Above: “If I make a snow angel, it better be on the front page!”
-CDT Olson

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Where & When

21 February 2015 0700-1500 Offensive Operations @ Rock Quarry (20250 Minnesota 66) Uniform is ACUs.
26 February 2015 1600-1800 Leadership Lab @ Seven Mile Creek Park. Uniform is ACUs.
5 March 2015 0530-0700 CWST @ Gustavus Pool. Uniform is ACUs w/ no patches, tennis shoes, and PT shorts.
12 March 2015 No lab (MSU Spring Break)

PT Calendar

3 March 2015 No PT MSI-MSIII
4 March 2015 APFT
5 March 2015 CWST @ GAC
13 March 2015 Battalion run

Below: CDTs Auch, Diamond, and Skrien can’t stop themselves smiling at the lead lab on 12 February
Hibbard in Goal

Above: CDT Hibbard in goal for the Golden Gusties

Scholar-athlete-leader has long been the model ROTC cadets have followed in their pursuit of a commission in the United States Army, and the Maverick Battalion prides itself on the achievements of those cadets who choose to participate in extracurricular athletics. One such cadet, CDT Lindsey Hibbard of Gustavus, has made a name for herself in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference as a goalie to be feared on the women’s hockey team at Gustavus, and for her effort she was awarded MIAC Women’s Hockey Athlete of the Week for the week of 2 February 2015.

“I’ve been playing for about ten years,” Hibbard said of her hockey career. “I play for fun, because I love it. It definitely proves a challenge with ROTC. It’s intense, but Gustavus has a good program.”

Gustavus women’s hockey is a storied program with walls full of MIAC championships, national championship appearances, and All-Americans, and to succeed in such a program while juggling ROTC is a Herculean task for a college student. CDT Hibbard joined ROTC this fall after completing basic combat training at Fort Sill over the summer. She presently drills with the recruit sustainment detachment at the Mankato National Guard armory.

Klondike Derby

On Saturday, February 7, 2015, cadets from the Minnesota State University Maverick Battalion got up early to give up part of their weekend helping teach Boy Scouts survival skills as part of the Klondike Derby, hosted at Norseland Boy Scout Camp outside St Peter. They were divided into two groups for the day; in the morning, first-year and sophomore cadets supervised activities for the Scouts, including shelter-building and snow-shoeing, while in the afternoon junior cadets arrived to teach basic outland survival skills including fire-starting, shelter-building, and food preparation.

The relationship between Klondike Derby and Mankato ROTC has been going on for over a decade, but this year some changes were introduced. To begin with, what has previously been a volunteer event was integrated with the curriculum this year, replacing the usual Thursday leadership lab for the week with a hands-on training and leadership experience. Instead of simply supervising the work being done and providing extra hands, this year ROTC was in the thick of the instruction, teaching Scouts skills they themselves had learned in ROTC. Since teaching and training are vital to the Army’s mission, this represented valuable practice for those ROTC cadets who were able to participate.

In addition to providing valuable training to the Scouts and cadets, there was some fun to be had at the Derby as well. Cadets were served a hot, catered lunch, and many got to experiment with shooting a black-powder, muzzled-loading rifle, a far cry from the M16 assault rifles and M4 carbines to which they are accustomed.
Featured Cadet: CDT Johnson D.

Name: David Johnson
School: Minnesota State Mankato
Class year: MSI
Major: Law Enforcement
Hometown: Maple Grove, MN
Most recent unit: 2-14 CAV 2SBCT 25th Infantry Division
Preferred branch: Infantry/Aviation
Favorite Army experience: Brigade EDRE (Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise) Air Assault mission into Bellows Oahu.
Favorite acronym: CM (continue mission)

Featured Cadre: LTC Murphy

Name: LTC Dennis Murphy
Basic Branch: Quartermaster
Functional Branch: Logistics
Commissioning source: ROTC, 1996, Creighton University (Omaha, NE)
Deployments: Macedonia, Hungary, Kuwait, Iraq
Proudest achievements: I have two memorable experiences. The first was the day I was commissioned in 1996. My grandfather, a Navy Captain (having served 32 years in the Navy) pinned on my 2LT bars. The second was an experience I had last year. I completed my first Ironman Triathlon, 2 years after having been hit by a truck and nearly killed. This had been a goal for a very long time and having completed this after having to recover and prove to myself I had the resiliency to overcome this and accomplish an important goal.
Best Army moment(s): Two good Army moments, my first duty assignment in Germany being newly married and a Platoon Leader in a 120 Soldier Maintenance Company and in 2009 serving in Iraq as an Army Planner (S5) responsible for assisting planning and execution of the withdraw from Iraq.
Favorite acronym: I don’t have one, but I do have a few favorite mottos or phrases: “Successful people surround themselves with other successful people” and “I have the right as a professional Soldier to surround myself with other professional Soldiers”.

Commander’s Intent: CDT Liston

“Now that we are fairly well into the swing of the regular semester, it is a good time to reflect on priorities – make sure your head is where it needs to be. Focus on what is important, keeping the future in mind. Does your behavior match up with your goals? What is your role in the battalion now, and are you fulfilling the related responsibilities? Consider how your actions, successes, failures impact your team. You will later be expected to take on more responsibility, and more people will rely on you – as cadets, as officers, and leading in many other capacities. Work out your priorities to help keep yourself on track and positively influence in your team.”

Below: CDT Blomgren provides high-speed instruction on movement techniques

Announcements

Congratulations to CDTs Blomgren, Brazel, Grove, and Olson for being selected to go on CULP deployments this summer.

Congratulations to CDT Williams for being selected for Nurse’s Summer Training Program (NSTP) at Fort Bliss this summer and CDT Clark for being selected for a chaplain’s internship.

The S-4 shop is still looking for t-shirt designs. Contact CDT Sonnenburg (jsonnenb@gustavus.edu).

Contracted cadets who fail to earn at least a 250 on the March APFT will have supplemental PT on Mondays and Thursdays starting 9 March.

LDP

Leadership Lab

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Physical Training: MSU

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Physical Training: GAC

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