FROM THE COMMANDER—LTC Stephenson

Greetings once again from Minnesota State University and the Maverick Battalion. I wanted to take a few minutes here to highlight recent activity and let you know what’s on the horizon this semester. Last fall being my first go-round on campus, will tell you that I’m proud to be a part of the team, and now more than ever, excited about the opportunities we provide young men and women in our program. The Cadets are exceptional and continue to build upon a tradition of excellence established by you…the alumni of MSU, Gustavus, and Bethany Army ROTC.

The Cadet Command Order of Merit for year group 2010 was published in September, and Cadet Jeremy Milstead from Minnesota State finished 2nd out of 4,702 Cadets nationally. Jeremy, a native of Sioux Falls, SD, is the highest standing Cadet in the nearly 30 year history of our program. Further, Cadet Tim Harting from Bethany Lutheran finished 29th...congratulations to both Jeremy and Tim. They represent 13 others in a very talented senior class this year.

The Cadets conducted several activities this past semester to positively increase the profile of Army ROTC in the University community. In November, we conducted a branching ceremony for senior Cadets at the Mankato American Legion. It was well-received and generated over $1,200 for the Michael J. Fasnacht Scholarship Fund. Also in November, we sponsored the MSU Veteran’s Day Ceremony, followed by our own 4th Annual Veteran’s Day 5K around campus. We also worked closely with Maverick Men’s Hockey, assisting the team in preseason leadership training throughout August and September. In exchange, the hockey team recently hosted “ROTC Night” at the Verizon Wireless Center, where we swore in three new Cadets and enjoyed some increased attention as MSU took on Colorado College.

We’re looking forward to a busy spring semester. Selected Cadets will work with local Cub Scouts in January and participate in the Bataan Memorial at White Sands, New Mexico in March. Also in March we’ll send a few teams to the Buddy Ranger Competition, followed by our annual Spring FTX at Camp Ripley in April. We’ll culminate the academic year in early May with the Commissioning Ceremony for this year’s graduating class.

In closing, for those of you that are deployed overseas or about to go, your sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Having spent 3 of the past 4 Christmases in Iraq, I realize that deployments can be particularly tough during the Holiday period. We’ll be thinking of you. I thank everyone for their continued support of the Maverick Battalion. I encourage each of you to stay in touch and keep the updates coming. Thanks again and GO MAVERICKS!

Cadre and Staff of the Maverick Battalion

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**Cadre Leadership**

- LTC Joel Stephenson
- MSG Don Friend
- CPT Sara Livingston
- CPT Dave Campbell
- MSG John Moore
- Ms. Jean Andresen
- Ms. Lori Olinger
- Ms. Kris Boyce

**Cadet Leadership**

- CDT Tim Harting
- CDT Brandon Johnson

**From the Commander**

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**Cadre Leadership**

- Professor of Military Science
- Commandant of Cadets
- Executive Officer
- Recruiting Operations Officer
- Operations NCO
- Human Resources Technician
- Office Administrative Secretary
- Supply Technician

**Cadet Leadership**

- Battalion Commander
- Battalion Sergeant Major
Veteran’s Day 2009
On 10 November the Maverick Battalion partnered with MSU’s Human Resources Department and the Veteran’s Center to recognize the hundreds of faculty, staff and students at Minnesota State that are Veterans of the Armed Services. LTC Joel Stephenson introduced a current student who earned a Bronze Star in Afghanistan for his actions in saving the life and limb of a wounded Soldier. The overall theme was to remind everyone that Veterans are prevalent in the University community, and we should all be cognizant of their service and sacrifice. President Davenport was also in attendance and discussed in his remarks the amazing accomplishments of the numerous Veterans associated with Minnesota State University.

Cadets Receive their Branch
This year’s senior class formally received their branch assignments in a ceremony held at the Mankato American Legion on 7 November. Many program supporters had the opportunity to attend and discuss with Cadets their future military plans. A special thanks to Sal Fredricks and the Piepho family for coordinating all the special guests in attendance.

Ben Bauknecht  AD Infantry  
Ben Betcher  USAR Signal Corp  
Nick Bonestroo  AD Signal Corp  
Simi Dhaliwal  AD Chemical Corp  
Troy French  AD Infantry  
Tim Harting  AD Infantry  
Adam Hendricks  AD Military Intelligence  
Charles Hill  USAR Transportation  
Sven Johansson  USAR Engineer  
Brandon Johnson  MN NG Engineer  
Richard Kisskeys  AD Army Nurse Corp  
Jason Legal  USAR Military Police  
Jeremey Milstead  AD Infantry  
Jacob Partridge  AD Military Intelligence  
Steven Thomas  AD Field Artillery
First ROTC Band at MSU

The first ever Maverick Battalion Cadet Band debuted at the 4th Annual Veteran’s Day 5k on 14 November. Organized and resourced by Cadet Brittany Leary, the band started practicing this past fall and intends to play at ROTC-related events in the future. The four-piece ensemble consists of Cadet Leary (clarinet), Cadet Mario Thayer (tenor saxophone), Cadet Clinton Wilson-Kim (trumpet), and Cadet Kimberly Bracht (saxophone).

Ranger Challenge Team Takes Third Place

One half point kept the Maverick Battalion Ranger Challenge Team from taking 2nd place in a close competition October 9th, 10th and 11th at Camp Ripley, MN. The competition consisted of eleven teams from the seven different schools, including the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Saint Johns University, University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, and South Dakota School of Mines. The teams fought through the extremes of fall weather in Minnesota, including running the APFT 2-Mile in two inches of fresh snow on the first morning of the event.

The team took 1st place in the One Rope Bridge, their performance motivating and astonishing even the event evaluators. The team split 2nd place on weapon’s assembly with an exact time tie with SDSU. The team earned a consistent 3rd place in 6 of the 8 events. Events this year included: a written patrolling test, APFT, Patrolling, One Rope Bridge, M16 assembly/disassembly, M16 qualification, Land Navigation, Hand Grenade Assault Course, and the finale of the 10k Ruck March. Morale remained high on the team of 9 plus two alternates that diligently followed the team through each event. Outstanding effort by this year’s Ranger Challenge Team!
Alumni Fly the Maverick Flag in Iraq

LTC Dave Ronan, LTC Trancey Williams, and several other friends and alumni of Minnesota State Army ROTC are currently stationed in Basra, Iraq as part of Multi-National Division South and the 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota National Guard. In August 2009, LTC Ronan suggested we send an MSU flag to Iraq due to the high number of Minnesotans and MSU alum serving within MND-S, to include the Commanding General, MG Richard Nash (Class of ‘72). The flag was sent and is currently displayed in the Division Dining Facility.

Leaders Training Course 2009

Each summer college students from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the American Samoa descend upon Fort Knox, Kentucky for the opportunity to attend the Leadership Training Course (LTC). LTC is a challenging, month-long program that students attend in order to accelerate through the first two years of ROTC. These “late bloomers” learn land navigation, map reading, rifle marksmanship, customs and courtesies, and basic soldiering skills. The potential Cadets are mentored by Drill Sergeants, company and field grade Officers, and a handful of newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants. This past year Minnesota State sent the most Cadet candidates its ever sent—seven total. Four of these individuals returned after the training and contracted into the Battalion. They include Cadet Arie Emde, Cadet Tim Reichert, Cadet Scott Danclovic, and Cadet Christopher Lea. These future leaders stepped away from Fort Knox after graduation with an increased respect and commitment for the path that has been placed before them. Their attention to detail and drive for excellence is phenomenal.
Another Successful LDAC Performance
The Maverick Battalion continues to shine at LDAC. Out of the 16 Cadets sent this past summer, four finished in the top five in their platoon and three were awarded the coveted Recondo Badge. MSU’s Cadets ranked above the Cadet Command average in every graded event and obtained a 100% graduation rate. Congratulations to our senior Cadets for a job well done.

Big Turnout at Annual 5K Veteran’s Day Race
This year’s 4th Annual Veterans Day 5k was held on Saturday, 14 November on the MSU campus. The annual race is a program fundraiser for educational scholarships in honor of 1LT Michael Fasnacht, a 2003 alum who died after being struck by an IED in Ad Dawr, Iraq in February 2005.

CPT Dave Campbell worked diligently with CDT Steve Thomas to put together a high-quality event, and over 130 runners signed up to participate...a race record. The overall winner was 16 year-old Mankato East cross-country star Ryan Erdman with a time of 15:50. Other notable winners included LTC Joel Stephenson and LTC Amy Ninneman, who both took first place in the 40-49 year-old category with times of 19:19 and 19:53 respectively. The 5th Annual Veterans Day 5k will be held next November in Mankato.

ROTC Annual Broomball Game
The Cadets celebrated the end of Fall Semester with a game of broom ball at the Verizon Wireless Center on 3 December. Short on skill but long on energy and determination, MSG Friend’s team of roughriders defeated LTC Stephenson’s team of skilled broomballers by a wide margin. Prior to the match, Cadets Brandon Johnson, Alex McGillick, Megan Callahan, Phil Kaminsky, and John Fougner were awarded $300 scholarships for their contributions to the Cadet Battalion this past semester. Keep up the great work!
LTC Dave Deyak (1989) is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and is currently assigned as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Iowa.

LTC Troy Soukup (1990) took command of 1-125 FA headquartered in New Ulm, MN in October 2009. Congratulations Troy on your new command and a job well done.

LTC Bradley Ommodt (1990) was promoted to LTC in January 2009 and is currently serving as Deputy Commander of 175th RTI at Camp Ripley, MN. A traditional guardsman for 24 years, LTC Ommodt works for Mathiowetz Construction out of Sleepy Eye as a Project Manager. Brad and his wife Valerie live in Butterfield, MN and have 3 children—Felicia (22), Breonna (16), and Cayden (16).

LTC Kevin Duffy (1992) is currently assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Office of the Surgeon General, where he serves as a Force Management Officer. Kevin recently returned from Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan where he served as the Medical Plans and Operations Officer for US Forces Afghanistan. LTC Duffy and his wife (Tammy) are celebrating 18 years of marriage.
CPT Brian Knutson (2005) graduated from CLC3 at Fort Lee, VA in May 2009. He was subsequently assigned to 10th BSB, 1st BCT, 10th MTN DIV at Fort Drum, NY, taking command of Echo Company, 10th BSB on 3 June 2009. They conducted their pre-deployment rotation to the JRTC at Fort Polk, LA in August 2009 and expects to deploy with 1st BCT in 2010.

1LT Adam Ingalsbe (2008) is deployed to Basra, Iraq with the 34th Infantry Division HQ of the Minnesota National Guard. He is the Company XO for HHC, 34th ID.

1LT Justin Heinze (2005) is currently mobilized with 1-340th TSB, Fort McCoy, WI as the HHC Commander.

1LT Paul Bobich (2008) is currently at COB Tallil, Iraq assigned to the 60th OD CO, 732nd CSSB as the OIC of Tallil's Ammunition Supply Point. His home station is Fort Carson.

2LT Xavier Noel (2008) is at Fort Knox, Kentucky with 2-2 IN. Xavier is an acting Company XO until his platoon arrives from Fort Hood sometime in the coming months.

and have four children—Brianna (17), Megan (15), Olivia (9) and Ian (7). They live in Manassas, VA.

MAJ Mark Weber (1994) recently departed the University of Minnesota Army ROTC program in February 2009 after serving 3 years as Executive Officer. Mark is now working in the Minnesota National Guard full-time as the Deputy Commander, Recruiting and Retention Battalion. MAJ Weber visited several times this past semester and continues to elevate the profile of MSU Army ROTC within the ranks of the National Guard. Thank you, Mark, and keep up the great work!

MAJ Mark Ries (1995) was commissioned as an AG Officer and then transferred to the JAG Corps through the Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP). Mark has been a JAG since 2002. He currently serves as the Deputy Command Counsel for the 409th Contracting Support Brigade (Europe) in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

MAJ Daniel Van Every (1999) is currently assigned as Detachment Commander, A CO, 9th PSYOP BN (ABN) out of Fort Bragg, NC. Dan is deployed to Iraq as the Product Development Center Commander in support of the 16th PSYOP Task Force - Iraq. His wife Heidi and daughter are safe and sound back at Fort Bragg.

CPT Jessica Schultz (2001) is a Gustavus graduate and a clinical psychologist for the Army, currently working in the Department of Psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI. Jessica recently returned from a 12 month deployment as the Brigade Psychologist for 1st SBCT, 25th Infantry Division in Diyala Province, Iraq. CPT Schultz and her husband Joe plan to remain in Hawaii for the next couple years.

CPT Pete Marston (2002) separated from the Army in August 2009. He lives in Raleigh, NC and works as a project manager for a pharmaceutical company.

CPT Phil Royer (2002) completed the Captain’s Career Course at Ft. Sam Houston, TX in September 2009 and subsequently PCS’d to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, HI to serve as a Staff Physical Therapist.

CPT Dan Clark (2004) recently completed the Combined Logistics Captain’s Career Course (CLC3) at Fort Lee, VA and has been assigned to the 82nd Sustainment BDE at Ft Bragg, NC. Additionally, Dan recently started his own portrait studio that he runs on evenings and weekends.
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.