The Cadets of the Cramer's Saber Battalion have gone through quite the adventure this semester. They have practiced land navigation, squad tactics, and have experienced a military ball. This year also marks the 90th anniversary that the program has been commissioning Army officers.

Approximately 50 contracted Cadets from the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University tackled the many challenges a Cadet faces and have made it through the year.

For the Cadets of the Battalion a typical semester is anything but normal. Most days start around 0500 in the morning, 5am, for Physical Training. On days when military science takes place Cadets then put their Army Combat Uniforms on and proudly wear them around campus. If there are labs on those days then Cadets might not get home until 2000 or 8pm and then they start their homework. So each and every Cadet should be proud of what they have done this semester. The juniors are ready to head off to LDAC this summer and the sophomores and freshman have opportunities to do other training.

I wish everyone well in their summer training and all of their future endeavors and I would also like to charge the upcoming Cadets to meet any challenge set before them. As I said when I took over at the beginning of the semester everyone needs to give their best efforts, not because I deserve it, because you deserve nothing less. This is your Battalion; it belongs to each and every one of you, TAKE CHARGE!

Remember as Ernest Hemingway said in the Old Man and the Sea “Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”

Saber’s Lead the Way!

**Combat Water Survival Training: Michael Garrity**

Each semester the battalion conducts various training exercises that test us mentally and physically. This spring was no different. We started the semester off strong with our annual Combat Water Survival Training or CWST. This CWST consisted of different events, from treading water for 5 minutes, to jumping from the high dive while blind folded with weapon in hand. Also we swam 15 meters with our weapon in the ACU uniform, and finally our last event was, while submerged underwater, to remove our LBE (load bearing equipment) and weapon.

For some this could be considered no easy task, but for the Cramer's Saber Battalion every cadet seized this training opportunity and used any fears to their advantage. The Cadets successfully completed each event with support from their peers, and “hit the ground running” with another semester in the Battalion.
Military Ball 2010: Alexandra Bianchi

Each spring semester, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion has its annual military ball. This event introduces Cadets to a formal military event and allows all to celebrate the end of a year of hard work and training. This year I was in charge of planning the ball and I knew it would be a challenging task. Luckily, my good friend and fellow MSIV, Cadet Kelly Bennett, offered to help me and together we started planning the event.

Cadet Bennett secured a venue and took care of the details that came with it. I was very lucky to have her help. As a senior at the University of Rhode Island my course workload was becoming a bit overwhelming and having someone assist you with the planning of such an event helped to relieve part of the stress. I still don't know how Cadet Bennett had the time to help me with the task. Somehow she managed to balance law school, Army ROTC training and classes, as well as being a mother and helping me with the planning. I cannot thank her enough!

This year the military ball was held at the Venus de Milo in Swansea, Massachusetts. In previous years the ball was held at different locations, including the Quonset O’ Club and the Hotel Viking in Newport. I am pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year was Colonel Thomas A. Heaney, Jr. COL Heaney graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1981 with a degree in History and branched infantry.

The 2010 Military Ball will certainly be a memorable event. Congratulations to my fellow classmates on graduating and commissioning. Good luck to all those going to schools and LDAC over the summer. Sabers lead the way!

Bataan Memorial Death March: Alexandra Bianchi

Over spring break the team traveled to New Mexico to participate in the 26.2 mile ruck march. The heavy team carried full rucks weighing 35 lbs. and the light team marched with camelbaks. Both teams marched in their ACUs. The course was strenuous, testing the Cadets stamina, endurance, and mental strength. The Bataan Memorial Death March is conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health and, in many cases, their lives. The team consisted of:

Congratulations to the URI Army ROTC Bataan Memorial Death March team!

Matt Cunha
Jeffrey Duxbury
Michael Haynes
Jonathan Hurst
Jaclyn Kelly
Alex Madden
Justin Merhar
Justin Miranda
Tate Russack
Matt Stein
Bryan Sullivan
Greg Wholean
Mentor Program: Ryan Satherlie

The mentor program put into effect this year has been beneficial to the ROTC program in many different ways. I feel that I have become more organized, motivated, and a better leader due to my mentors above me. When we go on different events as a Battalion it is nice to have an individual that you can count on for situations where you are unaware of what you should be doing. I have personally called my mentor close to fifty times this year asking different questions about aspects of the ROTC program. I have asked him questions ranging from “Would you suggest I bring food on the FTX?” to “What time are we supposed to meet for lab?”

Through this program I know I have become a stronger leader and better Cadet. Although one of my mentors did drop the program late this semester, he called me and told me he would be more than happy to help me out with anything that I may need. This alone shows how the mentor program forms a stronger bond than just physical training. We went to the movies, Chipotle, and I go out with one of my mentors almost every weekend with a bunch of other Cadets. I can speak for the cadets at URI when I say that we are all much closer friends than we were last year. With this newly created program, the entire Battalion has become more organized, motivated, and better leaders.

Spring JFTX at Fort Devens: Matt Cunha

FT. DEVENS, MA- It’s not training, if it’s not raining. That was the unofficial motto as Cadets from the Cramer’s Saber Battalion spent an April weekend, from the 16th to the 18th, training in preparation for LDAC and their next few years in the Battalion. It all kicked off that Friday afternoon into the evening as Cadets arrived, prepared SOPs for their exercise on Saturday, and prepared for their first iteration of night land navigation. Cadets spent the rest of the night trudging through the wet forest of Ft. Devens in search for those oh-so elusive points- a successful evening of land navigation.

Rising before the sun, Cadets started early as they were bussed to the staging area to start their squad STX training and link up with their UCONN evaluators. Cadets worked in squads, practicing their OPORD, battle drill, and leadership skills as they tackled simulated missions- much like those they will be required to complete at LDAC. After a short break for chow, it was a race to watch the sun go down and to start the second round of night land navigation. After another three hours in the dark and wet woods, cadets returned feeling confident in their land navigation abilities.

Sunday morning kicked off early with the MS Is and IIs heading to the Field Leader’s Reaction Course and the MS IIIs moving to the firing range. As the underclassmen experienced the full range of FLRC obstacles, the juniors sharpened their marksmanship skills by zeroing their weapons, shooting a practice qualifying round, and participating in a reflexive fire exercise. Later, the juniors joined the rest of the Battalion at the FLRC for the last lane, completing the joint field training exercise. Despite the weather, Cadets experienced a wide variety of training and experience that will undoubtedly prepare them for their assessments at LDAC. With the training and memories under their belt, all Cadets had a good time.
The Road to LDAC: Jaclyn Kelly

As my MSIII year has come and gone, the countdown to LDAC is rapidly approaching. Coming into my MSIII year this past fall, I was prepared to train. Embracing all elements of instruction and preparation, the MSIII class knew the time was now to better ourselves for the most emphasized training throughout the ROTC program; LDAC at FT Lewis, WA.

The year kicked off with the Garrison Field Training Exercise (GFTX), which allowed MSIIIs to pursue leadership positions during training exercises, while receiving the instruction and guidance from cadre and MSIV Cadets. Training was Garrison-based, but also included FLRC and land navigation, as well as classroom-style instruction on other facets of LDAC specific training exercises.

MSIVs provided knowledgeable assistance to all Cadets, especially those preparing for LDAC this summer. Their advice and lessons of experience offered to us were greatly perceived, as we continue on our own to work to maximize preparation in order to better our experience at camp. Our MSIII instructors, MSG Robert Ferrara, CPT Anselm Richards, and SFC Kenneth Langdon, have all worked diligently to train and prepare us with the skills necessary to succeed at LDAC. Cadre and MSIVs offered us an extended schedule of training exercises on additional nights and weekends.

As we moved into the “run phase” of training in spring semester, the MSIII class worked to perfect the skills acquired through our ROTC training that will soon be applied and evaluated at LDAC. Our Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) this April with the University of Connecticut at Fort Devens, MA was our opportunity to let our potential shine and to brush up on any additional training necessary for camp. STX lanes were run quite smoothly across the board and built up confidence for MSIIIs with their operations orders and battle drill executions. Overall, training has built our individual confidence to perform this summer. As the school year has come to an end, it is time now to continue to prepare and train both physically and mentally for LDAC. We now know what must be done and must remain prepared to act on our opportunity at LDAC to represent ourselves, our potential, and the Cramer Saber’s Battalion.

Congratulations Graduating and Commissioning Seniors!

It’s been a long 4 years of early mornings, long weekends and long Mondays but finally it is all paying off. Good luck with your careers, stay safe and

don’t forget the alumni association!

Kelly A. Bennett (RWU)
JAG Corps, MA National Guard

Domenic Fruci (RWU)
Infantry, December Commission

Alexander G. Bianchi (URI)
Educational Delay, Law School

Bryan R. Groves (URI)
Armor, Active Duty

Brian R. Clinghan (RWU)
End of Camp Commission

Michael E. Haynes (URI)
Aviation, Active Duty

Steven K. Dietrich (RWU)
JAG Corps, Active Duty

Alexander A. Madden (SRU)
Infantry, Active Duty

Nicolas A. DiSanto (URI)
Military Police, U.S. Army Reserve

Matthew T. Merola (RWU)
Transportation Corps, Active Duty

Terence M. Donohue (SRU)
Military Intelligence, U.S. Army Reserve

Peter J. Murphy (RWU)
Quartermaster Corps, Active Duty

Alexandra G. Flowers (URI)
Nurse Corps, December Commission

Gregory W. Wholean (RWU)
Ordnance Corps, Active Duty
Above: Cramer’s Saber Cadets at Salve Regina University after the battalion run.

Left: Cadets carry water jugs during a battle focused PT session.
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