



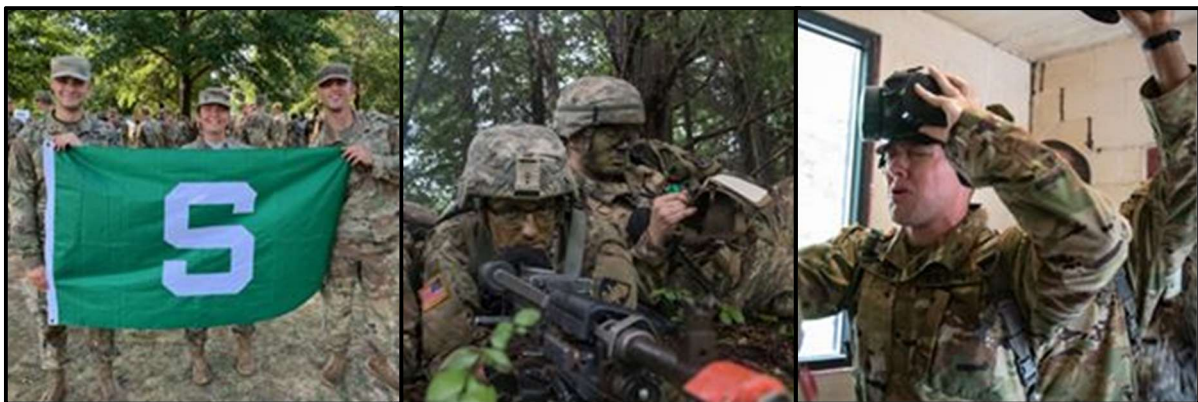
SPARTAN BATTALION FALL NEWSLETTER



Spartan Battalion Cadets wait to board a UH-60.

Summer Training

Cadet Summer Training (CST) is one of the largest training events conducted by the United States Army. CST covers a variety of schools at numerous training sites across the country and overseas. At Cadet Command (Fort Knox, KY) Cadets have the opportunity to participate in Basic Camp, Opposing Forces Readiness Program (OPFOR), and Advanced Camp which is required for all MSIII Cadets. Further training is highly selective, and Cadets must compete within the Battalion and even across the country to receive slots for special schools and programs. This year MSU Army ROTC sent Cadets to Air Assault School, Airborne School, Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), Cultural Understanding Leadership Proficiency (CULP), and The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINESEC). Read below for some of our Cadets Experiences!



Cadets Pasternak, Garno and Friend at Advanced Camp Graduation.

A Cadet pulls security with an M240B.

In the Gas Chamber, MSIII Cadets lift their masks.



Advanced Camp (Fort Knox, KY): MSIV Cadet Tristan Wright

At Fort Knox this summer, I faced the final evaluation of a ROTC Cadets requirements before their final year and commissioning. While there, I experienced things like buddy team live fire lanes, field training, situational training exercises, obstacle courses, field leadership reaction courses, and a live grenade range. The most significant lessons I learned, however, came from the relationships I made and the leaders I had worked with throughout the 37 days there.



(left to right) MSG Marquez, CDTs Gardner, Osaer, Carter, Wright and MAJ Dalton at Advanced Camp graduation.

Airborne School (Ft. Benning, GA): MSIV Cadet Thad Meyer



Paratroopers conduct Airborne Operations.

In order for me to complete Airborne School, I was required to perform five solo jumps from a C-130 at 1,250 feet above the ground: two jumps without combat equipment, two with combat equipment, and one night jump. Looking back on the experience, there is no debate on what was the most enjoyable part. I made eye contact with the jumpmaster and handed him my static line, turning into the doorway as the prop and wind roared outside the aircraft, and finally taking that first leap into space as the air buffeted before my parachute opened fully. This feeling, without a doubt, was one of the most exhilarating times of my life. It was followed by the serene, silent drop to the ground below. It was beautiful, heart racing, and inspiring. I cannot wait to get back into the air and do it again!

CULP (Malawi, Africa): (MSIII) Cadet Matthew Bednarski

In total, our mission to Malawi was three weeks in the country. The first half was spent at their military college MAFCO. Here, we experienced what they teach their Cadets including battle drills and familiarization with their assault rifle, the K2C. The second half was spent at their Airborne school. This school spent time teaching us how to conduct PLFs, drop from a swing lander trainer/jump tower, and other components needed to know to jump out of a plane. Both schools found ways to implement physical activity into the lessons, whether that be doing two separate PT tests or running to and from tea break and lunch at the Airborne school. On the weekends, we gained cultural understanding by visiting a local village and a nature reserve. Overall, the experience was very rewarding and will make me a better leader than I would have been otherwise. It showed me that just because something works for you, it does not mean it is the only way to do it.



Cadet Bednarski with a soldier from Malawi.



WHINSEC (Ft. Benning, GA): MSIV Cadet Nick Woodard

CDT Woodard graduated WHINSEC on the Commandants lists. He trained and worked alongside 2 Ecuadorian Cadets, 3 Costa Rican Police Sergeants, and 81 Colombian Cadets. This was a 30 day training event where all training was completed in Spanish. CDT Woodard completed tasks such as a Leaders Reaction Course, Buddy Team Live Fire and numerous other exercises with Cadets from foreign countries. If there was one thing Cadet Woodard learned he said "it would have to be respect for other cultures and their ability to work hard".



Cadet Woodard (Center) smiles with Colombian Cadets.

Fall Semester

Thus far, the Spartan Battalion has conducted five labs, 15 PT sessions and our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). Each event provided a training value to Cadets, helping them learn and develop further as leaders every day.



Cadets run around Sparty during the APFT.

Physical Training (0600-0700, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday):

Staying in shape is crucial in the United States Army, especially as an Officer. Our Cadre (Instructors) constantly remind us the leadership value that you bring when you can lead PT from the front. MSIII's and MSIV's develop the PT plan for each Company to participate in. Cadets then complete the APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test) which includes a max number of repetitions in push-ups, sit-ups in two minutes, and a two mile run.

Leadership LAB: Thursday (1500-1700):

On Thursdays, Cadets participate in a two hour training block known as "Lab". This lab allows us to learn and conduct practical exercises of the skills to lead units from the squad to the company level. Skills can range from land navigation to leadership exercises. Lab is held at either Demonstration Hall, Lot Woodlot, or Dobie Woodlot.



Cadets apply face paint during a lab.



FALL FTX (SEP 21-22):

Each semester The Spartan Battalion conducts a FTX (Field Training exercise). This event is a makeup of practical exercises that further train Cadets on skills. On Saturday, September 21st, the Spartan Battalion drove to Ft. Custer to complete a Leadership Reaction Course (wet and dry) and an obstacle course. On Sunday, September 22nd, Cadets participated in a Squad Competition, tug of war, Fall awards ceremony, and lunch.



Cadet Zuhl throws a mock hand grenade during the squad competition.

Cadet Stass climbs "The Tough One" at the obstacle course!

Cadets come together after a successful weekend of training.

Meet our Command Team

Spartan Battalion is Cadet run, with the MSIV Cadets leading in Battalion Company level officer positions. Below is a short background on Cadet Lane Martin (MSIV, Battalion Commander) and Cadet Tristian Wright (MSIV, Cadet Sergeant Major). They have also provided the following words of wisdom for the upcoming semester!

Cadet Battalion Commander Lane Martin:

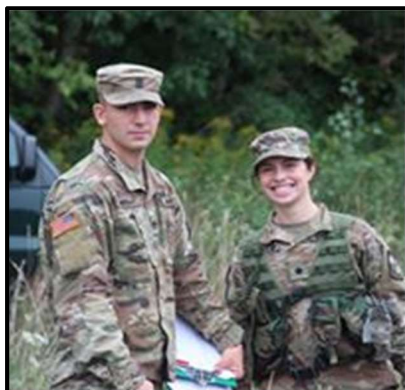
My name is Cadet Lane Martin and I am the Battalion Commander this fall semester. I am a senior majoring in Zoology with a concentration in Animal Behavior and Neurobiology. I have requested Educational Delay for my branch preference in order to attend veterinary school. I love the home I have found with the Spartan Battalion and am honored to practice my leadership in this position. My goals for the battalion are to create a culture of inclusivity and to train Cadets to the highest standard. I will continue to work with Cadets and Cadre throughout this semester to facilitate meaningful learning and growth. Go Green!



Cadet Battalion Commander Lane Martin (left) and Cadet Battalion Executive Officer Gardner (right).



Cadet Command Sergeant Major Tristan Wright:



Cadet Command Sergeant Major Tristan Wright (left) at an offsite training area.

Hello, my name is Tristan Wright. I am a senior Cadet at MSU and I am in the Command Sergeant Major position of the Battalion for this semester. This means that I work closely with the Company 1st Sergeants to ensure dissemination and execution of the Commander's vision, ensure understanding to the lowest level, and encourage participation from every member of the Spartan Battalion. I am also in my 3rd year as an RA and currently living in Wonders Hall. I'm an active member of Ranger 1 and have participated in Marksmanship and Ranger Challenge in the past. I am greatly looking forward to making the Spartan Battalion a stronger and more welcoming organization than ever before, and I can't wait to get to know every person in it.

Upcoming Events

Tailgates

October 26, 2019,
November 9, 2019
Dem Hall Garage

Contracting/Commissioning Ceremony

December 13, 2019, TBA
Dem Hall Ballroom

Military Ball

February 15, 2020, 5:30 pm
MSU Huntington Club

Spring Awards Ceremony

April 9, 2020, 3:00 pm
Dem Hall Ballroom

May Commissioning

TBA
Dem Hall Field
(if inclement weather, we will be in the Ballroom)

RSVP is required for most events. Please check our facebook page (Michigan State University Army ROTC) for updates and pictures or email armyrotc@msu.edu.

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