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# WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



# THE STAR



MARCH

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE

1978

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

By C/2LT Jackie D. Kem

## Commander's Corner

by Mike Fritch

As the Cadet Battalion Commander, I would like to welcome all returning cadets and any new cadets to the Spring 1978 semester. This semester holds great promise of becoming one of the best ever in the ROTC Cadet Corps here, and it is my goal to make it just that. I sincerely hope that in accomplishing this goal, every cadet achieves what they expect to achieve and more from the ROTC program for this semester. I strongly urge each and every cadet to participate fully in all the activities planned in the Military Science Department, and to especially make an all-out effort to attend all assigned labs. If at any time during the semester I can be of assistance to any cadet, please feel free to call on me.

There's a new club at Western that is sponsored by the ROTC department. The club is called the Run for Your Life Club and it is basically a jogging club. The club members are mainly ROTC cadets, but the club is open to the University, both students and faculty. The club is informal, in that the members jog on the honor system, yet receive recognition through the Run for Your Life Program in the form of patches and certificates.

Run for Your Life is an Army-sponsored activity centered at Ft. Benning, Georgia. The club was started as a training program through aerobics. The aerobics program stresses running and exercising for training and strengthening the lungs and heart. The only requirement for the program is that the mile be run in a time of 8:30 or less (9:30 for men over 40 and women). The most that a person is to run in a day is three miles, and the goal is for a person to run 7-10 miles a week.

CPT Bewley is the faculty sponsor for the Run for Your Life Club here at Western. For all those interested in the club, there will be several meetings in February which will be posted on the bulletin boards outside the ROTC department. If you are unable to attend a meeting, contact CPT Bewley or C/Jackie Kem for information. We would love to have you join!

## THE STAR STAFF

S-2 . . . . . Bruce Bohanon  
Assistant . . . . . Jackie Kem  
Typist . . . . . Sue Fray  
Advisor . . . . . CPT Jerry Ward

"ON THE GO"

by CDT/CPT Andy Hussey



Yes, SPECIAL FORCES is "on the go" once again this semester. We have been involved with much already this semester and face several other challenges through the remainder of the semester. SPECIAL FORCES has just completed its candidate program. This candidate program lasted approximately 5 weeks during which time concentration was given to such topics as rappelling, radio communications, wire communications, tactical movement of a unit, river crossing, map reading, and water survival. Three individuals completed this training.

Certainly, SF has not limited itself only to conducting the candidate program. SPECIAL FORCES, with VFW Post #12, jointly sponsored Scott Thomas to the National Collegiate Skydiving Meet. Thomas, an SF active, represented himself, SPECIAL FORCES, and Western KY University well by winning fourth place at this meet.

SPECIAL FORCES has continued to strive to excel in the field of tactics through frequent maneuvers in the field. Among those included this semester is a jointly conducted FTX with the Pershing Rifles.

Not to dwell on the past, SPECIAL FORCES continues to plan for the future. Planned for the remainder of the semester is a field exercise against an MTSU ranger unit at Ft. Campbell. SF has also made preparations for attending orienteering meets conducted 1-2 April at Manchester, MO; 8-9 April at Carbondale, IL; 6 May at Cookeville, TN. One of the final activities planned for SF this semester is a unit picnic.

All this has kept SPECIAL FORCES "on the go."

The National Society of Pershing Rifles was begun on the campus of the University of Nebraska in 1894. This was during (later to be general of the Armies) John J. "BLACKJACK" Pershing's time of instructorship there.

Pershing, tired of the sloppy attitudes and poor spirit de corps of the military students on the campus, decided to start a new organization, founded on the idea that the individual student should have a better outlook and attitude toward his military training. Pershing started a voluntary organization, made up of his finest cadets to improve the situation.

When the progress of Pershing's unit was heard in other colleges and universities, they organized their own units. The units spread all over the United States, and the name was changed from the varsity rifles, to the Pershing Rifles, in honor of its founder.

Pershing Rifles reached Western in 1936. Since it has been on campus, it has been an organization dedicated to the principles of doing "just a little more" in the preparation of the ROTC cadet. The primary activities of Pershing Rifle Company B, Third Regiment, here at Western is to perform as an expert drill team at ceremonies and in competition with other schools, to participate in extracurricular military studies and exercises, to support various college functions, and to sponsor social activities such as informal parties, picnics, and a formal ball.

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF COMPANY B-3  
.....HOW?  
BY TALKING TO DENNIS L. KOLB.....  
PH 748-2111

## OLD WAR STORIES

By C/2LT Jackie D. Kem

As many of you may know, one of the ways that a person may enroll in the ROTC Advanced Course (MS III & MS IV) is by virtue of being a Veteran. The Vet is in a unique position in that he has already seen the Military Service from the inside, and liked what he saw. Being a Vet myself, I have found that ROTC is a learning experience as well as an unlearning experience. The only trouble that I have had is that no one believes my old war stories.

I can't seem to understand why CPT Bewley would not sympathize with me when I tell him of the hardships that I endured while a member of the 77th Army Band at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. You can't imagine the despair that a person feels when you have to march in a parade behind the Duncan Oklahoma Saddle Club. The frustration is unbelievable when the steak dinner you ordered cost \$6.00 and the Army Meal Ticket only pays for \$5.50 of that amount.

The worst thing that ever happened was truly horrifying. I am really surprised that I lived through this one. Being a member of a military band during the Bicentennial Year was busy, in that we dedicated everything that you could possibly imagine. In Oklahoma, there is an extensive flood control project, and throughout the state, there are a number of watersheds. For you city folk, a flood watershed is a low ground that becomes a pond when the water flows down from an extensive rainfall. Well, for the Bicentennial, we dedicated Oklahoma's 1776th Watershed, which was somewhere near Sterling, Oklahoma. Well, can you believe that we drove way out there and played the dedication ceremony, and they didn't even give us meal tickets! We had to eat the barbecued buffalo that the state had cooked up. I just couldn't believe it.

On a serious vein, I am truly happy to be in ROTC, and sincerely proud of the part that I played in keeping up the morale of the troops while in the 77th Army Band. I believe that a lot of the Vets in ROTC have seen that the Army can be a lot of work sometime, that it can be a headache, but that also the Army can provide a lot of opportunities for a person to do what 'turns him on'. I made a lot of good friends in the Army, and I know that when I go back in, that I will enjoy what I do, whatever it turns out to be. The Army can mean a lot of good friends, good times, and even sometimes, good music!!

\* \* \* \* \*

A Company  
by Ed Miller

Alfa Company welcomes all cadets back to another semester of Big Red ROTC. The CO is CDT CPT Ron Assmann, who recently received an RA commission in the Field Artillery. The XO is CDT 1LT Dwight Williams. 1SGT is Jill Baggett. Platoon leaders are: 1st PLT-CDT 2LT David Crowell, 2nd PLT-CDT 2LT Daniel Chapman, 3rd PLT-CDT 2LT Ed Miller. PSG's are: Steve Larimore, James Malley, and Bob Ervin.

The Cadet of the Month is Bryan Kaelin, a freshman from Owensboro, KY.

Alfa Company is one of the freshman Mountaineering labs. We couple classroom instruction with realistic field training and practical exercises. Alfa Company plans an exciting semester of training for its cadets.

## Why ROTC?

By C/2LT Jackie D. Kem

Why should a person go ROTC? What do you really get out of it? I hear these questions all the time from people around campus. What I don't understand is why a person doesn't go ROTC. Perhaps I am a little gung-ho, but I think I have a reason to be. In my way of thinking, ROTC is a no-lose proposition. First of all, the time you spend in it goes for an academic minor, so you get credit for it as far as the school is concerned. The last two years, you may spend a little more time to do a few things, but I think the \$100 a month is the best part-time job that I have, particularly around income tax time.

One of the hardest things for a new college graduate to get is a job. With ROTC, you have an option to go on active duty or just go ADT and stay in the Reserves and still have a good paying part-time job. If you want to work in the civilian factor, having ROTC on your transcript sure means a lot to a lot of employers. If I decide to go in for a few years, the experience that I will have under my belt will really be an asset.

Besides the monetary considerations, there is the personal pride that I can do whatever I set out to do. There is the personal pride of doing something for my country. Four years ago, that would have sounded silly; today I realize that my country is worth defending, worth support. ROTC has taught me the value of pride.

Now when people ask me why ROTC, I tell them. ROTC has opened up a great deal of alternatives to me, has given me a lot of insight, and pride in myself, my country, and my fellow man. It may sound trite, but ROTC is for me, because nothing else will do.

Somewhere along the way, most military science students ask themselves "Where does all this training lead and how can it be applied?" In an attempt to answer these questions, this writer interviewed LTC Ehresman of the 100th Division.

LTC Ehresman was commissioned in the Field Artillery through the ROTC program at Purdue University. After going on active duty for training, he joined an Army Reserve unit. He is presently an administrator at Western, in addition to being battalion commander of the Bowling Green unit of the 100th Division.

Ehresman pointed out several benefits of being in the Reserve. "I have used many of the principles learned in ROTC in civilian life, even though I've never been on active duty." The pay is not bad either. A reservist usually works one weekend out of the month and gets paid four days' earnings for every weekend worked. For a second lieutenant, that comes to about \$100 a weekend. In addition, if the reservist has served 20 years, at age 60, he can collect retirement benefits.

Ehresman believes that the future for ROTC graduates is good. At this moment there are three slots for second lieutenants in the Bowling Green unit. In recent years, more people have switched back from reserve to active duty than ever before. This, combined with a more mobile society, tends to provide more openings with the reserve.

For those who make a career of the reserve, there are opportunities to associate with many interesting people. Ehresman indicated that most reservists are professional people or people who have some responsibility in their civilian jobs. "It is the ability to associate with interesting people and to soldier every once in a while that keeps most senior officers in."

When planning your career, keep the Army Reserve in mind. It might be the thing for you.