



# Fighting Falcon Battalion NEWS

March and April of 2015

## Ohio National Guard Combatives Tournament

On March 7th Cadet Valerie Stearns, a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet, placed second in the Flyweight category during the Ohio National Guard Combatives Tournament. CDT Stearns is a MS III Cadet and a member of the 323rd Military Police Company. CDT Stearns, an Early Childhood Education Major, said, "I wanted a challenge and I thought this would be an exciting opportunity to better myself."



CDT Stearns competes in the Ohio National Guard Combatives Tournament.



Cadets practice how to use an improvised splint in a casualty evacuation lane.



Cadets board a Chinook helicopter. MS I and II Cadets rode in a Chinook to the training area.

## Cadets Complete Spring Leadership Training Exercise

Cadets completed a Leadership Training Exercise from 27-29 March at Fort Custer, Michigan. On March 27th, Cadets completed land navigation in squads. Squads had to navigate throughout the course and also complete challenges such as evacuating a casualty, moving equipment and detaining an enemy.

The second day of training started out with a short flight in a Blackhawk helicopter and then transitioned into urban operations, an obstacle course and the field leader's reaction course. During urban operations, Cadets learned how to engage with a village elder and how to work with both media and civilians. The day concluded with a paintball mission in which Cadets led a platoon operation attack.

# Pershing Rifles National Convention Results

Pershing Rifles Company I-1 was in Richmond, Virginia from March 12th-15th for their annual national convention (NATCON). While attending NATCON, Company I-1 voted on a new national commander within the National Society of Pershing Rifles, conducted administrative and financial training, competed in drill on a national level, and attended a formal awards dinner with the remainder of the national society. The drill competition consisted of platoon and squad regulation, platoon and squad exhibition, color guard, and solo and duet routines.

At the competition, CDTs Rowlands and Crist received 3rd place in a duet routine for the second consecutive year. The national society enjoyed watching the U.S. Coast Guard's Silent Drill team for half time entertainment. They were also judged and scored by them in some competition events. The U.S. Army's Drill Team also aided in judging and scoring the competition. Company I-1 received the "Most Improved Company" award, within their regiment, and their regiment received the "Most Improved Regiment" award within the national society. After returning from NATCON, Company I-1 elected CDT Garrett Wadsworth as their new commander for the next year.



Pershing Rifles Company I-1



Cadet Rowlands and Crist compete in a duet routine at the Pershing Rifles National Convention.



Cadets at the Best Ranger competition complete the final event of the day, a seven mile road march.

## Best Ranger Competition

The Best Ranger Competition was held on March 14th at Camp Friedlander in Cincinnati, Ohio. BGSU ROTC had three teams compete and each team was made up of two Cadets. The team pairings were Cadets Bintz and Shimrock, Widmer and Stearns and Duncan and Leygraaf. The competition started at 0500 with the Ranger Physical Fitness Test. This test consisted of 2 minutes of push-ups, 2 minutes of sit-ups, chin-ups and a 5 mile run. Cadets then had from 0700 to 1500 to complete a variety of events including the iron strike fitness challenge, a hand grenade assault course, a casualty evacuation mission, weapons assembly, a resupply mission and critical thinking station that tested the Cadets' memory. The last event of the day was a seven mile road march. *Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page* Cadet Bintz said, “The most challenging events were by far the Iron Strike and the 7 mile ruck. The Iron Strike was about 45 minutes of high intensity activity that was set up in a format where you would run and then would do a physical event like carrying water jugs or pulling a weighted sled. The ruck march was difficult after a long day of activities and the fact that it was in mud and rugged terrain.” The teams placed between 19th and 25th out of 54 total teams.

## Civilian Marksmanship Program

This spring, Cadets competed in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). The Civilian Marksmanship Program dates back to 1903. It started with the establishment of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice by President Teddy Roosevelt. Since then, CMP runs annual shooting competitions and strives to educate individuals on how to use firearms safely. The competition BGSU ROTC participated in was a mail-in competition. CDT Savage won third place.



**Cadet Savage won third place in the Civilian Marksmanship Program competition.**

## Alumni Story: CPT Brandon Davis



CPT Brandon Davis commissioned as an Aviation Officer in 2006. He completed the Aviation Officer Basic Course at Ft. Rucker, AL and was then assigned to 1-52 Aviation Regiment at Ft. Wainwright, AK. He served as an assistant battalion operations officer, flight platoon leader, and company executive officer, deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009. After completing the Aviation Captains Career Course and obtaining his Master's Degree from Troy University, he was selected to serve as a flight company commander as well as a headquarters company commander in the 101st Airborne Division.

As a flight company commander, CPT Davis had the opportunity to lead 80 Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers as well as manage the daily operations of 10 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. CPT Davis deployed with his company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012.

*Continued* He changed command during the deployment and commanded the headquarters company for the remainder of his time with the 101st Airborne Division. After completing company command, CPT Davis decided to apply for and was accepted into the Army FAO Corps (Functional Area 48 - Foreign Area Officer).

CPT Davis moved to Monterey, California where he just recently completed the Russian Basic Course at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. He will soon be moving to the George C. Marshall Center, located in Garmisch, Germany in order to complete his In Region Training (IRT) throughout Europe and Central Asia. Following this training, CPT Davis will complete a graduate program in his area of expertise based on selection criteria through the Army Civil Schooling Program (ACS). After graduate school, CPT Davis will be a fully qualified FAO and will go on to accomplish his duties at select embassies or Major Commands throughout his area of expertise, in the National Capital Region, or any number of other available locations abroad or stateside.

# Mountain Man Memorial March

BGSU ROTC sent two teams of Cadets to the Mountain Man Memorial March in Gatlinburg, TN from 10-11 April. The purpose of the march is to honor Gold Star families and their loved ones while raising money for scholarships for Gold Star families. On 10 April, the team captains, CDT Wendel and CDT Leygraaf, represented their teams at the Gold Star family ceremony. The captains presented the families with a white rose in exchange for a Gold Star flag and banner of their loved one.

Our Cadets participated in the full-marathon, heavy category on 11 April. They carried 35 pound rucksacks and marched 26.2 miles in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. This year, Cadets marched in honor of SGT Lamie and SGT Goodman.

## Team Members:

Team 1-

Guy Leygraaf

Ed Gero

Jordan Duncan

Josh Stagl

Will Stribrny

Team 2-

Lisa Wendel

Josh Dawson

Jeffrey Pendleton

Leah Poole

Connor Lewis

## Upcoming Dates:

24 April - Spring Awards Ceremony

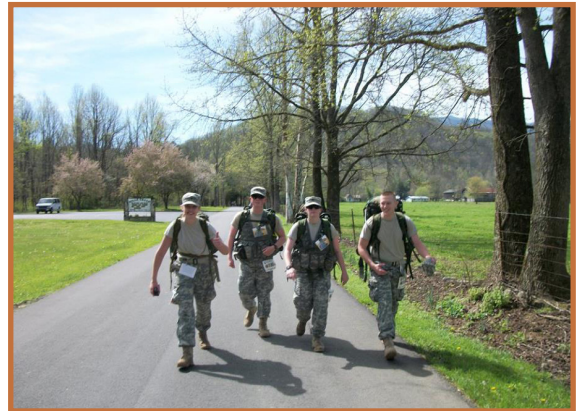
8 May - BGSU Commissioning

18 August - Early Move-in

19 August - Cadet Orientation



BGSU Cadets line up at the start of the race with the Gold Star family of SGT Gene Lamie



A Blackhawk helicopter with BGSU ROTC Cadets flies to the training area in Fort Custer, MI



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