

GO GOLD

Run by Battalion Cadets for family, friends, and alumni

Upcoming Events

- October 4th
 - APFT
- October 26th-28th
 - Fall FTX
- November 16th
 - Army vs. Navy Football Game
- November 20th
 - MS IV Branches Released
- November 28th - December 11th
 - Final Exams



Train to Lead Autumn Edition

Go Gold Battalion operations are in full throttle this autumn. This month the cadet training program focuses on developing fundamental Soldering skills including individual and platoon movement techniques, survival skills, land navigation, and basic battle drills. This month concludes with the Fall FTX; a culminating exercise that will challenge cadets to demonstrate their leadership abilities.

This month's newsletter includes a note from the New Training Noncommissioned Officer SFC Thomas Kotz, Cadet Sergeant Major, Ranger Challenge Team Captain, and a reflections from Air Assault School. Enjoy!

Cadet Battalion Fund

All donations to Go Gold's Cadet Battalion Fund go toward our dining in and dining out ceremonies as well as to facility renovations and improved training events. The cadets of the Go Gold Battalion greatly appreciate every donation and thank our wonderful alumni, family, and friends for your endless support.

To make a donation please visit:

<http://www.Vanderbilt.edu/alumni/army-rotc.php>

A Note from the New Training Noncommissioned Officer: SFC Thomas Kotz



I am SFC Thomas Kotz, originally from the great state of Michigan. I have served in the US Army for over 12 years as a 12B. Combat Engineer. During my last assignment at Fort Hood, TX, I served as an Operations Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant. I am extremely excited to have been given the opportunity to coach, teach and mentor the young future officers for the Army. I look forward to working with everyone in the future. ESSAYONS!!!!

A Note from the Cadet Sergeant Major:

CDT Chris Roscoe



While walking in uniform across Belmont to the music studios underneath Massey, I sometimes get a few confused blank looks from other students. It is hard to blend in while wearing a service uniform among the hipster cardigans, non prescription glasses, and trendy haircuts at Belmont University. I am frequently asked by students and teachers, “Why did you join the Army?”. The Army seems like such a foreign organization to so many people on my campus. While many of my peers may not notice, serving my country is something I take great pride in. Everyday I wear my uniform I am reminded of the choice that I have made to serve.

As Command Sergeant Major of Go Gold Battalion, my goal for every cadet is to take pride and ownership of their decision to serve. I want cadets to uphold battalion standards in their journey to become future Army officers. Furthermore, I hope the battalion standards motivate cadets to challenge themselves and be the best they can be. These standards include physical fitness, moral integrity, and professionalism.

Battalion Chain of Command

Professor of Military Science

✕ LTC Dustin Mitchell

Assistant Professor of Military Science

✕ MAJ Matthew Mount

Senior Military Science Instructor

✕ MSG Jeremy Sims

Military Science Instructor

✕ SFC Justin Golding

Training Non-Commission Officer

✕ SFC Thomas Kotz

Cadet Battalion Commander

✕ Sean Patterson

Cadet Command Sergeant Major

✕ Chris Roscoe

Cadet Executive Officer

✕ Cathrine Palka

Cadet S-1

✕ Nina Schiffer

✕ Jasmine Mitchum

Cadet S-2

✕ Thomas Whittaker

Cadet S-3

✕ John Fangmeyer

✕ David Patton

✕ Parker Fretwel

Cadet S-4

✕ Sha'la Carter

✕ Harris Napier

My biggest goal as Cadet Sergeant Major is to push the Go Gold Battalion physically to improve on the Army Physical Fitness Test. Additionally, I will ensure the army values are exemplified by every cadet. I hope to instill a standard of professionalism in dress and action.

This semester will be hard. It is filled with many miles on the running shoes and alarm clocks yelling "Rise and Grind." If we lose our direction it will feel like drudgery. So never forget we are training and disciplining ourselves to become officers in the United States Army. Furthermore, be proud of your uniform and remember why you put it on everyday.

A Note from the Ranger Challenge Team Captain: Cadet Steven Jacobs



Ranger Challenge is an annual competition amongst cadet teams across United States. The Ranger Challenge competition is comprised of events that challenge cadets in their physical resiliency, mental competency, and military awareness. This forces cadets to come together as a team and push themselves past their perceived limits. The competition reveals which team is willing to dig deep and leave everything on the field and

which team put in the work beforehand. The first round of Ranger Challenge is the task force competition followed, by brigade competition, which is then followed by the Sandhurst International Competition at West Point.

My goal for the Go Gold Ranger Challenge team is to train as a team and be competitive at the brigade level. Furthermore, I also hope to develop the Ranger Challenge training program, and culture surrounding the team, to make the Go Gold Battalion a top competitor for years to come.

The Task Force competition this past weekend was a great opportunity to demonstrate the work we have put in over the last month of training. It was an excellent win for the team. We were physically dominant and well prepared for the other tasks and drills. We will really be put to the test as we train to compete at the brigade level in November.

Air Assault School Experience:



Cadet Jake Peevy

This summer, the Go Gold Battalion provided me the opportunity to attend Air Assault School. This was an incredible opportunity for me to grow as a leader, and I am very thankful that I was given a chance to go.

I attended Air Assault School taught by the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, GA. The Air Assault course is taught in 3 phases: Orientation phase,

Sling Load phase, and Rappelling phase. In the orientation phase, we learned all about Army rotary wing aircraft and how to utilize them for a variety of mission sets. The sling load phase taught students to prepare, rig, and inspect many different cargo loads to be lifted by helicopters. It also prepared us to plan and execute sling load operations and allowed us to witness Army aircraft in action hauling some heavy cargo. Finally, the rappelling phase consisted of extensive instruction on rappelling fundamentals and advanced rappelling techniques followed by hours of training and practice on the rappel ropes themselves. The course culminated with a 90-foot rappel out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and an early morning 12-mile road march. Overall, while the course was extremely challenging, it was very rewarding to be one of the few who stuck it out all the way through graduation.

At Air Assault School, I learned a lot about myself. I found that I could push myself farther than I thought I could go, and I learned how to perform under extreme pressure. Despite being under constant mental and physical stress, I was able to persevere and stay calm enough to complete the necessary tasks to avoid being sent “to the house.” I also had the chance to meet and bond with other cadets from many different backgrounds and universities all around the country. At Air Assault, I learned many valuable lessons and gained experience that will allow me to be a better cadet and a better leader within the Go Gold Battalion. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend Air Assault School, and I am proud to have represented our battalion well.