Greetings from the Green Mountain Battalion! We hope you have all had a wonderful winter and are starting to enjoy the spring season as we approach the end of another great school year. As graduation and commissioning draw near for our seniors, our juniors are preparing for Cadet Advanced Camp this summer and to take over the organization in August. The sophomore class is eager to take on more responsibility within the battalion and the first year class has grown more confident with almost a full year of ROTC under their belt. This issue of the Catamount Digest includes training and organizational event highlights from the Spring 2017 semester. Enjoy!
Battalion Dining-In

Written by CDT Kyle Walsh

The Dining-In is a formal dinner function for members of a military organization or unit. This custom can be traced to an old Viking tradition of celebrating victorious battles with a formal feast. Over the years the custom spread to England and was adopted by the British military. World Wars I and II brought the American and British militaries together, where the tradition was adopted by the American Army.

The Green Mountain Battalion conducts an annual Dining-In to strengthen the bond between members of the unit. This year’s Dining-In Ceremony was held on February 10th at the Air National Guard facility in Burlington, VT. Cadet Joe Krayewsky served as the function’s “Mr. Vice,” facilitating the ceremony. Over the course of the evening, Cadets looked back at the previous semester’s events and celebrated their accomplishments together. Cadets performed skits, stand-up comedy routines, and presented parody skits to reflect on previous accomplishments humorously. The event also provided the opportunity to take a look back on the rich history of the Green Mountain Battalion as a reminder of the bonds that have been created.

Cadets Joe Krayewsky and Logan Whorton perform a musical parody as part of the evenings entertainment.
Written by CDT Liam Brown

Thanks to the proximity of the GMB to the Army Mountain Warfare School, Cadets often have the opportunity to complete training courses run by the school. Over the winter break, Cadets Eric Mattia, Kyle Muhr, and Liam Brown traveled to the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, VT. There, the three completed two weeks of training. CDTs Mattia and Muhr completed the Basic Military Mountaineering Course (Winter) and CDT Brown completed the Advanced Military Mountaineering Course (Winter).

In the Basic Course, CDTs Mattia and Muhr trained alongside over 60 officers and Soldiers of the National Guard, Reserves, and Active Army, other Cadets, and even an Air Force officer. These basic course students received classes and hands on training in skills like ice climbing, rappelling, basic knot tying, the construction of rope systems, land navigation, casualty evacuation, and high angle shooting.

In the Advanced Course, CDT Brown focused on more complicated tasks like how to lead climb on ice, plan mountaineering routes through complex terrain, evacuate casualties in vertical terrain, conduct confined space exploration, and rescue victims buried under avalanches or trapped in crevasses.

At the graduation ceremony, it was revealed that CDT Mattia was the Honor Graduate of the Basic Course, scoring 998 points out of 1000 during the two week course. CDT Muhr also provided an impressive performance, scoring over 900 points. CDT Brown was chosen as the Honor Graduate of the Advanced Course.
Over spring break in March, 12 Cadets traveled to Fort Drum, New York to attend the Mountain Athlete Warrior (MAW) Course and train alongside members of the 10th Mountain Division. This was the GMB’s first opportunity to send Cadets to the course where they had the chance to learn the important factors of creating, implementing, and leading a well-balanced workout.

The mission of the MAW is to provide education and training that optimize the physical and mental development and sustainment of the individual Soldier. The course consisted of both classroom presentations and training in several workout facilities at Fort Drum.

After completing the course, the 12 Cadets were certified to develop and lead Army Physical Readiness Training. The Cadets also had the opportunity to experience daily life on an active duty Army post.

Mountain Athlete Warrior Course

Written by CDT Timothy Faulkner

During the MAW Course Cadets learn how to complete and lead various workout routines and learn the important role proper nutrition plays to maintain physical fitness. Cadets also had the opportunity to explore Fort Drum, New York.

Mountain Warrior Athletes: CDTs Travis DeForge, Cody Dolloff, Timothy Faulkner, Michael Hall, Leo McCarthy, Kyle Muhr, Samuel Parizo, Madison Slater, Jonathan Tetreault, Tyler Triquet, Alyssa Valdez, Kiana Whitney, and MSG Cunningham.
George C. Marshall Leadership Conference

Written by CDT Travis DeForge

In February Cadet Travis DeForge was selected by the cadre of the GMB to attend the annual George C. Marshall leadership conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The conference was hosted by Major General Hughes, the Commanding General of the United States Army Cadet Command. One Cadet from each ROTC program in the nation was selected to attend the conference along with several Cadets from the United States Military Academy. The conference exposed attendees to different views, experiences, scenarios, and individuals to provide them with a more in depth understanding of the military and the impact that Second Lieutenants can have on it.

There were many high profile guest speakers that brought a wealth of knowledge to the group. One major focus of the conference was on the concept of Mission Command. This concept was presented by General Perkins, the Commanding General of Training and Doctrine Command. A panel of foreign military leaders then discussed how Mission Command is executed in their militaries and challenges that working with allied forces present.

The conference also included a series of presentations by General Abrams, Commanding General of Forces Command. He discussed the current capabilities of the United States Army and how that combat effectiveness stacks up in the current geopolitical environment. He further expanded on his vision and expectations of changes to the Army of the future in terms of size, funding, operational tempo, and training focuses in order to adapt to changing threats to national interests. Finally, he discussed how Unified Land Operations are only one piece of the modern combat environment and how forces must include cyberspace as part of multi-domain combat.
Life of a Nursing Cadet

Written by CDT Caitlin Hester

UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences students benefit greatly from the presence of the UVM Medical Center on campus, which enables close interaction and frequent exposure to the hospital setting throughout nursing school. Students in the program begin their courses of study with basic science courses and have opportunities to shadow nurses by their second year. Third year students are fully immersed in clinical rotations, which continue into their senior year and culminate in a senior practicum, during which students work exclusively on a hospital floor performing independent work supervised by a nurse.

Nursing Cadets participating in ROTC face a demanding schedule combining the requirements of the nursing program with those of the ROTC program. These demands give nursing Cadets the opportunity to develop strong time management and organizational skills, and the leadership skills developed in ROTC provide a key advantage in the nursing clinical setting.

During the summer, Cadet Nurses have the opportunity to participate in the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP), during which they work at an Army Medical Center for a month to better understand the lifestyle of an Active Duty Army Nurse. NSTP also provides Cadet nurses with an extra clinical experience before their senior year. After graduation, commissioning, and passing the National Council Licensure Examination, Second Lieutenants attend BOLC at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas where they learn to integrate their professional nursing skills in the Army.

UVM Nursing Cadets
Elizabeth Campo
Samantha Cunningham-Darrah
Gloria Deignan
Stephanie Fox
Caitlin Hester
Noah Jarvis
Leo McCarthy
Caroline Olmer
Elsie Pryor

The upper-class UVM nursing Cadets during the Alumni Reception.

2LT Laura Sibony is administered the Officer’s Oath by LTC Timothy Knoth. 2LT Sibony, who graduated in December 2016, is the program’s most recent nursing graduate.
Joint Leadership Training Exercise (JLTX)

Written by CDT August Amirault

Each year, the Green Mountain Battalion pairs with another university’s ROTC program to execute the year’s culminating training exercise. This year, our program was fortunate enough to team up with Siena College. Siena College’s Mohawk Battalion is highly recognized in the Northeast and lead by LTC Andrew Beal, Professor of Military Science.

With guidance from the cadre members at both schools, the overall plan and concept of operations was developed by the MSIV class. A total of 36 MSIVs from both schools communicated throughout the spring semester to plan this training event. This included several in-person planning conferences and numerous video teleconferences. CDT Futia (Siena College) and CDT Burbey (University of Vermont) were the Battalion Commanders of their respective schools. With their guidance, the planning and overall dissemination of information was spearheaded by CDT Carrillo (Siena College) and CDT Amirault (University of Vermont). These two senior Cadets helped to create what would be an intensive 48 hours of tactical and technical training for both programs.

Cadets from both schools arrived at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, Vermont around 1700 on Thursday, March 30th. Upon arrival, Cadets checked in, were given barracks assignments, issued five MREs, and some additional cold weather gear. Around 1900, Cadets began round-robin style classes. All cadets received a cold weather brief, a weapons safety and familiarization brief, saw a terrain model depicting the areas in which they would train for the next three days, and received a “Road to War” brief that set the tone for the weekend and gave the cadets some of the essential information needed for planning.
Joint Leadership Training Exercise In Pictures

Cadets receive instructions from their squad leader before conducting combat operations.

The Cadet platoon leader delivers an operations order to key leaders in preparation for an offensive mission.

Cadets move through difficult terrain at the Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, VT.

Cadets assault an opposing force occupying an Atropian village.

Cadets utilize the environment to establish defensive positions.

Cadets traversing the mountainous terrain of Atropia.
Joint Leadership Training Exercise Continued

Friday morning started with a 0500 wakeup call from the barracks. There were five platoons who all received missions from the Tactical Operations Center (TOC). The missions varied from a movement to contact with another platoon, to securing and defending a known point, to being ambushed. With every mission, came a test of leadership and confidence. Cadets used the skills they had learned and developed all year. From land navigation and small unit tactics, to communication with Army radios and platoon operations, all cadets were challenged both physically and mentally.

Another big challenge that affected all levels of leadership, was Mother Nature. We were hit with snow Friday afternoon that continued through the night. The training site received about six inches of snow. The command post had to alter some of their plans for movement on Saturday, MSIII leadership had to take in to consideration how the snow would affect movements, and every Cadet had to ensure that his or her gear would stay dry and serviceable throughout another long day of tactical operations.

Saturday was another successful day as Cadets became more familiar with the terrain and established more unit cohesion. Operations concluded around 1800 and Cadets received a nice catered meal to finish up the day. From that point, training shifted from tactical operations to a redeployment focus. Both Siena and UVM had to gain accountability of all equipment and sensitive items. Upon waking up Sunday morning, upper class Cadets and cadre members conducted an After Actions Review to gather feedback from the long training event. The purpose of this event is to discuss the overall accomplishment of the intent of the operation and to find areas where we can improve next year.

The JLTX was a great success and the Green Mountain Battalion looks forward to conducting future operations with Siena College and the Mohawk Battalion!
Spring Leadership Labs

Written by CDT Kyle Walsh

The GMB conducted a series of Leadership Labs throughout the spring semester to enable Cadets to expand their leadership skills and to prepare the unit for the Joint Leadership Training Exercise and eventual summer training opportunities.

**Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC):** During the TCCC Lab Cadets focused on developing individual-level combat casualty treatment skills. The skills studied included casualty assessment, hemorrhage control, cold weather injury prevention and treatment, and casualty evacuation. The GMB received assistance from the C Medical Company of the Vermont National Guard.

**Platoon Operations:** During a series of Platoon Operations Labs Cadets conducted force-on-force tactical exercises at the platoon level. These labs provided Cadets numerous opportunities to refine their leadership skills while simultaneously exposing Cadets to offensive and defensive tactics utilized by the US Army.

**Land Navigation:** Following a series of Land Navigation Labs last fall semester, the GMB conducted refresher training at Camp Johnson. This opportunity enabled Cadets at all levels to refine their land navigation skills in a winter environment and also exposed new Cadets in the program to this crucial skill.
On Friday, April 7th 2017, members of the Green Mountain Battalion took part in the campus sponsored Relay for Life. The event took place in Patrick Gymnasium, began at 1600, and ended the following morning at 0400. During the evening 14 Cadets and Master Sergeant Cunningham participated with rucksacks, completing laps around the indoor field. Ultimately, they ruck marched a total of 26.2 miles to simultaneously complete the Brigade Commander’s Freedom Fitness Challenge.

The event raised money for the American Cancer Society and sought to fulfill the organizations goal of “bringing communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the society make a global impact on cancer.

The following Cadets (pictured above) completed the entire marathon: Kaelyn Burbey, Elizabeth Campo, Travis DeForge, Gloria Deignan, Alexander Heeschen, Lance Jandreau, Ryan Kennedy, Joseph Krayewsky, Nicholas Lozinak, Eric Mattia, Brian Schwarzkopf, Peter Smetanka, Christian Surprise, and Jonathan Tetreault.
Save the Date for these Spring and Fall 2017 Events

13 May    Castleton University / SUNY Plattsburgh Graduation
14 May    Saint Michael’s College Graduation
20 May    Class of 2017 Commissioning Ceremony
21 May    University of Vermont Graduation
25 August Reception Day – Class of 2021
28 August First Day of Fall Classes

Follow the UVM Army ROTC Facebook page for updates on our events, Cadet of the Week and more!

If you would like to be featured in an Alumni Spotlight section please email Mr. Palaza at goldbar@uvm.edu

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