Last month, the UAB Army ROTC Blazer Battalion hosted our first ever Leadership Forum on Mission Command. We had the unique honor of having three distinguished guests—Major General A. C. Roper, Major General Lawrence H. Ross, and Colonel Rowe—come to our campus and talk with us about their experiences as leaders and some of the challenges they faced in their careers. As future leaders, it is important that cadets understand mission command philosophy and its guiding principles. This experience improved our cadets’ ability to understand the tenets of mission command within the US Armed Forces, as well as tactics, techniques and procedures within successful business organizations from the tactical to the strategic level of warfare. The Blazer Battalion is extremely appreciative of the lessons and wisdom that our guests were able to share with us and look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

-William Hamilton, MSIV CDT Battalion Commander
SEPTEMBER EVENTS: LTX

TRAINING EXERCISES
- LAND NAVIGATION
- RAPELLING
- STX LANES
- VARIOUS CLASSES
- CONFIDENCE COURSE
- FLRC
- PATROL BASE
- OPORD
- IMT
- RUCK MARCH

Cadets VonCanon & Murrati

Rappelling

Cadet Rutledge, MSIV, provides guidance and teaches class
19-20 SEPT, UAB Blazer Battalion spent their weekend conducting Leadership Training Exercises in order to prepare for their Leadership Development and Assessment Course. How well they perform at LDAC plays a huge part in how they will commission as a 2nd LT in the Army, and if they will receive their branch of choice. Blazer cadets participated in events ranging from the strenuous ruck march and demanding Confidence Course, to classes teaching them how to use the OPORD process. Cadets also learned basic tactics which they demonstrated and practiced in Situational Training Exercises. STX lanes require cadets to analyze the tactical situation they are placed in and execute the appropriate Army Battle Drill. Cadets continue to use judgment and make decisions through the planning, movement, and execution phase that will determine the success or failure of their mission. The FLRC event teaches cadets to use creative thinking skills to accomplish a given mission under varying constraints such as time and pressure.

UAB Blazer Battalion left this training with more unit cohesion and readiness accomplished through the varying exercises. Our Battalion will continue to grow as we work together to make a better future in the Army.

Go Blazers!

-Sarah Bennett, MSIV Nursing Major
The Blazer Battalion color guard welcomes its newest and returning members of the 2014-2015 team: Cadet Hobbs, Cadet Turberville, Cadet Cleveland, Cadet Davis, Cadet McDonald, Cadet Seamonds, Cadet Von Canon, Cadet White, and Cadet Reyes. With practice in full effect these cadets have dedicated many hours of their time to presenting the national colors in front of thousands of patrons. In the upcoming months they will be preparing for one of the biggest events yet to come to the Blazer Battalion. They will be presenting and posting the colors for the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) of the Army National Guard on December 6th. Cadet Hobbs, the commander of the color guard team, will be returning in October to continue the team’s training and push them to greatness.

GO BLAZERS!!

-CDT Joseph Turberville

Color Guard Team Representing UAB Blazer Battalion at the UAB vs. Alabama A&M game on 13 SEPT

From Left to Right: Cadets McDonald, Cleveland, Seamonds, VonCanon
ROTC offers many opportunities for extra training throughout the summer. This summer I was able to go to the United States Military Academy at West Point to participate in the 2014 Cadet Field Training (CFT) at Camp Buckner. This detail was Cadet-run with cadre supervision. We were known as Task Force Parten, named after 1st LT Tyler Parten, a West Point graduate who died fighting in Afghanistan. There were seven companies in our regiment. I was a member of 1st Company, 4th Platoon, 4th Squad. The following events we were required to qualify for the Recondo Challenge: a record APFT, a 5 mile firebreak run, a 3 mile assault pack run, Anzio obstacle course and gate run, dry and wet obstacle courses, ASIP assembly, calling up a 9-Line, M4 assembly, disassembly, and functions check, ALT C qualification, M240B disassembly, re-assembly, and functions check, medical readiness training (MRT) written test, and land navigation. I was able to complete these events and receive a USMA Recondo pin at the end of the detail. My favorite days of CFT were the range days and the field artillery (FA) days. For range days, we went out to the range for three days and two nights. During this time, we were able to qualify on our M4’s, execute an NBC (gas mask) shoot, a night shoot with NOD’s, clear through four rooms in a live fire shoot house, and practice target discrimination. On FA days, we went out to a different range and completed call for fires, serving on a Howitzer crew, and hanging 81 mm mortars. We did two major field training exercises: intro to patrolling (ITP) and the culmination SULD. ITP was a three day exercise spent occupying patrol bases and conducting squad level attacks. SULD was a 96 hour mission we were flown into via Blackhawks spent executing squad and platoon level missions. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Camp Buckner. I learned a great deal on tactical strategies in the field and also more about other branches. I was also developed into a more confident leader.

-CDT Corcoran, MSIII
The Transition: Active Duty to College Life

I’ll admit it: I was the guy in Army Combat Uniform (ACUs) on the verge of tears in PSC 102. *Introduction to Political Theory* is a little like church for me. Every Tuesday and Thursday we discuss the meaning of justice and the value of citizenship for 75 minutes straight - from the moment the tall gentleman powers on the projector until the moment we all have to rush off to our next class. A few weeks ago, I got a little choked up while reading *Pericles’ Funeral Oration* out loud in class. The *Funeral Oration* is an account of a general’s speech to the people of Athens honoring the sacrifices of the soldiers who died protecting their city. After the reading, discussion turned to critiques of Pericles’ hubris and his recruitment of soldiers to throw themselves into what would turn out to be a long and costly war. I wasn’t thinking about Pericles; I was thinking about Anne Smedinghoff.

I was blessed not to lose anyone I worked closely with on my deployment to Iraq or on my first deployment to Afghanistan. On April 6, 2013, though, during my second deployment to Afghanistan, US Embassy Kabul lost a 25-year-old press officer named Anne Smedinghoff. Anne died in a suicide attack while on a mission in Qalat, the capital city of Zabul Province. I am not equipped to tell Anne’s story, but I will say that she was a beautiful, intelligent and kind person. Her character and her work inspire me today. Much more than one of Pericles’ soldiers doing battle with Spartans in the name of the city-state; Anne was a talented Foreign Service Officer fighting to make a difference in the world.

Someone asked me the other day what it is like to transition from active duty to college life. It’s not an easy question for me to answer. At 28, I am the old guy in most of my classes, but my service gives me something to reflect on in the classroom. I have the pleasure of serving in the UAB ROTC Blazer Battalion. Most of the young cadets that I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with are only a few years out of high school, but they motivate me daily. These cadets have all the pressure and uncertainty of normal college life, but they get up everyday before the sun comes up to do Army Physical Readiness Training (PRT) and they give up occasional weekends to take part in Army training and volunteer in the community. Blazer cadets are my brothers and sisters: regardless of where we come from or what we are majoring in, we all share the desire to become US Army Officers “fully knowing the hazards of [our] chosen profession” as the Rangers say. The Blazer Battalion trains us to be leaders so that we can answer the call of our country. Like Anne, we want to serve and make a difference in the world.

*Joseph Green  
Political Science Major  
MSIII Cadet, UAB ROTC*
Newly Contracted Cadets

Ware, Kannisha
Montgomery, AL
MS IV
PT Score: 221
Major: Medical Technology

Peter, Stephen T.
Dothan, AL
MSIII
PT Score: 235
Major: Political Science
### OCTOBER Calendar Events

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### NOVEMBER

Many outreach events are coming soon in November. We will continue to partner with the VA and assist with the Veterans Day Parade as well as many other outreach events.

A SPECIAL THANKS!

Thank you, to everyone who submitted articles, they will be published throughout the semester. Continue to submit articles and pictures, as well as participate in our community service events.

-CDT Jeter, CDT Bennett, & CDT Randall

Contact for Submissions

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