

The CADET

The magazine of U.S. Army Cadet Command

February 2010 Vol. I Issue I

Field of play

Command spotlights ROTC and officership opportunities at the Army All-American Bowl



Big time
in the
Big Apple

A look at the largest Junior ROTC program in the country

Inaugural Edition

Features

Largest Junior ROTC program achieves success

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Francis Lewis High School in New York, the largest program in the nation, faces a unique set of challenges. Despite some difficulties, the program has become an indelible part of the school's culture.

Cadet Command represents officership at All-American Bowl

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Cadet Command displayed the leadership traits important for serving one's country at the All American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas, a showcase for America's top high school football players.

Gut check: 1st Brigade Cadets persevere through 15-mile course

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Virginia Tech came out on top during 1st Brigade's inaugural Bold Leader Challenge and earned the right to go up against West Point at this year's Sandhurst competition.

Going the extra mile (or 10)

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Hundreds of Cadets descended on Washington, D.C., to run in this year's Army Ten-Miler.

On the cover: ROTC Cadet Janice Davila takes the oath at a commissioning ceremony on the field before the Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. *Photo by Forrest Berkshire*

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The Cadet

The official magazine of U.S. Army Cadet Command

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Commander: Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell

Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel Turner

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michael Indovina

Editor: Steve Arel

Visual information editor: Forrest Berkshire

Staff writers: Jeremy O'Bryan & George Whitley

This month's contributors: Mark Boylan & Kate Maine

Contact: Fort Monroe: (757) 788-5395;

Fort Knox: (502) 624-1842; Fort Lewis: (253) 966-8405

michael.indovina@usacc.army.mil

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Magazine's mission to tell our story

Your support and input will result in our success



As we move into this new year, I am proud to announce the first edition of the Cadet Command magazine.

This magazine belongs to all of us in the command. This periodical will be a vehicle for sharing ideas and telling our many success stories. We do great things in this command every day, and this magazine will be a great way to tell these stories to each other and also to our friends outside of the command.

This first edition will post online. Future editions will be printed in color by a commercial printing firm and distributed throughout the command. There will be four editions of the magazine each year, working around the school year and the summer course schedule.

My public affairs office will be the primary point of contact for input for the magazine. There are PAO staff

located at Fort Monroe, Va., Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Lewis, Wash. I encourage you to contact them directly and tell them about the great things you are doing within your area. This magazine will be only as good as the input and support we receive.

The PAO team will be out and about the command covering the major events we participate in each year. They had a very successful operation at the Army All-American Bowl and are already gearing up for such events as the Sandhurst competition at West Point and the George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium in Lexington, Va., later this spring.

I want to thank you in advance for your support of our new magazine, and I look forward to your input and ideas for upcoming issues.

Enjoy it, and share the contents with others who have a vested interest in Army ROTC.

Maj. Gen. Arthur M. Bartell
Commanding General
U.S. Army Cadet Command

NCOs show success on these pages

Command's NCOs recognized for doing important work



As the commanding general announced in his column, starting with this online issue, we have a new magazine for Cadet Command.

This publication will be a great opportunity for the NCOs within the command to tell their stories of the very successful training of our Cadets that happens on our campuses and other areas we operate in each and every day. That includes Senior and Junior ROTC.

This edition highlights one of our many successful Junior ROTC programs, the Francis Lewis High School program in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens in New York City.

This new effort of putting out a quarterly magazine will only be as successful as you; the cadre in the field makes it. Our public affairs office needs your input. We need you to pass on to them the great stories that you see each and every day in your area.

We have just finished a year of recognizing the NCO within the Army, but we here in Cadet Command can continue this tribute by highlighting our top-notch NCOs in this new magazine.

I am looking forward to hearing your comments and suggestions on this new publication as I travel around the command. As a team, we can make this one of the best magazines within the Army today.

Command Sgt. Maj. Hershel L. Turner
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Around the command

News, notes and updates from across Cadet Command



Indiana University student and Cadet Andrew Roberts and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates have their photo taken by a military photographer before winter commencement at Indiana University. Gates was the speaker at the commencement, and spoke with Cadets prior to the ceremony. Photo by Aaron Bernstein/ Indiana University Communications

Wesleyan University sees first Cadets

Until last year, Wesleyan University in Connecticut never had a single student participate in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps program. Now there are two.

Marty Buxton and Lowell Wood, both sophomores from North Carolina, take their Army ROTC courses with other college students at Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport and the host University of Connecticut in Hartford.

"What drives me to do this program is a desire to better the world around me, and I think that is something that a lot of Wesleyan students share," Wood said.

Buxton and Wood said they have been pleasantly surprised at the understanding of their peers at Wesleyan, a liberal university, have been to their participation in the program.

"People are surprised when they see me in uniform," Buxton said.

"But mostly they are just interested,

and all my friends and professors are really supportive."

The two recognize that many of their peers are opposed to conflict and the U.S. military's current engagements, but they welcome discussion. Both Wood, an environmental studies major, and Buxton, a history major, were pleased with how much their Wesleyan education complemented their ROTC learning.

"What is great about Wesleyan is that it teaches you how to think, not what to think," Wood said. "I really want to go into military intelligence after college, so critical thinking is really important."

Buxton also expressed a desire to go into military intelligence. Wood said he is considering a career in the Army.

"I always had some interest in the military because it's a great way to make an impact," he said. "I don't know if I'll ever be done with the military because I am going into it to better the lives of others."



Marty Buxton and Lowell Wood on campus. Photo contributed

Harvard grad awarded Rhodes scholarship



Second Lt. Roxanne Bras has her gold bars pinned on during her commissioning ceremony. The Harvard grad was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in November. Photo contributed

Though she commissioned last summer, Harvard grad and new 2nd Lt. Roxanne Bras will continue her education after earning a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship in November. She was one of 32 American recipients.

"I just want to live up to the expectations and put this awesome gift to use," she said.

The 23-year-old graduated from Harvard in June. She also has graduated from the

U.S. Army airborne and air assault schools. After commissioning, Bras received orders to go to Germany as part of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Bras plans to pursue a graduate degree in international relations and military policy. She said she hopes to teach eventually at West Point.

"I cry because she has just worked so hard her whole life," her mother, Karen Bras, said. "This is the best thing that could have ever happened for her."

More than 800 students from 326 schools applied for the scholarship. It covers all expenses for up to three years at the University of Oxford in England, which costs about \$50,000 per year. The scholarship is awarded for attributes that include high academic achievement, personal integrity, leadership potential and physical vigor.

Winners included two students who teach philosophy and poetry to inmates, and three All-Americans in swimming.

Roxanne Bras distinguished herself athletically as a marathon runner and in Harvard's ROTC program, but, her mother said, it may have been her thesis on counter-insurgency that clinched the Rhodes Scholarship.

2nd Brigade

Around the command

News, notes and updates from across Cadet Command

Dixie State mints first lieutenant

Dixie State College ROTC commissioned its first officer Dec. 11, making Sgt. Mitchell H. Curwen a second lieutenant. The program has been available at the Utah school for two years.

Curwen stood before his fellow Cadets, his right arm squared in the air and took his oath to serve the United States and uphold the Constitution.

“He’s very honest and dependable,” said Maj. James Dupras, the assistant professor of military

science at Dixie State, a partner school of Southern Utah University. “He’ll do very well just because he’s had prior military experience. He knows what’s expected of him.”

Curwen, who branched signal corps, said he got involved with the Army to help pay for his education and to serve his country. He served an eight-month deployment in Afghanistan in 2002 and a six-month deployment to Nicaragua in 2004.

“I always wanted to become an officer,” he said. “This is the start of a new career where I’ll be in charge of equipment, troops and missions.”

Cadets key to vet ceremonies

Cadets from across the country honored veterans in their communities Nov. 11 through a variety of activities. Among them:

Santa Clara University Cadets served as a color guard for a veterans Hospice in Palo Alto. They also took part in Santa Clara’s annual veterans celebration and released POW/MIA balloons.

After retiring the colors at a campus event, Kansas University Cadets teamed with those from the Navy and Air Force programs to stand the annual 24-hour vigil at the school’s War Memorial.

The battalion at Widener University held a program that included a wreath-laying. It also added the names of two fallen program graduates to its memorial plaque.



The current and former commanding generals of U.S. Army Cadet Command pose for a photo during a gathering in December. Pictured are, left to right, retired Maj. Gens. Robert E. Wagner, Wallace C. Arnold, James M. Lyle, Stewart W. Wallace, Alan W. Thrasher and current commander Maj. Gen. Arthur M. Bartell.

Former commanders updated on recent success

By George Whitley
U.S. Army Cadet Command

FORT MONROE, Va. — Five former commanding generals of the Army’s ROTC program returned in December for an update on the organization they once led.

• One major success Maj. Gen. Arthur M. Bartell hailed was the command made its FY ’09 commissioning mission for the first time since 2005.

The command commissioned 4,592 second lieutenants as of the briefing, exceeding the mission by 92 and topping last year’s numbers by nearly 300.

In 2005, 4,178 second lieutenants were commissioned through Army ROTC. Until this year, 2005 had the highest number of commissions in any of the last 10 years, command records show.

• Another success Bartell talked about was the high quality of today’s professors of military science the command has on its 273 campuses around the country.

“We have the best officers in the history of the program working with our Cadets right now,” he said. “The downside is we have problems with keeping our officers on campus for their full tour because of their high selection rate for command and other high-level assignments.”

• Cadet Command faces a number of challenges in the future, Bartell said, the most significant of which is a mission increase of 12 percent.

The number of Cadets in the senior ROTC program today has reached a five-year high at a little more than 35,000, according to com-

mand officials. Of that, more than 15,000 are on some form of scholarship.

• Another issue facing the command, which provides thousands of scholarships annually, is the rising cost of college tuition and fees for in-state students at four-year public colleges in the United States. Today, the cost for this school year average \$7,020, a 6.5 percent increase over the last school year.

• Bartell also referred to difficulties of maintaining the current tempo of operations during the upcoming BRAC realignment move of the headquarters to Fort Knox, Ky., during the next 18 months.

The past commanders who attended the session were retired Maj. Gens. Robert E. Wagner, the first commander of Cadet Command from April 1986 to April 1990; Wallace C. Arnold, April 1990 to June 1993; James M. Lyle, June 1993 to June 1996; Stewart W. Wallace, August 1996 to August 2000; and Alan W. Thrasher, July 2003 to June 2005.

Retired Maj. Gen. John T. D. Casey, who led the command from August 2000 to July 2003, and Montague Winfield, June 2005 to November 2008, were unable to attend.

Cadet Command news online

The Cadet Command Public Affairs office has begun publishing news from around the command online. For up-to-date news and features, go to <http://cadetcommand.armylive.dodlive.mil>. You can also become a fan of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cadetcommand.

Fort Monroe



No. 1 Cadet takes life's demands in stride

Cadet Erik Lloyd, ROTC's Cadet of the Year, shakes hands with Bill Yoast, one of the coaches who served as the inspiration for the movie "Remember the Titans," before a concert in the Alamodome as part of the pre-game festivities for the Army All-American Bowl. Lloyd was on hand for the event to represent ROTC. Photo by Forrest Berkshire

*Father. Husband.
Grad student.
Non-commissioned
officer. Top Cadet
on the Order of
Merit List. ROTC's
top Cadet non-
traditional student
in many ways.*

Juggling life's priorities isn't always easy. Just ask Erik Lloyd. Besides taking ROTC classes, he's a Soldier, a husband, a father and a graduate student. He's also the No. 1 Army Cadet in the nation. But for all his success, the 31-year-old says he doesn't stand alone in his achievement. He couldn't have made it to the top without his family by his side.

"Coming from a small town had a big play in how I developed as a person overall," said Lloyd, who hails from Port Allegany, Pa. "If you look at the Army values ... these were instilled in me. I was raised with the idea of selfless service."

A graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania who is pursuing a master's degree there, Lloyd was selected for the Cadet Command distinction from among 4,700 other Army ROTC Cadets across the country. He is the first IUP Cadet to earn Army ROTC's top spot.

He didn't set out to be No. 1, he said. "I just set out to be the best me that I could be," he said.

That started with his mother's upbringing that instilled values consistent with the Army's and continues today with his wife of six years, Kristi, who contributes to his capacity to act on those values.

Lloyd's mother set an example, he said, having started the Toys for Tots program in his hometown, volunteering for the American Red Cross and creating a local youth soccer league.

"She was on every volunteer committee in our town," he said.

His mom's dedication to volunteerism didn't change, even after she was diagnosed with cancer. She continued to plan and support her community until succumbing to the disease.

"I remember hating being dragged to all these events when I was 12 and 13 years old, but I thought this was the norm. I logged hundreds of hours of volunteer work when I was younger, and I think the leadership traits I have come from my mom," Lloyd said.

By Jeremy O'Bryan
U.S. Army Cadet Command

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N. Ga. Cadet makes history

By **Kate Maine**

North Georgia College and State University

DAHLONEGA, Ga. — Ashlie Shrewsbury didn't set out to make history when she entered North Georgia College and State University, but she has become the first female leader of the school's corps of cadets.

North Georgia has a long history of providing education and leadership opportunities to women. When the school was founded in 1873, it was the state's first public coeducational institution.

Women were part of North Georgia's first graduating class in 1878. And, in 1973, North Georgia became the nation's first senior military college to admit women as part of the Corps of Cadets. Today, with more than 700 participating students, North Georgia's Corps of Cadets is the largest in school history.

"I was interested in the opportunity to lead and manage at a higher level, and, other than dispelling preconceived notions about gender," Shrewsbury said about her role as brigade commander. "It's about getting the job done for the betterment of the 700-plus member corps."

Shrewsbury is from Taylorsville, Ga., where she attended Woodland High School's international baccalaureate program, a rigorous academic program that encourages an international perspective. In addition to her native English, the 23-year-old speaks Spanish,

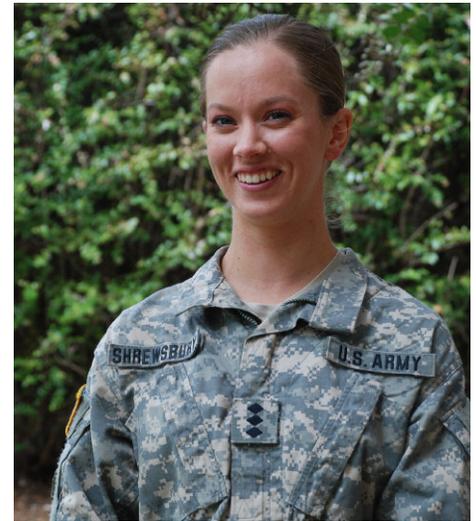
German and Russian and is looking at a bright future as a military linguist.

This fall, Shrewsbury earned additional honors by ranking in the top 20 percent of all Army ROTC Cadets in the nation. The Army's annual National Order of Merit List this year ranked more than 4,700 Cadets on the basis of performance at the Army's Leadership Development Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Wash., physical fitness, campus leadership performance and academic achievement. Because of her achievement, Shrewsbury will graduate as a distinguished military graduate, one of the highest honors an ROTC student can earn.

"Ashlie's no-nonsense style of leadership is complemented by her superb focus on academics," said Col. Tom Palmer, North Georgia's commandant. "She has assumed command of an extremely capable ROTC brigade, and she will make it even better."

Shrewsbury has attended North Georgia as a Georgia military scholar and, as part of her studies, was able to attend and graduate from the Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, Calif., where she studied Russian. She has also studied German and Russian at the Partner Language Training Center, Europe (PLTCE), which provides intensive language training for about 400 military and civilian linguists each year.

A Spanish major, she will graduate and commission as a military officer in May. Her



Ashlie Shrewsbury made history when she became the first female leader of North Georgia College and State University's Corps of Cadets. *Photo contributed*

long-term goals include earning a doctoral degree in cultural archeology, specializing in native Indian cultures in Central or South America. She plans to continue her studies in German and Russian, as well, and aspires to be a multilingual professor at the college level.

North Georgia is one of only six senior military colleges in the United States. Its corps of cadets represents about 13 percent of the university's student population.

Indiana Cadet immersed in international government

By **Jeremy O'Bryan**

U.S. Army Cadet Command

Grace Geiger, a 22-year old Army Cadet and political science student at Indiana University-Bloomington, grew up in Springfield, Ill., a small capital city perched on the plains — a town put on the map by one of America's most highly regarded presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

Geiger said having Honest Abe in the back of her mind might have inspired her to study political science. If so, it's paying off. She spent the fall semester working with the State Department in Washington, D.C., as part of Indiana University's Washington Leadership Program.

"I heard about an internship through IU's Washington Leadership Program and decided to go for it," Geiger said.

The university has 30 spots each semester.

Students are selected based on a variety of criteria, including grades, coursework, maturity level, involvement in extra-curricular activities and career goals. During the internship, Geiger filled a position doing staff work in the political and military affairs bureau.

"I received messages, processed them and made sure the messages got to the right people on the assistant secretary's staff," Geiger said.

It was a busy year for Geiger in 2009: application to the leadership program, airborne school, ROTC's Leader Development and As-



Cadet Grace Geiger worked at the U.S. State Department as an intern in the political and military affairs bureau. *Photo contributed*

essment Course, back to school in the fall and off to D.C.

Geiger agreed '09 was "pretty formative." She finished her internship Dec. 10. She graduates and earns her commission as a second lieutenant and signal corps officer in May.

Francis Lewis JROTC

Patriot Battalion
National Champions



Big time in the Big Apple

Nation's largest JROTC program reaps esteem, success



Retired 1st Sgt. Richard Gogarty, one of the original cadre of the Francis Lewis High School Junior ROTC in Queens, N.Y., stands outside the building bearing a banner celebrating the battalion's success.

Program has become indelible part of school's culture

Last spring, right after Francis Lewis High School won a national drill team title, first-year principal Musa Ali Shama reveled in excitement. Though a thousand miles away, he was as joyous as the JROTC Cadets hoisting their crown in Daytona Beach, Fla.

And he wanted to let the world know what his school and his students had achieved.

So he commissioned and erected a banner hailing the victory. This wasn't just any banner. It takes up a quarter of the school's façade, even dwarfing the Francis Lewis granite sign near the building's entrance.

"We have no other banner other than the JROTC banner that says 'national champion,'"

Ali Shama said. "As a faculty and administration, we take a lot of pride in that. We know as adults the level of commitment it takes to achieve something like that. It's a significant achievement not only for our school, but for the county of Queens, the city of New York and for the state of New York."

With almost 700 Cadets, Francis Lewis' JROTC program is the largest in the country. It's also one of the most successful — having added a national Raider championship this fall — and, quite possibly, one of the most beloved.

Visitors to the school find JROTC's presence inescapable. Besides the banner, the lobby is something of a shrine to JROTC. A flat screen display runs a loop that features images of Cadets in action and information on the program. Along a glass wall in the back, two poster-size blow-ups of front pages from a

Photos & story by Steve Arel ■ U.S. Army Cadet Command

Cadet Command newsletter spotlighting the drill team victory are taped up. A 6-foot high spindle stand features a “scrapbook” where people can flip through month by month and see what Cadets have done over the past year. And a 20-foot-long, glass-enclosed case displays trophies and other items from the Patriot Battalion.

At Francis Lewis, Cadets are placed on pedestals by administrators, teachers and students. They, and the program as a whole, are considered assets to the school and to the community.

When a scuffle breaks out in the absence of adults, it’s usually a JROTC Cadet who breaks it up. When trash dots the hallways, it’s usually JROTC Cadets who pick it up.

No one tells them to do it. That’s just the way they have been taught since the program began in spring 1994: Be model citizens and leaders, even when no one is looking.

“The biggest mistake I ever made was underestimating kids,” said retired 1st Sgt. Richard Gogarty, Francis Lewis’ senior Army instructor. “You let them run with something, and they’ll get it done. ... We’re turning out great citizens. They’re better at what they do, no matter what they do.”

Students enrolled in JROTC are familiar sites in the community. They march in parades. They clean local parks. They sing patriotic songs at retirement homes.

And they are stars in the classroom, with a program graduation rate just shy of perfect and a GPA that’s 10 points higher than the average Francis Lewis student.

“The students take the leadership skills they learn with them,” said Annette Palomino, Francis Lewis’ assistant principal. “JROTC makes them feel they’ve accomplished something, and they have. This program is the backbone of the school.”

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Acceptance took time

It wasn’t always that way.

When the program started, some teachers in the school adamantly opposed its creation.

They saw JROTC as a recruiting tool for the Army and felt it was an inappropriate tactic for boosting the service’s ranks.

Gogarty, one of Francis Lewis’ original instructors, set out to insert himself and JROTC into the school culture. He remembers telling fellow educators hello in those early days, only to be ignored.

Still, Gogarty overlooked the negativity and worked to educate others of the true mission of JROTC: to develop better citizens.

“I believed so much in what we were doing,” he said.

Arthur Goldstein was part of the opposition. But his view quickly changed, thanks to Gogarty.

Goldstein had a student in his English as a Second Language class, a JROTC Cadet, who was struggling with a book report, mostly because she didn’t understand the text. The Cadet explained her problem to Gogarty and pleaded for help.

Gogarty had never read the book and knew he couldn’t provide much guidance without

Nowadays, when Gogarty and Goldstein see each other in the teacher’s cafeteria or elsewhere, Goldstein greets the first sergeant enthusiastically and with a smile.

So do others.

In fact, when other teachers and administrators encounter trouble students and students dealing with personal issues they often turn to the JROTC instructors for guidance. They say the instructors, in having served in the military, are accustomed to handling difficult situations and adapting.

“They always turn (the students) around,” Palomino said.

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A family legacy for some

Most Francis Lewis Cadets will go on to college. In fact, 20 of them have been accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point since 2003. The program averages another five who receive Senior ROTC scholarships.

But for the overwhelming majority of students, their ROTC experience will end at high

school. Because many are not American citizens — and for a good number, English is not their first language — they are not eligible to receive a Senior ROTC scholarship.

But those students, including Cadet battalion commander and South Korean native John Shin, have no issue with that policy. They have relished the opportunity to improve personally and professionally through JROTC.

Shin, for instance, is in his fourth year with the program. He remembers as a freshmen being shy and reserved.

Speaking in front a group, for him, required considerable motivation.

That’s when Shin spoke to a friend, a senior at the time, who told him about JROTC and the difference it could make — and had made for him. Today, Shin is a lieutenant colonel, the Patriot Battalion’s highest-ranking Cadet.

As commander, he is responsible for approving battalion actions and activities and works closely with program instructors. It’s a position that requires Shin to be outspoken and give direction publicly.

“As I got more and more into JROTC, I

continued on page 8

Growing program

Enrollment figures for the Francis Lewis JROTC program over the years:

2009 — 679	2000 — unavailable
2008 — 572	1999 — 378
2007 — 548	1998 — 315
2006 — 542	1997 — 288
2005 — 511	1996 — 333
2004 — 488	1995 — 260
2003 — 375	1995 — 155
2002 — 320	Source: Francis Lewis JROTC.
2001 — unavailable	

reading the book. So, between instructing his classes and after hours, he read it and tutored the student on the book’s storyline.

The student earned a passing grade on the report.

“I’d never seen anybody do that, let alone a teacher,” Goldstein said. “I’ve been a fan (of JROTC) ever since.”

The first sergeant saw it another way.

“What good is someone who gets an A in JROTC and fails all the other subjects?” said Gogarty, who keeps tabs on all of his students by maintaining a book with the grades of each class in which they are enrolled.

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spoke more,” he said. “I had more confidence, and it brought me to this position. This program brings a person to the top, and brings out their potential.”

Francis Lewis’ first JROTC class totaled 155 students. One of those initial Cadets was a junior named Jennifer Lewis.

With so many students and so little space, Gogarty devised a plan a while back to prevent further chaos at the end of the school year.

In the year and a half she was in the program, Lewis rose to the rank of staff sergeant and graduated a confident, motivated woman who used what she learned to help others, working today in New York providing legal assistance to youths in the criminal justice system. Lewis’ desire to develop herself personally and professionally rubbed off on her 14-year-old daughter, Kiera, a Francis Lewis freshman who gave up health and gym classes to join JROTC in early November.

“I admire my mom a lot and want to be as great a leader as she is,” said Kiera Lewis, who remembers seeing old images at home of her mother in uniform. “JROTC is a great start.”

Jennifer Lewis encouraged her daughter to join, but left the decision up to Kiera. The younger Lewis said she thought about not taking the class until her sophomore year to ensure she adjusted to high school life and to devote time to the school’s step team.

“Then it just clicked,” Kiera Lewis said. “I decided I’m going to make the time, and

it’s going to make me better in the future.”

The transition already has been beneficial, she said. In just a short time, Kiera Lewis has seen a difference in herself. Most notably, she carries herself with more confidence and evaluates situations before she acts.

“I feel like a different person,” Kiera Lewis said.

Lewis was walking to school one day recently while in uniform when a construction worker stopped her. He asked if she

was a member of JROTC. When she responded, the man smiled and said she was “doing a good thing.”

“It made me feel really good,” Kiera Lewis said. “I had to call my mom.”

•♦♦♦♦•

Size poses unique challenges

Francis Lewis High School, in this Queens suburb, is New York City’s second largest high school and arguably one of the nation’s most diverse. With nearly 4,600 students enrolled, the school has nearly double the capacity it was designed for more than 40 years ago.

There are so many students, two school day sessions are held, with the first starting just after 7 a.m. and the second wrapping up just before 7 p.m. There are no lockers because there’s not enough room; students bring what books and material they need to get through each day.

The hallways are so crowded during class changes that weaving through the wall of people requires a degree of skill and keeping one’s arms tucked in front of the body or turning sideways to slide against the wall.

School enrollment has posed unique challenges for JROTC, too. Cadet strength, which peaked at 572 last year, vaulted this fall to 679 — roughly 15 percent of Francis Lewis’ total student population. Ali Shama attributes the rise to the life-lessons taught and the leadership skills JROTC instills.



Alice Lam, part of the Patriot Battalion leadership, inspects a first-year Cadet’s uniform. Cadets wear their uniforms and are inspected each Wednesday.

And like the school itself, JROTC lacks space. The program's supply rooms are two unused bathrooms with shelves built over and around the toilets and urinals because the program wasn't allowed to remove any fixtures or plumbing.

The main supply area has a single short center aisle measuring about a body width and a half wide. To one side are boxes of black dress shoes stacked almost to the ceiling, and dozens of Class A jackets and pants hung on poles on the other.

That's only a small portion of what the program owns.

With so many students and so little space, Gogarty devised a plan a while back to prevent further chaos at the end of the school year. As students turned in their uniforms, Gogarty immediately sent the massive batch of clothes to the cleaners, and he left them there all summer, not picking them up until they were to be given out at the start of the next school year.

Over the years, the program has had to purchase its own vehicle, travel trailer to haul equipment and storage trailers.

It even bought its own classroom furniture after instructors found that traditional desks still cluttered rooms on inspection days, even when pushed to the side. So each JROTC room has collapsible tables and stackable chairs.

"We've been doing this a while," Gogarty said. "You get smarter every year."

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Cadets key to operation

At the heart of the program, of course, are the students and the life lessons they learn.

With almost 700 students and only six instructors, significant responsibility for program operations rests with the students themselves, and in particular the Cadet leadership. Senior students push their subordinates, demanding as much from them as the adult teachers.

"It's not easy being a leader," instructor Master Sgt. Lawrence Badia told Cadets during a session on decision-making.

JROTC classes begin with each group receiving orders of the day from a class leader. When the Army instructor takes over, the student Cadet patrols the room, scolding other students for not paying close enough attention and reinforcing direction given by the instructor.

Wednesdays, the one day a week when Cadets wear their uniforms, are devoted to inspections. Battalion leaders scrutinize the uniforms and appearances of each Cadet. They ensure nametags are straight. They ensure brass is polished. They ensure clothing is lint-free. They ensure hairstyles meet prescribed stan-

dards.

They also quiz students on basic military knowledge. And leaders expect correct answers.

When a class of first-year students missed a series of questions at a November inspection, the day before a major test on the material, the Cadet officer-in-charge chastised the group.

"Do you all want to fail?" Cadet Lt. Alex Martinez asked. "Then you all need to study, no matter what. If you don't have time, you need to make time."

With only 44-minute periods, there is little time to waste in the classroom. Teachers use books to guide their classes, but they frequently defer to open discussions and hands-on activities for the greatest instructional impact. The thinking is students get more from a segment of instruction by doing rather than by simply listening.

When retired Master Sgt. Peter Rompf saw a woman passed out in the road after slamming her bicycle into a car door as the driver opened it one early November morning on his way to school, he decided to get a dummy and other props for a class on treating a casualty.

"You could run into that anywhere you go," said Rompf, who stayed with the woman, already being helped, until an ambulance arrived. "As they get older, they need to actually know how to do this. Forget about the multiple choice and true or false. You'd hate to be in a situation and say, 'I wish I knew how to do this.' I thought a kid probably wouldn't know what to do."

Much of the battalion's focus is keeping students involved, inside and outside the classroom.

Francis Lewis teachers, by contract, are required to work six hours, 40 minutes a day. The typical day for JROTC instructors begins around 7 a.m. and ends after 6 p.m. Same, too, for most Cadets.

Though a number of classes for students end around 3 or 4 p.m., they spend two hours or more in JROTC extracurricular activities.

Besides the renown drill teams, the program also has male and female Raider squads, an honor guard, a drum corps and even a choir. On any given day, some 300 students stay after school to participate in JROTC extracurricular activities.

But competing regularly, whether locally or nationally, comes at a price. The school is unable to fund the program's trips, so the department annually raises \$60,000, which is used for airline tickets, hotels, meals and other expenses.

"The school tries to help but there is little money for that," Gogarty said. "We either whine about it or do something about it."

That means, besides everything else, Cadets are also involved throughout the year in various fund-raisers, selling car wash tickets, candy and other items. The department even has a vending machine loaded with goodies that students throughout the school can access. The machine is so popular, instructors usually end up having to stock it twice a day.

The opportunity to participate, though, is something students appreciate.

Glen Higgins, a sophomore, has marched in three parades as a member of the drum corps. He said being visible in community events gives him a sense of pride and confidence.

"I feel important," he said. "It feels good to be part of something that's the best."

Back at school, being part of the program makes the expectations of him by others greater.

"My teachers expect more out of me," Higgins said. "If I mess up, some kids say, 'You're in JROTC. You should know better.' You're held to a higher standard."

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A cluster of the portion of trophies won by Francis Lewis Cadets over the years sits in the back of a JROTC classroom. The program has earned so many trophies, it has no room to keep them all. So some are being given away to Cadets to make room for new ones.

Hard work results in wins

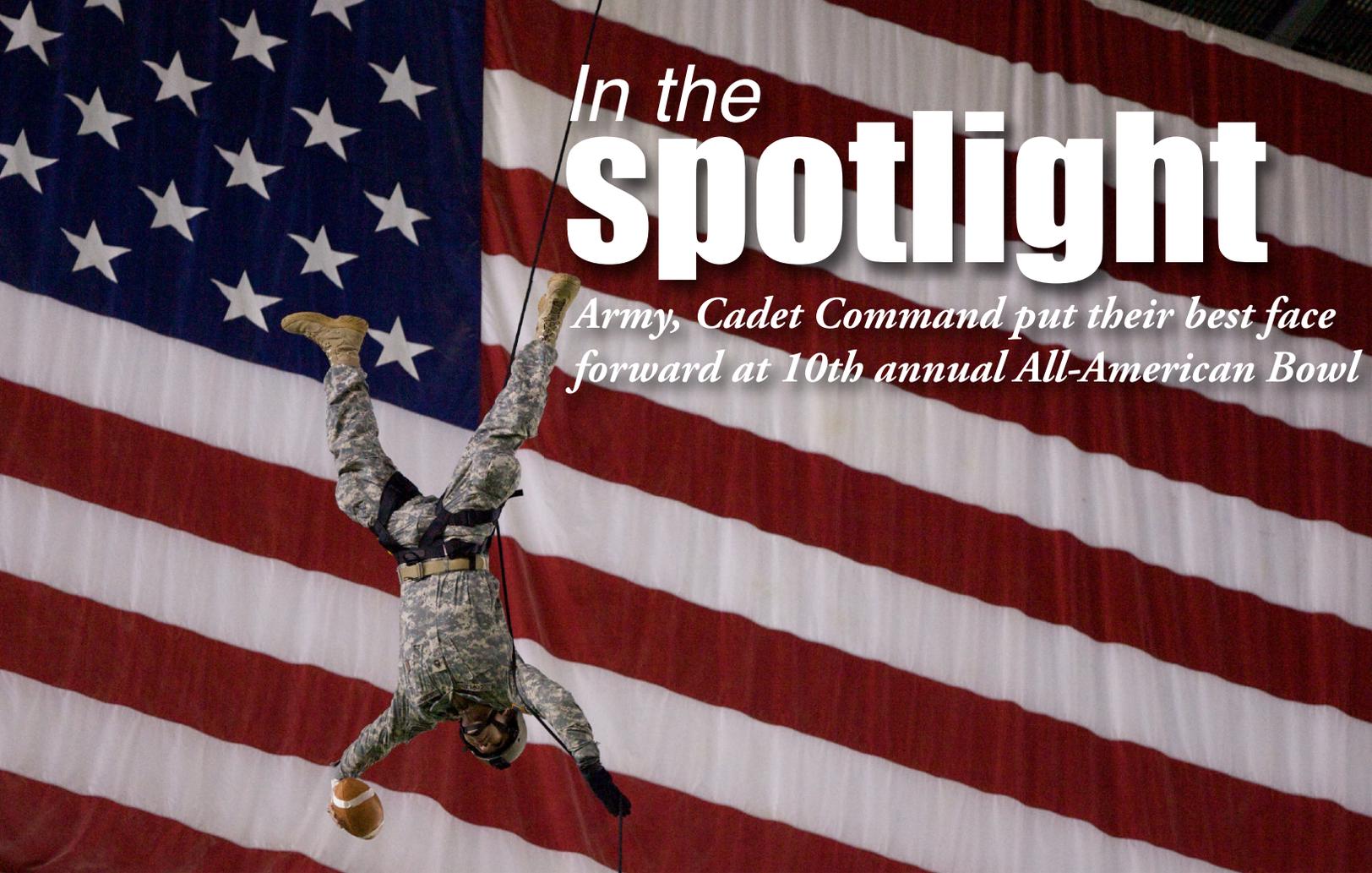
Inside the JROTC classrooms and offices sit a slew of trophies. There are some for wins at the local level, there are some for wins at the state level. There are, of course, seven national titles — two for drill, two for academics and three for Raiders, a sport similar to Ranger Challenge in Senior ROTC.

It's hard to tell just how many trophies there

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In the spotlight

Army, Cadet Command put their best face forward at 10th annual All-American Bowl



SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Last month's U.S. Army All-American Bowl showcased the top high school football talent in the nation. It was a chance for Cadet Command personnel to shine as well.

The organization had a hand in a number of bowl-related events, from helping run the National Combine to presenting scholarships to mentoring prospective collegiate players.

Two Cadets were even commissioned on the Alamodome field before some 30,000 people.

"To represent Cadet Command and the Army ... I love it," said Maj. Edwin Escobar, an assistant professor with the University of South Florida who was one of about 100 Soldiers from various Army units serving throughout the week as mentors to the seniors playing in the bowl game.

The command also played host to roughly 45 centers of influence from around the country, telling them about the benefits of Army ROTC, discussing the role they can play in promoting the organization back in their hometowns and giving them a peek at how the Army operates.

For the 16 Cadets who served as marshals during the combine, the opportunity to interact with sophomore and junior high school students aspiring to play at the collegiate level was one they relished.

"This is different than any other training I've done," said Naikeya Heath, of Florida State University. "This beats being out in the woods.

"It's exciting to see all these kids out here trying to fulfill their dreams. I'm excited for them."



Photos clockwise from top right,

Nate Askew, a wide receiver for the West team, tries to break a tackle during a run after the catch during the Army All-American Bowl.

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commander of Accessions Command, speaks about the Army Values during a barbecue dinner in the Alamodome the night before the Army All-American Bowl.

Eric Rolfe accepts an ROTC scholarship to Texas Christian University on national television at the Army All-American Bowl before the third quarter. Presenting the scholarship is Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commanding general of Cadet Command.

Brig. Gen. Arnold Gordon-Bray, deputy commanding general of Cadet Command, speaks with Pierre Banks, academic adviser for student athletes at Appalachian State University at a reception for centers of influence.

The game ball is rappelled onto the field from the rafters of the Alamodome before the Army All-American Bowl.

Photos by Forrest Berkshire



On the big stage

Cadets take the oath in front of thousands before big game



ROTC Cadets Stephen Moreno and Janice Davila have their gold bars pinned on them by family members before the Army All-American Bowl Jan. 9 in San Antonio, Texas. Photo by Forrest Berkshire

By Steve Arel

U.S. Army Cadet Command

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Two of the Army's newest officers share the distinction of having their commissioning be the most attended of any this school year.

Stephen Moreno and Janice Davila also share something else: the pressure to be successful leaders of American Soldiers.

Moreno, who graduated from nearby St. Mary University, and Davila, who graduated from the University of Texas-San Antonio, took their oaths of office on the Alamodome field from Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the Training and Doctrine Command. Several thousand people watched the event, part of pre-game activities leading up to the 10th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl Jan. 9.

Moreno and Davila were to pin on their second lieutenant bars last

month, but delayed the ceremonies so their commissionings could be done in front of a wider audience.

The two new officers said they were nervous and excited about the opportunity to become commissioned leaders in such a unique setting and surrounded by Soldiers whom they might lead someday.

"It's a great honor and amazing feeling knowing I'm going to serve in the Army," Moreno said. "Without combat experience, I'm expected to be in charge.

There's a lot of pressure, but I'm prepared."

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, Accessions Command commander, while congratulating Moreno afterward, leaned in and spoke of expectations.

"Now the hard part begins," he said. "Don't let me down."

Moreno branched infantry. After training at Fort Benning, Ga., he'll be stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Davila, who branched into the signal corps, doesn't attend her initial training until next year.

Commissioning as an Army Reservist, she will be assigned to the 228th Combat Support Hospital in San Antonio, her hometown.

Meanwhile, the biology major plans to find a job in the scientific research field.

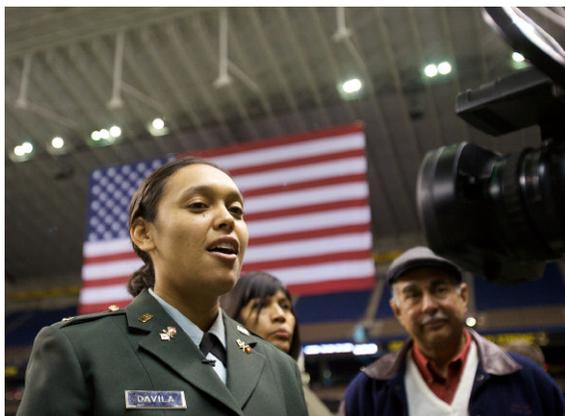
She said ROTC shaped her personally and professionally, transforming her from a shy person to one who is more outgoing.

"She's a strong performer and a good leader," said Lt. Col. Dan Mishket, the professor of military science at the University of Texas-San Antonio. "This is a great opportunity to showcase ROTC as a whole ... the superb opportunity to serve and the great Cadets coming out of UTSA."

Pinning on Davila's gold bars were her mother and younger brother. Her older brother is a first lieutenant stationed in Korea and was unable to attend the commissioning.

Davila phoned him just hours before the event. His message to his sister: I'm happy for you; now go do your job.

"People are depending on me to lead," she said. "I'm ready."



Second Lt. Janice Davila gives an interview after her commissioning at the Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Photo by Forrest Berkshire

3 schools capture Raider titles



Above, Cadets cross a stream on a one-rope bridge at the National Raider Challenge Championship in Molena, Ga. Below, Cadets compete in the 5K formation run portion. Photos by Mark Boylan

By George Whitley

U.S. Army Cadet Command

Three Army JROTC programs captured the top prizes at the recent National Raider Challenge Championship.

Smith-Cotton High School in Missouri won the mixed division. Francis Lewis High School in New York topped the female division, and Paulding County High School in Georgia took the male division title.

The third annual two-day competition, held last month at the Gerald I. Lawhorn Scouting Base in Molena, Ga., featured a record 64 teams representing 35 high schools from around the country. Cadets participating were from Army, Navy and Marine Corps programs.

Smith-Cotton edged out Jenkins County High School of Georgia in the mixed division (teams consist of boys and girls), winning three of the five competition categories and finishing second in the other two. Campbell High School, another entry from Georgia, took third overall.

Cadet Earl Manuel, commander of the Smith-Cotton squad, said the victory was significant.

"This was a great experience for all the Cadets on the Smith-Cotton team," he said. "We put Sedalia, Mo., on the map with this win."

The team's success stemmed from the Cadets' drive, its coach said.

"Our Smith-Cotton team worked hard every day to become this year's raider national champion," said retired Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bush, the team's coach. "Our staff and the local community are very proud of the team and what they have accomplished."

In the female division, this particular group of Francis Lewis High School Cadets had only been working together for a couple of months. Considering their inexperience, the win stunned the team's coach, retired Master Sgt. Pete Rompf.



"Every night I'm laying in bed saying, 'We won,' " he said. "I still can't believe it. It was the biggest thrill for me since I've been here."

Grissom High School of Huntsville, Ala., placed second in the female division, with Richmond Hill High School, of Richmond Hill, Ga., third.

Coming in behind Paulding County High School, of Dallas, Ga., in the male division were Francis Lewis High School, which was second, and Grissom High School, which took third.

The various events Cadets competed in included a physical fitness test, a 5K run, a gauntlet course which each team had to work its way through; a cross-country rescue and a rope-bridge obstacle.

Justin Gates, competition director from Sports Network International, which annually organizes the competition, called this year's event "exceptional in every aspect."

"We want to make the raider nationals something every school with a raider program will want to attend," he said.

Put to the test

*1st Brigade schools compete
in 15-mile course for
chance to go up
against West Point
at Sandhurst*



*Photos and story by
Forrest Berkshire*



Cadets from Texas A&M work together to span the gap to a tunnel on the Leadership Reaction Course portion of the Bold Leader Challenge.

North Georgia College and State University claimed the top prize in November at the inaugural U.S. Army Cadet Command 1st Brigade Bold Leader Challenge at Fort Knox, Ky.

The competition pitted 10 teams from Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs at six senior military schools in a marathon 15-mile military skills competition that tested physical endurance and teamwork.

The competition began Nov. 6 with two marksmanship events at the post's rifle ranges.

But it was the next day when their physical limits were tested. The teams had seven hours to traverse 15 miles across Fort Knox's rolling hills. Scattered along the route were 10 stations where Cadets were given various tasks to complete, such as crossing a stream on a one-rope bridge, navigating an obstacle course and crossing an incline wall. Also along the route, the teams were given navigation points to locate.

Each station held its own unique challenges.

For instance, at the litter carry station, eight Cadets were designated to carry a wounded comrade through a zig-zagging lane of cones. The catch: All of the carriers were blindfolded and had to rely on the wounded Cadet to direct them by voice. If anyone among the carriers spoke, or if they tripped or if they knocked over a cone, they were assessed penalties that counted against their total time for the course.

At another station, called simply "the scenario," Cadets came across a trailer set up as an enemy headquarters. They had four minutes to search the room for any useful intelligence, making sure they placed items they disturbed back the way they were found. Not until the end of the course, several hours later, did they learn they would be tested with a five-question test on what they found.

But while the stations tested their skills, it was the course itself that tested Cadets' endurance.

"The course today was just grueling," said Chris Lee, the team leader for NGCSU's winning team.

About 10 miles into the course, Lee was pulled aside by cadre at the weapons assembly station who were concerned about him. His face was flushed, and he was breathing hard.

The medic at the station asked him if he needed to be evacuated to the hospital as a heat casualty. Lee fought to stay with his team, accepting fluid but continuing on with his team after the event was completed.

Lee said there were some strong individuals on his team who carried the day.

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Above, Virginia Tech Cadet John Steger fires his M16A2 during the battle drill portion of the marksmanship event of the Bold Leader Challenge at Fort Knox. Virginia Tech's Team 1 placed second in the inaugural event modeled after West Point's Sandhurst competition.

At left, a Texas A&M Cadet crosses a one-rope bridge during the 1st Brigade Bold Leader Challenge.



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“It was those individuals that stepped up and pulled it out in the clutch,” Lee said.

Lee said he couldn’t tell after he and his fellow Cadets finished the course whether they were in the running for first place.

“There were so many variables we couldn’t count,” he said. “And the penalties (at the stations) were crazy.”

The North Georgia Cadets weren’t the only ones who found the terrain taxing.

“We weren’t expecting the hills,” said Alex Adkins, a member of the Virginia Military Institute’s team. “Those aren’t a joke.”

VMI finished third. Virginia Tech’s Team 1 was second.

“This whole thing is about fortitude,” Col. David Hubner, commander of 1st Brigade, told the Cadets at the awards ceremony. “It was a gut-check.”

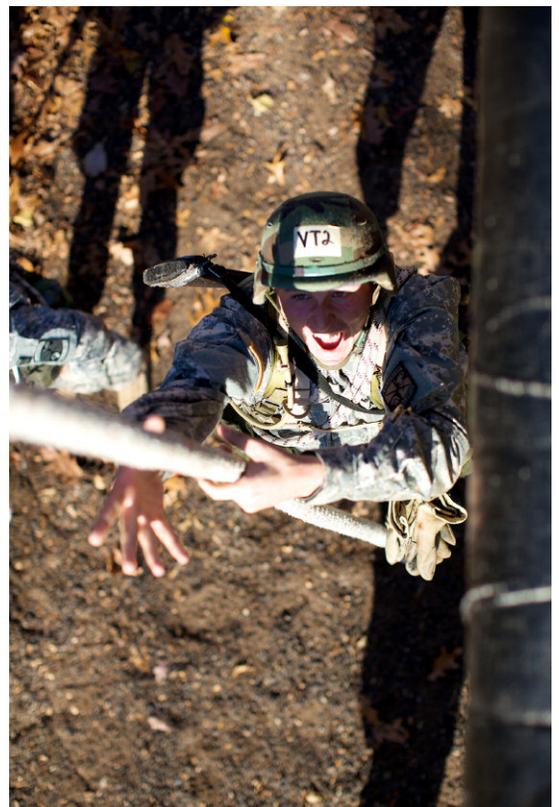
The course was designed to be tough for a reason, Hubner said. It was closely modeled after the Sandhurst competition held annually by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Cadet Command is invited each year to send eight teams, one from each brigade.

As the winner of this year’s Bold Leader Challenge, North Georgia will represent 1st Brigade at Sandhurst April 10.

“We want to go up there and beat West Point at their own game,” he said.

A Virginia Tech Team 2 Cadet leaps for a hand hold on the climbing rope at Grabiarz Confidence Course at Fort Knox during the Bold Leader Challenge.

“This whole thing is about fortitude,” Col. David Hubner, commander of 1st Brigade, told the Cadets at the awards ceremony. “It was a gut-check.”





Cadet James Maskovyak leads his University of Dayton team along Independence Avenue in front of the Washington Monument during the Army Ten-Miler. Photo by Forrest Berkshire

Going the extra mile

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pain pulsed through Caleb DeVries' legs halfway through the Army Ten-Miler. But he had no plans to stop running.

Not now. Not on the downhill side of the biggest run of his collegiate career. And not with his fellow University of Kentucky Cadets depending on him to complete the race.

Jogging along scenic Independence Avenue past the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, DeVries' focus was broken by the cheers from crowds lining the route, offering words of encouragement to those going by. Suddenly, the freshman forgot about his legs and picked up the pace.

"You get a lot of energy from the crowd," said DeVries, who had never run 10 miles straight before completing the Ten-Miler held Oct. 4.

More than 400 Army ROTC Cadets ran in the 25th annual Army Ten-Miler. A team with Virginia Tech won the ROTC division, the second straight year the squad claimed the title in the collegiate category.

The Hokie Battalion beat out a team from the University of Connecticut, finishing the course with a collective time of four hours, 14 minutes, 38 seconds. East Carolina University was third. Kentucky took fourth.

Though Virginia Tech had eight members on the squad, only the top four times counted toward the team's overall time. Virginia Tech had two teams compete. Its second entry ended up eighth.

The ROTC division included 56 teams representing almost 50 schools.

Individually, Dickinson College's Gregory Leak was the top Cadet finisher, coming in 60th overall with a time of 56:03.

John Steger, a senior and captain of Virginia Tech's winning group, said he was confident

the team would finish strong. He attributed the win to a solid training regimen, experience and camaraderie.

"It's a good group of guys," Steger said. "We're not losing many (to graduation), so the next two years will be good."

The Army Ten-Miler is among the largest races in the country, with 30,000 people competing. Starting and ending at the Pentagon, the course crosses the Potomac River, running along the National Mall to loop around the U.S. Capitol building, forming a 10-mile circuit.

The event attracts runners from around the world. This year's race featured competitors from as far away as Brazil, Japan and Korea.

ROTC teams traveled from as far as Wyoming to compete. Many Cadets said they had only been training since returning to school, which amounted to about five weeks leading up to the race.

Some said a lack of roadwork hurt their

Story by Steve Arel



Cadet Taylor Bowen, of East Carolina State University, crosses the finish line at the Army Ten-Miler. Photo by Steve Arel

times. Others said that despite little preparation, the environment they faced back home with hills gave them an advantage on the relatively flat route of the 10-miler.

Katherine Baumann, a senior with the University of Connecticut, runs marathons during the year. She approached her third Ten-Miler with a strategy: Run with a buddy.

Paired up with fellow senior Cadet Josiah Hennig, the two worked together to create holes in the initial pack of people at the outset and encouraged each other along the way.

Until the end.

“That last 100 meters is fair game,” said Baumann, who sprinted toward the finish to edge Hennig.

Competing in the race was more than a chance to run for many Cadets. It was an experience.

They connected with other runners from around the country, toured the nation’s capital and attended a luncheon during the Association of the United States Army’s annual convention held in ROTC’s honor.

Back at the Pentagon after the race, John Hessler sat on the pavement stretching and trying to work the cramps from his legs. The Cadet with the University of North Carolina-Charlotte reflected on his accomplishment of completing the 10-miler.

What stuck most with him was the infectious camaraderie he witnessed while enveloped by thousands of other competitors at the race’s start.

“There were a lot of patriots; a lot of amazing people,” Hessler said. “It’s like a huge family out here.”

ROTC tent makes for a ‘hooah’ event

Cadet Command spreads word about offerings at Army Ten-Miler

By Steve Arel

U.S. Army Cadet Command

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Amid the frenzy of people snagging ROTC-branded material, Cadet Command staffers scrambled inside their white tent to keep pace with demand. Almost as quickly as they could set out T-shirts, water bottles and other trinkets, they were gone.

“It’s hard work, but fun,” Keith Mills, Cadet Command’s division chief of events and outreach, said during a break.

Positioned in the thick of a small tent city next to the Pentagon serving as an attraction at October’s 25th annual Army Ten-Miler, Cadet Command was among more than 50 organizations and installations from around the world showcasing their mission and connecting with scores of people. Those hosting what was known as a Hooah Tent gave out everything from shirts to keepsake bags to key chains to food.

And all of it was free.

By the time the race ended and the crowd disappeared, Mills figured he and his staff of 10 had handed out more than 10,000 items emblazoned with the ROTC name and logo.

Cadet Command’s tent proved something of a magnet. Standing out front wooing passersby was a 15-foot high balloon shaped like a second lieutenant, along with a staffer dressed in an air-filled costume also shaped like a second lieutenant who made his way around greeting people in the crowd.

A couple of recruiters also worked the booth to offer information about the benefits and opportunities of ROTC.

But Cadet Command’s tent offered much more than promotional items. The area gave the dozens

of Cadets running in the 10-miler a place to store their gear, rest and grab a bite to eat. Many of them took advantage.

Cheering them on was Maj. Gen. Arthur Bartell, commanding general of Cadet Command. He spent time with Cadets, applauding their efforts, patting them on the back, taking photos with them and lending a hand passing out promotional items.

Brenda Fuentes, a marketing and advertising specialist at Cadet Command’s Fort Monroe, Va., headquarters, began working the tent around 4 a.m. on race day. Planning for the exhibit began in April, when organizations could register for a tent.



Scores of people on hand for the Army Ten-Miler huddle in front of the U.S. Army Cadet Command Hooah Tent. An oversized, air-filled second lieutenant greeted visitors. Photo by Steve Arel

“The tent worked out perfect,” she said. “It’s putting the right people in the right places.”

The Association of the United States Army, which puts on the Army Ten-Miler and organizes the Hooah Tents, handed out an award for the best tent. This year’s went to the one set up by Fort Hood, Texas.

While Cadet Command’s didn’t win, organizers of the tent said an award paled in comparison to the exposure ROTC received to the thousands of people who stopped by.

Mills said response to Cadet Command’s tent was overwhelmingly positive.

“It was definitely worth it,” he said.

continued from page 4

“Even in the adversity of having cancer, there are things you can do to succeed and to accomplish and to move on with your life and make the community around you a better place. A lot of my personality traits came from that small-town environment.”

Lloyd joined the Pennsylvania National Guard when he was 18 and “grew up in the Army,” he said. He was a private, an E-1, who “didn’t know his head from a hole in the ground.” He attended Army basic training during summer 1996, right after graduating for high school, finishing four days before starting college at IUP in the fall.

“I had good non-commissioned officers, good officers, who kind of lead you along the way, and you mature in the process,” Lloyd said. “I went through NCO development training. You learn a process of functioning and thinking and just being able to do work.”

“I logged hundreds of hours of volunteer work when I was younger, and I think the leadership traits I have come from my mom,” Lloyd said.

Lloyd met his wife, Kristi, at IUP when they were both pursuing bachelor’s degrees – his in physical education and sport from 2002. Kristi has been involved in Erik’s active-duty career since the beginning.

She sat at a kitchen table with him when he decided after graduating to make the transition from the Guard to active service. She said she supported his desire then and is happy to be the woman behind the man, taking care of the house, the groceries, the kids and the bills.

Erik says she’s a critical element of his current successes.

“I wouldn’t be able to do the things I’m doing today if it weren’t for Kristi, especially being a father and a husband,” Lloyd said. “We trade off duties, like being with our son and taking care of other family issues. If the baby needs a bath, and it’s my turn and she sees I’m swamped and trying to get a 25-page research paper cranked out, she’ll understand. We just kind of hand the ball back and forth.”

Kristi is an Army wife of more than six years. Because of his active-duty stint, there’ll be no surprises once Erik becomes an Army lieutenant. He’s already been to Iraq — their 18-month-old son, Blake, was born while Erik was deployed there.

Erik’s first glimpse of his son was when the boy was just a couple days old, via a webcam hooked up to a hospital robot. Lloyd and Kristi have another child due in June.

During Lloyd’s six-year active-duty stint in the Army, he worked as a medical laboratory technician and biological research non-commissioned officer, reaching the rank of staff sergeant.

As he headed back to school for his graduate degree, Lloyd joined ROTC through the Army’s active-duty Green to Gold program, which affords enlisted Soldiers the opportunity to become Army officers. He is working on a master’s degree in adult education and communications technology and will graduate in May. Lloyd will commission upon graduation.

Those who know Lloyd best can testify to his merit.

Lt. Col. Brook Whiffen, IUP military science professor, said Lloyd is a stellar student who’s finds balance between his coursework, his leadership traits and his family.

“Cadet Lloyd’s No. 1 ranking reflects outstanding academic performance as a 4.0 student,

leadership and military performance, and athletic ability,” he said.

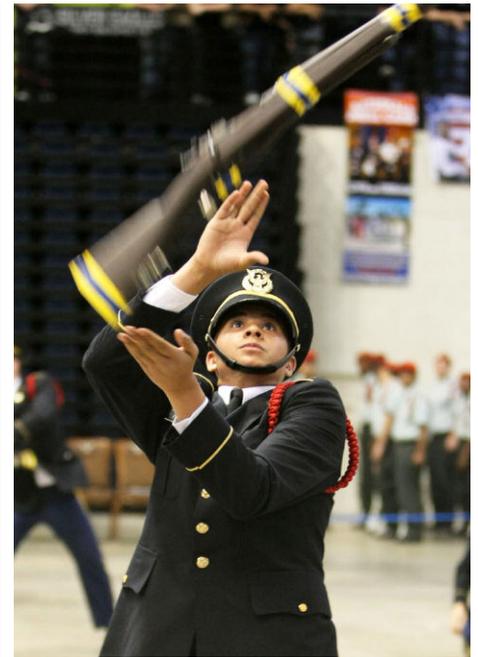
Lloyd also spends several hours each week mentoring younger and less-experienced Cadets in his battalion.

“This national honor reflects strongly on the historic excellence and distinction of the IUP ROTC program,” said Dr. Tony Atwater, IUP president. “Cadet Lloyd is to be commended for bringing national recognition to his individual performance, as well as to his battalion and to the university.”

In recognition of his national No. 1 ranking, Lloyd is entitled to select the career branch he’ll enter as an Army officer. He has selected the Medical Service Corps.

Lloyd said the formative nature of his enlisted experience working in the medical field prompted that decision.

“It’s what I know,” Lloyd said. “Plus I worked with two people who were very influential, and who told me that I should stay in the medical field. They are also why I think mentorship is so essential.”



An Army Junior ROTC Cadet prepares to catch his spinning rifle at the 2009 national drill meet. Photo by Steve Arel

JROTC event season approaching

The competition season for Junior ROTC programs around the country ramps up beginning this month with a host of regional- and national-level events.

The Army JROTC air rifle championships are set for Feb. 18-20 at Camp Perry, Ohio, near Toledo. The event features the top high school shooters, who will compete in the sporter and precision divisions. Winners will advance to the national meet scheduled for March 25-27 in Anniston, Ala., that features representatives from Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs.

The annual Eastern and Western drill competitions take place on consecutive weekends in March. The Western meet will be held March 13 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. For the first time, the meet will feature two competition levels — challenge, for novice teams, and masters, for more experienced programs.

The Eastern meet rotates back to Macon, Ga., from Washington, D.C. It is scheduled for March 20.

All that leads up to the 28th annual National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla. The three-day event, to be held May 1-3, includes teams from all services and from nearly three dozen states.

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are, without taking serious time to count them all. But the program has earned so many over the years that there's no longer space to keep them. So to make room for new ones, Gogarty has started giving some away — 60 last year alone — to Cadets as they achieve various milestones within the program.

The national championships are staying put, he said. They represent the pinnacle of Francis Lewis' success.

On the drill floor, the Patriot Battalion has long been a dominant force and the best in the eastern half of the country. In fact, the school's armed and unarmed squads have won the last four Eastern Region crowns. And those victories haven't been close.

Francis Lewis has followed up its success with national wins in demilitarized arms in 2009 and in 2007.

Justin Gates, competition director for the national drill meet held each year in Daytona Beach, Fla., gets a chance during the year to see dozens of high school teams in action and often visits those schools. He has traveled to Francis Lewis High School a couple of times and has heard people at drill meets wonder out loud about the program's competition success.

Gates said many people often mistakenly see

Because of the challenges, "when we win, it makes it all the more sweet," Gogarty said.

Francis Lewis as the recipient of favorable calls or as the beneficiary of top-rated training facilities and a school district with deep pockets. The reality, he said, is the program's success stems from dedication to the sport.

"These people who think they have all this handed to them or by sheer magic don't understand," Gates said. "They do it out of hard work. ... They don't accept just being good enough in anything."

Mother Nature and the school's physical constraints squeeze Francis Lewis' ability to practice as most any high school squad. Because not all students are out of class by 3 p.m., practices begin with less than half the team. Cadets run through routines as much as possible, with most everyone in place by 5 p.m.

But by that time, it's already dark outside. And even if there is a glimmer of light, it's too cold to work outdoors.

So Cadets are relegated to practicing in the

cafeteria, since the gym is in use until the final bell rings just before 7 p.m.

The lunchroom provides some space, but it's not ideal. Cadets find themselves constantly having to maneuver around columns as they march. Tossing rifles into the air is out because the ceiling, made of metal plates, is just 8 feet high.

The ceiling limitations also prevent the four-member color guard from running through its complete sequence. Skylights that reach several more feet above the main ceiling provide some space for the group to work on unfurling its flags and saluting with colors. But to march around in formation, they only carry the bottom portion of their staffs that come within a couple of feet of the ceiling.

All that's why the teams also practice for several hours on Saturdays, when they have a better chance — but still no guarantee — of using the more spacious gym.

Because of the challenges, "when we win, it makes it all the more sweet," Gogarty said.

Despite the obstacles Cadets face each year, he sees the keys to their success as simple:

planning and preparation.

"It's not winning those competitions that really matter, it's the preparedness they learn," he said. "If they prepare for something in life or college the way they prepare for these things, that's why they're winners. Everyone is always trying to find out why our drill team is so good or why our Raider team is so good. They're like, let me video tape them or see them do push-ups. They're missing the obvious. We practice."

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Program instills lofty goals

Gogarty says his greatest disappointment would be seeing a student fall short of his or her potential after graduation. He gets reinforcement from several of his former Cadets who attend St. John's University, just a couple miles down the road from Francis Lewis.

They come back to the school, some of them



Jesse Ahmed reads along from a Junior ROTC textbook during a discussion about leadership.

a couple of times a week, to talk with current Cadets about post-high school opportunities and to offer further encouragement.

One of those is Marc McMennamin, a scholarship freshman with the senior ROTC program at St. John's who passes along lessons learned and encourages non-JROTC students to join. A four-year Cadet at Francis Lewis, the former honor guard commander has used his experience at Francis Lewis to excel in college.

"It made me a leader and put me way above people who didn't come to this program," McMennamin said. "At times, I think this program is harder than what I'm in now."

His experience in JROTC, he said, shaped his life and put him on a positive path. McMennamin tells other students that if they dedicate themselves, the program will set them up for lifelong success, too.

After serving as an Army officer, McMennamin wants to someday be the secretary of defense — a goal he doesn't consider too lofty.

"I like being a leader," he said. "I have ideas I think will change the way the military functions. Francis Lewis teaches you to shoot for the top."

Which is where those at Francis Lewis expect the JROTC program to be. Palomino, the school's assistant principal, has traveled the last two years with the drill teams to Daytona Beach. She plans to be back there again in May, at her daughter's urging, despite her daughter expecting to play in a collegiate softball postseason tournament at the same time.

"It felt as close to the Olympics as I could get," Palomino said of her experience last spring. "Winning the nationals brought tears to my eyes."

"It's amazing the impact six people can have on 700 students. Anyone who walks into Francis Lewis knows about JROTC. If they were to leave, it would destroy the culture of Francis Lewis. The love they have for these kids is infectious, and I'm infected."

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