

# Cougar Battalion Newsletter

November 2010

## Brigham Young University

[army.byu.edu](http://army.byu.edu)

### Homecoming Festivities:

On October 9th, BYU had its annual Homecoming and celebrated this event with the Homecoming parade and football game. BYU Cadets took this opportunity to show their support by participating in both activities. Several Cadets were given the honor of being the Color Guard for the parade. Following the parade, the cannon crew supported our football team by cheering on the sidelines and firing the George Q Cannon at every touchdown.



Cadets with the cannon in the parade. October 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

### Presidential Review

Every year for Veterans Day, Cadets from both the Army and Air Force ROTC programs participate in the Presidential Review. During this year's event both branches were reviewed by BYU President Samuelson and a guest of honor, Vern Law. Both branches met in formation at the ROTC building flagpole where the flag was raised and then lowered to half-staff. Following this the names of BYU alumni who have given their lives for our country were read. Afterwards, both ROTC units marched up to Brigham Square and listened to Vern Law. Vern Law is a retired Major League Baseball Pitcher who played 16 seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates between 1950-1967. Vern put his promising and rewarding baseball career on hold when he voluntarily enlisted to serve this country during the Korean War. During

his career as a baseball player he received the Cy Young Award, was recognized for the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, was a member of the National League All Star team and won a World Series with the Pirates. Following the Presidential Review, the Army Cadets were dismissed to prepare for the Fall FTX (Field Training Exercise) which began the next day.



Presidential Review, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. President Samuelson walking beside Cadet Lindsey with Guest of Honor, Vern Law behind.

### FTX

Every semester BYU Cadets conduct a FTX. To add to the realism of the training, a fictional scenario is created to give a larger purpose for our deployment. This year, BYU Cadets deployed to 'Azakhstan' in order to defeat the insurgent forces, known as SAPA (Separatist Alliance for the People of Azakhstan). At pre-deployment/FTX prep lab, cadets familiarized themselves with the SAPA forces as well as other Azakhstani units such as the Azakhstani National Police and Defense Forces. They learned about the culture of Azakhstan and what to expect while there.



Cadets do an FLRC lane at BYU's FTX. November 13<sup>th</sup> 2010

Cadets left for Azakhstan, (AKA Camp Williams) on Nov 12 and spent the day running STX lanes to eliminate the SAPA and restore order to Azakhstan. At night, Cadets practiced FOB (Forward Operating Base) operations by pulling security while SAPA forces tried to breach the FOB perimeter. The rest of the FTX was comprised of day and night land navigation, Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC) lanes, and rappelling. At the end of the FTX, LTC Boberg administered the contracting oath to five new Cadets who had finished the contracting process.



Cadets are sworn in by LTC Boberg at the end of FTX. November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

Despite the cold weather, many Cadets reported it was one of the best FTX's and everything was well planned and executed. This FTX was planned, organized and carried out almost

exclusively by the MSIV Cadets with minimal Cadre involvement. This demonstrates the BYU ROTC program is continuing to improve and amazing things are expected for the rest of the school year.

## Utah Valley University

<http://www.uvu.edu/rotc/>

### Tip of the Spear

It has been an eventful Fall for the UVU ROTC program. Every Fall semester the Wolverines engage in what is known as, "Tip of the Spear" (Fall semester field training). Tip of the Spear is a highly motivating squad competition that challenges Cadets both physically and mentally. Furthermore, each cadet is given the opportunity to familiarize him/herself with a variety of firearms. This year's Tip of the Spear was unique in that our Cadets were fortunate enough to fly on the Army's front-line utility helicopter, the Blackhawk.

The planning for this grueling two day competition began months in advance and was ready for execution on October 22 at the ROTC Big Springs training site in Provo. The first day of the competition consisted of a series of field classes, weapons shooting, and several other team building exercises. At 0500 on October 23 a modified physical fitness test was issued. Even though this was an individual event, the entire squad's performance was evaluated. Individuals were given points that would ultimately help his or her squad in the overall competition. Cadets then began a strenuous hike, carrying logs and wearing protective masks up to the pickup zone where Blackhawk helicopters transported them to Camp Williams.



A Blackhawk that cadets rode in for Tip of the Spear. October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

Once on the ground, Cadets were given a variety of missions to accomplish in their respective squads. First aid, react to contact, knock out a bunker, and construction of a one rope bridge, were a few of the tasks Cadets were expected to complete. Despite poor weather conditions that plagued this competition, the Wolverines are pleased to announce that Tip of the Spear was a success, and as a result the UVU Cadets are growing and progressing towards being future leaders in today's Army.

## Ranger Challenge

The 2010 UVU Ranger Challenge team consisted of (last names) Selin, Westover, Helpin, Moore, Hull, Hatch, Willis, Bashein, Walker, Shepherd, Beckham, and Lowe. The competition was broken up into two days, in which the first day (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October) included a PT test and a written land navigation test. The second day each school was given a map and a set of grid coordinates for a location they had to find by land navigating. Once the team made it to each point, there was a task for them perform. These tasks included; a one-rope bridge across Jordan River, weapons assembly on a M-9, M-240B, M-16, pushing or pulling a Humvee over a set distance, radio transmissions/9-line medevac, evacuation of a casualty, and marksmanship. All of these events took place on a 10 to 12 mile course while carrying a 35 lb rucksack, a LBV and a simulated M-16 rifle.

UVU started with 15 Cadets trying out for the Ranger Challenge team. The Wolverines began practicing in September, only one month prior to the competition. With such a late start, the 15 Cadets trained two to three hours Monday through Friday. On Saturdays they trained at Camp Williams for about six hours practicing land navigation, road marching, and marksmanship so they would be prepared with the strength and skills to proudly represent UVU. To train for the competition, the Cadets had to balance their time between Ranger challenge, school, jobs and their ROTC assignments. About a week and a half from the competition, Cadet Lowe, the team captain, had to take the 15 person team and condense it down to 12. Lowe states "as team captain it was not an easy decision to cut someone who had been waking up at 0600 to work out, then a training meeting that afternoon. All that effort they put into it, and they did not compete,

however, they did learn more military tactics and training."



UVU Ranger Challenge Team. October 8<sup>th</sup> 2010

Despite only having a month to prepare, the Wolverines felt confident going into the competition. UVU by far had the best time across the river and was the only school to make it across the river with 100 percent of their cadets. Hours later UVU came across the finish line with an approximate time of 6 hours 30 minutes. UVU took second in the state of Utah and third in the region. BYU was first, University of Colorado Boulder second, UVU third. Teams that participated were Dixie state, Southern Utah University, BYU, Utah Valley University, West Minster, University of Utah, Weber State, and Utah State. Colorado and Wyoming provided five other schools. 14 schools total. The Wolverines are very proud of what their Cadets accomplished and are excited to see what will happen next year.

## Southern Utah University

<http://www.suu.edu/>

### Field Training Exercise

The field training exercise which took place from 29-30 October 2010 for Southern Utah University ROTC and Dixie State ROTC was exciting and challenging for all. In a change from previous semesters, this FTX took place in Beaver Dam, Arizona with Dixie State University. The OPFOR were a semi-professional paintball team known as the Ranger Ball Battalion. In order to create a realistic training environment, the OPFOR were deployed without knowing the Cadets missions.

This forced Squad leaders to react to unforeseen events during the lanes.



Opening formation at the FTX. October 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

The MSIII's lead their units through both STX and patrol lanes. Patrol lanes were set up to introduce the MSIII's to patrolling and leading larger units. These lanes exposed MSIII's to variables which required coordination between squads to complete the mission.

After the lanes, Cadets had the opportunity to participate in force-on-force paintball battles. Following the battles, the company was treated to Dutch oven cobbler and hot chocolate before establishing a patrol base and going to bed. The second day of the FTX was dedicated to patrolling lanes.



SUU Cadets Patrolling, October 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

### **Women's US National Bobsled Team**

In other news SUU ROTC graduate and Army nurse 2LT Kristi Koplin was recently selected for the Women's US National bobsled team. During the selection races, each team ran the course

twice, and the times for both trials were added for a total time. 2LT Koplin and fellow Utah National Guard member Shauna Rohbock finished first with times of 59.03 and 59.15 seconds for a total time of 1:58.17. Congratulations to 2LT Koplin and the SUU ROTC program for training such stellar officers.



2LT Koplin on US bobsled national team. 2LT Koplin is the pusher in the back with Shauna Rohbock in front.

## **Dixie State University**

<http://www.dixie.edu/rotc/>

### **Field Training Exercise**

This semester's Field Training Exercise (FTX) with our sister school, Southern Utah University, was an enormous success. Most of our Cadets agreed this semester's FTX was one of the best in Dixie's history. The success of the training was a result of thorough planning and execution from both the Cadre and Cadet leadership.



Dixie cadets at a lab

This semester's FTX was located in the desert of Beaver Dam, Arizona. The area we trained in added to the overall experience by showing an

environment similar to what might be expected if deployed to the Middle East. Furthermore, the cadets got the experience of sleeping under the stars in the middle of the desert, something many Cadets never experienced before.



Dixie cadets at FTX. October 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

Training was fun and unique with many different obstacles and premade bunkers that were used for cover and concealment during conduct of battle drills. The bunkers provided real objectives that squads could focus on and obstacles squad leaders had to take into account when creating their plans. This added to the realism of the training.



Cadets participate in Dixie's FTX. October 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

A big thanks go out to the local paint ball team, Ranger Ball Battalion, for the amazing enemy presence which they provided during training. Their involvement allowed Cadets to practice reacting quickly to a determined, aggressive and unpredictable enemy during battle drills. Ranger Ball Battalion took the task of being OPFOR seriously and elevated it to whole new dimension

with the use of paint grenades and claymores; stepping up the intensity level to one the students hadn't experienced before.

## Community Service

This month has been great for the opportunity to serve our community. Dixie Cadets participated in two big activities. The first was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October when Dixie's Ranger Challenge team participated in and proudly represented our school in the St. George annual 10k race for breast cancer awareness. Congratulations are in order for Cadet Warr who completed and won the race in just under 40 minutes.



Cadet Warr, who won the 10k race for breast cancer awareness. October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010.

The second service activity was from October 21<sup>st</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> when the Traveling Vietnam Wall came to Washington City, Utah. Dixie cadets were given the privilege of providing security while the Traveling Vietnam Wall was in Washington City. Furthermore Cadets were present during the day to help community members find the engraved names of friends and loved ones on the wall.

## Battalion Spotlight

### Cadet Ortiz: Dixie State College



Cadet Ortiz (left) and his slight mishap (right) during a repelling lab on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2010.

During a repelling lab on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Cadet Ortiz from Dixie State College demonstrated the Army value of courage. Overcoming his great fear of heights, Cadet Ortiz repelled with the rest of his company. Even after a brief mishap left him hanging upside down at the top of the rock, Cadet Ortiz returned to the top of the rock and repelled again.

## Ranger Challenge

This year's Ranger Challenge competition was a resounding success for Cougar Battalion. Teams from BYU, SUU, UVU and Dixie with ten other schools arrived at Camp Williams on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010. During the competition each team was tested on their physical fitness, land navigation skills and ability to overcome certain challenges such as crossing a river on a one rope bridge and marksmanship. BYU won the competition for the 14<sup>th</sup> time of the last 16 years with UVU achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place. SUU and Dixie had great competitive teams and proudly represented their Universities.



1<sup>st</sup> Place, BYU Ranger Challenge team at Camp Williams. October 8<sup>th</sup> 2010



## Questions?

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If you are interested in helping the ROTC Cadets in Cougar Battalion, then please check out our website at

<http://marriottschool.byu.edu/army/>