



ARMY STRONG



Army Dining In

Inside this issue:

<i>Dining In</i>	1
<i>New Battalion Organization</i>	1
<i>CSM Birch Addresses Battalion</i>	2
<i>Ranger Platoon</i>	2
<i>Cadre Feature: SFC</i>	3
<i>SGM Ferrone awarded</i>	3
<i>Winter Commissioning</i>	4
<i>Army Veterans Honored</i>	5
<i>Cadets of the Month</i>	6
<i>CWST and Swim Test</i>	6
<i>University Traditions: Snowball Fight</i>	7
<i>Military Weekend</i>	7
<i>Photos</i>	8

Battalion PT Goals

- MS I's :
240 with 80pts in each event
- MS II's :
260 with 85pts in each event
- MS III's :
280 with 90pts in each event
- MS IV's / V's
285 with 90pts in each event

LDAC Recondo Standards

- 270 Overall Score with 90pts in each event; Meet Hgt/Wgt
- 1st Time pass CWST, Hand Grenade, ITT, First Aid Crs, Confidence Crs
- 23 of 40 BRM
- 80%+ Written and Field LN
- "S" Rating in all Squad STX
- "S" in all Ldrshp Dimensions

On February 1st, 2007, The New River Battalion held a Dining In Ceremony at Owens Banquet hall. It was a new experience for the MS1 cadets, and a fun one at that. The traditions and protocol of the Dining In were all new to us, but SGM Ferrone did his best to prepare us for what was to come. It was an amusing night filled with Army tradition, laughter, and the grog!

The Dining In is a tradition that is associated with the British Army's regimental mess. The purpose of the formal dinner was to build bonds between the units and to have a good time. Some of the traditions were skits to provide

entertainment, a formal dinner, and the grog bowl. We included all of these elements at our Dining In. The skits were very entertaining and did not spare any member of the cadre staff. The dinner was good, but took a long time to eat with all of the points of order. Mr. Vice, Cadet Akrami, was in charge of determining who got sent to the grog but could be overruled by the president of the mess, SGM Ferrone. Mr. Vice even entertained us with his dancing skills after someone made a point of order about them.

All in all it was a very fun night. We had many laughs and even got to know some of our

fellow cadets at the Radford ROTC program. The tradition is one that will carry on through the years and it adds something new to the army experience for all of us.

by Cadet Kathleen Bain



Cadet Middleton and Cadet DiCicco drinking the Grog

New Battalion Organization

This year, the New River Battalion has adopted a new training strategy. Unlike years past, where training platoons have been split apart based upon MS class, this year the MS II's and III's have been combined into two platoons of mixed classes.



Previously, many MS II Cadets looked upon their second year in the AROTC program as a waste of time, compared to the breakneck pace of training underwent by the LDAC bound MS III's. Following

the same reasoning the MS III Cadets often felt as if the sudden acceleration of training was unnecessary, given the slow pace of training during the previous year.

The goal of the new training organization is to allow MSII Cadets to begin developing their soldiering skills while the MS III's begin serving in a variety of leadership positions. This allows for MS II and MS III Cadets to develop their class specific goals. MS II Cadets develop tactical skills earlier while MS III Cadets refine these skills while developing their leadership and mentoring skills. However, the new system initially encountered difficulties. Due to the separate PT goals the MS I, II and III classes continue forming up by class for morning PT. This has forced both Cadets

and cadre to interact simultaneously with two chains of command, and two separate accountability rosters. At the beginning of the semester both the cadre and MS IV Cadets had to overcome a great deal of miscommunication and confusion, however this has largely subsided.

Overall, the new training structure, while strained in its first semester of adoption, has helped prepare Cadets substantially more for LDAC and BOLC II. If the training structure performs as planned, current MS II Cadets should be performing far better than prior MS III classes. While not all problems have been corrected, the re-organization looks extremely promising.

by Cadet Darren Zega

CSM Birch Addresses Battalion

“There’s not doubt about it gentlemen, no matter what your branch is, no matter what kind of unit you are in, sooner or later you’re all going to Iraq, and you’ll all see combat,” Command Sergeant Major Birch told Cadet Orlino and myself. We had just introduced ourselves and prof-fered our branches “Take care of your Soldiers, and they’ll take care of you, no matter how green you might be,” he reassured us.

For the duration of his evening with us at the annual Dining In, Command Sergeant Major Birch had similar advice for every Cadet and new Lieutenant that he met. In April, CSM Birch will have served in the Army for a full 30 years—his assignments include service in Infantry, Ranger, and Special Forces units. A distinguished career, indeed! In spite of his imposing appearance, as he towered over most everyone in the room, CSM Birch looked each of us in the eye as he shook our hands and thanked us for our commitment to serving our na-

tion.

Among his advice about service in an Army currently at war, CSM Birch also addressed with great emphasis and feeling the importance of treating every Soldier with respect regardless of rank or position. “I think what struck me most about meeting him [CSM Birch] was the fact that he called each of us ‘sir’ when he met us. Clearly, he is a man that practices everything that he says,” Cadet Schuyler said. “CSM Birch made me realize just how far soldiers will go for their leaders if they feel that the leader is concerned with their well-being and livelihood not only as Soldiers, but as people,” said Cadet Wigley.

CSM Birch also expanded on this to include the Commissioned Officer-NCO relationship. “Some of my best friends have been my Platoon Leaders; they were truly great leaders, great men, great husbands and fathers. Leadership and friendship go hand in hand. If you are a good leader, the friendship will

naturally follow. If you lead the right way, not only will you have men that will sacrifice their lives for you in combat, but you will also have the best friends you could ever hope for.” This took hold with a lot of the Cadets, “That stuck the most with me, more than anything else he said,” Cadet Rollins commented.

“If you haven’t read Anton Myer’s *Once an Eagle*, I suggest you do so sometime before you pin on those gold bars. The officer that you want to emulate is Sam Damon,” CSM Birch advised just before he concluded his remarks. Before he could take his seat, he received a standing ovation from the battalion. Truly, it was a moving and fitting end to an enjoyable and informative evening to have CSM Birch address us. He is a pure warrior and an American Hero.

by Cadet Andrew Mann



Cadet Middleton presents CSM Birch a painting of the Pylons

“Take care of your Soldiers, and they’ll take care of you, no matter how green you might be”

CSM Birch

Ranger Platoon

The recent reorganization of the battalion includes a Ranger Platoon, giving the members of the VTCC Ranger Company a place within the structure of Army ROTC. Ranger Platoon is led by Cadet Dan Di Giorgio and Cadet Michael Luth serves as the Platoon Sergeant. Ranger Platoon conducts its own labs and PT, just as the other platoons within the battalion.

In addition to its new organization, the process for becoming a member of Ranger Company has been revised and standardized in order to more closely resemble an Army school, with Ranger School serving as the model that Ranger Company

strives to emulate. Ranger Indoctrination Phase (RIP) is a three week period consisting of training 5-6 days per week. During this phase candidates receive instruction in knot tying, rappelling, belaying, and negotiation of the VTCC obstacle course. RIP candidates also participate in rigorous Physical Training during this period. Upon completion of RIP, candidates must pass several tests during the Ranger Assessment Phase. This phase is 5 days long and consists of a timed 5-mile company run, a 10-Kilometer road march, negotiation of the obstacle course, knot tying/belaying test and rappelling, and the Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT). Candidates

must complete the 5-mile run in 37:30, finish the 10-K road march within an arms length of their buddy at a 14 minute per mile pace, and pass the RPFT with a 90% in each event in the 17-21 age group and perform 6 chin-ups. Candidates must also successfully negotiate each obstacle on the obstacle course and demonstrate proficiency in instructing the proper negotiation of each obstacle. The knot test consists of candidates tying 9 knots and stating the purpose and checkpoints for each knot, with 2 minutes allotted for each knot. After completing RAP, the candidates are full fledged members of Ranger Company and are able to wear the Ranger Com-

pany beret, black PT gear, and participate fully in all company activities such as the annual spring whitewater rafting trip. Their activities are conducted under the experienced eye of CPT Avila or the VTCC Cadre.

Through rigorous training and dedicated MS IV leadership, Ranger Platoon gives those Cadets who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, further opportunities to excel. These Cadets will represent the best the New River Battalion has to offer, whether they are at LDAC, Airborne School, the Corps of Cadets, or interacting with the civilian population.

by Cadet Nicholas Roland

Cadre Feature : SFC Jones

SFC Arthur Jones joined the U.S. Army in 1988 as a Medical Reservist, and went Active in 1990 as an infantryman. Over the course of his Army career, SFC Jones has attended Airborne, Air Assault, Jungle Warfare, Pathfinder, Jumpmaster, and Ranger School. His numerous awards include the Airborne

Badge, Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, British Parachute Wings, Pathfinder Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge 2nd award, Ranger Tab, and Expert Infantry Badge. SFC Jones had the opportunity to serve as a Ranger Instructor for four years, and has been deployed to Haiti twice, Iraq

twice, and to Afghanistan once. SFC Jones was assigned to VA Tech in July 2006 and is currently serving as the Operations Sergeant for the Virginia Tech Army ROTC Department.

by
Cadet Benjamin Chinsky



SFC Jones

SGM Ferrone Awarded CIB



SGM Ferrone

SGM Ferrone is the new Sergeant Major for the New River Battalion this year. He has served as a Green Beret for the past several years, prior to that he was an infantryman and has served in the Army Rangers. He is known throughout the battalion for his vast knowledge of survival skills, such as land navigation, small unit tactics, and several green berets survival tactics he learned. He instills this knowledge upon the Cadets in the Army ROTC programs at Radford University and Virginia Tech, but to further

increase his long list of accolades and service, he was awarded the CIB.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge was created in 1943 by the War department to recognize "the skill and heroism of the American infantry", as said by former Secretary of War, Henry Stinson. To receive this merit an American Soldier must be engaged in direct contact with an enemy unit. The Soldier must also actively participate in combating the enemy forces that they have made contact with. The last require-

ment to receive this award is that the Soldier must be of an infantry or Special Forces MOS and the grade of Colonel or below.

SGM Ferrone qualified for all of these criteria in order to receive his CIB for service in Iraq, after engaging in a small skirmish. Due to his active participation in the skirmish, SGM Ferrone was award the CIB merit.

by **Cadet Kerry Mitchell**

Major Hogeboom:

Nominated for Senior Military College Recruiting Operations Officer of the Year



MAJ Hogeboom



CPT Avila

Captain Avila:

Nominated for Senior Military College APMS of the Year

Winter Commissioning

On Thursday December 14, 2006 the Virginia Tech War Memorial Chapel was filled with guests as eight graduating students became Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. The New River Battalion's Commander, COL St. Jean, began the ceremony by posting the colors and dedicating a moment of silence to those Soldiers who have given their lives in defense of our country. A slideshow depicting each new Lieutenant's progression through the VT AROTC program was shown next. The Guest of Honor, LTG Kiley, served as guest speaker. He talked of the experience gained from his first day as a Soldier to his current position as Surgeon General of the Army. LTG Kiley gave the new Lieutenants advice on good leadership and warned them about potential pitfalls that they should guard against. Also in attendance was COL Robert Frusha, Eastern Region Commander. Each Lieutenant was called forward for the traditional pinning of their new rank by family members, followed by receiving their first salute by a non-commissioned officer who assisted them in achieving their success. On December 15, 2006, President Penelope Kyle, President of Radford University, attended the commissioning of three more of the battalion's Lieutenants. **by Cadet Matthew Schloesser**

Good Luck and Godspeed

2LT Abu-Akeel	Ordinance
2LT Amis	Transportation
2LT Andes	Military Police
2LT Bortner	Infantry
2LT Kiley	Medical Service
2LT Miller	Transportation
2LT Sopko	Quartermaster
2LT Tucker	Armor
2LT Hoffman	Infantry
2LT Lester	Quartermaster
2LT Leake	Nurse
2LT Heughan	Finance



Virginia Tech Commissioning;

2LT Kiley , 2LT Andes, 2LT Abu-Akeel, 2LT Amis,
2LT Bortner, 2LT Miller, 2LT Tucker, 2LT Sopko



Radford University Commissioning

RU President, Penelope Kyle with 2LT Heughan (FI), 2LT Leake (Nurse), 2LT Lester (QM)



Cadet Thomas Bortner is pinned with the rank of U.S. Army Second Lieutenant by his parents in War Memorial Chapel at VA

Army Vets Honored

With the tragedy that occurred on September 11th, many people knew that this country of proud Americans would respond. We answered that cowardly act by announcing that we will not stand for it and that we will retaliate. Our fellow Americans showed great support for the defense of our nation and, in vast numbers, allowed their emotions to carry themselves into battle by enlisting into the armed services. The dedication, pride and determination to stand up for what is right touched four of our own Cadets here at Virginia Tech Army ROTC.

After showing support for our cause by joining the commissioning program, Cadets Pitts, Riley, Balach, and Mitrevski all enlisted into the Army to be able to give more immediate assistance. Cadet Mitrevski enlisted into a National Guard (NG) Transportation unit

while Cadets Pitts, Riley and Balach enlisted into a NG Infantry unit based out of Christiansburg. The sacrifice that these four Cadets would soon face was yet to come.

In addition to the everyday college life, these four Cadets were actively training in one of the most prestigious Army ROTC programs in the country. Also, they found themselves conducting regular training events through their respective NG units. Knowing that deployment overseas was inevitable and the toll that their studies would take if de-

ployed, these four Cadets continued to train hard and prepare. Not much time passed after completion of Basic/AIT training before they received orders to support the War on Terror. Mitrevski and his unit were stationed in Iraq for the early stages of the war while Pitts, Balach and Riley (all three in the same unit) were ordered to deploy to Afghanistan. These deployments started in mid 2003 and were concluded in late 2004. We can only imagine the hardships that each of them experienced until we too have our chance to show our support for this country and its defense. The students, friends of VT, and Athletic Dept, recently showed their support to these Army Soldiers and VTCC Cadets by honoring them during a recent Hokie basketball game halftime celebration in Cassell Coliseum.

Although never expected, the support shown to our Soldiers by their fellow Americans, is always appreciated by the men and women in uniform serving our nation. Cadets Pitts, Balach, Mitrevski, and Riley were honored to receive this support for their service in Iraq and Afghanistan. We all had the chance to stand and express our appreciation to these four heroes of our nation.

by Cadet Jason Haggard



From Left to Right, Cadet Mitrevski, Cadet Pitts, Cadet Balach, Cadet Riley.

Alumni



MAJ Ed Chamberlayne COL Jeffrey Ingram
Class of 1993 Class of 1983

COL Jeffrey Ingram ('83) and MAJ Ed Chamberlayne ('93) are currently deployed serving in the 1st Infantry Division. COL Ingram is the 1st Brigade Commander and MAJ Chamberlayne is the 1st Engineer Battalion S-3. They took the time to show their Hokie Pride in front of a Buffalo one of the Army's best tools for route clearance and IED removal. The picture was taken near Tikrit, Iraq.

ENDOWMENT FUND

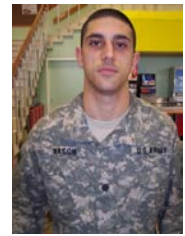
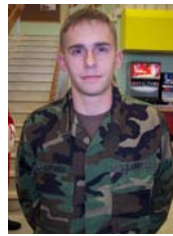
The recently established Army ROTC Endowment Fund is accepting donations. With the tightening of budgets private support for this outstanding Army ROTC program is required to continue providing the quality training our Cadets expect. Consider making a contribution to the Endowment Fund. Checks should be made out to "Virginia Tech Army ROTC". Place the account #872289 on the check. The mailing address is 226 Military Building, Blacksburg, Virginia, 24061. For additional information contact COL Chris St. Jean or MAJ Patrick Hogeboom at (540) 231-6401 or by e-mail at rotc@vt.edu.

ARMY ROTC LISTSERV

VIRGINIA_TECH_ARMY_ROTIC@LISTSERV.VT.EDU

Want to keep abreast of current Army ROTC activities? Join the ARMY ROTC Listserv by sending an e-mail to rotc@vt.edu

Cadets of the Month



MS I Cadet Douglas Mead

MS II Cadet Derrick Gough

MS III Cadet Richard Kopanda

MS IV Cadet Jeffery Nason

Congratulations to the December Cadets of the Month for their excellent leadership and motivation



MS I Cadet Harold Good

MS II William Brancati

MS III Andrew Long

MS IV Cadet Brian Orlino

Congratulations to the February Cadets of the Month for the most improved APFT score after the long holiday break.

Cadets of the Month for March— Greatest Recruiting Effort; Best MS I, II and III as voted by their peers.

Cadets of the Month for April — Midterm: MSI, MSII FTX: MSIII Most Inspirational MSIV

Cadets of the Month for May — Most Improved Cadet of the Year

CWST and Swim Test

In an effort to provide necessary water survival skills to the Cadets of the Virginia Tech Army ROTC program, the MSIV class and Cadre conducted a swimming test and Combat Water Survival training in the War Memorial Pool on Saturday 10 February 2007. This training was necessary for MS III Cadets bound for the Leaders Development Assessment Course over the summer at which they will be evaluated on their leadership abilities and military skills. The event started with a prolonged swim, in which Cadets were evaluated on their abilities to swim continuously for ten minutes without coming into contact with either the sides of their lane or the end of the pool. Cadets were also evaluated on their ability to tread water for five minutes without any assistance from other Cadets or the side of the pool. After completing both

swimming events, the Cadets donned full battle dress uniforms, modified to include tennis shoes instead of combat boots, and began the “combat” portion of the water survival training. At the fifteen meter equipment swim, Cadets strapped on load bearing equipment, (LBE) and picked up an M-16 rifle and attempted to swim the specified length while keeping their rifle from submerging below the water line. The don and ditch station tested Cadets on their ability to perform the task of removing their LBE as well as ditching their M-16 rifle while underwater. The Cadets were to stay completely submerged while performing this task and were not to resurface until all equipment was removed. The last test, the three meter drop, provided the Cadets an opportunity to test their nerves while jumping from a three meter

diving board while blindfolded. Each Cadet needed to maintain their grip on an M-16 rifle throughout the entire event in order to pass. The training went extremely well and the Cadets were very pleased with the execution of the event. The MS IV leadership, as well as the cadre, maintained proper safety standards throughout the entire operation, allowing for another effective and highly successful training environment. **by Cadet Dustin Siddle and**

Cadet Alexander Pombar



University Traditions: Snowball Fight

One of the anticipated events each winter at Virginia Tech is “the” snowball fight. On a campus of approximately 28,000 students and 800 cadets, snow ball fights each year take on the appearance of Homeric battles as the two sides traditionally surge back and forth across the drill field in search of position, fresh snow, and trophies. Both sides have advantages. Cadets are better organized, more rigid, and typically more aggressive. Civilians most often have the greater numbers, and in the February of 2005 had a detachment of baseball players whose accuracy was uncanny. The snowball fight, for the cadets, however, is mostly fought by freshmen who wait to make their mark each year.

In years past, students have witnessed all sorts of stratagems, spectacles, and ruses. Many years, barrages of snow artillery rule the field being fired by cadets armed with great sling shots. Often in the midst of a standstill, there may be a battle between champions with one volunteer

from each side entering man-to-man against their opponent for the honor of their respective side. Wrestling itself is common, yet angry contestants are quickly diffused. The snowball fight is one of friendly competition.

The most entertaining feat this past winter was perhaps a company of freshmen dressed in civilian clothes who snuck by circular route into the rear of the civilians holding the high ground. These freshmen then proceeded to direct fire into the civilian rear breaking the line. This gap opened up a hole in the line allowing the cadets below to charge

uphill from where they further cleared the high ground and reigned fire on a great pocket of civilians who were forced to onto the plain, then to disperse and seek reinforcements. The fighting further ensued and devolved, as it is wont, until both sides slowly trickled back to their respective dorms and quarters laughing, sighing, and shouting about their own little “playing fields of Eton.” Perhaps, as it was with the Duke of Wellington, we too will see the fruits of such warlike games.

by Cadet Mark Settle



VPI Cadets “Snowball Fight” Smith, Wayne R. Collection

Military Weekend



Cadet Jeffrey Stine presents gift to Major General Mark Welsh at Senior Banquet

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets hosted their annual Military Conference in conjunction with Military weekend from 9 FEB through 11 FEB 07. Cadets from other senior military colleges and service academies attended, including the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and the United States Military Academy in West Point. The conference discussions centered on three topics: Freshmen Indoctrination Programs, Motivational Tools and Institutional Standards, and Gender Issues. Some institutions sent cadets to discuss a specific topic that pertained to serious issues at their respective schools, and these cadets were able to bring excellent solutions and suggestions back to their schools. Cadets from Virginia Tech came in contact with the experiences, values, and stan-

dards of other institutions. Cadets from other Army ROTC programs and from West Point had much to offer as well as learn from Virginia Tech Army cadets. Several cadets from the New River Battalion participated in the conference. Cadets Bedell, Beringer, Settle, Counihan, and Vaughan provided excellent insight and an Army perspective to the discussion topics. These participating cadets reflected the high standards of the Army program at Virginia Tech and demonstrated the values and maturity our cadets embody. Army Strong!

by Cadet Tim Bedell

Battalion Photos



Cadet Megan Bradner gives a big thumbs up to the Battalion's Dining In



Cadets prepare for their assessment in the newly reorganized Ranger Platoon



Cadet Balach and Cadet Brennan prepare themselves for 0 degree temps during the battalion foot march.



Cadet Gallagher gets some well deserved downtime snuggled up with his favorite MRE, the Veggie Burger at the Battalion's Spring FTX



Cadet Anthony Akrami, enjoys his time as Mr. Vice during the Dining In

New River Battalion Army ROTC

Key Events Calendar

Virginia Tech ARMY ROTC
226 Military Building
Blacksburg, VA 2061
Phone: 540-231-6401/4804
Fax: 540-231-0819
E-mail: AROTC@vt.edu

www.armyROTC.vt.edu
www.radford.edu/~arotc/

"One Team One Fight"

Battalion FTX: 23–25 February 2007
Foot March: 23 February 2007
Army Marksmanship Competition 2-10 March 2007
APFT: 14, 16 March 2007
Brigade FTX: 29 March - 01 April 2007
VT Open House: 14, 15 April 2007
Basic Rifle Marksmanship: 21, 22 April 2007
RU APFT: 23 April 2007
VT APFT: 25 April 2007
RU Commissioning: 04 May 2007 (COL Tom Banasik)
VT Commissioning: 11 May 2007 (MG Kathleen Gainey)

ARMY STRONG

Battalion Spring 07 Chain of Command



The Hokie Bird decked out in ACU's



Battalion Command
Cadet Casey Middleton



Battalion XO
Cadet Jeffrey Nason



Battalion SGM
Cadet Alan Schano



Company Commander
Cadet Stephen Schuyler



First Sgt
Cadet Megan Bradner