This semester seemed to be a lot about sharing in Alpha Company. We started off the early part of the semester with our Brothers and Sisters in-Arms at the Dining In, where we enjoyed ourselves, drank some funny grog and stood together to say the Soldier’s Creed. The good times rolled on as some of our PT stars ventured out for a successful return from events like the German Armed Forces Badge, the Bataan Death March and other events. Throughout the semester we had the opportunity to hear from many great BYU alumni and other exceptional leaders as we attended lectures with the Air Force ROTC and sometimes the multitude of students on campus. Some of our keynote speakers this semester were Coach Bronco Mendenhal, Coach Tim Powers and General (RET) Abizaid, among many others that enlightened our minds with experience and good advice for what makes a true leader.

Closer to the end of this semester we had the opportunity to attend the Battalion FTX in St. George on a rugged, but absolutely beautiful part of an Indian reservation. Once again the sharing of our time was quite enjoyable, with the whole battalion all in one place. The weather was perfect and we accomplished all of our training tasks.

So, whether it is sharing physical rigors, learning together, or training as a team, we have made it through another fine semester at Alpha Company and expect all our team to come back in the fall with some amazing stories about how they continued to share and learn over the summer months.
Commissioning is the end to a long journey in ROTC, which ultimately is the beginning of an exciting career. On December 16, 2011, SUU ROTC was proud to present four of the newest lieutenants to the United States Army. 2LT Allred (signal), 2LT Gerry (engineers), 2LT Redhouse (field artillery), and 2LT Smith (signal) were all commissioned after successfully completing all requirements to become a United States Army officer.

Becoming an officer is not something that happens overnight. These newly commissioned LT’s have worked hard during their time in ROTC and college to complete the rigorous military and educational requirements. These new officers were humbled by the new responsibility that was bestowed upon them. As a group they understand that commissioning was not the end but only the beginning of what is to come.

All of these officers are staying in the National Guard component in the state of Utah. As officers, they will be presented with many challenges that will test them, stress them, and ultimately make or break them. Their dedication and service to SUU ROTC will leave a lasting impact that will be felt for years.

**SUU Extra**

Every year cadets at LDAC have the opportunity to sign up for the Department of Defense bone marrow donor registry. In the summer of 2010, that is exactly what one of our cadets did. Cadet Mele, now a 2LT, registered to be a bone marrow donor. During the brief at LDAC, individuals are informed that there is a 1 in 546 chance of being selected to donate. This one act of selfless service by 2LT Mele would change the life of one individual forever (as per the confidentiality agreement,
In the June 2011, one year after he completed LDAC, 2LT Mele was contacted about donating bone marrow to a very deserving individual. He was invited to Washington D.C to conduct a medical screening prior to being selected. The entire process took him two trips to Washington D.C, an hour in surgery, and a couple weeks’ recovery. In a very rewarding interview, 2LT Mele stated, “It was amazing; I would do it a dozen more times.”

His selfless service to the nation extends not only beyond his unit but to the United States as a whole: “To serve somebody personally was outstanding,” he pronounced. 2LT Mele has been a role model to many of our cadets, showing what the true meaning of compassion and empathy are. 2LT Mele believes that his military service is ultimately what brought him to this great experience. “It wouldn’t have crossed my mind if I had not seen it at LDAC.” He insists that all cadets and individuals alike sign up to be donors. The program heavily relies on military members because they have already conducted medical screenings and tend to live a healthier lifestyle.

Dixie State College News

On September 22, 2011 there was a swearing in ceremony for two cadets at Dixie State College. The first to be sworn in was CDT Chadwick, who is a Psychology/Integrated Studies major. She also serves with the 1457th in the Utah National Guard, and will commission in the spring of 2015. Among other accomplishments, she achieved the bronze medal for the German Efficiency Badge, while also being on the Color Guard and Cannon Crew.

Dixie State also had the honor of swearing in CDT Peacock. CDT Peacock is a Criminal Justice/Military History major who is planning on commissioning in the spring of 2014. He has nine years prior service in the Air Force and is currently in the Army Reserves. During the fall semester of
2011, he also represented Dixie State College at the Ranger Challenge.

October 21st and 22nd were the dates for the Fall 2011 FTX. It was another successful FTX for Dixie State College and Southern Utah University. The cadets were able to try the skills that they learned in the classroom and put them to use. Some of the activities included a new land navigation course, as well as a ruck that involved team competitions. All of the cadets got a lot of training that will serve them well in the future.

**Utah Valley University News**

The month of January went very well for ROTC at UVU. Our initial PT was a lot weaker than the December APFT, due to cadets getting a little soft during break. However, we were able to come through fairly strong by the PT test in February.

Our Thursday Labs went well for the most part. Our first lab was being able to hear different officers explain their MOS and what jobs could be done within each branch of the Army. Most cadets seemed to get good information out of this lab. It was also very helpful for the MSIII class to be able to select branches that would benefit us. Our next lab was squad attack at the Utah Lake training site. At this lab, cadets had a chance to review and show their tactical knowledge of squad attack. The following week we had recon lanes at Big Springs. This was a fun lab because it was new terrain and we had plenty of space to work. We were also able to deal more with civilians on the battlefield. Our last lab was land navigation at Camp Williams. In regards to land navigation, roughly 75% of cadets were able to find at least two or more points out of five. January went very well for Cadets with the ability to increase domain knowledge as well as practice being an effective leader. Morale is high and cadets are looking forward to the month of February.

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