

# BYU COUGAR BATTALION NEWSLETTER

March 2010

Compiled by Cadet Nixon

HOOAH is the word for 2010.

Another year of ROTC starts with a roar of thunder, as cadets continue the mission to be commissioned Second Lieutenant's in the United States Army. For many MS III's (Juniors) this is their last semester to prepare for camp, and their last semester to improve their grades. Seniors.....Hang in there, just a couple of more weeks!!!!

This semester at BYU the MS II's have taken command of PT squads in the morning. Cadet Miller is currently learning cadences, PT procedures, and proper calls in front of formation.

"I'm surprised at how fast I'm learning about PT, having to lead it". Said Cadet Miller. One March morning Cadet Miller lead his squad in a stair run workout around the Smith Field House volley ball courts, then had fun running relay races of various exercises. Captain Mundy also participated in the relay races and often shares a joke or two to keep the cadets laughing early in the morning. Cadet Miller says he adds the relay races to keep the intensity up and keep things interesting.

Also at BYU, USAA provided dinner for MS IV's, and discussed various financial products, benefits and services available to newly commissioned lieutenants. USAA is willing to lend up to 25,000 dollars to MS IV's when they are near completion of their program.

## **Fighting IRISH**

This newsletter highlight goes to the Irish men and woman serving in the Officers Corp. Our favorite Irishman at BYU ROTC is Cadet Cavender. His father is 100% Irish! Cadet Cavender is proud to be related to the

Irish ruler who kidnapped and killed St. Patrick. Thus the reason for the holiday! Thanks to Cavender and his ancestors, Irish around the world celebrated St. Patrick's day the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Cadet Cavender, on St. Patty's Day, likes to eat traditional Irish food, which includes, but is not limited to, corned beef, cabbage and of course potatoes. He also enjoys watching classic Irish movies such as "Waking Ned Divine" and "In Bruges."

## **New Training Area**

BYU ROTC (Alpha Company) now trains in the mountains in Provo Canyon. Cadets agree the new mountainous region offers a more realistic training atmosphere to the mountainous terrain in Afghanistan.

"It's always fun to be up in the beautiful mountains of Provo Utah" said cadet Monson at lab on 10 March 2010. Cadet Rosenhan reminded the cadets in his squad the mountain labs were a reason to work hard at PT.



CDT Rosenhan and CDT Rose (BYU) ask questions of a "Fist of Allah OPFOR member"  
Photo by CDT Shiozaki.



CDT Smith (BYU) holds security while on Patrol in Provo Canyon. Photo courtesy of CDT Shiozaki.

## SUU

By Cadet Koplín

SUU ROTC is busy this Spring semester preparing the MS III's for their LDAC training this summer. The main focus is working on tactics, land navigation, and CWST.

### Social

SUU's ROTC program is excited for the upcoming marriage of Cadet Rory Mele to Rose Bagby. Upcoming childbirths within the battalion include Cadet Jerod Hansen, Cadet James Bowler and LT Wes Porter. Also, Cadet Kristi Koplín recently received notification of her first duty station, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

### Events

SUU recently conducted a mini FTX on March 6, 2010 with the Dixie ROTC program. Cadets had extra time to work on their squad tactics and patrolling. On March 13th and 14th Cadet Bowler, Cadet Close, Cadet Allred, Cadet Condie, and Cadet Swenson went to Las Vegas, Nevada to compete for the German Armed Forces Badge. Events included in this meet are shot put throw, pistol marksmanship, swimming, long jump, first aid, 100 meter sprint and up to eighteen mile ruck march. SUU ROTC will be conducting a M.A.S.H Bash five Kilometer Run April 10, 2010 with SUU's Nursing program in a joint effort to earn money for both programs. We are very excited for these upcoming events in the SUU ROTC program.



SUU Cadets try to blend in the thick snow at an early tactics lab this semester.



CDT Brittney Pierce and Rory Mele of SUU, MS III's, quickly plot their points at land navigation lab held at Three Peaks Recreational Park



CDT Haken Swenson uses an improvised flotation device to float around the SUU swimming Pool at CWST.

## UVU

By Kirsten Valverde

### **New team members:**

We have three new team members on board here at UVU. CPT Brandon Halsey Branched MI. CPT Halsey just recently returned from a MiTT team deployment in Iraq. He is married to Rebecca, and they have seven children. CPT Michael Ditto came to us from the UTNG where he was working at range control. He is married to Laura and has one child. Our newest member, Matthew Giddings, is our new HRA. Mr. Giddings is married to Evelie and they have three children, one attends UVU. We welcome our new team members and look forward to working with them.

**Newest Second Lieutenant:** We're pleased to include a photograph of Second

Lieutenant's Gina Murray and Alexander Pasey, who were commissioned at Sorensen Student center on Thursday, December 17, 2010. 2LT Murray was given the oath of office by her husband 1<sup>st</sup> LT Matthew Murray who is currently deployed to Iraq and is a UVU alumni. 2LT Murray branched Adjutant General and is a member of the UT Army National Guard. 2LT Pasey branched Infantry and will be joining the Active service. They are shown here wearing their new dress blue uniform. Congratulations to the new LT's.



2LT Murray was given the oath of office by her husband 1LT Matthew Murray who is currently deployed to Iraq and is a UVU alumni.



Second Lieutenant Alexander Pasay commissioning.

Our MSIV's are raising money for "Senior Staff Ride" to Gettysburg. Their most recent event was a breakfast and lunch sale at Camp Williams during a UTNG weekend drill. The event was coordinated by Kerri Wiedmeier and Kristin Valverde. The Cadet's were able to raise \$700 towards their trip. The Wiedmeier and Valverde Kids were also on hand to assist in serving food and collecting money. The assistance, coordination, time, and effort by the family members is greatly appreciated by the CDT's and Cadre.

### FROM DOWN RANGE

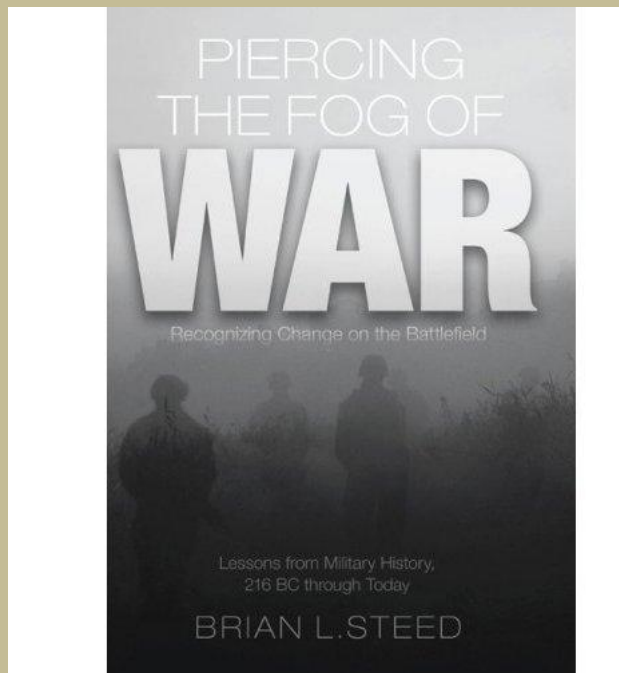
Life is well with the Browne Towne, as we call ourselves! We are in our last year here at HRC in Washington DC. We will be PCS'ing to Japan next summer! Super excited to have the opportunity to return to Japan after 16 years (missionary from 92-94).

I see many BYU Alums! MAJ Brendon Dever works here at HRC with me. MAJ Marcus Hunter is a FAO and conducting training here in DC. I see LTC Boucher quite frequently here in DC and I see LTC(R) Bob Turbyfill nearly two or three times a week as he is in my ward and we do a lot of orienteering together. Thanks - and - "Go Cougars!!"

Steve Browne.  
Stephen C. Browne  
MAJ, MI

**Staff Ride Fundraiser:**

**BYU ROTC GRADUATE PUBLISHES BOOK!**



This book is about extreme, unexpected change in war, the phenomenon that author Brian L. Steed calls aberration. Aberration is not mere surprise, not just the unexpected; it is something that is so far outside our normal frame of reference as to be unrecognizable. In the heat of the moment, an aberration may just cause embarrassment or financial loss; in the heat of battle, aberration will cause death and defeat. Piercing the Fog of War is a study of aberration in war.

Major Brian L. Steed is a U.S. Army officer. He joined the Utah Army National Guard while attending Brigham Young University and was commissioned in the U.S. Army upon graduation in 1992. Steed has taught battlefield tactics and military history on the college campus and in U.S. Army classrooms and training grounds. He has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East and North Africa, including most of the Arabic-speaking world.

Book can be ordered at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

### **BYU ROTC Mission**

**“To Commission the future officer leadership of the United States Army and motivate young people to be better citizens.”**

### **CALL IN:**

**Contribute to the newsletter! Any War stories, personal opinions, experiences, photos or reports of excellent soldiers you would like to highlight, or share with readers of the newsletter call Cadet Nixon at 801-830-5226 or email Cadet Nixon at [dantakingcareofbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:dantakingcareofbusiness@gmail.com).**