Maverick Battalion
Alumni Newsletter

Maverick Battalion is turning 25
Letter to alumni by PMS LTC Thomas Cooper

I hope this “every semester” newsletter finds you doing well. Keeping our alumni informed and involved is very important to our program. In order for the Maverick Battalion to be successful, we need everyone’s support.

As alumni, you can help us in many ways. The most traditional way is through your donations. All monies given to the program end up as scholarships to current or future cadets.

These scholarships are presented in the name of Michael J. Fasnacht. 1LT Fasnacht was a 2003 graduate of our program who was killed in Iraq in 2005.

The other way to help the program is through your participation. An excellent example is during the upcoming school year. School year 2006-2007 will be the 25th anniversary of ROTC at Minnesota State University, Mankato and I encourage all of you to participate in the numerous events.

These events consist of:

8 Sep 06 – Fall awards ceremony/cook-out. Come out for some free food and see our outstanding cadets get recognized.

2 Oct 06 – “ROTC Birthday Celebration”. This will be a cake-cutting ceremony to honor our program’s 25th anniversary.

10 & 11 Nov 06– Veteran’s Day weekend activities.

11 May 07–Commissioning Ceremony. This will be the culminating event of our year-long celebration.

Of particular note, the events of 10-11 November are of special interest. Our Veteran’s Day weekend begins with a dinner on 10 November in the Centennial Student Union on campus. The dinner is open to all alumni and will be a celebration of all veterans. The next day’s activities will include a 5 kilometer walk/run, a pancake breakfast at the Bandana Brewery, and will culminate with an MSU football game. The current plan is to have all alumni, cadets, and veterans to be recognized at halftime of the game. More information will be sent to you as details are finalized.

Again, the Maverick Battalion needs and appreciates your support.
Where are they now?

Updates from MSU alumni.....

**1983**

**MAJ Norm Brekke** went on active duty with an RA commission and completed 9 years before switching to the reserves. He went on to retire as a Major with a total of 23 years. His last tour of duty was as a Chaplain.

**Mike Berry** is currently a CGSC Tactics Instructor.

**1984**

**LTC Rich Kramer** is completing his battalion command with the 837th Trans Bn (SDDC) in South Korea.

**MAJ (P) Peter D. Ford** is currently stationed in Yerevan, Armenia working for the CAR’s command staff group as a legislative affairs officer. He is a Special Agent with the US Department of State. Since joining the Foreign Service he has visited 103 countries and studied four languages. His overseas assignments have included Lebanon, Honduras, Mauritania, Switzerland and now Armenia.

**LTC Duana A. Dannewitz** is currently living in Arizona and is the USAIC & FH Inspector General.

**1985**

**Debra Herke** (Kortuem) is currently working for the State of Minnesota as a Disability Examiner/Specialist for the Social Security Administration Disability Program. She is married to **Larry Herke** also a 1985 MSU ROTC alumni.

**LTC Jeff Meister** is with the Army G-8 Initiatives Group working at the Pentagon.

**COL Jeff Bertrang** is the 34 ID G3.

**MAJ Paul Hosfield** is currently mobilized to deploy in a few months. He is the LNO/S3 Plans Strategic Planner, HHC 1/34 BCT.

**LTC Larry Herke** is at Camp Shelby preparing to deploy to Iraq with the 1-34 BCT as the Bde XO.

**1986**

**Duane W. Burdorf** is currently living in Mexico.

**LTC Eric D. Ahness** is the Information Operations Coordinator. He is the Commander of 1st Bn, 175th RTI.

**1987**

**Paul D. Barragan** attended IUP in Pennsylvania.

**Tony Grandy** is currently in the IRR and works for Lockheed Martin at Ft. Lewis, WA.

**MAJ David Cole** is currently stationed at Camp Slayer, Iraq.

**1988**

**MAJ David Leppanen** is serving as a Psychological Operations Officer with Combined Forces Command in Kabul, Afghanistan.

**1989**

**MAJ Matt Reed** is the XO of NGB Army Logistics Division

**MAJ Alan Dorow**, 81st BCT S4.

**MAJ Dave Deyak** is the XO for 2nd Chemical Battalion. Fort Hood, TX.

**1990**

**MAJ Troy Soukup** is currently deployed as the BN S3 for 1-125 Strike.

**MAJ Ommodt** is currently deployed to Iraq as BN XO for 1-125 Strike.

**CPT Randy Roberts** has been back from Iraq for a year and currently the S2 at the 397th ENG Bn. He is working on his MP advanced course for promotion.
MAJ Steve Kvaal has recently returned from his deployment to Iraq where he commanded Special Operations Forces while working around the Baghdad Airport. He is currently working as AGR as the OIC of the Soldier Support Center, 88th Regional Readiness Command, Ft. Snelling, MN.

MAJ Eric Endries is deployed to Iraq with 4 ID. He is the Operations Officer for 8-10 Cav, 4 BCT, 4 ID. This is his sixth deployment.

1991
MAJ Steven Dittrich was deployed to Afghanistan for a year as a Civil-Military Operations Officer. He has now been re-branched and is a newly appointed JAG officer.

MAJ Timothy Knowles is currently deployed with 4 ID to Iraq.

1992
MAJ David R. Voelker is currently stationed in Korea with ACoS, Engineers, Theater Master Plan as the Army Coordinator. His daughter is also attending MSU and in the ROTC program, class of 2008.

MAJ Dennis Kellen is the Medical Logistics Planner and stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

1993
CPT Michael R. LaFontaine is a Company Commander with 367th EN BN. in Duluth, MN.

MAJ Mark Moeller, OD, USAR

1994
MAJ Mark Weber is assigned to the Multinational Transition Security Command with duties as the Aide De Camp and Coalition LNO to the Chief of Staff & Commanding General of Iraqi Joint Forces. He will be in Iraq for a one year tour.

1995
CPT Mark Ries has attended the JAG school in Charlottesville, VA.

1996
CPT Baugher- Commander, 149th LRSD. 34th Iowa National Guard.

1997
CPT Reba Williams is now the Assistant Nurse Manager of 2 inpatient oncology units at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She drills with the 4224th USAH detachment in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Sara Williams is now a civilian and has a Nursing Informatics job at the University of Madison Wisconsin.

1999
CPT Daniel Van Every is currently stationed at Camp Zama Japan and is a Petroleum Officer.

1LT Jason Piccolo was recalled from IRR to Kuwait.
2000

Jeremy Holmes is now a civilian pursuing a GS position. Him and his wife, Gina, have been married for four years and have a 6 month old baby girl.

Shawn Prescher has returned from a 1 year tour to Iraq and is scheduled to attend the Captains Career Course at Ft. Sill in March. He will be assigned to join 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany. He and his wife, Heather, have been married for 13 years and have four children.

2001

Erin Eike is currently stationed in Korea.

CPT Elizabeth S. Mason
Battalion Adjutant
1st PSYOP BN (A)

Michael Bundt is on his second deployment to Iraq and hopes to become an ROTC instructor.

CPT Michael McGuire is now in Kuwait on his second deployment in support of OIF.

Carry Hansen has completed two deployments after Army Flight School and is in the process of transferring to the Air National Guard in Duluth. She will be attending 1 year of additional flight training and an F-16 Qualification Course.

2002

Nathan Heller is currently stationed in Vicenza, Italy and will be PCSing in April to Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri for the Career Course.

1LT Joshua A. Hansen is currently an Operations and Training Officer in the AGR with the 9th BDE, 100th DIV (IT)

2003

1LT Jen Thingvold is currently working on active duty orders at the JRIC, FT Snelling, MN for the JAC functioning as a Counter Terrorism Analyst.

1LT Erin Jacobson had her first baby in January 2006.

1LT Chris Donlin is currently in Mississippi training to deploy to Iraq.

1LT Jesse Chapin is currently at Ft. Benning working as the company FSO for the 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment.

2004

2LT Tatro is currently at Camp Shelby preparing to deploy.

2LT Jesse LeBlanc is expecting a baby and to be deployed next year.

2LT Steve Babcock is at Camp Shelby preparing to deploy. He is now married and he and his wife, Erica, have a new baby girl.

2005

2LT Jonathan Johnson has recently been transferred from 34th ID G-1 to Special Staff, PAO section. He is the Chief of Internal Information.

2LT Brian Knuston is currently attending Ranger School and is in Phase II. He is going to be married in June.

2LT David Reinsbach has graduated from Finance OBC and is the Detachment Commander for the 147th FI BN in Roseville, MN. He and his wife have a new baby girl.

2LT Dave Johnson has graduated from OBC and will be a FSO officer for 1-4 Cav 4th BDE 1st ID.
Maverick Battalion continues to commission high-speed cadets.

Graduate student Philip Kroll has been named the No. 6 ROTC cadet in the nation on the U.S. Army’s Cadet Command Order of Merit List. Kroll, from Marshfield, Wis., graduated from Columbus High School. He earned a political science degree from the University of Minnesota, and will graduate from Minnesota State Mankato in May as a distinguished military graduate with a master’s degree in Public Administration.

Kroll will be commissioned in the U.S. Army and will serve for at least three years. He’s no stranger to the military; he served on active duty as an Army intelligence specialist in Korea before coming to Minnesota State Mankato. His high ROTC ranking allows him to choose the Army branch in which he’ll serve; he’ll return to the Military Intelligence branch - but this time as an officer.

Many factors determine the Cadet Command Order of Merit ranking, according to ROTC Chair Lieutenant Colonel Tom Cooper - grade-point average, physical fitness testing, Leadership Development Assessment Camp, extracurricular activities, opinions of officers. He has a has a 4.0 GPA, scored 356 out of 300 on a twice-yearly physical fitness test, and ranked first in his leadership development regiment. Kroll is cadet battalion commander in the Minnesota State Mankato ROTC battalion and president of the campus Recondo Club - a social bridge between ROTC and the campus. He’s also a graduate assistant. (article taken from the MSU Reporter 12-12-05)

Lori Olinger & Jean Andresen are true alumni...

If you have been part of the Maverick Battalion within the last two decades you will remember Jean Andresen. She has been a much needed mother-figure to cadets for 19 years. While juggling paperwork and having cadets sign mysterious forms Andresen had three daughters. Two of them are married today and one of them recently gave birth to quadruplets. Andresen is a busy grandmother helping with them all the time. The third daughter has graduated from MSU.

Andresen has been here long enough to see two generations of Voelkers to come through the Maverick Battalion. Andresen “...continues to enjoy working with all of the cadets.” and will do so for six more years until retirement.

Lori Olinger has worked with the Maverick Battalion for 7 years of her 23 years with MSU. All of her children, 2 sons and a stepdaughter, are out of the house and she became a grandmother in June. Olinger plans to retire in 5 to 7 years but her husband is retiring this year. She hopes to give him his dream vacation to Alaska to enjoy retired life.