

THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BULLETIN

Spring 2017

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

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Friends, Family, and Alumni of the Golden Buffalo Battalion: The Spring 2017 Semester has been one of excitement and success for the 150 Cadets in our program. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Golden Buffalo Bulletin!

The Amazing Race: Golden

On a chilly Saturday morning in January, Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion gathered at the Colorado School of Mines campus in Golden for the third annual Amazing Race event. They knew from past events generally what to expect, as the events are modelled after the TV show of the same name.

This particular event consisted of a photo-scavenger-hunt-foot-race to visit area landmarks, with leadership or tactical challenges littered throughout the course. What they did not expect was the intensity; over the six hours of the event, teams ran over fifteen miles cumulative distance, summiting all three major terrain features in the Golden area including a challenging three-mile hill climb up Lookout Mountain and both North and South Table Mesa.

Physical difficulties aside, the Superlab was an exercise in critical thinking and mental agility. The race's stations, led by battalion cadre members, included tasks such as surprise pop quizzes and rappelling demonstrations. The battalion also received enormous civilian support. Runner's High, a local athletics retailer, and Greek life from the School of Mines were involved in assisting with the event.

Despite these fantastic training opportunities, two aspects of the training event particularly stuck out for attendees. Perhaps the largest surprise of the day was the incorporation of Twitter into the photo scavenger hunt, allowing Cadets to post their successes in real time



*CADETS CLIMBED LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN AS PART OF
ADVENTURE RACE: GOLDEN*

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for the event judges to grade. Another pleasant surprise came in the form of the Metro State Women's Volleyball Team, who attended the training lab and competed against the Army teams in a public display of support.

All finishing teams were greeted when they finished with hot pizza, and the winning team was awarded with the new battalion t-shirt and infinite bragging rights.

Jacks Valley Superlab

On April 8th at Jack's Valley training area in Colorado Springs, Cadets were tasked with demonstrating their tactical competence and ability to make decisions in a stressful environment. Over the course of a twelve-hour training day, Cadets at every level could be found moving in formation through the forests of the Air Force Academy.

Divided into platoon sized elements and armed with paintball guns, they were ordered to seek out and destroy the enemy outposts littered throughout the area.



Cadets from the Mountain Ranger Battalion in Colorado Springs, playing the enemy, however, were ready and waiting. From ambushes to surprise attacks to well-coordinated assaults, the Cadets of the Golden Buffalo Battalion fought their way through to their objectives over the course of the afternoon.

CDT. NAZARETH NG (LEFT), PROVIDES INSTRUCTION FOR HIS FIRETEAM DURING THE JACKS VALLEY SUPERLAB

For many of the freshmen, this event was their first real exposure to platoon tactics, so anticipation was high. Fortunately, due to excellent planning and rehearsals, they were able to move and react as a unit, and the entire operation was deemed a success.

Following the conclusion of the day's official events, Cadets from the three companies in the Golden Buffalo Battalion presented an original skit poking fun at the Cadre and life as an ROTC Cadet. Morale was high on the return drive to Boulder as the Battalion shifted its focus to the Spring FTX looming on the horizon.

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Military Ball 2017

Golden Buffalo Battalion Cadets pride themselves as being a part of one of the top ROTC programs in the nation. Being in the program involves military courses, physical training, tactical labs, and field exercises. However, it is not an all work and no play environment.



THE OMNI INTERLOCKEN HOTEL IN BROOMFIELD, COLORADO

Cadets enjoyed their Military Ball at the Omni Interlocken Resort Hotel in Broomfield, Colorado. The battalion enjoyed a formal dinner in the company of old and new friends to recognize the outstanding achievement of Cadets throughout year.

During the awards ceremony, scholarship were awarded to Cadets who have shown distinctive skill, commitment, and high achievement within ROTC. The event also held a branch pinning ceremony for the MSIV Cadets commissioning as 2nd Lieutenants at the end of the school year.

An amusing addition to MilBall was a prize drawing with a number of exciting prizes. These included kitchenware, bullet shaped beverage stones, and gift cards. This event allowed Cadets to build camaraderie and celebrate the end of a successful year.

“Military Ball allowed me to have fun and be proud of everything the battalion has accomplished alongside the company of my peers.” --- Wong, Brandan MSI Cadet



CDTS. JOHN SOMERS, ERIC KANG, AND MICHAEL PELLETIERE PREPARE TO ENTER THE MILITARY BALL

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Keeping it in the Family

In the Golden Buffalo Battalion, Army ROTC is a family affair. Two sets of brothers, the Dahms and Sobczaks, are currently in the program as Cadets, providing a unique take on the old adage “brothers in arms”.

Cdt. Andrew Dahm (MSIII CU Boulder) said “Growing up in the same household we learned what it meant to show respect, act appropriately in the right situations, and have fun. We mutually understand that we need to respect the roles we are in and know the boundaries of being brothers.”

Both sets of siblings are very close with their brothers and the respect they have for each other is evident. I have observed after spending time with these Cadets that they are focused on developing their siblings. Luke Sobczak (MSIII Colorado Christian University) said “We have matured together, made bad decisions together, and traveled the world together, so it only seems fitting to continue this journey where I can oversee and facilitate his growth”. All the Cadets said that one of the best parts about being in ROTC together is the time and experiences that they are able to share, such as the Bataan Memorial Death March for the Dahm brothers, who took 1st and 2nd place in their class.



BOTH NOAH (LEFT) AND DREW (RIGHT) DAHM PARTICIPATED IN THE BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH



JOSHUA (LEFT) AND LUKE (RIGHT) SOBCHAK ON A RECENT TRIP TOGETHER

Having a sibling in the program isn't without hardships, however. Cdt. Noah Dahm (MSI CU Boulder) said that “the hardest part is having such an impressive Cadet as a brother ... there is no doubt [that there] is an ever-present thought and an ever-present standard I'm held to.” But he goes on to explain that his brother doesn't define who he is and that he strives to achieve his own goals independently. Cdt. Luke Sobczak said that for him the hardest part was not stepping in when he had a feeling his brother may run into a problem. “It is far more beneficial for his development to allow him to make mistakes and learn.”

Spring FTX

Once a semester, the Golden Buffalo Battalion comes together for a three-day Field Training Exercise (FTX). This semester, the event took place at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, where the Golden Buffalo Battalion was joined by Cadets from Colorado State University.

Upon arrival at Fort Carson, Cadets were flown via UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Butts Army Airfield to the training area. Once at the training area, M4 carbines and blanks were issued to the Cadets, then Cadets from both programs were divided (around 25-30 Cadets per platoon) of Cadets from both the Golden Buffalo Battalion and Colorado State University.



CADETS ENGAGE OPPOSING FORCE MEMBERS DURING DAY 2 OF THE FTX

From Friday afternoon until early Sunday morning, Cadets conducted continuous tactical lanes against an opposing force composed of senior Cadets armed with paintball guns. On Friday, what had been a beautiful day turned into high winds and rain, culminating in freezing rain and snow in the early hours of Saturday morning. Newer Cadets to both programs had to adjust on the fly to sleeping outside in the elements after having been in barracks during the previous few field training exercises.

After a couple hours of sleep Friday night, Cadets resumed tactical lanes on Saturday, completing reconnaissance, raid, and ambush lanes before the exercise ended early Sunday morning. On Sunday morning, Cadets got a hot breakfast, cleaned rifles, and headed back to their respective schools.



UH-60 BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS PREPARE TO MOVE CADETS TO CAMP RED DEVIL

Bataan Memorial Death March

During the Spring semester of this year, 63 Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion began training for an immense mental and physical challenge: the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The march, a 26.2 mile trek through the New Mexico sand and heat, is a grueling event meant to honor those who endured the Bataan Death March in World War II. Cadets competed in two categories: carrying 40 pound rucks as a “heavy” participant or running the entire distance as a “light” participant.

The training for Bataan is intensive, and requires Cadets to train six days a week for most of the semester. This training clearly paid off, as Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion took the first place finish for the sixth

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*1ST PLACE ROTC HEAVY, GOLDEN BUFFALO
BATTALION BRAVO TEAM*

year in a row. Cadets placed 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 16th out of 33 in the “heavy” category, and 2nd in the “light” category. Freshman Madison Starck saw the benefit of the training on her physical ability; she says she enjoyed keeping up with, and sometimes passing, active duty soldiers during the event. The march is an intense physical struggle, but Cadets feel a sense of pride and brotherhood finishing the race. Team captain and 3-year participant Andrew Dahm comments:

“Bataan has changed my life 3 times, and each time I have taken away a greater respect for the men and women who have served and are serving in the US military and for those who have fought through tremendous pain for our country, especially the Battling Bastards of Bataan.”

Cadets of the Golden Buffalo Battalion who participated in Bataan demonstrated a tremendous commitment, impressive mental toughness, loyalty, and respect toward the United States Military. Congratulations, Bataan finishers. Your hard work honors those who came before you and sets the example for those to come.

Thank You and Best Wishes

At the end of each semester the Golden Buffalo Battalion bids farewell to the graduating seniors as they earn their commission and prepare to take on their role as officers in the United States Army. This semester the battalion will say goodbye to two additional members of the program.

Maj. Ashkan Angha and Master Sgt.

Jason Mortensen have served as the Senior Assistant Professor of Military Science and the Senior Military

Science Instructor, respectively, over the past two years and will now be moving on to other assignments.

Their contributions to the Golden Buffalo Battalion have undoubtedly left a positive impact on the Cadets and program as a whole, and both will be greatly missed.



MAJ. ANGHA (LEFT) AND MASTER SGT. JASON MORTENSEN (RIGHT)

Maj. Angha and Master Sgt. Mortensen, on behalf of the Golden Buffalo Battalion, we thank you.

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Spring 2017 Commissioning

For the 2017 Spring Semester, 18 MSIV and MSV Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion will commission into the United States Army as Second Lieutenants. Of these 18 Cadets, 11 Cadets will be commissioning Active Duty, 4 Army National Guard, and 3 Army Reserves. 7 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

AUSTRIAN, Robert – ARNG, Field Artillery
 BEHNKEN, Michaela -- ARNG*, Engineers
 BOGART IV, Adrian -- Active Duty**, Infantry
 BROWN, Luke -- Active Duty, Military Intelligence
 FIELD, Stephen – USAR, Military Intelligence
 HILL, Emily -- Active Duty*, Air Defense
 JACOBS, Trevor -- Active Duty, Field Artillery
 LEE, Adam -- Active Duty**, Armor
 LEEDOM, Ryan -- Active Duty, Field Artillery

LINEHAN, Sean -- Active Duty*, Infantry
 MEDALLON, Marilyn – ARNG, Medical Services
 NUICH, Heather – USAR, Medical Services
 PHELAN, Ryan – ARNG, Chemical
 RICKEL, Lonnie -- Active Duty**, Infantry
 ROBINSON, Brooke -- Active Duty**, Cyber
 ROSENBLATT, Nathan -- Active Duty, Air Defense
 RUDER, Justin – USAR, Military Police
 VANDERVEGT, Nicholas – Active Duty, Infantry



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Contact Us

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



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@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

Contacts & Resources

University of Colorado Boulder

Department of Military Science

215 Folsom Stadium, Gate 3

Boulder, CO 80309

303-492-6495

Colorado School of Mines

Department of Military Science

1232 W. Campus Rd

Golden, CO 80401

303-273-338

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Department of Military Science

633 Curtis St, Trailer MO-1

Denver, CO 80204

303-352-7419

Authors, Editors, and Special Thanks

The Spring 2017 Golden Buffalo Bulletin would not be possible without the following individuals:

Battalion S5 Liaisons: Cdt. Seraphine Nguyen, Cdt. Ira Weyand

Newsletter Authors: Cdt. Samantha Basgall, Cdt. Michael Harris, Cdt. John Kater, Cdt. Seraphine Nguyen, Cdt. Ryan Phelan

Newsletter Editors: Cdt. Heather Nuich, Cdt. Ryan Phelan

S5 Photography Coordinator: Cdt. Emily Hill

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CADETS CONDUCT A PATROL DURING THE SPRING FTX.