

THE SABER

Corps of Cadets newsletter



FALL 2010

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Cadets settle into new residence hall

By Kyle Newman

This year, the Boar's Head Brigade of North Georgia College & State University has opened a new residence hall to house the growing Corps of Cadets, which has a record number of 743 cadets this fall. Headquarters Company and 1st Battalion are the first residents of the new, \$12 million, four-story building.

The building has two "wings" where cadets' rooms are located. The front and center of the building has day rooms where companies can gather for formation. Each wing has rooms unique to each floor. For example, the fourth floor has a computer lab/movie room and the second floor has a full-size kitchen with refrigerator. Each wing has an open lounge with a plasma TV and white board for studying.

There are many perks about living in Patriot Hall, like having personal bathrooms and sinks. Another convenient feature of the Patriot Hall is the elevator, which is actually new to the Corps of Cadets' living environment. The other cadet residence halls were built specifically for cadet life and before laws were passed making handicap access mandatory in public buildings.

Patriot Hall is also the tallest and most elevated residence hall in the vicinity of the drill field, making views from the top floors quite spectacular. Cadets on the third and fourth floors with windows facing the campus have a beautiful view of the Blue Ridge mountain skyline behind the golden steeple of Price Memorial Hall -- bringing to mind the image of the university's logo.

Patriot Hall is an excellent addition to the campus and should continue to be for years to come. COL Tom Palmer, commandant of North Georgia's Corps of Cadets and a North Georgia alumnus, said: "Patriot Hall is a dream come true! I believe it is the finest residence hall in the entire senior military college community."

The university is planning to build another cadet residence hall to replace Simons Hall and to renovate Gaillard Hall.



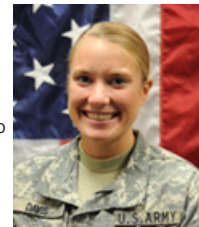
Cadet inspections in Patriot Hall

Davis sees leadership at new level

By Svetlana Taylor

Cadet SGM Ryanne Davis found that rising to lead one of two battalions in the Corps of Cadets at North Georgia College & State University has shown her the bigger picture of the Boar's Head Brigade.

"I'm constantly challenged to go beyond my comfort zone. At first I was so lost, had to learn very quickly," Davis said. "Seeing how everything comes together, how the first sergeants work together as a team to make



everything happen, has been very rewarding."

North Georgia's mission is developing and educating leaders, and the university's cadets are challenged to aim high and develop themselves as leaders, be it a squad team leader or sergeant major. At the end of each semester, a review board evaluates candidates for the corps' higher positions such as first sergeant and commanders. Those who pass the board are given the new challenge of leading one of eight companies, one of two battalions or the entire Boar's Head Brigade.

Davis, who is majoring in health and physical education, leads the corps' 1st Battalion in her role as sergeant major. Davis said she sought the position because she felt she was up to the challenge to develop her leadership ability and take on the greater responsibility to lead the corps. This position has exposed her to the challenges of leading beyond just squad level but an entire battalion with several hundred cadets.

As a new freshman coming in the summer of 2008, Davis completed the summer transition program (STP), finishing as the STP honor grad cadet. Since then, Davis has held many leadership positions both in the corps and the Student Government Association.

Davis said what has allowed her to come this far is her determination and participation in the corps.

"In order to be a leader and a good one you have to be willing to serve," Davis said. "Do your best in every task that's given to know the cadets as individuals. Take the time to form friendships and be there for others."

Davis's goals for this year are to do well in her role as sergeant major, in her academics, Pre-Camp, and the corps. She is determined to stay positive and challenge each cadet to make a difference and find opportunities to make a positive impact. Davis said she also wants to see more female cadets stepping up to take leadership positions.

"As a leader you need to learn from all experiences -- the good and the bad," she said. "Never settle for less than giving 100 percent of yourself and lead by example."

New Strategic Language Intensive Program started this fall

By Svetlana Taylor

Beginning this fall, students interested in furthering their strategic language skills have the opportunity to participate in the new Strategic Language Intensive Program (SLIP). The program is a great way to immerse in a language since the students take only language classes during the two-semester regimen. Students cover four semesters of language in one semester.

With the low student-teacher ratio, students receive more one-on-one attention to help master the needed skills for each language. Currently only two languages are offered, Arabic and Mandarin Chinese, but the university is planning on adding Russian and Korean by fall 2011. After successfully completing SLIP, students are eligible to receive a minor in the language from the university.

Cadet SFC Theron Hollar, a senior majoring in music, is taking Chinese through SLIP. Hollar says that the program requires a lot of dedication and study time. His goals are to commission as an officer in the U.S. Army and use his language skills to eventually work in the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency.

Cadet SSG Jessica Elledge, a junior majoring in international affairs, also is enrolled in the Chinese program.

"I decided to take SLIP program because my first semester year I took Chinese and I really liked it," she said. "When I learned that the SLIP program was similar to the Defensive Language Institute (DLI) that the Army uses, I was challenged to do it. Even though the program is extremely demanding, it challenges your time management skills and pushes you mentally, it is extremely fun, and you definitely develop camaraderie with your classmates who are going through the program with you."

Elledge plans to commission into the U.S. Army upon graduation and said she'll use her language skills in whatever branch of service she joins.

Aggressors intensify training

By Cadet MAJ Michael Thompson



The Corps of Cadets' Aggressor platoon at North Georgia College & State University is pushing what was previously thought possible for a cadet specialty unit. With new leadership and training, the Aggressors have redefined their training and continue their tradition of training future Army leaders.

Aggressor is an extracurricular, all-volunteer group of cadets who train in basic patrolling and squad-level tactics. Under the command of Cadet 1LT Jamie McClain and the supervision of SFC Sam Schubert, the Aggressor platoon has trained at several new locations this year including Camp Frank D. Merrill and inside the recently vacated Sirmons Hall. The platoon is raising its training to new heights.

The Aggressor Platoon offers many exciting opportunities for cadets. Weekly training events offer extra time for members to hone squad and patrolling tactics and develop themselves as leaders. Aggressors are several steps ahead of their peers during field training exercises (FTX), excel at Pre-Camp and Leader Development Accession Course (LDAC), and are more likely to serve in high responsibility leadership positions.

SFC Schubert, the Aggressor advisor and Ranger School instructor, gears training to the same standards he expects during Ranger School. Instead of traditional mission "lanes," Aggressors now focus on single mission FTX's and dynamic scenarios. This new style of training places much more stress on the platoon leader and chain of command, forcing them to think critically. This is a striking contrast to previous training styles where a "check the box" attitude to training was acceptable. In theory, a successful Aggressor cadet could pass Ranger School because of the training he received at North Georgia.

One of the most exciting new aspects for Aggressors this year is having new locations for training. With the completion of Patriot Hall, cadets have been moved out of Sirmons Hall. The building, until its demolition, has been used as a "shoot house" for training by campus police and other law enforcement agencies and now the Aggressors. With long, open hallways, cramped rooms, open floors, and no fear of causing any damage, Sirmons Hall has proved to be a valuable asset to the Aggressors.

Although the sounds of gunfire and grenade simulators may have startled some in nearby residence halls, the unique training area has proven extremely useful for cadets, offering many new training scenarios not possible before.

"The training in Sirmons Hall is far more realistic," McClain said. "New training scenarios are far more applicable to real-life situations."

Precision Air Rifle Team targets important skills

By Kyle Newman

The university's Precision Air Rifle Team helps students learn the detailed art and science of offhand marksmanship and eventually put it to the test by competing against teams from other universities.

The North Georgia team is led by Tori Kostecki, a student member of the team who also is acting coach. The team currently doesn't have NCAA Division II designation because it does not have an official qualified coach, but still competes on a regular schedule.



Air rifle team members competing recently were, from left, Matt Parsons, Breanna Kasl, Philip Skidmore, Becca Bryan and Tori Kostecki.

Kostecki, also the team captain, is from Powder Springs, Ga., and has been competing in shooting sports since 2003. She placed seventh in the nation in the Junior Olympics. In her role as coach this semester, she has been developing three new shooters in addition to the team's four experienced shooters. The "veterans" are Breanna Kasl, Becca Bryan, Matt Parsons, and Marcus Paul. The rookies are Kyle Newman, Trevor Jones and Philip Skidmore.

The team practices for three hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays every week. Every team member shoots around 100 pellets each practice. Special drills are practiced to work on the tiniest details about position and point of aim.

In addition to the skill of hand-eye coordination, there is also a psychological element to precision shooting that must also be mastered. A shooter must have excellent control over his or her mind so that the body can also be in full control to the very smallest of adjustments. Precision rifle shooters have to make smaller than second-of-angle corrections to their aim in order to put a .177 caliber pellet into their target.

Sometimes a few millimeters can make the difference between winning and losing. Sometimes at practices they have a "guts match" where shooters compete against each other while being harassed. The game helps lighten the mood, but more importantly it helps shooters drown out distractions. While the team has done well this semester at the competitions, it also has a lot of room for improvement. The rookies will most certainly close the gap with their improving skill and close the year with excellent scores.

Cadets serve as legislative interns



Kristin Boling with Jan Jones

Two North Georgia College & State University cadets had the opportunity to serve as interns during this year's session of the General Assembly as part of the Georgia Legislative Intern Program.

The program is very competitive and only about 50 college students from across the state are selected each year. Selected from North Georgia this year were Cadet MAJ Jonathan Jay and Cadet CPT Kristin Boling, who served as interns from the beginning of the session in January until the last day of the session in April.

But before beginning their work as interns, Jay and Boling had to be placed either in the House of Representatives or the Senate. Jay personally interviewed with the former

Sen. John Douglas, a North Georgia alumnus, and was selected as Douglas's intern. Boling was assigned to the state House, and after a second interview with an administrative assistant, was selected to serve as the intern to Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones.

As interns, their duties included answering phones, writing constituent letters, retrieving bills, going to committee meetings, and even getting lunch for their assigned lawmaker. Both Jay and Boling felt being interns was very similar to being a freshman in the Corps of Cadets -- they had no seniority at the Capitol and did whatever was asked of them without question. While some tasks seemed small, they were all part of what made the session run smoothly.

As representatives of North Georgia and the Boar's Head Brigade, once a week the two cadets would spend the day in uniform. Because of this, Jay and Boling soon became known as the "cadet interns" and many state lawmakers became curious about the small military college in the mountains of Dahlonega, Ga.

Students at North Georgia are strongly encouraged to seek out different opportunities and Jonathan Jay and Kristin Boling are just two examples of cadets who saw an opportunity and made it their goal to obtain it. Their experience as interns for the Georgia Legislature gave them insight to our state's government and allowed them the chance to learn lessons that not every college student is lucky enough to learn.

Jay and Boling worked hard as interns and represented North Georgia College & State University well and left a legacy under the Gold Dome in Atlanta.

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Help us spread the word about the Corps of Cadets to your family members, friends or neighbors who have high school students who may be interested in the corps. If you would like admissions materials to share with prospective cadets, please contact COL (ret) Keith Antonia, director of cadet admissions, via e-mail at kantonia@northgeorgia.edu or by phone at 706-867-2712.

Your support is vital!

The Corps of Cadets is preparing students to lead and serve in today's global community. You can help support their education, training and co-curricular opportunities by making a gift to the NGCSU Foundation and designate it for the Corps of Cadets Fund. [Support the Corps of Cadets](#)

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