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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



THE STAR



SEPTEMBER

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE

1977

Notes from the Colonel

Welcome to Western Kentucky's "Big Red" Army ROTC Cadet Corps. I am pleased you have joined the ranks of an elite group of young men and women, future leaders and outstanding citizens of this great nation of our's. I challenge you to do your best during this school year. Your college education is our primary mission in the Military Science Department. Concurrent with the attainment of your degree is our mission to develop the leadership potential that each of you possess so that you may do the best job you possibly can upon graduation and receipt of your commission in the United States Army. The life style of Western Kentucky University's tradition is expressed in our motto, "The Spirit Makes the Master," and I enjoin each of you to harness the spirit that exists on this great campus of our's in order that you may become "the Master" of your own individual destiny.

Excellence in the arena of life is not easily won. The desire to be first and what it takes to be in the number "1" spot requires maximum effort on the part of every member of any organization.

Western Kentucky's ROTC Corps today enjoys the distinction of being a "Number 1" program because those of its membership have paid "the price" to place it there. In order for us to remain in that position, it requires continued super effort on all our parts. I am confident our Cadet Corps this year has what it takes individually and collectively to keep us "Number 1."

Airborne School

"American parachutists--devils in baggy pants--are less than 100 meters from my outpost line. I can't sleep at night. They pop up from nowhere, and we never know when or how they will strike next. Seems like the black-hearted devils are everywhere."

No, this is not a new movie release, but an excerpt from the diary of a German officer. This excerpt will give you, the reader, an idea of the pride instilled in those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the Airborne School this summer and earned our silver wings. Including myself, Mike Fritch, there were eight of us who were so honored--Ted Nicholas, Calvin Minton, Matt Ransdell, Joe Indalecio, Terry Jensen, Ron Assmann, and Leon Chappell.

So, you would like to know what it is like to ride in that C-130 or C-141 aircraft with your heart in your throat until you go hurling out the rear door of the aircraft and feel the tug of those static lines snapping taunt above you. Also, you want to know how it feels to be suspended from that great round silk canopy floating calmly and quietly down to a green pasture some 1500 feet away. And, you would like to know how you feel after landing on the ground and start winding that parachute around your arms while watching your brother paratroopers descending from the serene sky you just left above you. Well, friend, about all I have to say about the entire experience is AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY, AND THEN SOME.

New Faces in the Department

We have two new faces in the ROTC Department this year. Actually, one has returned after a year in Korea, SGM Eatherly. SGM Eatherly came to Western previously in April 1974. In September 1976, he left for Korea to be SGM in J-4 Plans, United Nations Command, for which he received the Joint Service Commendation Medal. SGM Eatherly is an MS II Instructor and an advisor for P/R's. He tells me that he is the nicest person in the department.

The new MS IV Instructor from Orlando, Florida, is CPT Gregory A. Lowe. CPT Lowe is a Military Police Officer who comes to Western from San Francisco, California. He was Commander of the San Francisco Field Office, US Army Criminal Investigation Command. In 1968, CPT Lowe graduated from Western with a BA in Psychology. He got his MPA in Justice Administration at Golden Gate University. He feels that it is good to be back home.

On behalf of the Star staff and the Cadet Corps, we would like to welcome SGM Eatherly and CPT Lowe to the Big Red Machine.

Distinguished Military Students

Under the provisions of AR 145-1 and with the concurrence of the President of Western Kentucky University, the following cadets were designated Distinguished Military Students for the 1977-1978 school year:

ASSMANN, Jeffrey
DAVENPORT, Janice
FRITCH, Michael
HARVELL, Herbert
HOWARD, Gregory
HUSSEY, Andrew

JENSEN, Terry
MINTON, Calvin
NICHOLAS, Theodore
PENDLEY, Donna
PENDLEY, Michael
RANSELL, Matthew

This award is for displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, high moral character, noteworthy academic achievement, and exceptional aptitude for military service. Congratulations to all of you.

Mini-Lab

All of us know that most of what we learn is gotten out of the classroom. The Military Science Department knows this as well. For this reason they are offering, to any of the corps who is interested, the opportunity to attend a mini-lab scheduled for 21 Sep 77. The subjects of the mini-lab include basic knot tying, tying of a swiss seat, how to set up a rivercrossing, and a practical exercise in rivercrossing. Emphasis is on having fun while you are learning. All interested persons please sign up on one of the posters in the Military Science Department. We will leave for the mini-lab at 1500 hrs (3 p.m.) from the Military Science Department on that Wednesday, 21 September 1977. Come, learn, enjoy!

Andrew J. Hussey
CDT CPT

From the Commander

After a long summer vacation and the start of a new semester, I would like to welcome back all returning cadets and all the new cadets to Western Kentucky University's Big Red Army ROTC Cadet Corps. Also, I would like to extend congratulations to the cadets who completed the Basic and Advanced Camps and a special "Airborne!" to the seven other cadets who went to jump school.

This year should be the best ever for the Big Red Corps; and if this summer's outstanding performance by the seniors is any indication, it will be. However, if you are not a senior, don't feel left out in the cold. This semester we have a great FTX planned and three exciting mini-labs. There will be something to interest all of you.

With my congratulations, I would like to issue a challenge to each and every cadet. We are known across the country as one of the best ROTC schools in the nation, and with over 400 cadets (160 freshmen alone), we are growing rapidly. I challenge you all to make this year the best ever by actively participating in the program. We have everything from intramurals to tactics. Remember, it's our Corps, let's make it the best.

Calvin R. Minton
CDT LTC, A BN

Recondo Qualified

To receive the Recondo Badge is to obtain intermediate goals at advanced camp. To be Recondo qualified you must first make above 350 on your physical training test. Then you must pass the advanced swimming exercise, that is slide for life, and 40 foot rope drop at Breakneck Lake. Another criteria to meet is to rappell off a 50 foot tower. And last, but not least, you have to orienteer, running around to obtain an above average score. The Big Red ROTC Recondo Qualified are:

Assmann, J.	Nicholas, T.
Chenault, K.	O'Neal, C.
Heater, R.	Pendley, D.
Huggins, N.	Pendley, M.
Hussey, A.	Railey, S.
McKinney, W.	Ransdell, M.
Minton, C.	Stillman, K.
Nelson, C.	Storey, G.

AOT

AOT stands for Army Orientation Training. AOT gives you, the cadet, an opportunity to visit an active Army unit and see what really goes on. I was fortunate enough to be stationed with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas. Under my command were 44 men and 10 tracked vehicles including three M551 Sheridan Tanks, two M113 TOW vehicles, one M113 Infantry track, one Mortar track, and three M114 scout vehicles. With a Sheridan valued at over \$370,000, you can see that I had some responsibility. Most AOT slots are set up so that the cadet has a Second Lieutenant to follow around. My unit was short of Second Lieutenants so I actually had my own Platoon. I worked hard every day from about 0600 to 1800. The work was interesting so I didn't mind working the long hours.

If you're not sure that the Army is for you, try for an AOT slot. It will show you the challenge the Army provides. Not like camp, you will see and participate in the life style of an actual Army officer. The pay for it isn't bad either.

Michael Pendley