

## New region meets in Reno

First AFTB/Senior Conference since reorganization of Cadet Command brings schools, issues, leaders together in Nevada



Maj. Woody Stone

Army Family Team Building Instructors, students, administrators and guests came from all seven brigades, Western Region Headquarters and Cadet Command for their 2003 AFTB conference in Reno, Nev.

### By Bob Rosenburgh Western Region Public Affairs

The first phase of Western Region's conference in Reno, Nev., was the Army Family Team Building training seminar from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. AFTB provides every organization in the Army with trained advocates who assist and educate their soldiers, civilians and family members with accessing services, benefits and support groups available to them, especially during times of deployment. According to Tammy Lee, Western Region's AFTB coordinator, 68 students came from all seven brigades to be certified as AFTB instructors for their home-station cadre and cadets.

"The majority of students for this time around came from our three new brigades," said Lee, "and we were kind of playing catch-up." Prior to re-alignment, the old 4th Region (ROTC) had conducted eight annual AFTB training seminars before becoming Western Region, Ca-

det Command. "But we still had representatives from the other schools in the brigade who were losing their AFTB instructors through rotation or for other reasons."

Lee said six AFTB trainers conducted the classes, assisted by Sgt. Lester James, who is the region's AFTB Administrative NCO. James also conducted one of the classes.

Lee conducted the overview briefings and coordinated the conference in general.

"We also had several honorary attendees," she added. "Col. Steve

Corbett, our commander, is a strong advocate of AFTB and was there for the entire conference. We also had Ms.

Gwen Walthes, who is the AFTB Program Manager at Cadet Command."

Throughout the region, AFTB instructors have traditionally been drawn from a cross-section of active-duty soldiers, civilian employees and the spouses of either group. "We ac-

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## Maj. Gen. Thrasher sets priorities

### By Bob Rosenburgh Western Region Public Affairs

Just over three months after taking charge of U.S. Army Cadet Command at Fort Monroe, Va., Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher had the opportunity to address many of his senior leaders and staff at the first-ever Western Region Commanders' Conference in Reno, Nev. The region, previously called 4th Region (ROTC) before reorganization of Cadet Command, also has a new commander, Col. Steven R. Corbett, and has added a number of additional schools to its footprint because of 1st Region's inactivation. The Nov. 3-6 conference was the first held since the numerous personnel and organizational changes were fully implemented, making it an important forum for Thrasher to stress the priorities he expects his commanders to set for their own programs. He characterized those key goals within the framework of the Cadet Command mission - to commission future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens - and through his command philosophy.

"I believe that we, as senior leaders, have a tremendous responsibility in taking care of our people," Thrasher said, noting that everything they do while developing leaders for the Army revolves around caring for those soldiers, cadets and civilians in their charge and for their families. "It's plain and simple - if you take care of your people, everything else will fall into place."

Thrasher said that was the first of five key areas - people, leader attributes, leadership, cadet qualities and training - that encompass his command philosophy.

"I've traveled and looked across the entire Army to see what leadership attributes we should aspire to and to help guide and mentor our cadets." What he found are

the qualities that every leader in the region and Cadet Command must not only teach to cadets, but practice themselves. "Whether you know it or not," he said, "you and your cadre are the role models. They watch you and they know what you do. They know if you have a good command climate and the battalion should work together very closely in the interests of the cadets."

As for leadership, Thrasher said he expects his cadres to lead from the front. "We must set the example, enforce standards and do the right thing." The Professor of Military Science sets the tone from which attitudes are derived and it must one of motivation and initiative.

The quality of cadets is another issue where Thrasher had strong guidance for his key leaders. "We are doing our cadets, our soldiers and our Army a disservice if we don't produce quality lieutenants, he continued, "and if we get too focused on making the numbers, we're going to put lieutenants out in the field who are not qualified to lead our soldiers." To avoid such an outcome, he said, recruiting only the best and brightest and enforcing standards is a must.

But those goals go hand-in-hand to keep pace with an Army in transition.

"We have got to stay ahead of the power curve and we must develop our programs so that we are developing that future leader for that future force. Everything we do in our leader development must have a background of the Warrior Ethos. We must ingrain in them that they are soldiers first and what ever MOS or technical background they have, they do that next."

All the issues he stressed apply to both junior and senior ROTC

*See "Thrasher," Page 3*

Commander's Comments

**"Safety is everybody's business."** We hear that phrase nearly every day in the Army, but I am struck by how difficult it is to make it a part of everyone's culture. Whether we are training future officers in the Senior ROTC Program, or helping to make better citizens of High School students in our JROTC Program, being aware of the safety risks that surround us in both everyday and Army life is a critical skill.



Col. Steven Corbett

I have been in command of the Western Region for about three months. Not a week, and rarely a day, goes by that I do not receive a Serious Incident Report (SIR) from college or high school cadre that reports the injury and even death of a cadet. These tragedies are overwhelmingly preventable through education, helping students understand situational awareness and that time honored tra-

dition of the American Army - the buddy system.

Less than a third of these incidents have been related to any sort of ROTC activity. Those that are, tend to be minor sprains and a few fractures incurred during training. We have had several instances of dehydration and potential heat exhaustion during both routine physical fitness and Ranger Challenge

training. I believe that the keys to reducing these types of injuries are:

- Proper Hydration
- Adequate stretching (although it doesn't seem "hooah" to stretch)
- Risk assessment of terrain and fitness levels of cadets

These are all simple, cadre-supervised tasks that every cadet and leader needs to understand.

Of greater concern to me are the ways in which the majority of our junior and senior cadets are injured and even killed; careless acts on their own time. I believe that it is our responsibility as ROTC cadre to educate our cadets to consciously improve their personal risk awareness. We cannot be the "guardian angel" of every cadet, every moment of the day. We can, however, attempt to implant a degree of common sense. When I was a cadet (back before the Civil War ...), our cadre NCO used to tell us that we, as 18-25 year olds, were incapable of stopping - even for a split second - and asking ourselves, "Is what I'm about to do really, REALLY

stupid?" I was offended by his pretty blunt opinion, but it's amazing how many times I thereafter asked myself that question and managed to avert disaster. Although we didn't call it "Risk Management," that's exactly what he was prompting us to do. Often, our buddies can help prevent injury and even death by asking the same question, "Is what we're about to do really, REALLY stupid?"

As winter begins in most of the Western Region, I'd like us all, cadre, employees and cadets alike to focus on our surroundings, our actions and each other. Too many of us are getting hurt, and some of us are even getting killed through our own inattention. In every official ROTC activity, I expect Risk Management to be embedded. If we educate our cadets, we can influence their behavior and personal safety when they're on their own time. We hurt too many people and are losing too many fine, young Americans.

**Safety really, truly is "Everybody's Business."**

NCO Notes

In my October column, I talked about a new era in Cadet Command and the need for cadets to prepare themselves for commissioning. The competitive environment I described is a reality that demands situational awareness. But what does that really mean?

Situational awareness is an Army buzzword for being fully aware of the environment - its enemies and dangers pitted against

your opportunities and options. As today's Army cadets, you must be fully aware of the commissioning requirements so that those gold bars you are working toward become yours to wear: that's your opportunity.

However, there are also dangers present on your campus. Some of the dangers are yours to control - attitude, motivation and conditioning, to name a few. They are the things within you that you must master and overcome. We call this trait discipline.

Some dangers are beyond your control, but you can manage them by being aware of them and by exercising your "maneuver options" to overcome them. Prime examples are the APFT or the swim test. These things



Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Ferguson

are standards of performance that are set because of commissioning expectations and the competitive environment I mentioned earlier.

The standard can increase to sharpen the competition and increase the quality of lieutenants the Army produces. It isn't as if the truth changes; the conditions simply change. This is true on the battlefield and it's true of pre-commissioning requirements. The prudent cadet who will consider these probable changes over the course of his or her years in ROTC is the cadet who will succeed.

Good luck on conquering the challenges and making the most of the opportunities ahead.

Cadet Spotlight



Cadet Nick Pacella during NALC.

Why does a wheeled vehicle mechanic specialist with three years prior service want to join the Army Nurse Corps? Just ask Cadet Nick Pacella from Carroll College in Helena, Montana.

In 1998 Pacella almost lost his life when a drunk driver driving 75 miles per hour crashed into him and his friend. Pacella suffered two broken legs, several cuts and abrasions. His face crashed through the windshield and he had to be cut out of the car. However, his accident gave him a new perspective on life and helped him to discover his life-long goal. He said that "The people that took care of me were real shining examples of human beings." He continued, "I was

really impressed with the nursing care I received," thus inspiring Pacella with a desire to help others. After the accident he served for four years in various positions in the civilian medical field to include working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and a certified nursing assistant (CNA).

Pacella's care for others also lies close to home where he is married and has three children. He married June 24, 1999, has one seven-year-old girl, Teasha and two boys, Isaiah, age 2, and Nickolas, age 1. Pacella is a member in his school's ROTC club, which conducts extracurricular activities. He also partakes in clinical labs where he works alongside other nurses. Besides raising a family and performing clinical labs, he maintains a 289 physical fitness test score and 3.8 grade point average.

Pacella's goal of helping others is now becoming a reality as he graduated from National Advanced Leadership Camp (NALC) at Fort Lewis, Wash., and then attended the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

**“Thrasher,” cont. from Page 1**

battalions, which dovetails with the Cadet Command Mission Essential Task List to recruit quality cadets, develop confident and competent leaders, retain quality cadets to commission, sustain the force and support JROTC.

“Leader development training is what we’re all about,” said Thrasher. “We’re going to train them, retain them and sustain them.’ And that means using every available resource to support cadets and enable them to succeed.

Thrasher said he is very impressed with the quality of cadets he has seen since taking command.

“I had a chance to go down to Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga.,” he said, “which is within 6th Brigade.” While watching their Ranger Challenge competitions, he felt that the cadets’ spirit and motivation was phenomenal. Many of them were the top cadets from the 20 or so schools’ order of merit listings. At Fort Knox, Ky., Thrasher was equally impressed with cadet performance at Leadership Training Camp. “They were motivated, fired up, glad to be there and just good, solid citizens and students.” A visit to Fort Lewis, Wash., during the National Advanced Leadership Camp was equally impressive. “I could not ask for higher quality cadets,” he said. “We have instilled the Scholar - Athlete - Leader criteria into our recruiting when we brought these individuals into our program. These are the individuals who have the attributes we are looking for when we try to develop our future leaders.” He said what makes them excellent candidates is

that they have already demonstrated the motivation, organizational skills, self-discipline and structure in their lives that are essential for success as a cadet and an officer. Thrasher noted that many are already scholars, athletes and leaders in their endeavors outside ROTC and make well-rounded cadets upon enrollment in ROTC. “These are the ones who are already part of a team and willing to put in the time to do the practice and the hours and discipline for setting and attaining goals.”

**Thrasher also said** SAL cadets are just one side of the coin.

“Without a quality cadre,” he noted, “You are not going to have a quality program.” It requires mentoring, coaching, instruction and introduction to the military sciences and lifestyles by dedicated and professional leaders and teachers to develop cadets into functional Army officers, he said. “The cadre is critical to a successful program.”

Thrasher recalled that during his time as a cadet, more than 30 years ago, it was his cadre that made the greatest impression on him in the following years of Army service. They were the primary influence on his leadership, administrative and military skills. “All of that was developed and ingrained and passed on by the cadre. It remains true with the senior programs and also, even more so, with the JROTC cadre,” he said, because the high school cadres have smaller staffs for higher cadet populations than in the senior program.

“I don’t think I’d be where I am today if I hadn’t had a good cadre helping me get ready for the Army.” Thrasher explained how he had the

opportunity to talk with a lieutenant recently returned from the war in Iraq and ask him how ROTC had prepared him for real combat.

“He went on and on about how well his cadre and Professor of Military Science had prepared him. He felt confident and led more than 30 soldiers through Iraq in support of the 3rd Infantry Division, the British and faced multiple challenges every day.” The young officer told Thrasher he had learned much more in ROTC about the Army and leadership than he did in Officer Basic Course. “He said all of the survival and combat skills he learned and remembered came through ROTC in classes, during FTXs, summer camp and the rest of the training there.” That was just one of several examples he cited that echoed the same message.

“We have gone out of our way to pick good cadre members,” Thrasher said. “We conduct a PMS selection board - that was one of the first things I did when I came on board,” he said, noting that it was planned and implemented by his predecessor. “It’s been going on for about four years, but we really have it down now.” Candidates for a PMS slot are first interviewed and assessed by the brigade commander. Records and files for selectees at that level are then collected and reviewed by the PMS board board. “For three days, we went through close to 300 records for about 78 slots, so

we ranked them by OML and took the top 78 or so that we needed and picked the next group as alternates.” The board enabled them to get the very highest quality leadership available for se-

nior leaders on campus.

“About half of our PMSs have now been selected under this program and we have found that they are excited about it, they want to be here and many have even turned down battalion commands to be a part of ROTC and do that leader training and development.” The result is a vibrant and motivated leadership, cadre and command climate that brings about the best results in their high-quality cadets and the Army’s future leaders. “I’m very happy with the quality of our cadre,” Thrasher added, noting that the training and refresher training all receive from Cadet Command continues to add value to their skills and keep them current on ROTC and Army-wide issues affecting their battalions.

The conference itself offered just such an opportunity for him to update himself and his primary brigade and battalion leaders and staff in the Western Region. “This is a great opportunity for me,” Thrasher noted, “because it’s the first time Western Region has had a conference under our new alignment.” Many of the PMSs now in Western Region were previously in other regions. This was their first chance to meet the new region commander and get exposed to the policies and procedures. “The benefit to me is a chance to look these guys in the eye and go through my philosophy, intent and guidance.”

Thrasher said the key thing he wants every-

**Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher**

Bob Rosenburgh

one to understand is that he wants to develop and produce quality lieutenants. “I’m not into capturing numbers; I want to commission only the best quality lieutenants that meet the Army standard.” He said in the past there had been too many waivers. “The message I want to get across is that we will look at every case, but there is no blanket waiver approval for meeting minimum standards.”

**He said the conference** is a good place to interface and trade ideas as well.

“We do teleconferences all the time, but it’s a plus any time we can come and look face to face and get direct feedback. We have many things we are trying out to help us move ahead and refine our processes, so I need direct feedback from the PMSs, the guys who really have to implement the programs.” Before something new is started, the people who will have to make it work must be consulted about its potential impact on their programs. “I was able to get with them and spent about an hour getting feedback on some things we’re going to have to change and modify in order to move forward.”

He added that the Cadet Command remake is fairly well completed.

“I think, for right now, we have probably restructured and reorganized all that will be required at least for the immediate future.” First Region was inactivated Oct. 1 and the personnel and schools were redistributed among Accessions Command, Cadet Command and the newly-formed Western Region and Eastern Region. “We had one civilian we were not able to relocate or find a job for,” he said, “but we are doing a pilot program with JROTC, so that individual is now part of that program and all personnel actions have been completed from the reorganization.”

Although it’s still early in his tour as commander, Thrasher said that, overall, he is very

*See “Thrasher,” Page 8*

# Western Region welcomes Lobo Battalion



Cadet Adam W. Loomis at parade rest in front of the very first cadets of the University of New Mexico's Lobo Battalion standing in formation at the ceremony activating their new Army ROTC program.

Story and photos by  
Capt. Daniel W. Haberreiter

Standing up a new unit is never an easy task. Starting a new Template-D, Army ROTC program on a campus already dominated by Air Force and Navy ROTC traditions is even more difficult. This was the mission given in 2002 to Lt. Col. Anna Lucero, then the chief of Personnel Management Division for Cadet Command. To succeed, Lucero needed to hire 11 high quality cadre and staff with the drive and experience necessary to build a program from scratch. Many of the 23,000-plus students at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque had been waiting for the Army ROTC option and starting the fall of 2003, they would get

their chance, but the first cadre on the ground had some unique challenges to overcome. Maj. Larry Dorsett, the unit's executive officer, was one of the first to arrive in Albuquerque.

"When I started on this project, the university did not even know where they would put us," he said. "Initially, we had to share office space with the Navy until a building was available." The space given to the Lobo Battalion was 500 sq. ft. of a building already occupied by two other university programs. The university agreed to move the other programs out to and renovate the building to make room for the growing Army ROTC unit.

Despite encountering numerous logistical obstacles,



Luminaries at the activation ceremonies included (from left) Col. David A. Ahrens, 12th Bde commander; Brig. Gen. Robert A. Martinez, New Mexico National Guard; Lt. Col. Ana Lucero, UNM PMS; Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, commander of Cadet Command; and Louis Caldera, President of UNM.

such as scrounging furniture and automation equipment, classes began as scheduled on Aug. 25th, with the official ribbon cutting ceremony taking place on Sept. 4. Mr. Louis Caldera, who is UNM's president and ex-Secretary of the Army, Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, the commanding general of Cadet Command and Lucero presided over the ceremony.

The University of New Mexico was selected for the new Army ROTC because it is a Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities school (HACU). Hispanics make up 28 percent of the students at UNM, providing the Army with an excellent opportunity to recruit more Hispanic officers. UNM also has strong nursing and engineering programs.

The first target for the Lobos is their specified goal of commissioning seven new second lieutenants in 2006, followed by 15 in 2007 and 20 in 2008. With 21 cadets in the first semester of operation and many more lining up to start classes in January, the Lobo Battalion is well on its way to meeting that mission. "Confident" is the word that best describes Lucero's outlook for the battalion's future. "I project that we will meet and exceed our commission mission. We have been pleasantly surprised with the response from the university and the Albuquerque community."

Much of the success of the Lobo Battalion is due to the strong support of the New Mexico National Guard and the Simultaneous Membership Program. All the juniors in the UNM Army ROTC program are members of the National Guard.



## UNM team takes on 'Duke City Marathon'



Capt. Daniel Haberreiter

On October 26th the city of Albuquerque, N. M., hosted its annual "Duke City Marathon." Events included 5k, 10k, Half Marathon, Marathon, and Marathon relay. Cadets from the University of New Mexico competed in the five-member relay event. The cadets ran legs from 4.4 miles to 6.2 miles. 65 relay teams competed in 12 different age groups. Cadets John Brasher, Brian Long, Adam Loomis, Aaron Pennington, and Brett Perry won first place in the men's 20-29 year old group with a total time of 3:23.05. This time also placed them 13th overall in the relay.

## "AFTB," cont. from Page 1

complished that again this year," Lee continued. "We also had two university employees and some COMTek (contract) employees and spouses." She said the goal is to train people who will have continuity at their battalions with a minimum of one year remaining on-station, but hopefully as many as two.

Lee said that, even when the instructor moves on to a new assignment, the Army still has a certified AFTB instructor at that new unit who can provide assistance to their new Army community, so time spent training them is a good investment. The AFTB mission, she continued, is to empower Army families and others, through education, to operate in the Army system in the 21st Century.

"We empower them with knowledge," she explained, noting that AFTB is different from programs such as Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), which is sometimes confused with AFTB. AFAP addresses issues that require command and legislative decisions to effect changes in the Army sys-

tem, while AFTB is a source of education about existing programs and support groups. Lee said Cadet Command's school battalions are especially effective with AFTB because they introduce the program to cadets as well as cadre.

"We have an opportunity that many other units don't have, because we can catch people at the earliest point of their entrance into the Army," Lee said, "who are our cadets, and educate them whether they are married, intending to marry or have significant others in their family. They will, eventually, have soldiers who work for them and they need to understand the Army system."

At the end of the AFTB training, each student is issued a certificate which authorizes them to teach Levels One, Two and Three, and they are given the tools they need to teach, such as slides, lesson plans, handouts and CDs filled with information.

"When they go back to their schools," said Lee, "they are ready to jump right in and get to work on AFTB."



# Colorado Cadets are Number One at the 2003 Army Ten Miler

By Lt. Col. Wayne L. Meeusen  
Univ. of Colorado-Boulder

For the second year in a row, cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion, University of Colorado, Boulder, Co., won the first place in their division in the Army Ten Miler in Washington, D.C. The Buffs finished first of 41 teams in the Military Academy and ROTC division. This year's race was conducted on Oct. 5 and was billed as the second largest ten-mile race in the world this year with over 19,000 registered runners.

The top ten team scores in the Military Academy / ROTC division were:

Place	Team	Time (H/M/S)
1	Golden Buffalo Battalion	3:48:52
2	West Point Marathon (Gold)	3:52:08
3	West Point Marathon (Black)	3:58:55
4	Syracuse University AROTC	4:12:43
5	Virginia Tech AROTC	4:12:53
6	U.S. Air Force Academy	4:22:53
7	Blue Raiders	4:23:28
8	WKU ROTC	4:26:50
9	Fightin' Blue Hens	4:34:18
10	Greyhounds	4:36:19

The battalion fielded a team of eight runners, Cadets Christopher Jeremiah, Gillette, Wyo., Daniel J. Hoffman, North Glenn, Colo., Joshua D. Horsager, Valley City, N.D., James R. Usher, Fountain, Colo., Joseph K. Byrnes, Killeen, Texas, Thomas Gordon, St. Louis, Mo., and Virginia A. Young, Aurora, Colo. Four of the eight, Cadets Hoffman, Crawford, Jeremiah and Horsager finished the race under 60 minutes. Immediately after the race, Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command, presented the First Place Trophy to the Golden Buffalo Team.

The Army Ten miler allowed the cadets the opportunity to share in and learn about Army traditions and history. The camaraderie and com-



The Golden Buffalo Battalion cadets from University of Colorado-Boulder, who won the first place in their division in the Army Ten Miler in Washington, D.C., are joined by Maj. Gen. Alan W. Thrasher, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command (center).

petition among the runners, the outstanding race support and events, and the beautiful and historic setting of the race make this event truly world class. The cadets attended the pre-race Army Ten Miler pasta dinner and had their photos taken with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Dale of Cadet Command. They toured the Nation's Capital and the memorials on the National Mall. The most memorable part of the weekend was on Sunday morning with opportunity to run the race alongside thousands of runners from the Pentagon, crossing the Potomac River, following the National Mall, around the nation's Capitol and back to the Pentagon. Four of the cadets stayed for the Monday opening of the AUSA Convention and the AUSA ROTC luncheon.

This experience and the opportunity to meet and hear the Army's leadership speak of the real world challenges facing

the Army and the nation were priceless for the cadets.

Cadet Chris Jeremiah, the team captain, said, "The Army Ten Miler is a great experience for a cadet to travel to a beautiful city and meet real soldiers. I personally enjoy the great competitive spirit that goes with the Army Ten Miler."

Cadet Tom Gordon said that, "It was a fast course and really well laid out. This was my first time at the Army Ten Miler and I was awed by the opportunity to run this course, meet and talk with so many soldiers, and see the monuments and great buildings of our nation. This event brought home to me what a special place America is."

These young warriors from the Golden Buffalo Battalion demonstrated the will to win and the warrior spirit by their outstanding performance. They plan on returning next year to win their third Army Ten Miler Eagle Trophy. 



UCB's winning team was able to tour Washington, DC, including a visit to the White House.

## 'Hey! When are you going to do a story about MY school?'

The real question is "when are YOU going to do a story about YOUR school?" We rely on submissions from the field for the majority of our coverage of Western Region issues. The *Goldbar Leader* is a newspaper intended for the cadets first, battalion cadre second and then Western Region staff.

As such, stories and photos by and about cadets are what we seek the most. A mixture of cadet and cadre created articles is also a good combination as long as the submission meets several guidelines.

First, your article should be written in Associated Press style. Don't be intimidated, because AP style guides can be found in any library and deal primarily with how rank, state names and other common names are abbrevi-

ated, as well as certain grammatical protocols. Beyond that, the feature should include event information about who, what, why, when where and how it happened. Write in simple, conversational style and avoid the tendency to use complex sentence structure, big words or excessive acronyms.

Second, we need original photographs that include captions with full name, rank and position of each person pictured and the photographer's name. We seldom use reprints from other publications and never use their photos.

Either e-mail your stories and photos (rosenb@4rotc.lewis.army.mil) or mail them to Western Region PAO. E-mail stories must be text-only without formatting of any kind. Why? We use a different program than you do and have to

take all the digital settings out before we can begin to use the text. Photos can be JPEGs, GIF, TIFFs or BMPs. **DO NOT EMBED PHOTOS IN ANOTHER FILE!** If you put the pictures in a Word document, a Powerpoint file or anything else, it becomes difficult and often impossible to remove and use them in our own publication. Even when we find a way to extract them, the pictures are often grainy and unclear.

Send your articles to: Headquarters, Western Region, Cadet Command ATTN: ATOW-ZP (PAO) Bldg. 1010, Fort Lewis, WA 98433-9500. For more information, call Maj. Woody Stone at (253) 967-7473 or Mr. Bob Rosenburgh at (253) 967-9841.

-PAO

## Utah cadet awarded first-ever Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Scholarship

By Ann Bardsley  
Univ. of Utah Public Relations

On Oct. 2, University of Utah Army ROTC Cadet Leonard "Lenny" Jensen received a \$1,500 scholarship established in honor of the highest-ranking official killed in the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon. The Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Memorial Fund Scholarship, the first and only one of its kind to be awarded this year, was presented to 26-year-old Jensen in Washington, D.C., at the annual Officership Luncheon, held in the new Washington, D.C. Convention Center. Gen. Burwell B. Bell III, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, and Maude's widow, Teri, presented Jensen with the award. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) paid for the trip for Jensen and his wife, Marianne.

Maude, a lieutenant general, was Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel for the U.S. Army. At the time of his death he was working on Green to Gold, a program that allows active duty enlisted soldiers the opportunity to attend college and be commissioned as officers through the Army ROTC Program.

With the support from Maude's family and the Army Chief of Staff, the memorial scholarship fund was established in Maude's honor to continue his efforts to "take care of soldiers." The memorial fund provides resources to assist soldiers enrolled in the U.S. Army's Green-to-Gold program.

"I've read up a little bit on General Maude," Jensen says. "What set him apart was his personality and his leadership." Jensen toured the Pentagon while in Washington.

Four years ago Jensen was awarded a Green to Gold scholarship, which has a cash value of up to \$68,000 in tuition and fees. (The Green-to-Gold name describes going from "green," as an enlisted soldier, to attaining the second lieutenant's gold bar.) Jensen is a senior nursing student at Westminster College, but participates in the University's ROTC program through a partnership between the University of Utah and Westminster College.

Prior to receiving the Green to Gold scholarship, Jensen served in the U.S. Army for five years. His last duty was serving with the 101st Airborne Division, in an Air Defense Artillery unit stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Jensen, who currently resides in Midvale, Utah, was chosen from cadets from 272 Army ROTC schools nationally to receive the honor. After graduation next May



Cadet Leonard "Lenny" Jensen

he plans to enroll in a three-year master's program at the University of Texas, which partners with the Army Medical Education Department. He plans to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

Lt. Col. Edwin L. Frederick, professor of military science and Jensen's commanding officer at the University of Utah, noted, "We are extremely proud of Cadet Jensen and his accomplishments. His selection as the number one Green-to-Gold scholarship cadet in the nation is a great honor for the University of Utah and the community. Cadet Jensen will be a first-rate lieutenant and Army leader. His future is bright indeed."

Jensen, who grew up in Bridgeland, Utah, located between Duchesne and Roosevelt, said, "I always wanted to be in the service since I was a kid." Because his mother was the director of nursing at the Uintah Basin Medical Center in Roosevelt and next to his school, Jensen spent a lot of time there waiting for their 25-minute ride home. "I pretty much grew up in the hospital," he said. "It was her contacts that got me interested in becoming a CRNA."

Jensen began basic training two months after graduating from Union High School. He spent the next five years serving in Missouri, Texas, South Korea and Kentucky. Last summer Jensen trained as a nurse at Walter Reed Medical Center and cared for soldiers wounded in Iraq. "The whole hospital was full of these soldiers. It was humbling," he said.

In addition to being a full-time student, Jensen spends 15 to 20 hours a week on ROTC work. The rest of the time he works as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Highland Care Center in Salt Lake City.



## Illinois cadets take New Orleans staff ride

Story and photo by  
Cadet Amanda Loudermilk

Thirty-five Western Illinois University ROTC cadets and seven cadre members enjoyed a staff ride to Louisiana in September, including a tour of the National D-Day Museum. They flew to New Orleans in a Navy C9 jet.

The first stop was the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, where the museum staff welcomed the ROTC cadets with enthusiasm. A veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, who actually jumped into Normandy on D-Day, gave a brief presentation to the group. Throughout the war, this man made two combat jumps, and also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the drive into Germany.

Although the tour was self-guided, several of the staff escorted the cadets, while discussing how the Principles of War were used during World War II, and applying those principles to modern day situations. The museum itself focuses on Operation Overlord, more commonly referred to as D-Day. The term D-Day designates the start of an operation and includes all of the amphibious landings throughout the war, such as the landings at Normandy and Okinawa. The museum encompasses the causes and build-up of World War II, the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy, the Home Front during World War II and the D-Day invasions in the Pacific. The exhibits in the museum were both dynamic and detailed. They consisted of audio and visual presentations, which give the audience a complete picture of the World War II experience. The short interview clips from the various people who lived through the war provided insight into their lives. The tour included two in-depth films produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg that covered the invasions of both Normandy and the Pacific.



Western Illinois University ROTC cadets and cadre disembark the Navy C9 jet that transported them to New Orleans to tour the D-Day Museum.

After their tour was over, the group changed out of uniforms, and were released for several hours in downtown New Orleans. The ROTC cadets split up into groups of three or more, and toured the sights of the French Quarter and Bourbon Street. The exploration of New Orleans turned out to be an eye-opening event for some of the small-town Midwestern students. There was no drinking for the group, yet they managed to have a great time. Some cadets got their fortunes read, and were told about their upcoming military future. Other cadets enjoyed the famous Cajun style cuisine such as jambalaya, gumbo, and beignets. After enjoying the sights of the city and the especially delicious food, they met up at the bus and headed toward their lodging. The group stayed the night courtesy of the Louisiana National Guard in a local armory, where they enjoyed luxurious lodging on the armory floor.

The next day they drove north to Baton Rouge to check into the hotel and to prepare for the Western Illinois University vs. Louisiana State University football game. Some cadets swam, some ventured out to a local mall and others just relaxed in their rooms. Finally, the group took off to LSU for the football game. Upon arriving on the campus, they were amazed by the extensive tailgating festivities. The LSU campus was filled with fans getting ready for the game. This was unlike anything the cadets had ever seen at WIU.

The cadets joined a couple of hundred or so other WIU fans in the 90,000+ seat Tiger Stadium to cheer-on the WIU Leathernecks. Western Illinois, a 1-AA team, launched a valiant effort against the nationally ranked LSU Tigers and kept the game close for three quarters. In the end, however, Western succumbed to the depth and speed of LSU.

The next morning the group boarded another C9 jet and returned to Illinois. The weekend trip was educational, exciting and fun, to say the least.

# UC Davis cadets compete at international military games in Netherlands

By 2nd Lt. Megan C. Pascoe  
Univ. of California-Davis

"It was glorious," was the resounding chorus of Cadets Josh Hunsucker and Michael Scheer. This summer, while their classmates were relaxing poolside, these two University of California-Davis Army ROTC Cadets were training and competing at the Inter-allied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) military competition in the Netherlands, located in Western Europe on the North Sea, between Belgium and Germany. The competition was held Harskamp, centrally located in the country. Hunsucker, a Texas native, grew up in Orinda, Ca. and attended Miramonte High School. Scheer was born and raised in Walnut Creek, Ca., where he attended Las Lomas High School. Soldiers representing other countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) joined them in the competition. This elite international competition consists of land navigation, rifle marksmanship, pistol marksmanship, and separate land and water obstacle courses. They also competed in a separate first aid competition.

Hunsucker and Scheer left UCD for Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, just after their spring quarter finals, for a month of grueling training and team try-outs. Their selection for the training camp was based on their performance in a half-mile run, a five-mile run and a 50-meter swim. During the training camp, 50 candidates were competing for the 28-member United States Military Pentathlon Team. Scheer



Scheer's team competing in the Water Obstacle Course. Scheer is on the right.

was selected as the captain for one of the two Men's Novice teams and Hunsucker was selected as alternate for the Novice Teams. Not only did the two make the team in their first year, but Scheer was awarded the Best Novice Orienteer (a 20 km cross country competition where runners follow a course navigated with compass and map). Hunsucker was awarded the Best Novice Combined Obstacle Course time for completing the land and water obstacle courses faster than any of the other competitors.

After qualifying for the team in Texas, the

pair traveled with the United States' team to the Netherlands for the competition held from July 22 to 24. Scheer's team was in second place before they ran into trouble on the 20km Land Navigation course, when one of his teammate's injuries cost them a place on the podium. Hunsucker competed on a three-man team with alternates from Great Britain and Finland. In the international division, Hunsucker helped his team finish second place overall and first in the First Aid competition. Scheer and Hunsucker agree that the lessons they gained from this experience were leadership experience, self-con-



On the Land Obstacle Course, Cadet Michael Scheer is caught mid-air coming over a tall wall.

fidence and overall soldiering skills.

While in Europe, they were able to visit historical sites like the towns of Arnhem and Nijmegen, where the Allies fought unsuccessfully in strategic battles in Operation Market Garden during the Second World War. They also traveled by boat along the Rhine River and near the German-Dutch border. On these sightseeing trips, the cadets rubbed elbows with soldiers from around the world. Activities like sightseeing trips organized by the host country enabled soldiers from the U.S. to interact with foreign soldiers on a purely social basis. It was on these trips where rank was secondary and true friendships were made.

After only a week rest, the two packed their bags for Fort Benning, Ga., where they attended the Army Airborne School. This rigorous three-week school challenges candidates in fast pace running, techniques in swing-land training, jumping from practice towers of 40 and 250 feet, and culminates in five jumps from an airplane at 1,250 feet. The two graduated and are now proudly wearing their well-earned jump wings.

With the new quarter just around the corner, Scheer and Hunsucker are back to training. Currently, they are part of the UC-Davis Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team. As members of this team they com-



Cadets Michael Scheer (left) and Josh Hunsucker arrive at the CIOR Competition in the Netherlands.

peted against 22 schools from the western United States in the Ranger Challenge Competition held in San Luis Obispo, Calif., Nov. 14-16. The competition consists of six separate events: a physical fitness test, rifle marksmanship, orienteering, obstacle course, one rope bridge construction and crossing and, to top it off, a 10 km run, in boots and with 35 pounds in their packs). The team is already training and hopes to win. 

## 2nd Louie By Bob Rosenburgh



# Out of Afghanistan: Tour in liberated nation gives SHSU officer valuable insights into War on Terror

By Courtney Sustek  
Houstonian - SHSU

Assistant Professor of Military Science, Capt. Paul V. Lohmann, returned to Sam Houston State University in mid August after being involved in the war against terrorism, serving for six months in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Lohmann was located in Maza-e-Sharif where he worked with 20 other Americans supporting a Jordanian humanitarian relief hospital. While stationed there, Lohmann and others operated an airport which served as the logistical hub for northern Afghanistan. His duties included working with local contractors on construction projects and he was responsible for administrative duties while monitoring supplies.

Lohmann spoke of his experiences and views of the war against terrorism. He described his surroundings in Maza-e-Sharif as "beautiful and immense" with snow still on the mountains in March. Soon after he arrived the weather became extremely hot and temperatures often reached 130 degrees.

Lohmann worked with locals daily. He said Americans are greatly appreciated and respected in northern Afghanistan. "There were some times when the tensions were higher than others, most of it simple posturing," Lohmann said. While he never had to shoot anyone, he did have to raise his weapon once or twice.

Before leaving for Afghanistan, Lohmann believed the people couldn't be reformed or dealt with rationally when it came to the campaign against terrorism. "I thought they hated us because of our beliefs; that they had very intense emotions and were completely dedicated," Lohmann said.

His opinion changed after meeting the locals and recognizing the appreciation they have for America. "They hate the terrorists as much or more than we do," Lohmann said. "They had to live under their rule for years and they continue to suffer intimidation."

Lohmann said the terrorists had no idea what they were up against. The United States is far more advanced in technology and the training and motivation of U.S. soldiers can be lethal. "Some of our enemies have a serious misunderstanding of our culture and radically underesti-

ated the U.S. citizen's resolve and our military's capabilities," Lohmann said.

While Lohmann was in Afghanistan, little fighting occurred other than squabbles among the local warlords. There are three main factions of Afghans in the area, organized by ethnicity, and each faction is led by a warlord. The warlords worked hard to get their power and are hesitant to give it up. "The warlords operate much like the mafia and it complicates the mission of everything else," Lohmann said.

He said there were times they didn't see eye to eye with the Americans and suddenly something would pose a threat. At some point counter threats would be made but the warlords, along with all Afghans, understood firepower and backed down quickly.

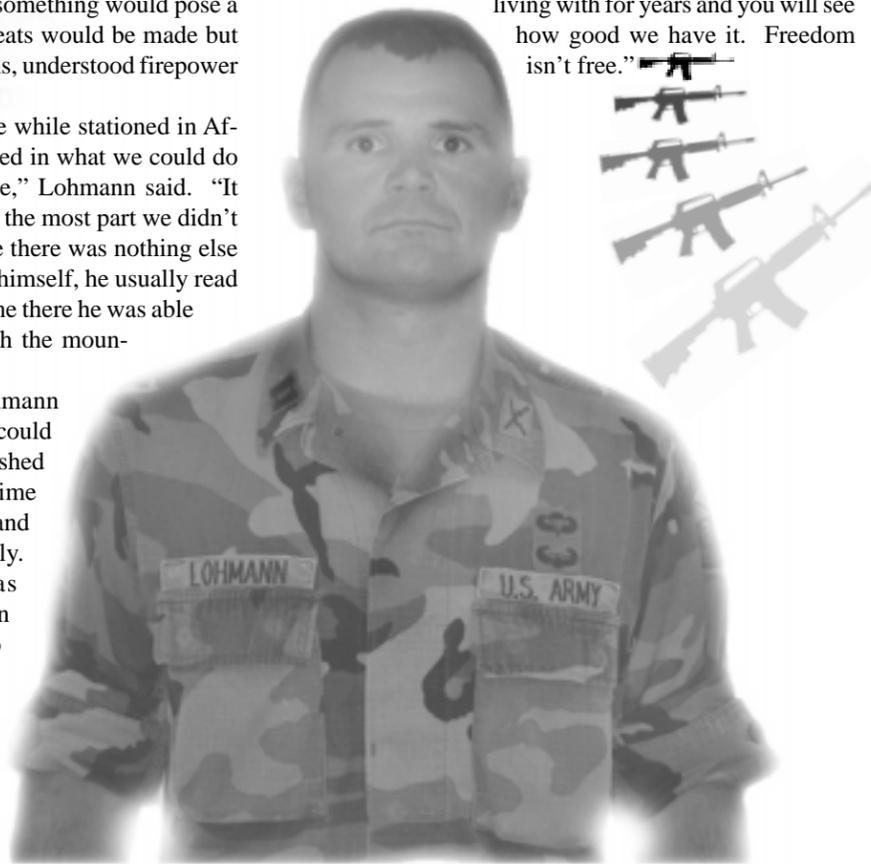
Lohmann had little free time while stationed in Afghanistan. "We were very restricted in what we could do and there was very little free time," Lohmann said. "It wore us down after a while but for the most part we didn't mind working all the time because there was nothing else to do." When he did have time to himself, he usually read or slept. Towards the end of his time there he was able to shop in town and drive through the mountains.

While in Afghanistan, Lohmann had access to a satellite phone and could call home every Thursday if he finished work during phone hours. The time difference made it difficult to call and the mail service wasn't very timely. Lohmann said his family has transitioned easily since his return and is grateful he no longer has to spend months away from home.

Lohmann was amazed about the support the U.S. troops received while in Afghanistan. Every time mail arrived, there were countless packages from family, friends and community members. "We received several

packages from the SHSU ROTC program, Dr. Pruitt's history classes, the Conroe VFW and several other organizations in Southwest Texas. There was such an abundance of supplies, the camp was able to share things with some of the humanitarian organizations that did not receive as much support.

All in all, Lohmann feels the war has been a worthy effort. "Not just for our country but for Afghanistan and the whole region," he said. "I know it's cliché, but we all take freedom for granted. Visit one of these other countries and see the fear and intimidation the people have been living with for years and you will see how good we have it. Freedom isn't free."



Capt. Paul V. Lohmann

## "Thrasher," cont. from Page 3

pleased with his new command.

"What I have seen are folks who are excited about what they are doing, they enjoy what they are doing and feel like they are making a contribution." All the challenges facing Cadet Command will be worked collectively, he said, with everyone pulling to accomplish the same mission and reach the same goals. "And that is to recruit, retain, train, maintain and commission only the best officers that we can possibly develop." At the same time, Thrasher wants to mentor, coach and develop as many JROTC cadets as possible, giving them guidance and encouraging them to graduate from high school and going on to college. "If they want to pursue ROTC, we will get them the information to help them do that, but we want to help them become good citizens and expand on their opportunities in life."

Toward those goals, he summarized, Cadet Command presently has adequate resources, high quality cadets who want to become officers and who see a lot of opportunities and a good team of leaders and trainers to support and guide them. "I want everyone to understand that our mission is to train and commission quality officers. We'll do that by enforcing standards and meeting the requirements that we need to do it."

## Edison Students Combine Orienteering and Geocaching



Natasha Thiel, Alicia Knight and Daniel Dominguez compare their map location with their GPS coordinates.

Thanks in part to a generous grant from EDS Technology, and Allstate Insurance Foundation, 15 students from the Thomas Edison Preparatory School JROTC program in Tulsa, Okla., learned how to combine their teamwork and map reading skills, physical

endurance, and satellite technology. JROTC students braved the summer heat to participate in one of America's newest outdoor activities, called Geocaching. This activity involves finding hidden containers using global positioning technology. Retired Maj. Garnett Arnold, Senior Army Instructor, expressed his appreciation to EDS, and others, who have awarded numerous grants to the JROTC program, that have enabled them to expand their summer and after-school activities. "We're probably the only JROTC program in the world that has these devices and it gives us another opportunity to get kids out into the fresh air."

Students will be able to apply their newfound skills to a greater understanding of geography, technology and leadership.

Courtesy of TEPs JROTC