From the Commander

What a summer!!! Having been tasked to spend most of mine at Fort Lewis, WA for LDAC (Leadership Development and Assessment Course), I was able to watch many of our cadets perform first-hand. They performed in an exemplary manner and you should feel very proud of them. The Maverick Battalion was able to send 19 cadets to LDAC and they performed well above the Cadet Command averages. Our cadets averaged a score of 263 on the Army Physical Fitness test. The Cadet Command average was a 257. Our cadets averaged a score of 88 in Land Navigation. The Land Navigation score includes their performances on the written land navigation test, the day course, and the night course. The Cadet Command average was 81. This says a lot about our cadets and a lot about our cadre. SFC Moore and the rest of the staff worked hard to prepare our cadets for success. Special congratulations to cadets Ross Puffer, Robert Danforth, and Janine Houlden. Each rated an overall “E” (for Excellence) at LDAC.

Enrollment continues to be a bright spot for our battalion. The Maverick Battalion currently stands at 67 enrolled cadets. This is an increase of 31 over the same time last year. This number should increase to about 100 once the new students report to class and we enroll them. Major Bohl, our Enrollment & Scholarship Officer, consistently recruits the SAL (Scholar, Athlete, Leader) for our program.

Our program did lose one of our key members this summer. Master Sergeant William Putnam retired after over 23 years of dedicated and outstanding service to our country. We wish him, his wife Diana, and his four kids well. Due to the ongoing war on terrorism, the Army will not be able to fill his position as the Senior Military Science Instructor until the summer of 2008. MSG Putnam will be missed.

Due to the ongoing war, Cadet Command will attempt to fill ROTC cadre positions with COMTek personnel. If you are interested in working for COMTek and our ROTC program, please contact us and let us know. I can think of nothing better than having alumni come back and work full time to help our program and the U.S. Army succeed. Details are still sketchy but we might be able to hire as soon as the Spring semester. We will keep you posted.

WE TRAIN! WE COMMISION!
Lt. Col. Thomas Cooper

General Officer Visit

A L U M N I  U P - D A T E S  C O N T .

A L U M N I  U P - D A T E S

A L U M N I  U P - D A T E S  C O N T .

From the Commander

The newest alumni of the Maverick Battalion are the Second Lieutenants that commissioned from the program on May 11th, 2007. Despite a commissioning class of two, the ceremony was a complete success. Nicholas Fougner and 2nd Lt. Eric Lewanski received their commissions from Lt. Col. Thomas Cooper and Lt. Col. Gregg Westerberg respectively. Lt. Col. (R) Dennell Vulcan, a former Professor of Military Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato was the distinguished guest and speaker of the event.

In addition to Fougner and Lewanski, 2nd Lt. Bob Danforth received his commission following the completion of LDAC. Achieving an overall ‘E’, 2nd Lt. Danforth was pinned at the graduation ceremony of his LDAC Regiment in front of hundreds of his peers and family members.

Although this year’s graduating class was the smallest in the history of the program, it was not a reflection of the health of the program. Next year’s commissioning class is projected to be extremely strong as a result of sustained recruiting efforts and low attrition.

2nd Lt. Fougner receives his new rank in the 2007 Commissioning Ceremony.
**GENERAL OFFICER VISIT**

On April 20th the program was honored to welcome Major General Dennis J. Hejlik to campus during a ceremony recognizing superior alumni achievement. Maj. Gen. Hejlik, Commanding General, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, received Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award as a result of his contributions to the Marine Corps.

During his visit Maj. Gen. Hejlik spoke to the Corps of Cadets about today’s military and the importance of effective leadership. Reflecting on nearly forty years of service, Maj. Gen. Hejlik briefly introduced and commented on his experiences while simultaneously stimulating a current events discussion. Having served at every level of command in a variety of diverse positions, Maj. Gen. Hejlik offered a comprehensive overview of what it means to be a Commissioned Officer in today’s military.

**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Eric Ahlness (86)** In November 2006 Eric left command of the OCS Battalion to accept promotion to Colonel and to pave the way for a new position within the Minnesota National Guard. He is the first Government Relations Officer tasked with informing and coordinating with members of the U.S. congress, the Governor’s office, and working with the state legislature on state initiatives. In May, he added the role of Strategic Planner for the Guard in Minnesota.

**Brandon Baer (99)** is currently coming up on the two year mark of his second command. He is the Recruiting Company Commander in Madison, WI. He just received his first Acquisition Corps assignment. As such he will PCS from his command in Madison, WI, in Sept. He will attend Acquisition Corps Basic Course from Oct-Dec with a follow-on assignment working with PEO C3T at Fort Monmouth, NJ.

**Dan Clark (04)** has completed his branch detail and has transferred to the QM Corps. Dan is currently serving as the Executive Officer for Golf Forward Support Company, the FSC for 3-29 FA at Ft. Carson, CO. He is expecting branch to send down orders to the career course some time in the next 2 to 3 months in addition to being slated for an upcoming deployment. Dan and his wife Jackie still live in their house outside of Colorado Springs. In Mid July Dan and Jackie will finally get to take their Honeymoon, only 2 years after they got married. They plan to head to San Francisco.

**Robert Danforth (07)** commissioned at Fort Lewis during his LDAC Graduation. He will be assigned to the 34th AV BDE (MNARNG) and will attend flight school.

**Dave Deyak (89)** is serving with his interpreter “Al”.

**Nicolas Fougner (07)** is currently attending BOLC II at Ft. Benning. He will follow on to BOLC II (Engineer) and eventually end up in Germany.

**Erlin Eike (01)** is currently deployed in Iraq. IN currently deployed in Iraq. On 1 June he had a son born and was back on R&R to witness it.

**Will Greene (91)** was recently appointed to the Army Corps of Engineers.

**Elmar Guseyn-Zade (05)** is currently serving as a Scout Platoon Leader for the 2-16 IN currently deployed in Iraq.

**Erin Eike (01)** is currently the Recruiting Officer for the Guard in Minnesota.

**Will Greene (91)** was recently appointed to the Army Corps of Engineers.

**Robert Fougner** for his leadership as the Cadet Battalion Commander, the General handed the aspiring officer one of his personal coins. The challenge coin, a tradition dating back to World War I, was immediately recognized as a sign of respect and admiration.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Larry Herke (85) is currently wrapping up a long deployment with the 1/34th BCT. The mighty Red Bulls are completing their 22 month mobilization which began in September of 2005 and will conclude for most in July 2007 at Ft. McCoy. As the Brigade Executive Officer of a 5400 soldier Brigade Combat Team Larry witnessed the unit make history in many areas to include $29 Million Dollars in Civil Infrastructure improvements and over 2.2 million miles driven to provide food and fuel to the Coalition forces. The 1/34th BCT is finally coming home after being extended 125 days to meet the Secretary of Defense’s requirements in support of the Surge.

Steven Hoglund (93) has completed his tour with the V Corps G4, in Heidelberg Germany, spending 2 years as the Corps G4 Planner in Germany, and with a tour in Iraq as the log planner for Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-I) from December 2005 to December 2006. He is moving to a KD Job at the 123rd Main Support Battalion (1st Armored Division) in Duxheim Germany as the Support Operations Officer.

Carrie Husnik (01) just recently bought a 40 acre farm near Princeton, MN. Her and her husband Brad (a C-12 pilot in the MNANG) have a yellow lab and a yorkie. She is currently training at Fort Sill and will soon deploy as a Blackhawk pilot and BN S2.

Brian Jacobson (98) and his family are on their way to Fort Wainwright, Alaska where I’ll be taking the 1/25 SBCT Brigade S6 job for the next two to three years.

ALUMNI UPDATES CONT...

Jonathan Jeckell (94) has just finished CGSC (Command and General Staff College) and started SAMS (School of Advanced Military Studies).

Rich Kramer (84) and his wife Oti are living in Okinawa, Japan where Rich is the DCO of the 10th Support Group and Army on Okinawa since July 2006. Rich plans on PCSing in 2008 to the SSC or an OIF/OEF deployment. Rich joined the Army in 1982 under the “see the world program offer” and is on his 10th overseas tour without counting deployments. According to Rich, between Europe, the middle east and Asia, Europe is by far the best place to live and take advantage of traveling.

Philip Kroll (06) will be participating in EIB training and grading. He is also planning to attend Basic Mountaineering Course and later in the fall Cold Weather Leaders Course (two weeks of freezing in the field). He currently holds a variety of positions and responsibilities to include: MWR Officer, Athletics and Recreation Officer, Anti-Terrorism Officer, Physical Security Officer, Tactical Intelligence Officer and a few more. He currently holds the highest PT score in his unit (377) and is also pushing his S2 shop to have one of the highest PT averages in the BN (284), right behind recon. Lastly, Philip also made the official USARAK Army 10-Miler Team with a 1:06 10-mile time.

Steven Kvaal (90) is now the AGR S-3 for the 13th PSYOP BN here in Arden Hills, MN.

Jesse LeBlanc (04) now lives in Walker MN, and works for the Walker Police Department as a full-time officer. His wife Renee is good, working two part-time jobs at the moment as a nurse and enjoying being a mom. He is no longer in the military, as a result of a medical discharge. He has a new house, new truck, and some other toys and the bills that go along with it.

Eric Lewanski (07) is moving to St. Paul, MN to begin a job at Travelers Insurance Co. as an Underwriter. He is assigned to the 34th ID G-2 and is the Comms Chief and Trojan Spirit Team Leader. He finished up his tour as a Gold Bar Recruiter at MSUM with the completion of this Alumni Newsletter and will attend BOLC II/III in May of 2008.

Nathan Miatech (06) linked up with his unit (173d BSB (ABN)) in Bamberg, Germany on 26 MAR 2007. He’s been assigned as the Transportation OIC for the BSB Support Operations (SPO) section. His unit is currently deployed to FOB Fenty (Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan) in support of OIF.

Bradley Ommodt (90) is still deployed to Iraq as Battalion Executive Officer for 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, Minnesota Army National Guard. His unit is due to return home in March of 2007 but got extended for 125 days. They are currently doing RIP/TOA with 1st BDE, 82nd Airborne and will depart theater for FT McCoy shortly.

Thanks to all of those who have contributed to this addition of the Alumni Newsletter.

Rich and his wife (Oti) and at the Army Birthday Ball in Okinawa, Japan.
Phay Phrommany (99) is currently deployed in support of OIF.

Daniel Pitchford (05) is currently working on his EOD Team Leader Certification. Following the successful completion of EOD school at Eglin AFB, FL in OCT 06 he was stationed in Ft. Hood with the 47th ORD CO (EOD) as PL for 2nd platoon. Daniel then deployed in mid February 07 to FOB Falcon, Baghdad, Iraq where he runs EOD response.

Shawn Prescher (00) is currently assigned as an OC/T with 3-393 FA at Ft Chaffee Arkansas. His unit is responsible for mobilizing our nations Reserve and National Guard Brigades from Ft Hood TX.

Troy Rittenhouse (95) returned to West Point, NY, (intransit address while on leave before heading to ILE/CGSC at Leavenworth) from his yearlong PCS to ASG-Qatar at Camp at Sayliyah, where he successfully completed an assignment as the Director of Logistics and Group S4. If all goes well, Troy will hopefully return 3/3BCT at Benning as the BSB XO or SPO.

Philip Royer (02) is currently deployed to Afghanistan as the brigade physical therapist for the 173rd ABCT. Phil’s tour runs from May ’07~Sept ’08. His normal duty assignment is in Vicenza, Italy.

Aaron Sammons (95) is completing his tour as the Executive Officer, Directorate of Doctrine at FT Huachuca Arizona. He will be attending ILE this summer. His wife Tracey, and daughters, Honna and Emily, will be joining him. During Aaron’s assignment to FT Huachuca he deployed in support of the Southern European Task Force’s JTF-76 rotation and contributed to multiple US Army intelligence Manuals as well as Combined Arms manuals including FM 5-0 and the soon to be released FM 3-0. Most recently he completed the revisions of FM 2-91.6, Soldier Surveillance and Reconnaissance: Fundamentals of Tactical Information Collection, which is an evolution of the Small Unit Support to Intelligence Special Text, a precursor of the Every Soldier is a Sensor Program. He has been the Intelligence Center’s Doctrine lead officer on both Every Soldier as a sensor and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Development.

Patrick Tatro (04) should be home soon from deployment with the 1st BCT (MNARNG). He is in the process of looking for a job when he returns to MN. When his BN redeloys he hopes to receive assignment as either an XO or rear detachment commander.

Jeffrey Thompson (94) is currently in the 88th RRC G6 stationed at Ft Sheridan, IL. He is the Information Management Officer for the installation (aka DOIM). He lives in Fox Lake, IL, south of Lake Geneva, WI.

Devanie Viaene (06) completed BOLC II at Ft. Benning in late April and had so much fun. She is currently at Ft. Huachuca completing MI-BOLC III and will return to her unit, 34ID MCP-G2 in Rosemount, MN in August.