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The Blazer Battalion teaches various tactical skills, builds teamwork, and promotes fitness during lab hours. Labs provides critical information for actions-on objective basis. Cadets demonstrate what they have learned in the classroom and their new tactics and procedures in front of trainers, so feedback will be provided.

Labs have been a great teaching portion for Cadets, as the new Cadets become familiar and tactically sound. Alongside, the older Cadets enhance their knowledge and leadership to carry on to Advance Camp.
The MSIII class and Ranger Challenge team travels out to the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department Shooting range each semester to conduct PMI and rifle qualification in order to prepare the Cadets for Advanced Camp.

The Cadets began with grouping and zeroing. Once completed, each Cadet moved on to qualify with their M4 rifle system.
Land Navigation Exercise

This semester’s Land Navigation Exercise took place at Oak Mountain State Park.

This year’s exercise focused on the basics of plotting points, pace count, and finding a correct azimuth. All Cadets participating received a class prior to arrival. Each Cadet was required to find 3 out of 5 points to get a “GO” for day land navigation and 2 out 3 points for night land nav. This exercise included a very deserving BBQ for the cadre and Cadets.

Cadet Busby found all seven of his points and was the first Cadet to return to the check-in table with a time of 1:20.

More than 85% of the BN received a “GO” on both the day and night land navigation lanes at Oak Mountain State Park. This course is a great opportunity for new Cadets to learn the skills and improve their confidence not only in the equipment but in themselves.

A large majority of the Cadets that participated in this exercise were MSIs and MSIIIs who have only ever plotted points in a classroom setting.
Military History Staff Ride

Each semester the Military History class travels to Chickamauga battlefield to learn about the battle and history from the Civil War.

The Cadets who attend walk the entire battlefield, stopping at each statue and key point in the area to learn what happened and how it influenced operations during the battle.

This years staff ride was very cold and wet, but the Cadets were still able to experience the entire battlefield. Park Historian, Jim Ogden is very knowledgeable and passionate about this battlefield and it definitely shows!
Ranger Challenge Training

The 2017-2018 Ranger Challenge team conducts training four days a week and includes long distance runs, heavy gym days, warrior skills days, and one-rope bridge training. These Cadets are setting examples for fitness standards and dedication within the Battalion.

These Cadets are amongst the most physically fit in the Battalion and are taking on an aggressive training regime in preparation for next October’s Alabama State Ranger Challenge Championship.

Pictured above is the Ranger Challenge team practicing disassembling and reassembling the M4 Rifle system. This training included disassembling, cleaning, and reassembling the rifle. This teaches a soldier how to properly operate and care for their weapon.

Pictured left to right:
**Front:** Guy Griffies, Lauren Beatty, Amber Fritts (PSG), Katy Watkins, Elijah Mott, Savon Amos  
**Back:** Demetrius Pearson (Commander), Thomas Cranford, Zachary Resendez, Braxton Busby, Isaac King  
**Not pictured:** Noah Stockard, Aidan Leach, Jude Jaber, Rebecca Bryant
Color Guard

The UAB Color Guard is the face of the battalion and are engaged in all college home games that the UAB basketball team holds at Bartow Arena.

The UAB Color Guard is one of the most visible and active organizations at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in support of university and community events.

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