

QUEDETTE QUARTERLY

Fall 2020

*The Official Newsletter of the Golden Eagle Battalion
Army ROTC Program Hosted at Marquette University*



FALL FTX

The Golden Eagle Battalion conducted Fall FTX at Fort McCoy, WI from 24-27 September 2020. Cadets were trained in land navigation, weapon qualification, STX lanes and a culminating force on force attack. The MSIIIs went through tactical lanes where they were evaluated on their leadership in a tactical environment in order to train them for Advanced Camp. The MSI/IIIs went through STX classroom instruction with the help of MSIVs to prepare them for their future in the GEB.



The GEB concluded with a platoon competition where they went through a land navigation test, hand grenades, evaluating a casualty and calling in a 9-line. Whichever platoon completed all these tasks in the least amount of time won first-place.

Cadets returned to Marquette University for a BBQ put together by the GEB

fan club. The GEB fan club always puts this BBQ together and it is a way for them to see their son/daughter come back from a four-day, intense training. This year's BBQ was a little different. In order to maintain social distancing, parents were not able to come, but Cadets were still able to enjoy some well-earned food before being dismissed.



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Fall Superlab

The Golden Eagle Battalion conducted its annual Fall Super Lab on a bright and dry day in Petrifying Springs Park on UW-Parkside’s campus. MSI and MSII Cadets trained in a crawl, walk, run fashion in order to both retain more skills and apply the training they have already conducted. They focused on battle drills, individual movement techniques, special team protocols for Aid and Litter and EPW. The training focused mostly at the squad level with the help of MSIV helpers. MSIII cadets applied their knowledge from previous labs and class to plan their missions and create



their OPORD. They conducted platoon missions such as movement to contact, ambush, raid, and attack and defend.

While moving through the forest, GEB cadets of all levels had the opportunity to bond with one another and learn different leadership styles. The weather was advantageous as past Super Labs have offered

freezing temperatures and precipitation of all kinds.

The GEB maintained as much social distancing as possible as well as wearing facial protective masks all throughout the event in order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.



Ranger Challenge

Ranger Challenge is the varsity sport of ROTC. It is a competition that tests Cadets’ mental and physical toughness, while developing leadership skills in the process. Teams compete through a series of events and are awarded points for their performance on each event. From rope bridges to stress shooting, the Golden Eagle Battalion performed very

well this year at Task Force Ranger Challenge.

The Golden Eagle Battalion continued its tradition of putting together a top-tier Ranger Challenge team. We want to recognize and highlight all of the GEB’s success in Ranger Challenge as they continue on the Road to the Sandhurst competition in Spring 2021.

Competing with schools across Wisconsin and Northern Michigan, the Golden Eagle Battalion came in first place in the 5-man Co-Ed category as well as the 9-man team. Both the 9-man and the 5-man teams will compete in the Brigade Ranger Challenge next semester! A win at the Brigade competition will take them to the Sandhurst competition at West Point.



GEB 9-Man Team



GEB 5-Man Team



RECONDO



Golden Eagle Battalion Cadets who have attended the RECONDO extracurricular events each week prove to be strong

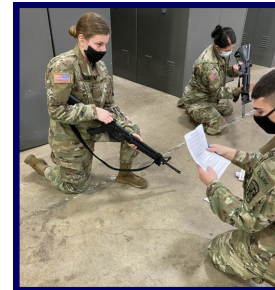
individuals who continue to stand out among their peers. This semester, RECONDO took place weekly and focused on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, radio usage, Call for Fire, Enter and Clear Rooms, Battle Drills, and even a Shoot House event conducted at Milwaukee Area Technical College which provided Cadets with the experience of using force and audacity. These Cadets use

RECONDO sessions to interact with each other tactically and learn how to handle a variety of different challenges before they will be evaluated on them.



The RECONDO team also conducted the first Golden Eagle Battalion Expert RECONDO Badge (ERB). This 3-day competition includes a fitness test, written Land Navigation exam, Call for Fire and Grenade assessment,

weapon familiarization test, and a Tactical Casualty Combat Care test. On the third day, ERB candidates completed a 12-mile, 35lb Ruck March in order to complete the entire competition.



The GEB maintained as much social distancing as possible and wore facial protective masks throughout all RECONDO sessions in order to mitigate risk of COVID-19.

Contracting Ceremony

The Golden Eagle Battalion held their contracting ceremony at the Milwaukee County War Memorial. We normally have our contracting ceremony at the Alumni Memorial Union at Marquette University, but due to COVID-19, we had to switch things up. The PMS, LTC Kiriazis, swore in twenty new



contracted Cadets committed to serving as strong future officers.

We had a special guest, LTC Charles Olsen, who shared virtual remarks all about being a leader. Cadets' parents were allowed to come to see their son/daughter commit to the ROTC program. We also streamed the entire ceremony on Facebook Live in order for other Cadets and family members to be able to see the ceremony virtually.





Service Committee

The Golden Eagle Battalion's Service Committee is a Cadet run organization dedicated to giving back to the community by emphasizing the Army value of Selfless Service.

The student leadership worked diligently to organize events to bring Cadets and the community together to make meaningful connections. They proudly work through outreach programs, local clean up, and Veteran support. Recently, through the trying times of the pandemic, many Cadets have still made the time and effort to provide their individual talents for the betterment of society.

We want to recognize the efforts of the Service Committee and share their recent experiences with you. The service committee held four events this past semester.

World War II Memorial Set Up



15 GEB cadets volunteered to help set up a replica of the World War Two Memorial that is in Washington, DC at the Milwaukee War Memorial.

Mask Assembly for the Vulnerable

Golden Eagle Battalion Cadets selflessly took time out of their weekend to serve the Milwaukee community by assembling face masks that will protect vulnerable local residents from contracting or spreading the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). They successfully assembled 2,100 facemasks.



Estabrook Park Cleanup

Cadets also spent the morning picking up trash in Milwaukee County's Estabrook Park. Estabrook Park is a commonly used training area that the GEB uses to conduct leadership labs. The park rangers stated that the Milwaukee County Parks System is severely understaffed due to COVID-19.



Kenosha Beach Cleanup

The GEB Service Committee took part in cleaning up Simmons Island Beach and Park and the promenade at Harbor Park in downtown Kenosha, WI. Cadets removed enough trash from the beach and parks to fill nearly 10 contractor-sized trash bags. The GEB Service Committee is very appreciative of the Mayor's Office at the City of Kenosha, which helped to make the clean-up possible.





Interview with Cadet Douglas Machkovech



CDT Douglas Machkovech was named the #1 ARMY ROTC Cadet in the entire nation on the order of merit list this semester. We want to wish CDT Machkovech a big congratulations from everyone here at the GEB and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors! Here are some of CDT Machkovech's thoughts on his experiences in Army ROTC.

Why did you ultimately decide to join ROTC?

I knew in high school that I wanted to do something with the military, but I also wanted to get a college degree. ROTC was the perfect option for me to do both, so I tried it out as a freshman and really enjoyed it. I then made a big effort to earn a scholarship from the Army and eventually did.

What are some things you were taught while in the program?

Obviously, there was a large focus on leadership; learning how to make decisions, deal with adverse situations, take care of and manage subordinates, and how to perform under stress. Beyond all of this, it taught me how to work as a cohesive team and

know how to interact with others and work together to accomplish a goal. Lastly, one of the biggest lessons was time management. There are only 24 hours in a day, and you have to figure out a way to get everything done. With proper time management, you can get a lot more done in a day than you would think. These are some of the most prominent lessons I've learned, but there were so many more things that helped to shape me during my time in ROTC.

What are some of your greatest achievements while in ROTC?

Some of the greatest achievements I've had have come from special opportunities. I was able to participate in Project GO and study Arabic in the Middle East for two months, which was a really cool experience. I was also able to attend Jungle Operations course and learned a lot about tactics and survival during that opportunity. I was able to earn the George C. Marshall Leadership award, which was a tremendous honor, and I was able to lead the Golden Eagle Battalion for a semester as the Cadet Battalion Commander. It has been a great honor to achieve these significant things alongside of and with the help of my classmates and the rest of the Golden Eagle Battalion.

How did ROTC cadre and other leaders prepare you for success in the program and Army?

The cadre did a great job of preparing me for all the challenges ROTC provided. They made sure I was academically and technically prepared for everything I faced whether it was a competition like Ranger Challenge or a training opportunity like Jungle school. I think a large part of the Golden Eagle Battalion's success is the quality of instruction that the cadre provide. Other leaders that helped prepare me for success were mostly other Cadets. Part of the process is being mentored and learning from the older cadets. As a freshman or sophomore those older Cadets are the ones who give you that insight and refine you in little ways to help you succeed.

What was it like to balance ROTC between your civilian life and college?

It was not always easy to balance life, school, and the Army. There were a lot of early mornings and late nights, but it really comes down to time management. At times it could be challenging to balance the three, but I thoroughly enjoyed all of it, so it never seemed as if it was work to me.

What are your plans after commissioning and parting from the Army ROTC program?

After commissioning I will be heading down to Fort Benning to train as an Infantry Officer at the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) and Ranger School.



Words from the PMS, LTC Kiriazis



Friends, Family and Alumni of the Golden Eagle Battalion:

What a tremendous semester for our Golden Eagle Battalion! This marks my final academic year as the Professor of Military Science. I am scheduled to depart in the summer of 2021 after almost 5 years with this incredible Army ROTC program. I can assure you that this assignment has been the honored highlight in my near 25 years of service as an officer in the US Army. It has been my exclusive privilege to be part of such a great history, lineage and culture of all of our campuses and especially calling the “Old Gym” home on Marquette University’s campus and will always carry the pride of having been associated with some of the best future officers and top notch cadre the US Army has to offer.

“...for a fourth consecutive year, the Golden Eagle Battalion won first place finishes in the 2020 Task Force Ranger Challenge...”

As I reflect on the semester, it is amazing that we were able to meet all of our training objectives in spite of the tremendous COVID-19 mitigation standards we put into effect. I am proud to report that, for a fourth consecutive year, the Golden Eagle Battalion won first

place finishes in the 2020 Task Force Ranger Challenge under the leadership of CDTs Matt Oldendorf (MSIV and Team Captain) and CPT Dan Williams (coach) for the 9-Cadet Team. CDT Lindsay Walter (MSIV Nursing Cadet and Team Captain) and CPT Terry Battison (coach) brought another first place finish for our 5-Cadet COED team as well! Both teams will compete in the regional 2021 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge Championship at the end of March 2021 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. These Cadets and Cadre have created a dynasty of winning! 4 years in a row! So proud!

“...This is the first territory expansion in decades and solidifies the great partnership between Marquette University and our Golden Eagle Battalion. ...”

I am also happy to report that Marquette University offered Army ROTC new and expansive space by allocating a second large gym space and the old Golf Room for exclusive Golden Eagle Battalion use. This is the first territory expansion in decades and solidifies the great partnership between Marquette University and our Golden Eagle Battalion. It also continues to tie our program to its roots in the old hallways of our “Old Gym” – we love it here! Cadets and cadre have been applying “elbow grease,” to making these spaces usable and with your continued donations to the Dey Fund and Duke and Feifar Endowment are so welcomed. We continue to thank you for your donations. We strive to make the best spaces available. We are converting the old golf room into a Tactical Leadership Laboratory and

the new and large gym space into a cross functional fitness facility to better prepare our Cadets to exceed standards in the Army Combat Fitness Test that has taken effect recently.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had some effect on the size of our program. I am not as excited to report that we have experienced a 20% reduction in the number of enrolled and contracted Cadets – especially in our freshmen and sophomore classes. We attribute this reduction to our inability to chair open table events to promote Army ROTC. We have been relying on virtual recruitment and are getting better at it with each passing month. However, I would like to take this time to ask friends and family of the Golden Eagle Battalion to have a conversation with that young man or woman that is already in college or thinking about Army ROTC (high school) to gauge their potential service as an officer of our force.

The Golden Eagle Battalion continues to be one of the best quality programs in the country. Operational Metric Scores for our Cadets range within the top 6.5% of programs across the entire Nation in the last 4 years. Much of their success is reliant on the tremendous amount of support from Family, Friends, and Alumni. Thank you for being an influence on our future leaders of the Army! I know we all work to encourage our future Cadets to discover for themselves that the Golden Eagle Battalion is the right place for them and their aspirations.

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