FROM THE COMMANDER—LTC Stephenson

Time certainly flies. The academic year seemed to end suddenly earlier this month, and we now have 15 newly commissioned second lieutenants compliments of Minnesota State Army ROTC. The annual Commissioning Ceremony on 7 May was very well-attended, with over 300 family, friends, Cadets, and members of the University community taking part in what proved to be a special evening for our graduates. Congratulations once again to a great class – they will no doubt make us proud to be associated with the Maverick Battalion in the future.

I wanted to take a moment to recognize some of our cadre that recently departed or will be departing soon. After serving as the Maverick Battalion ROO for nearly 18 months, CPT Dave Campbell returned to the active duty Army on 1 March and was promptly sent to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. Good luck, Dave, and thank you for a job well done. In addition, MSG John Moore will leave for Camp Hovey, Korea in July to serve as a Troop First Sergeant in the 2nd Infantry Division. For the past four years, MSG Moore has trained every Cadet this Battalion has produced in small unit tactics and leadership. He will be a great First Sergeant, and we wish him and his family well in their new assignment.

We’re lucky to be replacing CPT Campbell with not one, but two great folks in the recruiting arena. CPT Chris Rogers took over as ROO in March after relinquishing command of his company at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. In addition, SFC Terry Mattke arrived near simultaneously and took over as the On-Campus Recruiter. Both have quickly settled-in and are working hard to recruit Cadets for next year’s freshman class.

As you’ll see in subsequent articles, Spring Semester for the Maverick Battalion was a fun and exciting time. Our Cadets were busy with all sorts of activities, both community and ROTC-related, ranging from the Joint FTX at Camp Ripley to the Klondike Derby here in Mankato. As alumni, friends, and family of MSU Army ROTC, we have good reason to be proud of our program. Next year we’ll celebrate 30 years of Maverick Battalion graduates, and I look forward to potentially hearing from you all in the coming months. Thank you for what you do, and GO MAVERICKS!

Cadre and Staff of the Maverick Battalion

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Cadet Leadership SY 2009-2010

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Mission Set 10 Commissions 15 new Second Lieutenants

The commissioning class of 2010 held strong with 15 new second lieutenants added to the United States Army. The class will be serving across all components of the Army—Active Duty, Army Reserves and National Guard. The Maverick Battalion met its commissioning mission this year with 14 regular commissionees and 1 nurse commissionee. 2LT Jeremy Milstead was ranked #2 in the nation out of 4,700 senior cadets. 2LT Tim Harting is the first Bethany Lutheran Cadet to receive his commission, he ranked number 29 on the National OML. Congratulations and good luck to all of the new Second Lieutenants!

First Female Cadet Battalion Commander in Maverick Battalion history

Cadet Caitlin Christopherson is breaking the gender barrier by becoming the first female Cadet Battalion Commander in the history of the Maverick Battalion Army ROTC program.

CDT Christopherson, a Nursing major, has established herself as a total Army Cadet by consistently scoring well over 300 on her APFT; maintaining a high GPA in her Nursing studies; participating in most of the ROTC intramural sports and being very active in her community.

Caitlyn continues to be a role model for the Cadets, male and female alike, with her professionalism, her drive and her constant above the standard performance. She’ll assume her duties as the Cadet Battalion Commander this Fall, after completing the Leadership Development and Assessment Course.

Congratulations Caitlin on a position well earned!
George C. Marshall 2010—Cadet Bruce Voelker

Bruce Voelker, a Finance major, Minnesota State Mankato senior and a senior Cadet in the Army ROTC program was selected to represent the university at the 2010 George C. Marshall Award Seminar April 11-14 at Lexington, VA. 271 top ranking Cadet seniors from colleges and universities with ROTC programs and Cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point gathered to discuss a variety of military related topics.

Cadet Voelker is continuing a fine family tradition of positively representing Minnesota State University, Mankato. His father, MAJ(R) David Voelker is a 1992 graduate from MSU and the Army ROTC program. His sister, LT Yunhui (Voelker) Danforth is a 2008 graduate of Minnesota State Mankato and Army ROTC. She was also the 2008 George C. Marshall representative for the Maverick Battalion Army ROTC program.

Throughout the week, the Cadets will participate in various roundtable discussions on topics such as US Military Support to Stability and Peace Operations, Homeland Security, Security Challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan, The Impact of a Nuclear Iran, Ethics: An Officer's Character, Security Challenges in the Americas, The Evolving Mission in Iraq and the Gulf States and selected topics related to Israel, Russia, Southeast Asia and Africa.

Cadet Voelker is most deserving of this selection. He carries a 3.92 grade point average and is very active on campus. He also participates in the ROTC Color Guard, Ranger Challenge Team, intramural sports, the Bataan Death March Team and is the designated MC for ROTC functions. In addition to his busy academic and ROTC schedule, Cadet Voelker has contributed countless volunteer hours as an elementary school tutor, volunteering at the outpatient clinic at the hospital and coordinating for a Food Relay.

Bataan Memorial Death March, White Sands, New Mexico

Twelve members of the Maverick Army ROTC program drove to White Sands, New Mexico and participated in the 21st annual Bataan Memorial Death March on March 21, 2010. Six Cadets participated in the ROTC military heavy division: Minnesota State Mankato Cadets Tim Reichert, Rory Mannino and Alex McGillick, Gustavus Adolphus College Cadets Troy French and Lance Switzer and Bethany Lutheran Cadet Phil Kaminsky. The military heavy division requires participants to walk 26.2 miles with a 35lb ruck.

Five Cadets participated as a co-ed marathon team: Minnesota State Mankato Cadets Jeremy Milstead, Steven Thomas, Bruce Voelker and Caitlin Christopherson and Bethany Lutheran College Cadet Tim Harting. The team placed 4th out of 25 teams, finishing the race in four hours and 27 minutes, only 9 minutes behind the 3rd place team and over an hour ahead of the 5th place team.

LTC Joel Stephenson, Professor of Military Science for the program, ran the marathon as an individual runner and placed 80th out of approximately 900 runners with a time of four and a half hours.
MG Richard Nash receives Distinguished Alumni, Achievement Award

MG Richard Nash, Commander of the 34th Infantry “Red Bulls” Division, Minnesota National Guard received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement from Minnesota State University on April 23rd. MG Nash graduated from MSU in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in Health, Biology and Physical Education. The Achievement award is awarded to alumni who have achieved high rank or honor in their professions, have a widespread effect on their communities, and are recognized for their achievements over the course of their careers. MG Nash enlisted in the Infantry in 1972, completed Officer Candidate School in 1976 and has served as a member of the MN National Guard his entire career. He recently returned with the Red Bulls after a successful deployment to Iraq, where the unit served as the commanding unit of Multi-National Division South—Basra, Iraq. He and his wife live in New Prague, MN.

Joint Field Training Exercise, Camp Ripley April 2010
Photos from the Spring FTX, taken by Alex Messenger, The Gustavian Weekly
MSII Cadet Brittney Leary awarded Minnesota State’s Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award

MSII Cadet Brittney Leary was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer award during the 2010 MSU Student Activities and Leadership Awards Banquet held Sunday April 25th at the Centennial Student Union.

Ms. Leary was nominated by the Cadre for her unprecedented and selfless involvement in community, ROTC and Minnesota State Mankato volunteer activities. She is a go-getter that rarely stops moving, even while balancing an intense Nursing major.

“Brittney Leary is an outstanding and energetic member of the Army ROTC program. Ms. Leary not only actively participates in the demanding schedule of ROTC but is also a sophomore Nursing major and preparing to apply to the School of Nursing. Even with this workload she is consistently the first one to volunteer for numerous activities that elevate her above her peers. She has been a member of numerous color guards for Minnesota State Mankato hockey, basketball and football games. She also participates in almost every intramural sport with the ROTC teams.

Her love of the military and the University inspired her to plan, organize and create the first ever Maverick Battalion Army ROTC band. Not only was this a first for our program, but also the first band for our Brigade grouping of 45 Senior Army ROTC programs from across the Midwest. Their musical debut was to play the National Anthem at the 5th Annual Veterans Day 5k this last fall, a task the band executed flawlessly.

This spring she was the team lead for the ROTC Relay for Life team, a charitable event designed to raise contributions for cancer research. Brittney has put in countless hours organizing volunteers and collecting donations (over $700.00) for this cause. She also volunteers her time to increase morale at a hospital near her home. She is involved with “Pet Therapy”, a program where she brings her dog to visit patients. This small selfless act has a profound effect on the level of happiness and spirit of the patients she visits.

Brittney’s faith and morals are key character traits that have garnered respect from her fellow Cadets as well as the students and faculty she interacts with on a daily basis. At her home church she teaches preschool Sunday school and assists with the 4th grade class. She is professional, respectful and compassionate towards all she meets.”
Summer Internships and Cadet Training

Sixteen Cadets received summer internships, Cadet Training or Army school slots for the Summer of 2010. Cadets will be travelling to Thailand, Tanzania, Ghana, Europe and Russia for up to three weeks.

CDT Sweeney received and Engineering Internship to Europe. Cadet Stadther will be attending a nursing internship with AMEDD in Hawaii. Two Nursing Students will attend the Nurse Summer Training Program at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii.

Two MSII’s will attend Airborne school. MSII Cadet Wingo graduated from Air Assault school on May 19th. Gustavus Cadet and varsity swimmer, Lance Switzer will be attending the US Army Diving School this summer as well.

Congratulations to all of the Cadets who earned these opportunities and good luck with the training!

Alumni Updates

We will be requesting Alumni Updates for the Fall 2010 edition of the Maverick Battalion Alumni Newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from all of our alumni!
CPT Chris Rogers  
**Recruiting Operations Officer (ROO)**

CPT Chris Rogers, an Active Duty Engineer, joins the program serving as the Recruiting and Operations Officer. He spent 11 years enlisted before completing OCS in 2002. He has a Bachelor's in History and Business Administration and a Masters in Public Administration. He deployed to Iraq in 2007 and served on a MiTT. Chris is married and he and his wife have 3 children.

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SFC Terry Mattke  
**On Campus Recruiter (OCR)**

SFC Terry Mattke is a USAREC recruiter who joined the Maverick Battalion during the Spring semester. SFC Mattke served 10 years in the USMC before transferring to the Army as part of the US Army Recruiting Command. He's served at the Sioux Falls, SD, Aberdeen, SD and now Mankato, MN stations. He'll be focusing on Active Duty and Army Reserve enlistments.

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Cadre Farewells

**CPT Dave Campbell**

CPT Dave Campbell returned to Active Duty March 2010. He selected an assignment as a Commander at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, CA. CPT Campbell was instrumental in increasing the number of SMP Cadets, coaching top notch Ranger Challenge teams and his positive attitude and encouragement will be missed.

**MSG John Moore**

MSG John Moore’s Active Duty assignment with the Maverick Battalion ends in June 2010. He will be reporting to Korea to serve as a First Sergeant. During MSG Moore’s tenure as the MSIII Instructor the program maintained above average scores at LDAC and continued to produce top quality Lieutenants.

**MSG Andrew Riehm**

MSG Andrew Riehm will retire from the Army in Sept 2010 after over 20 years of military service. MSG Riehm’s experience and mentorship with the program has been extremely valuable to developing the Cadets and offering insight from other aspects of Army service.
This spring the Maverick Battalion debuted a new guidon. The new guidon replaces the old standard gold HQ, Cadet Command version.

**Alumni Visits:** The Department of Military Science maintains an open request for any Alumni in the area or passing through, to stop in and speak to Cadets regarding their military experience. Please contact the office if you’d like to share your story.

**Fundraising:** Have you ever been contacted by MSU’s alumni relations department during their fund drives? Did you know that you could designate your donation to the ROTC department though the College of Education and the Alumni Relations Department? Donations are used in various aspects for training, scholarships and Cadet activity support.