



THE

GOLDEN BUFFALO BULLETIN

FALL 2017

*THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION DEVELOPS 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 2017 Semester has been one of excitement and success for the 179 Cadets in our program. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Golden Buffalo Bulletin!

Freshmen Orientation 2017

The weekend before classes start in fall semester upper classmen of the Golden Buffalo Battalion host an orientation event for prospective freshmen Cadets. Incoming Cadets were invited to join a few representative upperclassmen on a camping trip in order to welcome them, build connections with their soon-to-be peers, and establish the basic principles of the Golden Buffalo Battalion. The weekend began with the mentally and physically challenging High Ropes Course at CU Boulder. Cadets worked in teams to complete several physical obstacles with complicated solutions. New Cadets also pushed their limits by donning harnesses and helmets and climbing up obstacles several stories high.

The atmosphere of excitement and teamwork was followed by an evening of games, storytelling, and getting to know one another around the campfire. They experienced their first fire guard and had the opportunity to sleep under the stars in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. Overall it was a fun way for the freshmen to get to know one another and learn what to expect going forward in ROTC.

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Incoming Cadets enjoyed good weather and camaraderie during their orientation. The Golden Buffalo Battalion hopes to make the camping trip a yearly tradition to welcome new students into our unique, tightly-knit program. When asked what he thought about the orientation, CDT Everaert (Freshmen, University of Colorado at Boulder) replied, “It really prepared me for entering the semester and the program. It was a good opportunity to meet fellow Cadets and get a feel for the program.”

Tri-Military Competition

The United States Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps often work hand in hand in joint operations. The Golden Buffalo invites our sister service branches to take part in an annual competition. Spectators are provided an opportunity to witness what is a truly remarkable show of strength, endurance, and teamwork. The prize? The honor of displaying the coveted Tri-Mil Trophy in their lounge. The competition encompasses events and challenges designed to test physical endurance, ranging from buddy carries to push-up and sit-up lines, along with team log carries. The competition tests the toughness, mental fortitude, and teamwork of all the Cadets and Midshipmen who put forth a valiant, hard-fought effort. In the end, Army emerged victorious yet again – making it the fourth year in a row. Cadet Sullivan led the winning Army ROTC Team to a landslide victory.

**Cadet Sullivan carrying his team to triumph*



**Freshmen Cadets opening their first MRE's*



**For many of the freshmen, this was their first time sleeping in an Army issued sleep system*



Tri-Military Competition Photos



**Army Cadets lining up for the tug-of-war*



**Cadet Maroney crushing the push-up line*



**A photo taken at the moment the Army Cadets were announced as the winners*

Fall FTX

This Fall, Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion traveled to Jack's Valley at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO in order to develop their leadership attributes needed to become successful Army Officers. The focus of the training exercise was to hone senior Cadets' critical thinking and leadership skills, while providing freshmen an introduction to problem solving through experiential learning scenarios.

The Cadets began their Friday afternoon with day land navigation over a twelve kilometer course where they advanced their skills in dead reckoning and terrain association. Armed with only

a map, compass, and a protractor, Cadets were forced to trust in themselves and their tools to successfully find their points.

On Saturday, the Golden Buffalo Battalion Cadets cycled through three stations: the Field Leadership Reaction Course, both obstacle and confidence courses, and a firing range where they honed basic marksmanship skills including zeroing and



**Cadets exercising their critical thinking abilities during a Field Leadership Reaction Course*

qualifying. The training became increasingly difficult as the day wore on the temperature dropped and heavy rain persisted until late into the evening. Although all of the Cadets displayed discipline and grit, there was one standout. Cadet Mathis displayed outstanding leadership and motivated his squad through the obstacle course in record time. His team would go on to be announced the winning squad of the day time events.

Saturday night ended with a collection

of skits prepared by the Cadets, which ended the day on a high note as we laughed and applauded the various presentation of what people expect from ROTC against the realities of being a Cadet in the program.

At 2100, LTC Roof called all the squad leaders in and gave them one final mission. Squads were provided a grid coordinate and briefed the enemy forces (aka the winning squad from earlier in the day) was on the lookout for them. The mission was to evade CDT Mathis' squad and move to the provided grid coordinate to receive follow on orders.



**Cadet Keenan low crawling through the dirt*



**Cadet Michou successfully crossing the slippery one-rope-bridge in the rain*

Cadets moved as quietly as possible as the goal was to avoid being found.

Five hours of noise and light discipline later, all of the squads found themselves at their final destination, which included hot chow and a bonfire to warm themselves with Johnny Cash playing in the background.

At 0100, when all of the Cadets arrived at the bonfire, LTC Roof swore in the newest contracted Cadets of the Golden Buffalo Battalion. This provided every Cadet with an extremely memorable experience for Fall FTX.



**Cadets swearing in after conducting evasion training during the Fall FTX*

Ranger Challenge

This year, through the leadership of Cadet Sullivan and the hard work all of the Cadets on the Ranger Challenge Team, the team placed second during the regional competition. Once again, it was another demonstration of hard-fought effort. The Ranger Challenge competition is about personal and professional development as a Cadet, leader, and person. The rigorous six-day-a-week physical training was more than worth it as Cadet Wiesehuegel explains, “Participation in the Ranger Challenge training and competition is always a great way to test and grow your leadership and physical skills in a small team setting. Everyone is there to get after it and being in this setting of a highly motivated and dedicated team does not fail to make you better than when you started. During the competition, there is a designated leader, but everyone has the chance to step up if they are especially proficient in the task at hand. This fluid team leadership is a great opportunity to test and grow yourself as a leader. When you sign up for Ranger Challenge, you are also signing up for hands on experience with weapons, land navigation, combat medical care, and curveball knowledge like poncho rafts and rope bridges. The most rewarding part of Ranger Challenge is gaining a more intimate knowledge of everything in the ROTC program.”

Zombie Run

The morning of October 31st marks one of the few mornings that Cadets are excited to wake up to the 0445 alarm. At Alpha Company, the Cadets fall into formation sporting their best costumes. A few are designated as the “zombies,” And at signal, “GO,” Cadets scatter to hiding spots around campus with the “zombies” right on their tail. Once tagged, the Cadet becomes a zombie. After 45 minutes in hiding, the best hiding spots are called to make their attempt back to the buffalo statue outside of Folsom Stadium.



**Alpha Company group photo after final formation*

Zombie Run (cont.)

This year's best hiding spot award goes to Cadets Dominic, Gorman, and Campbell. Without giving away their well-kept secret, it involved more than one climbing ladder, a jump, a perilous ascent, and forty minutes of sitting in the cold.

The best costume award resulted in a tie between Cadet Park and Cadet Mathis. The Zombie Run is one of the Cadets' favorite PT events. One tradition that will certainly remain for years to come.



**Cadet Dahm waiting on one of the balconies outside the Cadet Lounge listening for his signal to climb in*



**Cadet Park as "Big Baby" (an eight-foot inflatable baby costume that rendered him unable to see for the entirety of the run)*



**Cadet Mathis as his favorite historical figure.*

10th Special Forces Group Mountaineering Training

This year, Cadets had the opportunity to train with the 10th Special Forces Group at Ft. Carson. The training was broken down into three days: orientation, rock drills (rehearsals), and mission execution. On the first day, Cadets learned the basics of mountaineering which encompassed knot tying, climbing instruction, rappelling lanes, and instruction on how to properly tie a rappelling harness out of a length of rope. On day two, they were briefed their mission and began rehearsals. Their mission was to ascend a mountain and rescue a downed helicopter pilot. They practiced movement techniques specifically tailored for traversing mountainous terrain with a casualty as well as infiltration and exfiltration techniques. At the end of day two, the execution phase began with initiating movement at dusk and lasted late into the following morning. The mission was completed 17 hours later when the downed pilot was recovered.

Cadet Gorman was one of the Cadets to try his hand at 72 hours with the Special Forces Soldiers of 10th Special Forces Group. He states, “It was definitely not for the weak of heart. It wasn’t so much that I gained a ton of technical knowledge about the Army, but I learned how to dig deep. That was the biggest thing there, learning how to put one foot in front of the other.” Despite the difficulty of the training, Cadet Gorman goes on to explain how beneficial it was to watch the Special Forces Soldiers in their environment. Not only did their tactical and technical expertise impress him, but their professionalism, discipline, and high level of respect among each other that really impacted him. He says, “Every single [Soldier] knew every aspect of the mission, and once [a Soldier] gave up his position he quickly fell back and followed the orders from the new commander with the utmost resilience and discipline.” Although Cadet Gorman had to undergo 72 hours without sleep while walking miles in the mountains with upwards of 60lbs on his back, it was a great experience for him and he learned a lot which he plans on sharing with the Golden Buffalo Battalion.



**Cadets preparing to execute their mission during 10th Special Forces Group mountaineering training*

December 2017 Commissioning List

Congratulations to the following cadets as they commission this December.

Jacob Roberson, University of Colorado, Boulder. Roberson's commissioning ceremony will be held at the Cadet Lounge, Folsom Football Stadium, Gate 3, 2nd floor, Boulder, Colorado, on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Besim Bojkovic University of Colorado, Denver
Tyler Brown, Colorado School of Mines
Zachary Doom, Colorado School of Mines
John Kater, Colorado School of Mines
James Pettigrew, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Emily Quaranta, Colorado School of Mines
Kristen Smith, Colorado School of Mines
Erik Trenary, Colorado School of Mines

These cadets will be commissioning together Friday, December 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sixth Floor Auditorium, MillerCoors Brewery Office Complex. Golden, Colorado

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Daughters of the American Revolution for donating flag boxes with flags that have been flown over the US Capital for each of the commissioning Cadets.

Mission Set 2018 Component Results

Active Duty

Brown-Malone, Eric - Active Duty
Brunk, Galen - Active Duty-ED Delay Pending
Daly, Brent - Active Duty
Hinton, Joseph - Active Duty
Hughbanks, Aaron - Active Duty
Jackson, Keith - Active Duty
Leicester, Maxwell - Active Duty
McCormick, David - Active Duty
Patch, Cooper - Active Duty
Roberson, Jacob - Active Duty
Sheneman, Andrew - Active Duty
Sobczak, Lucas - Active Duty
Soper, John - Active Duty

Army National Guard

Brown, Tyler - ARNG
Burns, Christian - ARNG
Doom, Zachary - ARNG
Frazier, Brendon - ARNG
Kang, Eric - ARNG
Kraft, Eli - ARNG
Trenary, Erik - ARNG
Smith, Kristen - ARNG
Truong, Wesley - ARNG

US Army Reserves

Jones, Germain - USAR
Kater, John - USAR
Lebaron, Christopher - USAR
Lee, Peter - USAR
Mendoza, Juan - USAR
Pfluger, Grace - USAR
Presgrove, Lauren - USAR
Quaranta, Emily - USAR
Reiter, Joseph - USAR

The Army ROTC Experience

A person looking around a college campus cannot help but notice every student experiencing college in their own unique way. For an Army ROTC Cadet, that couldn't be more true. Even as ROTC life differs when Cadets find themselves waking up at 4:30 in the morning while their fellow students lay comfortably in their bed, it continues to differ in ways many Cadets never expected. They extend the normal college experience by running marathons they never thought themselves capable of, building lifelong friendships through rigorous training and competing as a cohesive team, and getting their first taste of Army life through ROTC and historical customs like the Military Ball and Dining-Outs. For Cadets, these enrichment opportunities become invaluable towards their personal and professional development while on the road to becoming Army Officers. On campus, they are students who are not only prepared for anything life throws at them, but are able to confidently lead others into that fray as well. As a Cadet, they are becoming future leaders of character who are disciplined, resilient, and prepared for the future. Please help CU Boulder continue to offer these experiences for their students for many years to come.

Program Support

The University of Colorado Boulder relies on your generous support to provide the experiential learning opportunities to help offset costs associated with events such as Commissioning, 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.

Please visit our website to learn more about how your support directly benefits the Golden Buffalo Battalion Cadets.

<http://www.colorado.edu/arotc/support-arotc> and https://www.colorado.edu/crowdfunding/?cf-page=project&project_id=16495

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.