both day and night, and developed dead reckoning and terrain association techniques. Land navigation forces Cadets to rely on combining several disciplines and fundamentals together in order to find their points.



SIMULATED CASUALTIES ARE EVACUATED DURING MEDICAL TRAINING AT THE FALL FTX.

Using purely mathematical azimuth shooting creates issues due to the rough terrain, weather, and human error. Cadets who thought critically and applied techniques such as terrain association and route planning achieved far more success than the Cadets who worked purely by classroom methods. This event established a theme for the entirety of this exercise, where resiliency and the ability to think critically were far more important than pure doctrinal knowledge.

The second day of FTX began with a series of stations designed to teach Cadets the fundamentals of medical care, basic tactics, and rifle marksmanship. Cadets from Ranger Challenge also practiced with M9 pistols in addition to M4 rifle practice shooting at the marksmanship range. Cadets also practiced raids using paintball guns and squad tactics to engage enemies in a complex operating environment.



LAND NAVIGATION REQUIRES CADETS TO MOVE THROUGH A DESIGNATED COURSE USING ONLY A MAP, COMPASS, AND PROTRACTOR.

During the medical training, various fundamental techniques for treating combat wounds were practiced, principally tourniquet application, dressings, buddy carries, and hypotension pneumothorax treatment. While the actual application of the various techniques taught at these stations were not necessarily applicable to the Cadet's future careers, the critical thinking skills and ability to work past adversity are universal. The second day appeared to end with a buffet and a screening of *Saving Private Ryan*.

This screening was interrupted with a sudden readiness drill and movement. Cadets, already worn out with the rigorous training from the last few hours, struggled to their feet and prepared for even more challenges. The night began with a run to the first set of stations and various exercises. When asked about the intensity of this part of FTX, Cadet Isgar (of Bravo Company?) stated: "The night-time resiliency training was a challenge, but since Cadets had a tough mindset there wasn't even a notion of quitting within my squad."

The night's exercises went on until nearly four in the morning, when Cadets, tired and worn out, came back to the barracks to get a few sweet hours of sleep at long last. While the weekend had been long and rigorous, there was a near universal feeling among Cadets that they were proud of working through the adversity and pushing their limits beyond what they thought they were capable of.

Ranger Challenge

For the second year in a row, the Golden Buffalo Battalion's Ranger Challenge Alpha Team qualified for the 5th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition by taking first place at the regional competition at Camp Williams, Utah. Two Golden Buffalo Battalion teams comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior Cadets took on schools from the Rocky Mountain region during three day-long event, which tested the participants both physically and mentally.

Ranger Challenge events include a timed foot march with loaded rucksack, marksmanship, first aid, weapons assembly/disassembly, one-rope bridge, Physical Fitness Test, and Leader's Reaction Course.



The Ranger Challenge Alpha Team went on to the 5th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition to compete for a chance to represent the brigade at the USMA Sandhurst Competition in the spring.

"[Ranger Challenge] can definitely be intimidating, but I never let that deter me from participating in something that I knew could help me grow. Physically and mentally I saw myself become a stronger person and leader." - Cadet Madison Starck.

*GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION CADETS CONDUCT AN EVENT
AT THE 2016 5TH BRIGADE RANGER CHALLENGE*

Military Appreciation Game

On November 19th, the #10 Colorado Buffaloes played the #22 Washington State Cougars in the Military Appreciation Football Game to a crowd of over 52,000 at Folsom Field in Boulder.

As part of the Military Appreciation Game tradition, Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March Cadets were honored during the game. An open house for game attendees and Golden Buffalo Battalion Alumni was held in the Army ROTC Lounge during halftime, reconnecting the alumni to the program.



CADETS REPRESENTING THE 2016 RANGER CHALLENGE AND BATAAN TEAMS ARE HONORED DURING THE CU MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME.

Mission Set 2017 Accessions

For the 2017 Fiscal Year, 27 MSIV and MSV Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion will commission in to the United States Army. Of the 27 Cadets in the FY 17 Mission Set, 14 Cadets assessed Active Duty, 6 Army National Guard, and 7 Army Reserve. 8 Cadets received the Distinguished Military Graduate honor as part of the top 20% of their cohort and 4 assessed within the top 10% of all nationally rated Active Duty Cadets.

* denotes Distinguished Military Graduate

** denotes Distinguished Military Graduate and top 10% of Active Duty Cadets

EOCC denotes End of Camp Commission 2LT

AUSTRIAN, Robert -- ARNG
 ARRINGTON, Michael -- USAR
 BEHNKEN, Michaela -- ARNG*
 BOGART IV, Adrian -- Active Duty**
 BOJKOVIC, Besim -- USAR
 BRINK, Eric -- Active Duty EOCC*
 BROWN, Luke -- Active Duty
 CALLAHAN, Patrick -- Active Duty
 FIELD, Stephen -- USAR
 GARDI, Marco -- USAR
 HILL, Emily -- Active Duty*
 JACOBS, Trevor -- Active Duty
 KRAMER, Vincent -- USAR
 LEE, Adam -- Active Duty**

LEEDOM, Ryan -- Active Duty
 LINEHAN, Sean -- Active Duty*
 MEDALLON, Marilyn -- ARNG
 NUICH, Heather -- USAR
 PETTIGREW, James -- ARNG
 PHELAN, Ryan -- ARNG
 RICKEL, Lonnie -- Active Duty**
 ROBINSON, Brooke -- Active Duty**
 ROSENBLATT, Nathan -- Active Duty
 RUDER, Justin -- USAR
 SHIMA, Emmanuel -- Active Duty EOCC
 THOMAS, Rae -- Active Duty
 VANDERVEGT, Nicholas -- ARNG



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The Golden Buffalo Battalion

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<http://inside.mines.edu/MIL-Home>

<https://www.msudenver.edu/arotc/>

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The Golden Buffalo Battalion



Instagram:

@golden_buffalo_battalion



Program Support

Our Cadets rely on your generous donations to help offset costs associated with events such as Commissioning and Awards ceremonies, annual Dining-Out, Military Appreciation/Veteran's Day events, leadership labs, orientation events, Cadet Participation in Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March, and summer leadership training programs. Without your support, we would not be able to take advantage of these great developmental opportunities for our aspiring officers.

To donate online, please visit

<http://www.colorado.edu/arotc/support-arotc>

To make a check donation, please make your check payable to the CU Foundation and in the Memo section, state "Army ROTC Program Fund #0121348."

Please mail all checks to the following address: University of Colorado Foundation P.O. Box 17126 Denver, CO 80217-9155

To make a donation to Colorado School of Mines AROTC, please make check payable to CSM Foundation, and in the Memo section state "645188 Military Science Development", as well as the purpose for your donation.

If you have questions, please call 303-273-3275. All checks should be mailed to the following address: CSM Foundation 1232 W. Campus Road, Building 4 Golden, CO 80401

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CADETS CONDUCT A TACTICS LANE DURING THE FALL FTX. A CADET DESCENDS DURING THE RAPPEL LAB IN BOULDER.