Greetings to all of our alumni around the world. I hope that this Newsletter finds you safe, healthy, and happy.

MSU Army ROTC is still a relatively young program, having been established in 1981. As a result, we have not had an alumnus reach the rank of Brigadier General until recently. BG Alan Dohrmann, class of 1983, was promoted to Brigadier General on 28 September, 2007. BG Dohrmann currently serves as the Deputy Adjutant General and Land Component Commander for the North Dakota National Guard. He has agreed to be our guest speaker at the May 8th, 2009 commissioning ceremony. We hope that BG Dohrmann is the first of many general officers that this fine program produces.

Our ROTC program continues to do well. We are programmed to make mission for the second year in a row. The last time this program made mission two years in a row dates back to the early 1990’s. Our mission this year is to commission 11 second lieutenants. We are projecting a total of 14 commissionees. Due to the large amount of commissionees, we plan on having two ceremonies this school year, 12 December 2008 and 8 May 2009. We would love to have as many alumni as possible attend these important events. If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact myself at (507) 389-5832 or email at thomas.cooper@mnsu.edu. We are also programmed to make commission mission in 2010 as well.

Our program not only produces quantity but quality as well. Of the 12 cadets accessed this year, 5 of them were designated as Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG). By definition, 20% of all cadets are awarded the DMG designation. Our program had 45.5% designated (5/11). This is a testament to the training given by our cadre and the determination of the individual cadets.

My four years as the Professor of Military Science are almost at an end. I will retire next summer and remain in the Mankato area. My replacement has already been identified. He is MAJ(P) Joel Stephenson. He is an Armor Officer and is currently deployed in Iraq and should begin with us in July of 2009. Originally from Duluth, MN he is more than qualified for the job and is looking forward to this assignment. Please provide him with as much support as you can.
LDAC Performance.
The Maverick Battalion sent ten MS III’s to the Leadership Development Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Washington during the summer of 2008. The battalion continues to train high quality cadets who excel at LDAC and surpass Cadet Command’s average scores. Last years MS III’s exceeded Cadet Command’s average on the Army Physical Fitness Test, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, and the percentage of overall “E” excellent ratings. With 18 MS III’s preparing for LDAC this year, we are confident that the Maverick Battalion will maintain its reputation for training exceptional cadets and future warrior leaders.

LTC Performance.
The Maverick Battalion had its most successful Leader’s Training Course (LTC) campaign in 2008. During last summer, two students from Minnesota State University and one student from Gustavus Adolphus College successfully complete LTC at Fort Knox, Kentucky. LTC is a 28 day course which allows students to enter into the Advanced Course of Army ROTC without completing the first two years of Army ROTC classes. Cadet Kyle Barnes (Minnesota State University), Cadet Nick Bonestroo (Gustavus Adolphus College), and Cadet Jason Legal (Minnesota State University) all received two year scholarships after completing LTC.

Ranger Challenge 2008:
The Maverick Battalion once again competed in the Annual Ranger Challenge competition. The event is held each fall at Camp Ripley, MN and consists of teams from Minnesota State University, Mankato, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Saint John’s University, University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, and South Dakota State University. The teams compete in seven different events to include the APFT, Land Navigation, Patrolling, M16 Rifle Assembly/Disassembly, Hand Grenade Assault Course, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, and a 10 Kilometer Ruck March. The team competed very hard throughout the competition and finished seventh overall. (The Ranger Challenge Team is featured on page 6).

MN Bataan Death March Participation: On May 3, 2008 the MN National Guard hosted their 11th annual memorial death march honoring those members who lived and died during the Bataan Death March 66 years ago. A team of Maverick BN cadets competed in the 20 mile military heavy (35 lb ruck) team division and took first place. These cadets were 4 MSII’s and an MSI, with no train up prior to the event. Another MSII took 7th place in the 10 mile military men’s light division. CPT Woods took 2nd place in the 20 mile military women’s light division. There were no injuries and the Warrior Ethos demonstrated by these cadets was the epitome of a true leader and future officer in the US Army. Cadets like these break the mold and exceed the standards because they want to.

Upcoming Events:
On Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 9:30 AM the Maverick Battalion Hosts the Third Annual MSU Army ROTC Veteran’s Day 5 Kilometer Race. This event is run entirely by the Cadets and Cadre from the Maverick Battalion. This year, Cadet Bill Bowser (MS IV) is the race organizer.

This run raises money for the 1LT Michael Fasnacht Scholarship Fund at Minnesota State University. It would be great to see any alumni who are still in the local area at the race.

For more information about the race contact Cadet Bill Bowser at william.bowser@mnsu.edu or CPT Dave Campbell at david.campbell@mnsu.edu.

Pictured above from left to right: Cadet Sweeney, Cadet Dhaliwal, Cadet French, Cadet Wagner, Cadet Milstead, CPT Woods, and Cadet Partridge. They all completed the MN Bataan Death March at Camp Ripley, MN.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Erin Jacobson (03) and family welcomed son Cole on Mar 28, 2008. Cole joins big sister Marti. The Jacobsbons live in Winthrop, MN where they both teach in the GFW school district.

COL Rich Kramer (86) was promoted 1 March 2008. He and his wife Oti are currently at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

CPT Stephen Stock (05) is currently en route to his second tour in Iraq as part of a Military Transition Team with 1-25 SBCT. In February 2009 he plans on attending the Maneuver Captain Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Joe Weiss (84) is currently a Manufacturing Plant Manager in Ogden, Utah.


1LT Jonathan Johnson (05) is currently serving as the PAO for the 34th ID HQ. As a civilian he is a college photography instructor.

LTC (P) David Vetter (84) is serving at Madigan Army Medical Center in the Internal Medicine field. For summer of 2008 he will work his second tour of LDAC (formerly Advance Camp).

CPT Michael Zenk (96) graduated in 1996 and was stationed at Fort Bliss TX (1996-1999). After graduation he had one additional assignment at Fort Polk from 1999-2000. He transitioned out of the Army and became a civilian for about 3 years. He then activated himself in the reserves in 2003 in Minneapolis and decided to go back to active duty. He chose the Air Force, and in March of 2004 was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming. He stayed there until September 2007 when he received orders to go to Nursing Flight School and entered back to active duty. He chose the Air Force, and in March of 2004 was stationed at F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming. He stayed there until September 2007 when he received orders to go to Nursing Flight School and became a Flight Nurse. He is currently stationed at Ramstein Air Base Germany as a Flight Nurse.

CPT Sara (Livingston) Woods (02) is deploy- ing to Iraq as a Civil Affairs Team Chief with C/445 Civil Affairs Battalion. She placed 2nd in the MN Memorial Bataan Death March in May O8, 20 mile women’s military light division.

Brian M. Davis (95) is no longer serving in the military. He served with the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany from 1996-1998 and transitioned out of the Army after sustaining a medical injury. His best job was serving as the Brigade S-1 for COL Michael Thompson and his time as a Gold Bar Recruiter at Minnesota State University. He completed Air Assault, Airborne, Bradley Leaders course, Infantry Mortar Leaders course, and 10BC 1995-1996. He worked in the civilian world for four large trucking companies from 1999 to 2005 and then started his own company. His two younger brothers served with the 34th Infantry Division in Kosovo and his youngest brother is currently an Active Guard Recruiter in Owatonna, MN. His youngest brother also served in Iraq with 34th Infantry Division during their 22 month deployment. He has three children, Cassandra (12), Jacob (10), and Emma (3) and currently resides in New Prague, MN. If anyone has family members who drive semi-trucks his company is hiring Local, Regional, and over the road drivers.

CPT Jonathan Roach (99) is currently the Company Commander of the 353rd Transportation Company, a Reserve unit out of Buffalo, MN. His unit was mobilized in July in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their mission is to provide logistical transportation lift for all classes of supply using tankers, flatbeds, and HETs. His unit was recognized as the National Defense Transportation Association Unit of the Year for 2007. This is the second deployment for the 353rd Transportation Company. It was one of the first Transportation units to cross the Iraqi border in 2003.

CPT Chris Donlin (03) deployed to Iraq in the same company as Dan Kingsley (04) and Pat Tratro (04) and is happy to report that they all made it back safely. When he returned he completed Ranger School. He currently works in the S-3 Shop for the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Bloomington, MN. This summer he planned and executed the Minnesota National Guard’s piece of the Republican National Convention. He is married and is currently in his second year of Law school at William Mitchell. He intends to return to active duty as a JAG officer.

Peter D. Ford (84) was the first Gustavus Adolphus ROTC Cadet to participate in the Minnesota State University Army ROTC program and has been activated twice since receiving his commission. He is currently the Principal Advisor, in the Office of Hostage Affairs, in Baghdad, Iraq. Before arriving in Iraq, he served as a Diplomatic Security Special Agent detailed to the House Foreign Affairs committee, advising the committee on terrorism-related issues. He was present at General Petraeus’ first Congressional hearing regarding the Iraq war. After the hearing, he volunteered to serve a six month military rotation in Iraq at a LTC. After his military obligation, he volunteered to stay in Iraq with the State Department directing the Office of Hostage Affairs. This is the only Hostage Affairs office in the world. He has traveled to Mosul, Basra, and several other provinces throughout Iraq. He encourages any alumni who are currently in theatre to stop by the Hostage Affairs Office located in the embassy. He is projected to remain in this position until February 2009.

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CPT Jessica Schultz (continued) stationed at Tripler Army Medical Center on the island of Oahu, Hawaii and is working as a clinical psychologist. She works in a department of psychology, spending some of her time at the Schofield Barracks Soldiers assistance center. She typically works with active duty personnel. On a limited basis she works with families and retirees. She and her husband, Joe Fischer, have been married for four years and have spent the last two years on the Hawaiian island. She has recently been sent to Fort Wainwright, Alaska on temporary change of station orders and attached to the 1/125th SBCT for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She plans to work for a year as the Brigade Psychologist in Iraq, then return to Hawaii for another two years.

LTC Larry J. Herke (85) is currently serving as the Mobilization Readiness Officer for the Minnesota Army National Guard. He is also the Battalion Commander for the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Bloomington, Minnesota. He still resides in Hastings, MN and his son, PFC Jon Herke, recently joined the MN Army National Guard and has completed Basic Training at Fort Benning, GA and is currently attending Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, GA. His son Jon will be attending Minnesota State University at Mankato in the spring as the third generation to attend this institution. His wife, Debbie Herke (86) continues to work for the State of Minnesota as a Social Security Disability Determination Specialist and is active in Cub Scouts as a Scout Master.

MAJ Steven Hoglund (93) is the Executive Officer for the 172d Support Battalion, supporting the 172d Infantry Brigade. His unit is based out of Schweinfurt, Germany. His unit recently completed their Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Hohenfels, Germany and gunnery rotation at Grafenwoehr, Germany. He is planning to deploy with his unit to Iraq later this year.

COL Nancy Grandy (86) was promoted on October 1, 2008 and is currently attending the Army War College at Carlisle, PA.

2LT Thad Shunwiler (07) is currently assigned to the Medical Detachment at Camp Ripley. He completed the Medical Service Officer Basic Course.

2LT Jon DeGreef (08) completed Basic Officer Leader’s Course II and is currently at the Infantry Basic Officer Leader’s Course III.

2LT Whitney Peterson (08) is currently attending graduate school at Minnesota State University and awaiting BOLC II and III.

2LT Jacob Juedes (08) leaves for the BOLC II on November 1, 2008. Following BOLC II he will be attending the Engineer Basic Officer Leader’s Course III.

2LT Adam Ingaisbe (08) recently reported to the Signal Corps Basic Officer Leader’s Course III at Fort Gordon, GA. He completed BOLC II at Fort Sill, OK.

2LT Paul Bobich (08) attended BOLC II at Fort Sill, OK from June 8 to July 29, 2008. He is currently at the Ordnance Corps Basic Officer Leader’s Course III at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He will graduate on November 7, 2008. He will be assigned to the 43rd Area Support Group, Fort Carson, CO.

2LT Karl Anderson (08) completed BOLC II and is currently attending the Infantry Basic Officer Leader’s Course III.

Have an alumni update you want to share? E-mail them to david.campbell@mnsu.edu
SUMMER PHOTOS

Cadet Riggs and Cadet Palmer find time to stop for a photo to remember their experiences at LDAC 2008, Fort Lewis, WA.

To the right: Cadets board a CH-47 during one of their final patrols at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course 2008 (Warrior Forge).

Cadet Milstead attended training last summer with the West Point Cadets. Above, Cadet Milstead is conducting a day land navigation course. To the left, he is preparing to conduct maneuver training in the M1A2 Main Battle tank at Fort Knox, KY.

Cadet Palmer relaxes for a few moments during a summer evening at LDAC 2008, Fort Lewis, WA.
Cadets Sweeney, Voelker, Christopherson, and Stadther prepare for the day Land Navigation competition.

Cadet Christopherson completes the function check on her M16A4 rifle during the weapons assembly/disassembly event.

Cadets Palmer, Sweeney, Voelker, Piepho, Christopherson, and Stadther work as a team during one-ropes bridge.

The Ranger Challenge Team completes the 10 Kilometer Rucksack March to complete the competition.

Cadet Stadther races to the finish line during the Hand Grenade Assault course event.

From left to right: Cadets Harting, Palmer, Bowser, Stadther, Milstead, Christopherson, Sweeney, Piepho, and Voelker.
December 2008 Commissioning ceremony

A special 2008 December Graduates Commissioning Ceremony will be held on Friday Dec 12, 2008. The location will be at the Gustavus Alumni Room, Gustavus College. With much anticipation we are looking forward to commissioning 8 Cadets. Alumni are always invited and welcome to attend. If you are interested, please RSVP to the department NLT November 28, 2008 507-389-5832/6220

CADRE AND STAFF

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New Cadre Biography

CPT Dave Campbell joined our staff in August of 2008. He is a 2001 distinguished military graduate from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. His is an armor officer with over 7 years of active duty service. He held several leadership and staff positions to include tank platoon leader, tank company executive officer, battalion maintenance officer, battalion plans officer, and company commander. He is currently assigned to Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division out of Bloomington, Minnesota in the Minnesota Army National Guard. He served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division. (Mar 03-Apr 04 and Feb 05-Jan 06). CPT Campbell believes the most significant event in his military career was his time as a company commander. He will be serving as the Recruiting Operation Officer during Captain Sara Woods deployment.

Dept of Military Science
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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.

Thanks!

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.

Have an alumni update you want to share? Email them to david.campbell@mnsu.edu