Hello all and welcome to the Green Mountain Battalion Fall 2011 Newsletter. Thank you for your support and a special thank you to the Cadre and Alumni that allow our program to function. All of our Cadets had great summers and were privileged to participate in training all over the world. We are off to a great start with a great new freshmen class and lots of training planned for the semester. Follow us on Facebook group "UVM Army ROTC" and our UVM website’s cadet news section. Hope to see you soon.

c/BC Matt Tierney

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I arrived at Seoul Incheon International Airport around 8:30 pm local time on the second week in July. Coming from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, fresh from the Army’s Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), I was happy to once again find myself in an urban environment despite the disorienting sixteen hour time difference. Relieved to be done with LDAC and inundated with the luxuries of Korea Air, I stepped off the plane to meet with LTC Taylor of New Mexico State University, the officer in command of our iteration of the Cadet Troop Leader Training program (CTLT) in South Korea.

We were heading for a holding barracks at the Yongsan Army Garrison for the night, before each of the CTLT cadets would be distributed to their respective branch assignments. I was heading to Osan Air Force Base to work with the Delta Battery of the 6-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion. As I would soon find out, Delta Battery, equivalent to a company in any other army branch, operated on the periphery of a Republic of Korea (ROK) air force base. (Cont pg. 4)
Col Lambert addresses the Green Mountain Battalion after they complete the Vermont Remembers 10K.

Supply Technician Dan Broderick after he rucks the Vermont Remembers 10K.

Cadets rappel on Camp Ethan Allen Training Site cliff face during fall rappelling and marksmanship lab.

I will not lie, I was nervous when I first read my deployment orders for Guatemala. Not much was specified other than that I was translating on a US support mission. How did I end up with this? Months prior, I opened an email I had received about a program called CULP (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency). This is a program the US Army created to help develop ROTC cadets, as future leaders, to obtain awareness and understanding of foreign languages, so they can achieve an intercultural edge when they are out on deployment. One of the countries that cadets were deployed to the prior year was Peru, where the mission was to give aid to a local hospital. My goal in the army is to become a doctor, so the second I read the kind of deployments that the Army was offering, I knew I wanted to be involved. I wanted to experience and see for myself what military medicine was like. But when I got my orders for Guatemala, I wasn’t entirely sure if that was what I really signed up for. Did I have enough Spanish proficiency to provide translation support for the mission? Well, I was soon to find out. Our mission in Guatemala was to provide Spanish medical translation for the Continuing Promise mission that was supported by the US Navy. Continuing Promise is a 5 month mission that travels from port to port, with the U.S. Navy Ship USNS Comfort, to different South American countries, providing health service support and promoting clinical information to patients in need. Within their mission in Guatemala, Continuing Promise triaged over 8,000 patients. Five stations were provided for the patients ranging from pediatrics, family medicine, dermatology, optomology, and dentistry. Patients that required more medical attention were triaged to see the general surgeons to determine if they needed to be sent onto the USNS Comfort for surgery.

(Continued pg. 5)
Every year, dedicated Cadets from all over the Northeast converge on one location for the U.S. Army ROTC “Ranger Challenge.” About 40 programs from various colleges, universities, and military academies send teams to compete in late autumn. Over the course of two days and nights teams complete a 2-hour written exam, an Army Physical Fitness Test, a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) course, a one-rope bridge construction, an orienteering course, weapons disassembly & reassembly, an electronic Engagement Skills Trainer, a hand grenade assault course, and a 10k rucksack march. To be successful at this event, a Ranger Challenge cadet and everyone else on his or her team must be proficient in everything from basic soldier skills to many advanced techniques that other Cadets don’t have the opportunity to train on.

This year’s Ranger Challenge captains, senior Cadets Ryan Finnerty and Brian Hamel, are leading a Green Mountain Battalion team which is seeking to improve on its 2nd place finish last year. Cadets training with them include Ryan O’Leary (a returning member), as well as first year participants Melinda Fortin, Justin Adams, Erick Krogh, John Hart, Jeff Edmonds, Henry Empey, William Cruse, and Robert Matzelle. The 2011 Green Mountain Battalion Ranger Challenge team contains members from almost all of the schools comprising the Green Mountain Battalion, including the University of Vermont, Saint Michael’s College, Champlain College, and the State University of New York (SUNY) – Plattsburgh. To prepare for the competition, the Ranger Challenge team conducts physical training four days a week and skills training two to three days a week. Typically, their workouts are either high intensity, short duration circuits (that push the Cadets past their anaerobic threshold), or long, endurance workouts. Very little or no rest time is afforded. Despite the difficulty of this regimen, the team maintains a high degree of motivation and good-natured spirit. (Cont pg. 6)

**Cadet Creed**

*Soon I will take an oath and become an Army Officer committed to defending the values which make this nation great. Honor is my touchstone.*

*I understand mission first and people always.*

*I am the past – the spirit of those warriors who have made the final sacrifice.*

*I am the present – the scholar and apprentice soldier enhancing my skills in the science of warfare and the art of leadership.*

*But above all, I am the future – the future warrior leader of the United States Army. May God give me the compassion and judgment to lead and the gallantry in battle to win.*

*I will do my duty.*

New sign created by PMS LTC Palaza posted on the ROTC building “601 Main.”
More Fall Photos

General Dynamics sets up static display of state of the art weapon systems during rappelling lab.

Cadets participate in Combat Water Survival Training. This requires them to do underwater equipment ditch, 3 meter blind drop, and 25 meter swim.

CTLT (Cont.)

On my second day in Korea, I met my sponsor, 2nd Lt. Riedel, who served as the officer in command of the maintenance platoon within Delta Battery. I would be his shadow for the next three weeks, often performing his duties under his guidance.

Our area of operations was a large motor pool that consisted of many humvees, trailers and 5 ton trucks. Across the road and through a few fences I could see A-10 Warthogs fueling and taxiing on a runway straddled by armored hangars. On our side of the fences sat eight Patriot missile launchers, each within a reinforced concrete alcove. Each launcher was erect, prepared to fire and pointed northward.

As we entered the compound, Lt. Riedel gave me brief descriptions of much of the equipment we passed, including each of the five service vehicles required to operate a Patriot missile battery. We then entered his administrative office squashed between two large maintenance bays. Though small, the office’s air conditioning made it pleasantly cool compared to the 85 degree, 100% humidity that is the norm during the rainy season in South Korea.

The first order of business was to “write an award for one of the specialists in the platoon,” said Lt. Riedel as he booted up his computer. Over the next three weeks, my days would consist of writing such awards, performing inventory checks on our equipment, conducting PT, attending training meetings, and going to training sessions in the van. The van was a compartment on the back of the Command Truck where, in a wartime situation, a platoon leader and a radio operator would monitor the battery’s radar for any hostile targets, differentiate said targets from any friendly assets in the area and eventually, if necessary, engage the target with a Patriot Missile.

“I’ve never seen a Patriot Missile fired; matter of fact I’ve heard that you can go your whole career in Air Defense and not see one fired,” said Riedel after I asked the obvious question. It seemed that much of the
The job of an air defender was to prepare, monitor and run simulation drills. We had such a simulation drill during my third and final week in Korea. Each of the five batteries in 6-52 Battalion were on full alert during the week-long Battalion FTX. For our maintenance battalion, much of our job stayed the same save for the periodic use of cob-mob equipment. This equipment, which basically consisted of a suit and gas mask used to protect against chemical and biological threats was cumbersome and made the making of training-meeting slides for the next week a rather difficult task.

Overall, my time in South Korea was well spent. I learned much about performing the necessary tasks required to maintain a platoon. I learned about how much soldiers rely upon their platoon leader in administrative business as well as guidance with their daily lives. My time in Korea taught me the importance of quickly establishing a strong and communicative relationship with my platoon sergeant as well as my soldiers when I become a 2nd Lt. The CTLT program taught me much about the everyday life of an active duty 2nd Lt. in a more intimate way than I ever experienced during my time in ROTC. I would highly recommend the program to any cadet for its first-hand experience and intimate perspective. I would also recommend traveling to South Korea for its natural beauty, rich culture and kind people.

CULP (Cont.)

In addition to providing translation support for the doctors, I was also able to work hands-on with the patients, taking blood pressure and so forth. And, in doing so, I was able to connect with these patients. Although Guatemala City is one of the most dangerous cities in the world right now, because of their issues with drug and organ trafficking, people forget that criminals aren't the only ones that live in this magnificent country. The most warm and kind-hearted people you will ever meet live there as well. The days were long and hot, with sometimes little to no breaks and even sometimes little water. But I quickly reminded myself what the patients went through to see us. Many traveled over 8 hours to seek medical help, hoping for a cure to their pain. Every morning we saw families that slept overnight in these lines (lines that people wait in to see a Justin Beiber concert!); but they were only waiting to see a doctor. When they were finally able to enter the medical site, they had to continue to wait up to an additional eight hours with little food and water. Many of us would be bitter and angry that we had to wait so long just to see a doctor. Yet, these same patients at the end of the day gave us a hug and said "Dios lo bendiga" (God bless you) for all the help that we gave them. Many didn't realize at the time but we made a big impact by giving these families aid for their health issues. Being there as an ROTC cadet was a once in a lifetime experience. It helped me remember why I am an ROTC cadet and why I want to be a doctor, to help and serve our soldiers. Not only that, but to provide aid to foreign countries as well. No cadet should think that they have to know Spanish or a foreign language to do this program. Other deployments are available, ranging from Africa to the Philippines, teaching English at local schools to helping build houses for families. All that is required is for one to be open-minded about another society’s way of life, and with that you will gain the experience of a life-time!
Ranger Challenge (Cont.)

This type of dedication and endurance, demonstrated by every cadet on the team, makes the intense physical training and long hours bearable and often enjoyable.

On mornings that the rest of the Battalion has off, the Ranger Challenge team is up at 0600 doing skills training or getting in more PT. Skill days are spent in drilling on events like weapons assembly or the one-rope bridge. Historically speaking, the one-rope bridge has been “the event” of the GMB and thus its significance is stressed. With so many Mountain Warfare school graduates in the program and among the cadre, it is no wonder! Additional Saturday field training exercises (FTX’s) at Jericho, Vermont’s Camp Ethan Allen Training Site (CEATS), provide an excellent venue for honing skills such as the MOUT course and the hand-grenade assault course. When it all boils down, a Ranger Challenge team, just like any Army team, is measured by its ability to work together, not by the strength of individuals. The team mentality is drilled in to each RC cadet. Each Cadet knows that if they decide to take an individual break during the training, it might let the whole team down; therefore, no one wants to be viewed as selfish, and everyone raises their game and works harder. All in all, Ranger Challenge is a grueling event that places massive demands on the time and energy of every team member, but what each member gains in skill, knowledge, and most of all camaraderie, make every drop of sweat worth it!

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Cadet Command Sergeant Major Closing

That concludes our Fall Newsletter. We look forward to continuing our training and preparing young leaders for the United States Army. Please look into our new Facebook group “UVM Army ROTC” where you can reconnect with old friends and stay current on what the Green Mountain Battalion is doing. As the late Calvin Coolidge said “The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.” We remember our alumni and are ever grateful for your service and continued support of the Battalion. Our Spring Newsletter will contain more great stories of GMB cadets and their impressive accomplishments. As always, Go Catamounts.

c/CSM Dallas Apotheker