



Michigan State University Spartan Battalion Newsletter

Upcoming

April

- 01APR16 – Norwegian Foot March
- 03APR16 – Sandhurst Competition
- 08APR16 – CALDX (Cadet Leadership Development Exercise)
- 15APR16 – MSIV Staff Ride
- 19APR16 – Award Ceremony

May

- 07MAY16 – Commissioning
- 08MAY16 – Summer Break



Commander's Corner

The Spartan Battalion was glad to have the opportunity to work alongside Central Michigan University and Ferris State University in order to make this spring LDX a success. It showed us the importance of being able to learn about and adapt to leadership styles other than our own and remaining cooperative and focused in the face of adversity.

CDT Belanger, CDT/BC

March has been a busy month for the Spartan Battalion. The Cadets completed their spring Leadership Development Exercise (LDX) at Fort Custer and experienced realistic training that will further develop them as future officers. They also received the opportunity to collaborate and work beside Central Michigan's ROTC cadets in planning and executing the weekend training. The Cadets arrived to Fort Custer in CH47 Chinooks and experienced an actual helicopter operation. In addition to LDX, the Battalion has been focusing on Platoon Operations and Key Leader Engagements during lab. Other events that occurred included a Battalion ruck march, Spring Cleaning in Demonstration Hall, and preparation for events such as the Norwegian Foot March, Sandhurst competition, and MSIV CALDEX and Gettysburg staff ride. They continue to train hard and are finishing up the semester strong with beneficial training and hard work.



Susan Davis-Kienschert from AUSA donates a check to the Sandhurst team



Cadet Arturi participates in the 4 mile Battalion Ruck March

Helicopter Operation

On 18MAR16 the Spartan Battalion conducted a Helicopter Operation in order to transport Cadets and Cadre from both Michigan State and Central Michigan University to their Leadership Development Exercise (LDX) at Fort Custer. Two CH47s, Chinooks made three turns from MSU to Fort Custer. The Helicopter Landing Zones (HLZ) were determined by the Spartan Battalion Pathfinder club, and every Cadet riding the Chinooks were given a safety brief and cold-load training prior to boarding. The operation was a success and allowed for safe movement to Fort Custer in order for the AROTC Cadets.



The CH47's land at Fort Custer

Platoon Operations

On 19MAR2016, Spartan Battalion conducted platoon based operations during their LDX at Fort Custer. The lanes consisted of a reconnaissance, a Key Leader Engagement (KLE), and direct contact with the enemy. Platoons were led by their respective PL's, with MSIV's and MSV's serving as OPFOR. During the mission, platoon leaders met with a village elder and discussed stability operations in exchange for information on SAPA forces. The KLE provided realistic training for cadets in dealing with cultural differences and issues.



The Platoon Leader verbally engages the village elder to gain intelligence

Digital Training

19MAR2016 Spartan Battalion conducted digital training consisting of EST (Electronic simulation trainer) and HEAT (HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer). Cadets strapped their knee, elbow pads, and kevlar on and entered a Humvee that makes a 360 degree turn as if it gets rolled over. If it rolls over Cadets must unbuckle themselves and evacuate the Humvee as fast as possible. EST consisted of simulated training with marksmanship. Cadets entered a dark room and loaded their weapons with blanks and shot at virtual targets.



Cadets experience the Humvee rotating 360 degrees