

# EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY ARMY ROTC

ROTC Alumni Newsletter Fall 2022



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## Colonels' Pride! By LTC Vincent Thomas

To Alumni, parents, friends, and Cadets of EKU Army ROTC,

It has been an amazing six months since we commissioned 24 Second Lieutenants in May 2022 and embarked on our busiest time of year called Cadet Summer Training (CST). From Fort Knox to all over the globe, the Colonels represented the battalion and university extremely well. This newsletter is a chance to share a snapshot of the amazing things that our Cadets have done to further the great legacy of this program. Whether you are a graduate, family member, rising cadet, or an interested prospect, I think you will find the articles inspiring and motivating.

This upcoming semester we have many big events planned - Military Ball, 26.2 Mile Mountain Man Memorial March, Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX), and the culminating event will be the commissioning of more Second Lieutenants.

This past semester has been great for Alumni connections. We have had many visitors who have shared their experiences with the Cadets including GEN Rainey, COL Tindoll, and Mr. Brian Brode. Our Cadets continue to stand on the shoulders of our ROTC Veterans who have gone before them. What a great experience. If you haven't started following us on Facebook or Instagram see the info in this newsletter. We're posting to both accounts weekly.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to be a part of this great organization. Have a great winter break and rest up for the upcoming semester!



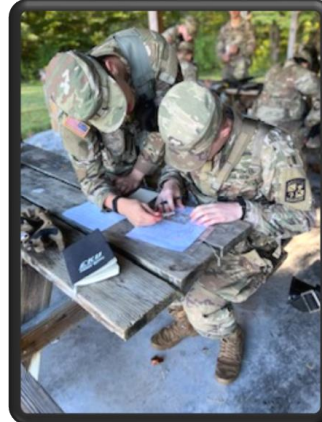
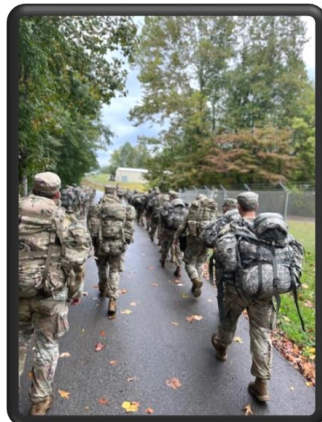
### Support the Colonel's Battalion

Your donation to the Military Science and Leadership Cadet Development Fund will help prepare the next generation of U.S. Army Officers. Give now! For more information on how you can support the Military Science and Leadership Program, contact Claire Jennings at [Claire.Jennings@eku.edu](mailto:Claire.Jennings@eku.edu) or call 859-622-2105.

### Stay in touch!

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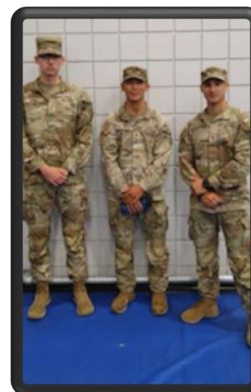
**Fall FTX** by Cadet Steven Gomez



As an EKU cadet at this Fall FTX, I had the opportunity to take part in and experience lots of valuable training. This training consisted of Land Nav, STX Lanes, and the Obstacle course at the Disney Training Center. Land navigation is a perishable skill that is required among the future leaders of the Army. We conducted day and night iterations of Land Navigations, with the opportunity to work as buddy teams or on your own. STX Lanes were valuable because they allowed more exposure to a tactical environment along with feedback from the MSL 4 class to give guidance on what to expect with tips and tricks. The obstacle course was a team-building exercise for squads among the platoons that conducted Fall FTX. Overall, Fall FTX allowed me to grow through training opportunities and build stronger relationships with others in the program, especially in the MS3 class.

**Basic Camp** by Cadet Stephen Burger

This summer after completing advanced camp, I was able to stay behind at Fort Knox to instruct at Basic Camp. While at Basic Camp, my job as an MS3 trainer was to mentor and assess the cadet trainees. The cadets were MSI and MSII's that were either new to their programs or lateral entries. My job was to work with the cadre members to train the cadets. I was able to mentor a platoon of cadets and train them on the basics of being in the Army. Part of my job was to assess each member in the platoon utilizing a Blue Card, which focuses on attributes and competencies for leaders. Overall, this experience showed me what a job of a Second Lieutenant is, and what I can expect for my MSIV year.



**Sage Eagle** by Cadet Jacob Kinman

Over the summer, prior to CST at FT. Knox I was given the opportunity to take part in Operation Sage Eagle at Ft. Lewis, Washington. We trained with a variety of teams from both the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. I was assigned to ODA 1226 from 1st Group Special Forces. The best part for me was most definitely the people, especially getting to meet the guys on the ODA and the other teams attached to us. Being able to pick the brain of people from all backgrounds and levels of experience was so eye-opening and educational. Training with those guys taught me to really be flexible and to look at things from a completely different angle than what we do in the traditional style of instruction we get at school.



**Cadet Stakes** by Cadet Zachary Creekmore

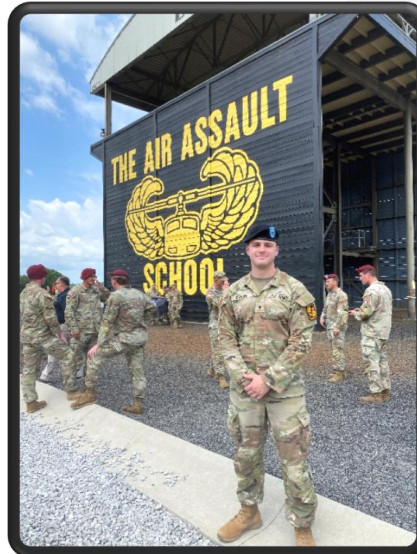
Eastern Kentucky University's Cadet Stakes took place on September 10th. Cadet Stakes is an annual competition for JROTC high school programs. Junior cadets face various obstacles and are challenged with having to work together as a team to achieve many difficult tasks. Being a part of the Cadet Cadre and seeing the Junior Cadets working hard and motivating one another to do better reminded me a lot of basic training where the only option to persevere is to work together as a team. While a lot of the competition is physical, there is a major portion that relies on using skills that are looked for in a future cadet / officer, such as communication, teamwork, motivation, critical thinking, and so on. The teams that have junior cadets that are able to use these skills well have a higher percentage of winning and standing out compared to their opponents.





**Air Assault** by Cadet Green

Over the summer of 2022, I had the opportunity to attend Air Assault School at the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia. After successfully completing the three educational phases of the course, the 12-mile Ruck March was the last requirement for passing. However, I was dropped from the course during this event by the most important thing the instructors taught us: attention to detail. I failed to pick up a turn-around item during the event and due to the strict guidelines of the school, I was dropped. Luckily, I was able to attend another 12 Mile Ruck March at the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky to graduate the course, but the lesson I learned from the first 12 Mile Ruck March will stick with me for the rest of my life. The Air Assault School's purpose is to train Soldiers in air assault operations, sling-load operations, and rappelling. Upon completion of this course, soldiers are able to utilize helicopter assets to the maximum effect during training and during combat operations. Air Assault School is a challenging course that requires Soldiers to have high physical fitness and be very detail oriented. For example, each student must have the entire packing list with them at all times. If any item is missing, no matter how small, the student is dropped. However, paying attention to detail not only applies to the packing list, but also applies to the sling load phase, which requires students to identify deficiencies in the sling load rigging process for multiple pieces of military equipment. Not only did I learn the information exclusive to Air Assault School, but I was also able to learn from enlisted personnel and officers alike about their Army experiences, which as a cadet was indispensable.



**Rangers Challenge** by Chloe Hampson

11 cadets participated in the Ranger Challenge at Fort Knox on November 4-6. These cadets had tried out for the team in September and trained every weekday from 0530 to 0730. This training included both physical and mental tasks to best prepare them for the competition. On November 4, the cadets were transported to Fort Knox and started the first event at 1900. The cadets were split into groups of 2 to conduct orienteering on 5 different courses, each with a different level of difficulty and they were to complete it by 2300. The following day, the cadets participated in a Road March of an unknown distance. They then completed 3 courses of mission sites: Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie. They were first scheduled to take on Charlie Course which was mounted orienteering. Once Charlie Course was completed, they were transported to Bravo Course where they were pitted head-to-head with other teams in events such as "There Will Be Blood" and "Ultimate Chase". From there they went to Alpha Course to complete the final mission sites which included a one rope bridge, resupply, transporting a casualty, and other physical and mental tasks. Once all the mission sites were completed, each team was tasked to complete the Commander's challenge. The cadets were once again to conduct orienteering to find 5-10 points. At each point the cadets would be given a playing card. The team with the



**Homecoming** by Cadet Dustin Voss



Every year during Homecoming, Eastern Kentucky University holds a parade that starts on the university grounds and extends through downtown Richmond. The involvement from the community and students that are either in the parade or watching it is immense. This year, EKV Colonels Battalion had the opportunity to participate in and lead the parade through the route. The MSIII Cadets were given an opportunity to lead a formation and call a cadence as they moved past all the onlookers. A handful of MSIV Cadets were in tactical gear and were able to go interact directly with anyone that was watching. The EKV Homecoming Parade and all the events that took place over the weekend were a great opportunity to show off the prowess of the EKV Colonels Battalion as well as be a morale booster for the battalion. The battalion looks forward to Homecoming festivities every year because of the opportunity it gives us to interact with our community and thank them for their support!

**University of the Cumberland** by Cadet Tate Fields

In the fall semester of 2022, University of the Cumberland ROTC Program has been putting in quality work and getting after learning. Cadets have been placed in various leadership roles throughout the course of the semester. Cadets have also participated in the fall FTX, and two cadets received commander's coins on their performance in the FTX events. Along with the excellent performances, University of the Cumberland was able to contract five more cadets into the program. In all, UC ROTC has been performing above and beyond all while they are hard at work preparing 6 cadets to attend Advanced Camp this summer.

Major Corrigan travels to UC multiple times a week to instruct ROTC classes, run the PT program, and facilitate leadership lab. We are excited to have UC back in our program and are expecting increased numbers next semester.



**Colonel's Challenge** by Cadet Hunter West

Colonel's challenge was a great experience. Coming from someone who came to ROTC with no military experience whatsoever, the support and environment were very welcoming to new freshmen like myself. During colonel's challenge, I met my current best friends and was able to form relationships with both my class and the upper class. Many of the upperclassmen have taken many of us under their wing and have been really inspiring. All in all, having the opportunity to attend colonel's challenge has helped me fit in better with my peers and form lifelong friendships.



**CTLT** by Cadet Felicia Jarrett

Cadet troop leader training (CTLT) provides Cadets the opportunity to experience leadership in Army Table of Organization and Equipment units over a two-to-four-week period. Cadets serve in lieutenant-level leadership positions in active-duty units. This summer I got a chance to go to Fort Bragg, NC. I was sent to a forward support company that was attached to an engineer battalion. For two weeks I got to shadow a second lieutenant and see how he led his platoon and what he did on a daily basis. I've always wanted to branch as an active-duty quartermaster officer, so getting the opportunity to see and experience the workload that I could be doing gives me a head start and even more confidence in my career. I would recommend doing CTLT as it gives you an opportunity to discover how the active-duty side works and an insight on different branches and opportunities.





*Veteran's Day Ceremony* by Cadet Phillip Smith

The weekend of November 5th was Veteran's Appreciation Weekend, and there were several events held to celebrate those who have sacrificed so much and served before us. A lunch banquet was held at noon for returning EKU ROTC graduate, General Rainey. General Rainey is the first four-star general from EKU ROTC and it was a privilege to get to meet him and hear him speak about what makes a good leader.

Later that day there was an EKU football game where Veterans were honored during a special halftime show. Service members from all branches were called down to the field to march out behind their branch flags. We then honored all of those missing in action and prisoners of war who did not return home from the fight, especially all of those from the state of Kentucky. I was privileged to bring out the American Flag and lead the color guard for this event. It was wonderful to see all of those who have served before me march onto the field and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the lives we live today.



*Valor* by Cadet Daniel Green

Valor is a detachment of the EKU campus ministry Cru that is geared specifically towards Cadets. Our weekly meetings on campus are geared towards building leadership abilities through the lens of the Bible and building up faith to better impact and serve those we are around. Our goal is to become better leaders, become better followers of God, and ultimately spread the good news of the Bible to those we interact with daily, whether that be on campus, in ROTC, or out in public.

This semester, we have studied multiple books in the Bible and applied them to military leadership. When we study these books, we look at examples of leadership and how these men and women impacted those around them for the Gospel. The Bible has many examples of good and bad leadership. By analyzing these, we can learn how to build up our faith and become better leaders in our communities, campuses, and in our military careers. Our goal for semester's Valor meetings is to include even more cadets in our ministry and to get out and be involved in helping our community.



**Congratulations Newly Contracted Cadets**



Commented [EW1]: Browning- KY Army NG Adjutant General  
 Burger-  
 Hagan- KY Army NG Medical Service  
 Harp- KY Army NG MP  
 Jarrett- KY Army NG ??  
 Jessee-  
 Justice- KY Army NG Med Serv  
 Kinman- KY Army NG Military Intelligence  
 Lemmon-  
 Meador- KY Army NG Military Intelligence  
 Morrow-  
 Peach- KY Army NG Military Intelligence  
 Powell-  
 Rodgers-  
 Williams- Army NG Signal



**COMPONENT AND BRANCH RESULTS**

**SPRING 2020 ARMY ROTC EVENTS**

Congratulations to the below Cadets for their component and branches.

- Cadet Browning, KY Army National Guard, Adjutant General
- Cadet Burger, Active Duty, Infantry
- Cadet Hagan, KY Army National Guard, Medical Service
- Cadet Harp, KY Army National Guard, Military Police
- Cadet Jarrett, KY Army National Guard, Quartermaster
- Cadet Jessee, Active Duty, Engineer
- Cadet Justice, KY Army National Guard, Medical Service
- Cadet Kinman, KY Army National Guard, Military Intelligence
- Cadet Lemmon, Active Duty, Air Defense Artillery
- Cadet Meador, KY Army National Guard, Military Intelligence
- Cadet Peach, KY Army National Guard, Military Intelligence
- Cadet Rodgers, Active Duty, Engineer
- Cadet Williams, KY Army National Guard, Signal

**March 3rd, 2023-** EKU ROTC Military Ball at 5:00PM in the Keen Johnson Ballroom  
**March 31st-April 2nd, 2023-** Joint Field Training Exercise at Fort Knox  
**April 22nd, 2023-** Mountain Man Memorial March, Gatlinburg, TN  
**May 5th, 2022-** ROTC Awards Ceremony at 3:30PM in the O'Donnell Auditorium, Weaver Gym  
**May 11th, 2023-** Spring Commissioning Ceremony at 2:00PM in the O'Donnell Auditorium, Whitlock

\*For more event information contact Claire.jennings@eku.edu