



# *The Revere Recorder*

“ROTC – the best leader and management development program in the world”!

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## **Summer Training: CULP**

By CDT Andrew Fijan



This past summer, I had the opportunity to go to Indonesia on a CULP trip with a group of 22 other Cadets. Over 1,200 Cadets participated in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program and traveled to over 40 different countries. My CULP experience began in November of 2011 when I submitted my application for the program. In January, 2012, I was notified that my application was accepted, and that I had been assigned to a CULP trip that was going to Indonesia. The following

months were filled with preparation—filling out paperwork, purchasing item on the packing list, getting vaccinations, and reading up on Indonesia.

One of my favorite aspects of my CULP experience was how I learned so much about a country I knew so little about. Before I went, I didn’t know basic facts about Indonesia’s political system and economy, let alone the subtleties of its culture; so being able to spend 3 weeks in the country and interacting with its military was an incredible experience.

My trip officially began on June 2, when I left Philadelphia for FT Knox. I spent 3 days at FT Knox, where I met the rest of the group who were going on the trip with me. In total, there were 26 Cadets and 2 Cadre members on the trip. It was really awesome interacting with Cadets from other ROTC programs, and I learned a lot and gained perspective by spending so much time with them. After 36 hours of travel, through Japan and Singapore, we finally arrived in Surabaya, Indonesia on June 6.

Once we were in Indonesia we began participating in Exercise Garuda Shield, which is an exercise involving the US Army and the TNI (Indonesian Army). Our American counterparts during the exercise were a reserve unit from Hawaii. The exercise consisted of three parts: an FTX (focused on counter

IED operations), a CPX (command post exercise), and a humanitarian engineering project (which consisted of constructing a community center). Each Cadet went through a rotation at each phase of the exercise, so that we all were able to experience the entirety of the exercise.

After 2 ½ weeks the exercise ended, and our group was allowed to travel around Indonesia to experience the culture for a week before heading back to FT Knox. Some of the highlights of this portion of the trip was going to visit Boradordur, which is a 9<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist temple—one of the largest in the world, and climbing Mount Bromo, which is one of the largest active volcanoes in Indonesia. My favorite event that we participated in during this time was attending the changing of leadership at the Indonesian Military Academy (Indonesia's equivalent of West Point). I was able to speak with and gain perspective of Cadets at the academy, and during that one day there I learned a huge amount about Indonesian culture, and most importantly, the culture of the Indonesian Military.

My CULP experience was extraordinary, and I recommend that all Cadets try to attend a CULP trip before commissioning. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount about the culture of Indonesia (I also picked up a few phrases in the native dialect), I learned a lot about the US Army by interacting with Cadets from other programs, and by interacting with Officers and NCO's during the exercise. Most importantly, I learned how to communicate and build

relationships with soldiers in a foreign military, and I believe that this experience will help me to be a better officer after I commission.



*CDT Fijan is an MSIII Cadet at MIT, majoring in Management Science.*

## **LDAC Experience**

By: CDT Joshua Tardiff



This summer, myself and over 5,000 other Cadets attended the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. LDAC, a camp typically attended between a Cadet's junior and senior year, is the culminating experience of the first three years of ROTC.

Here, Cadets must participate in various events, such as the Army Physical Fitness Test, Land Navigation (both written and practical course), an obstacle course, two different confidence courses, and 6 different assessed leadership positions spread between garrison operations, a Leaders Reaction Course, and squad/patrolling training exercises.

Throughout the 30 days spent at LDAC, Cadets are constantly evaluated and tested not only by the multitude of both Officer and Enlisted Cadre, but also by peers. The focus is obviously centered on the ability to lead fellow Cadets. Whether its a ~10 person squad, ~40 person platoon, or as company leadership being responsible for half a regiment, the stress of leadership can sink in fast. But that is what LDAC is currently designed to do: put Cadets into stressful situations in which they have to take charge of groups of peers whom they mainly just met for the first time upon arrival at LDAC.

This is one of the more building experiences though, as for most Cadets it's the first time where they've met many different people from other cultures and regions, as the platoons and squads are made up from Cadets as far away as Guam, Puerto Rico, or even Cadets from foreign militaries such as Great Britain and Slovakia. While in some cases it may set up a clash of personalities, it acts as a learning experience for future officers whose soldiers will be even more diversified and varied than peers at LDAC.

For me, the most beneficial part about LDAC is the opportunity to not only see my leadership style for myself, but to learn how others see and react to it. You get to learn and get experiences from seeing both what good leaders and bad leaders look like, in addition to feedback from experienced Cadre who assess you. While nostalgic (and sometimes horror) stories about "LDACistan" are common talk between most ROTC seniors, its just one of the many tests that all Cadets must go through. While it may be a long 30 days, it is one of the most enlightening and rewarding tasks that must be achieved in order to earn a commission in the United States Army.



*CDT Tardiff is an MSIV Cadet at Salem State University, majoring in Mathematics.*

## Ranger Challenge 2012

By: CDT Charlotte Falletta



The 2012 Ranger Challenge was an excellent training exercise for nine Cadets of the Paul Revere Battalion. The fearless Cadets travelled to Fort Dix, New Jersey to compete against 43 other battalions from across the Northeast in this year's competition that for the first time included every battalion in the brigade. Captain of the team was Cadet Tardiff, who was assisted by Cadet Woudenberg and in charge of the Guide-On for the weekend was Cadet Wilson. Completing the team were six MSI's including Cadets Clarke, Falletta, Palermo, L. Peters, T. Peters, and Pybus. The young team embarked on a daylong adventure that would test their strength, fitness, and mental toughness.

The day began well before the sun rose, and the first task for the Cadets to conquer was rappelling. Each of the Cadets was responsible for tying their own swiss seat and completing the rappel.

After this the Cadets moved to the Commander's Challenge, a course that combined land navigation and endurance. The Cadets were given several points to locate on a map and then navigate to, and Cadet Tardiff

earned his title of captain by quickly and accurately plotting the points. The event then ended with a tire flip that required the Cadets to push through the pain, which they did, to end up taking 22<sup>nd</sup> in the event overall.

Following the Commander's Challenge, the Cadets had a break to change their socks and eat their tasty MREs before embarking on the major part of the Challenge, the obstacle course. The course spanned seven miles and included several obstacle courses and various other challenges that were both physically and mentally trying.

Highlights of the course included the air assault obstacle course in which Cadets were timed while completing 10 of the obstacles from the course. Most challenging in the course was climbing up a free hanging rope and scaling several walls. In addition, the course tested balance and speed, and the team rose to the challenge.

Another highlight included the grenade-throwing course. Here Cadets were asked to identify grenades based on a description of their function and then completed a course to test the accuracy of their aim. Several Cadets had perfect rounds, in which they scored the maximum amount of points for hitting the three targets, and the Paul Revere Team scored – overall.

The rugged Cadets proved the depth of their character, extent of their determination, and strength of their will on the course. They overcame their fears of heights, large logs, and MREs to pull through for the Paul Revere Team. They were rewarded for their efforts with a first place in rappelling, earning them an

extra ribbon for the Guide-On, and 40<sup>th</sup> out of 44 overall, an improvement from the previous year. The Cadets were especially impressed by their own ability to overcome adversity, the JROTC Color Guard, and Master Sergeant McCartney's ability to find every country music station on the radio between Boston and New Jersey.

While the fun has ended for the year, the Cadets look forward to resuming training in the spring, so that they can be even more prepared for next year's challenge. Any Cadets looking to join the team next year should begin preparing now with daily pushups and shoulder presses. Congratulations to the 2012 Paul Revere Ranger Challenge Team!



*CDT Falletta is an MSI Cadet at Harvard University, undecided on major.*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to alumni and Soldiers currently serving in our armed forces around the world.

## Fall FTX 2012

By: CDT Christian Reed



On a cool Fall weekend, the Paul Revere Battalion conducted its fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). The weekend began Friday night when the esteemed MS III's taught the lowerclassmen land navigation techniques and methods in preparation for the upcoming land navigation course the next day.

After sleeping in some of the best barracks the Army has to offer, Cadets of the Paul Revere Battalion packed into vans to head off the Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC). Here the MSIII's were given their second task of the weekend and instructed to lead the MSI's and II's through various obstacles while demonstrating their leadership abilities. The MSIV's keenly watched over the FLRC obstacles and provided valuable feedback to the MSIII leaders once the course time had run out. Next came the Land Navigation part of the outing as Cadets once again packed into vans. Day Land Navigation went very well with multiple Cadets finding all eight points and returning with ample time to spare. Similarly, night Land Navigation went well too.

After a grueling day navigating the terrain of Fort Devens, Cadets set up their sleeping bags and spent the night under the stars in their sleep systems. The next morning came with a slightly later wake up time and a nice, hot, breakfast. After eating, Cadets quickly packed up their gear into their rucksacks and undertook the road march to the obstacle course to complete the final task of the weekend.

After arriving at the Obstacle course, Cadets were broken up by squad and tasked with coming up with a strategy to complete the obstacle course in the least amount of time possible. After all Cadets successfully completed the obstacle course, the weekend was finally over. All Cadets learned valuable lessons in leadership and other skills that will certainly assist in their LDAC pursuits as well as future careers as officers in the United States Army.



*CDT Reed is an MSIII Cadet at MIT, majoring in Mechanical Engineering*

## **"To the Mess!"**

By CDT Samantha Hough



When the Paul Revere Battalion arrived at the Coast Guard Station for the annual Dining-In, Cadets and Cadre alike were prepared for a memorable event. Starting the night off with a chance to mingle, Cadets from both platoons and all of the represented schools gained the opportunity to meet their fellow Cadets outside of the PT and lead lab setting. After meeting all of the Cadets and greeting the Cadre members, the true fun began.

Cadet Ryan Sutherland, Mr. Vice for the evening, thoughtfully explained each component of the Battalion's new "friend" - the Grog. Cadet Thomas Lang bravely stepped forward as the newest member of the Paul Revere Battalion to take the first taste of the concoction, and once the first sip was taken, Cadets wasted no time to start sending their peers to the bowl. Filled with good humor and lighthearted teasing, all members of the Battalion showed their attention to detail, as well as their good memory, sending some Cadets to the grog bowl for "infractions" that occurred a week before the Dining-In. Showing true dedication and sense of unity, each

member of the Paul Revere Battalion got the chance to try a glass of the grog. While the grog ceremony may have been the attention-grabber of the evening's events, the Dining-In was a night of good conversation and fun, while building strong cohesion. Finishing up the evening with humorous performances completed by school, the Paul Revere Battalion was sent home with good laughs and better connections, making this a night of delicious food and great company to remember.



*CDT Hough is an MSIII Cadet at Endicott College, majoring in English.*

## **Words from the Cadet Battalion Commander** By CDT Tiffany Zhou



To all of you who are new to our battalion, congratulations on (almost) finishing your first semester of ROTC! To all you returning Cadets, job well done on another semester. It's been a time for new learning experiences, with our MSIII's in leadership positions for the first time, and the MSIV's suddenly in charge of the battalion, while learning to work with all new Cadre members. Your motivation and continued dedication made our jobs much easier, and I wish to thank you for all your hard work.

We've had a rather busy semester. We started off the year with the New Cadet Orientation, to foster esprit-de-corps as squads moved through Boston and Cambridge to complete the Paul Revere Challenge. We then knocked out some admin duties with the Mandatory Briefings, before moving on to the Joint Service Sports Day, where we finished a respectable second place against the Navy and Air Force ROTC programs. Everyone passed CWST, and we added an impromptu lead lab to familiarize ourselves with various weapons systems. Then we moved into our biggest event of the semester, the Fall FTX at Ft Devens. Thankfully Hurricane Sandy held off while we were out in the field, and we were able to accomplish some great training. You can read more about that event in the Revere Recorder, but trust me when I say that I was remarkably impressed with the level of skill shown by all the Cadets. And while Hurricane Sandy tried her best to wreak havoc, we emerged victorious and continued training.

I've said this many times by now, but I still can't get over how impressed I've been with the quality of

the Cadets in our battalion. The view is much different when you're an MSI, keeping your head down and trying not to screw up too badly to get your squad leader in trouble, than when you're an MSIV, with the ability to look at the bigger picture. And from my point of view, we've managed to overcome whatever obstacles have been thrown in our way, and still achieve all our training objectives and goals. Our MSIV's managed to come back from an exhausting summer and throw everything into ROTC, and the MSIII's stepped up to lead.

As we move into our last two leadership labs and winter break, I hope you keep up the momentum that we've built and continue working hard, especially when we move towards tactics training in the spring semester. After the end of November, we will not see each other until February of next year, but that doesn't mean it's time to slack off. Take the time to bring your grades up and ace those finals, and keep working for that 300 on the APFT.

You'll hear the MSIVs say again and again that GPA and PT are two of the most important things to making sure you get your component and branch of choice when you commission into the real Army.

Remember that everything we do here is to prepare you to become good leaders and officers in the United States Army. Make the most of this opportunity and learn as much as you can from your fellow Cadets and the Cadre members. Very few Americans ever put on the uniform, and just volunteering to join ROTC sets you apart. I have no doubt that all of you can

succeed in whatever you set your mind to. Take pride in what you do, and never settle for anything less than your best.

It has been a privilege serving as your Cadet Battalion Commander this semester. I wish you all the best of luck with finals, and a safe and fun holiday season. I can't wait to see what remarkable things we accomplish next semester. No Fear, Paul Revere!



*CDT Zhou is an MIS IV Cadet at MIT, majoring in Biology.*

Calling all Alumni . . . do you have a story to share? Contact Lisa Morin at [ljmorin@mit.edu](mailto:ljmorin@mit.edu) with your story and/or pictures.

## Words from our Commander ...



Dear Friends of the Paul Revere Battalion,

It is a great honor for me to write my first update to the Paul Revere Recorder as the Professor of Military Science. I am proud to report that our Cadets have performed in an exceptional manner this semester. As you can see from the myriad of articles contained in this edition of the Recorder, it has been a busy semester.

Since the last issue we've commissioned or are about to commission a couple Officers. In September Joshua Portwood commissioned into the Chaplains Corps. Lieutenant Portwood is a graduate of Gordon Conwell Seminary and I believe our first Chaplain. In January, Mary Dornfeld will commission into the Chemical Corps. Cadet Dornfeld is graduating from Gordon College after completing a semester abroad this fall in Spain.

This fall our program has 69 Cadets with 13 Cadets on track to commission in the coming spring. The largest change to the program this semester was our official return to

Harvard following last spring's agreement. As a result of the signing of the partnership agreement last spring to bring Army ROTC back onto campus, several changes are underway. We have taken advantage of our new status to increase our visibility on campus and ensure Harvard students are aware of the opportunities that Army ROTC offers. Our presence on campus has also increased with a number of ROTC activities being conducted on the Harvard campus. We now meet for Physical Training at the Harvard University stadium every Monday morning, conduct MS 101 and 102 classes at Hilles Library every Thursday and took the whole battalion to Harvard to conduct a first aid leadership lab.

Since the last installment of the Recorder we have experienced a great deal of turbulence in our Cadre. MAJ Andy Deforest departed for Staff College with CPT Paul Lindberg another Army aviator, replacing him as the Battalion XO and Military Science I Instructor. SFC Cook left to take up a platoon sergeant job in Fort Lewis. We still await a replacement. Mr. Mike Lutkevich provided some critical coverage of our Operations Officer position before heading off to the firefighter's academy. Since October, Mr. Aaron Dombroski has taken over as the Battalion Operation Officer and Military Science III instructor. After six years of outstanding service to the battalion, Mr. Norman Michaud, our Human Resources Technician, took an opportunity closer to his home in Maine. We are in the process of searching for a replacement.

No Fear! Paul Revere!



Recognize anyone in the above photo? If you do, please let us know at [ljmorin@mit.edu](mailto:ljmorin@mit.edu). Thanks!

Don't forget to check us out on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/MIT-Army-ROTC-Paul-Revere-Battalion/140465519358077>

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