

# Fighting Tiger Battalion

## PT, PT, PT!

On the top of all cadre members' priority list this year is Physical Training. Officers are expected to set an example for their soldiers, and the best way to make a positive first impression is to be in peak physical condition when you arrive at your unit. Before then, all cadets are expected to represent Clemson University and the Army well by performing above the PT standards here on campus.

So, grab a battle buddy and hit the pavement or head to Fike! Physical fitness isn't just an expectation from the Army's future officers, it's also a great way to build friendships and reduce stress! Talk to Mr. Bras for some work-out and nutrition tips!



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## From our new PMS, LTC James Mullinax

To Cadets, Cadre, Alumni, Family and Friends,

Welcome to all new Cadets and welcome back returning Cadets as we start the 2013-2014 School Year. It has already been a very busy and productive school year. We have integrated over 60 freshmen, recognized numerous Cadets for their summer training achievements and conducted Drill & Ceremony, Combat Water Survival and First Aid training.

Recently, we hosted parents at our annual Parent's brunch, it was a great day and I was happy to meet so many parents and if I can ever do anything to assist you or your Cadet, please let me know.

There are great things ahead for the Fightin' Tiger Battalion. We are aggressively planning our Football Military Appreciation Day on November 23, 2013. It will be a great day to showcase our military heritage and recognize all veterans for their service to our great nation,



Pictured to the left is LTC Mullinax, Clemson's professor of Military Science and Fightin' Tiger Battalion Commander since 2012.

as well as welcome back many of our ROTC alum, including our most recent alum to reach the General Officer ranks, BG Jackson, co '86 and BG Chamberlain, co '88.

We have several new Cadre and they are working hard to push our Cadets to excel and do even greater things than the Cadets that have come before them. Thanks to our seniors for all the planning and execution you are doing to make this battalion one of the best in the nation. . Continue to think and push yourselves and the underclassmen to



Lto R: CDT Mulholland and CDT Flinton graduated from Air Assault school; CDT McNeal, CDT Spencer, CDT Delgado, and CDT Fawaz became Airborne qualified, and CDT Blair completed the Combat Diver Qualification Course this summer.

excellence in everything they do. Remember, as a team we will be successful so keep doing your part, have fun and enjoy your time at Clemson.





## Salutations from the SMI



Pictured above is MSG Medrano, Clemson University's new Senior Military Instructor.

To the Cadets, Family and Cadre:

I want to welcome our new Cadre to the Fightin' Tiger Battalion; SFC Romo. Welcome to all new Cadets, and congratulations to all Cadets that completed their training over the summer break which was part of their professional development. I am pleased to have joined the Fightin' Tiger Battalion and it truly is an honor to see how our future officers train, develop, and handle being college students and upcoming officers.

Our goal is to become one of the top 20 Army ROTC programs in the nation. We have accomplished a lot toward this goal, but there is still work to be done to become Commissioned Officers and a top 20 Army ROTC program. I have no doubt that each Cadet will strive to perform well in all phases of training to achieve this goal.

Go Tigers!

-MSG Joe Medrano

## Push-ups for Touch Downs

One of the benefits of being in Army ROTC is the opportunity to be a part of the push-up crew. These cadets get a ticket and a free meal at the game, and perform push-ups each time Clemson scores. Standing in between the cheerleaders and the mascots, this is a job for the biggest Clemson fans in the battalion.



(L to R) CDT Grajewski and CDT Desjardin pose with the Clemson cheerleaders before the UGA game.

## c/CSM Patrick Smith Talks Pride in Clemson and ROTC

Hello Everyone,

I am Cadet Patrick Smith and I am the Command Sergeant Major here at Clemson University Army ROTC. As a senior in Civil Engineering, I'm active on the Clemson campus involved in many clubs to include the military honor society Scabbard and

Blade and a club sport. To that note, I have not missed a home Clemson football game in the 4 years I've been here (this is our year!) This semester, ROTC has the largest enrollment since I have been here. It is my job to make sure all these cadets are in the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform, doing the right thing.

Another large part of my job is coordinating and executing the PT schedule. I believe physical fitness is a huge part of being an

effective leader so I'm trying to make the most of the short time I have doing PT with the battalion. Although the time we conduct PT each week is short, ROTC does a tremendous job

instilling in cadets the drive and time management skills needed

to continue fitness training on their own time.

This idea of taking short training times and using them in a way that makes cadets want to better themselves on their own time is the focus of the semester. ROTC has taught me discipline with this method and I hope to pass that discipline on to the underclassmen this



semester. This We'll Defend. Go Tigers!

-Patrick Smith, c/CSM



(L to R) SFC Bielski and SFC Romo cheering on Clemson against UGA.



One of the cadets pushing after Clemson scored.



## The Cadet from across the Pond

Cadet Alex Wilkinson joins us from Aberdeen University located in Scotland.

At Aberdeen U, he is a part of the Officer Training Core program, which is the UK version of ROTC, except that it is a club on campus—as opposed to a class—and allows the cadets to be a part of the British Army Reserves. The training for the OTC program is mainly broken down into weekend camps and includes two major FTXs. The first lasts 10 days and is held during Easter, which CDT Wilkinson admits is quite cold and involves a large amount of

snow'. The second FTX is held during the summer, and lasts 2 weeks. He additionally attended



the last phase of Sandhurst, which CDT Grosse attended last summer in Germany. CDT Wilkinson states, in regard to Clemson, "The first thing that struck me when arriving in Clemson is the heat along with the friendliness of everyone. Clemson does have the feeling of being one large family. Also, it is very proud of

its history, which gives it a certain strength and a firm base. One of my highlights of my time so far has to be the Clemson Georgia game which I thought was amazing and thrilling to watch, if slightly slower than a rugby match back home'.



## Battalion Commander c/LTC Colin Bassett Welcomes New Cadets



*"...by deciding to commit yourself to a program and organization as prestigious as the US Army, you have already proven that you are a step above the average student"*

Welcome back Fightin' Tiger Battalion! It's the best time of year here in Tiger Town and everyone is thrilled to be coming back or getting here for the first time. My name is Colin Bassett and I am the cadet Battalion Commander for our Tigers. I am a senior from Houston, Texas but after three years here at Clemson it really has become a home away from home. I am honored and proud to have been chosen to lead this historic program throughout the coming year. It's going to be an exciting year for not only our program, but also our great University.

I'd like to thank and recognize those cadets who have just joined the Fightin' Tiger family. Simply by deciding to commit yourself to a program and organization as prestigious as the United States Army, you have already proven that you are a step above the average student or American. You are willing to be a part of something that less than 1% of our population today is committed to and for that I commend each and every one of you. Give your best effort to

to our Battalion and our University and I can promise that your time spent here will be truly amazing. A lot has happened over the summer months. We have an incoming MS 1 class of over 70, Clemson Football is dominating the competition, and Clemson is getting closer to President Barker's goal of being a top 20 University with each passing year. Our MS IV's returned from Warrior Forge with over 30% receiving a rating of Exceeds the Standard and are anxious to begin training our newest

cadets to keep pushing forward. A number of our other Cadets were able to attend training both inside and outside the United States such as Air Assault, Airborne, Combat Driver, CULP, and CTLT. All of these slots were extremely competitive and we are proud to have so many of our Cadets representing Clemson well. This speaks volumes to the competence of the cadre, upperclassmen, and younger cadets all doing their part in the Battalion.

The upcoming year is going to be filled with a number of different training events that will push our cadets physically and mentally to continue their development into tomorrow's leaders. Physical fitness is paramount and will be a heavy focus throughout the semester for all of the different ML classes. In the classroom, cadets will learn the basics of the Army and foundation

**"Get ready to have a great time and learn why the Fightin' Tiger Battalion is so special."**

of what it takes to become an Army officer in today's complex world. However, the training labs are where the majority of our focus will be. Cadets will become proficient in land navigation, drill and ceremony, First Aid, and basic tactics. All cadets will also participate in a weekend long field training exercise in which they will be able to conduct basic rifle marksmanship and get some experience outside in the elements. I am very excited to lead this Battalion through training and share new experiences the upcoming semester with such a great group of young men and women. Go Tigers! —Colin Bassett, c/LTC





## Cadets Contracting into ROTC

Each year, some cadets make the commitment to join the Army after finishing college. These cadets are highly respected for making this decision and we are very proud of all of them. In return for their commitment to the Army after college, they may receive a scholarship to cover the cost of their tuition as well as a monthly stipend.

Each experience is unique depending on what service branch the cadet chooses. Also, if the cadet qualifies for active duty, they will have a guaranteed job right after college that will set them up for success faster than some of

their peers. Other options besides active duty are the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. For both the National Guard and the Army Reserve, the soldiers are able to have a civilian life and career outside of the military.

In the National Guard, soldiers generally work one weekend a month at a specific armory. However they can choose the armory where they participate in drill, and travel there each weekend. The armory remains the same, but the soldier can move. Some soldiers even live in different states from where they do drill.

Soldiers in the Reserve

are also expected to work one weekend a month while maintaining a civilian career, however they are more likely to be mobilized, which results in them serving the military for possible months at a time, depending on their mission.

ROTC courses offer exceptional opportunities to learn how to lead others and provides great experience working with others to solve problems. The leadership experience cadets receive both in ROTC and in their Army career will continue to benefit them whether or not they stay in the Army after their commitment is over.

-Blake Williamson, c/CPT

## c/1LT Cadet Birchfield's Experience with Cavalry



My CTLT experience

with the 3-1 Cav Scout Squadron was great. I learned a ton from my PL, PSG, and senior NCO's in the troop. I came in with an open mind ready to learn and I was very respected by all the members of

the troop. Everyone was happy to help teach me and train me in various tasks including: PMCS a HMMV and Bradley, write a CONOP, conduct weekly storyboards and SITREPs, and counsel soldiers. My BC allowed me to witness an Article 15 proceeding and mentored me afterwards about how to be fair, empathetic, and apply fair punishment that will not compound any problems the soldier in question is already having.

Overall, I would suggest future cadets to take advantage of a CTLT opportunity and learn as much from it as possible.



Bonecrusher troop takes M1A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles for their scheduled road test around Twilight Pond vicinity Kelly Hill, Ft. Benning.

## Combat Water Survival Training

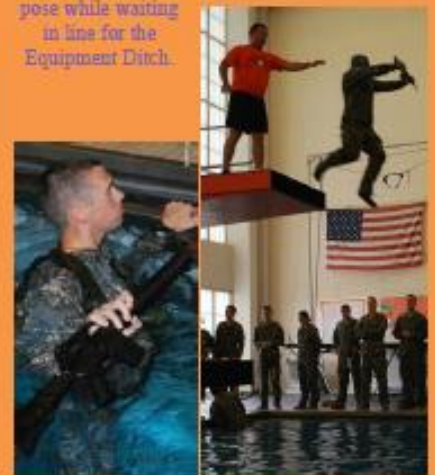
Combat Water Survival Training, or CWST, is a lab the Fightin' Tiger Battalion holds every year, and a requirement for commissioning into the United States Army.

CWST consists of five events. There is the 3 m Drop, where the cadet must walk off a high dive with their eyes covered and rifle in hand. The second event is the 15 m Equipment Swim, in which the cadet swims 15 m with a rifle. The third event is the Equipment Ditch is an event where the cadet jumps into water and must take off their load bearing vest and drop the weapon before surfacing. The last two events are the Five Minute Water Tread and the 10 Minute Swim.

Check out some pictures below from this year's CWST lab!



ABOVE: A few cadets striking a pose while waiting in line for the Equipment Ditch.





## A Little Bit of Basic

Summer training for me began on 4 June 13 with my arrival to FT. Jackson, SC for CTLT. Upon arrival to the Columbia airport, I was able to locate other cadets (we're pretty easy to pick out) and check in, where we received our sponsoring units' information.

My sponsor was this awesome SFC who showed us exactly what an XO normally does day-to-day. We also met with the CO on the first day, where we received our initial counseling and met with the Drill Sergeants we would be shadowing.

Over the next three weeks we got to see first hand what our future soldiers will have gone through in their Basic Training. We were able to participate and help facilitate many of the training events, including their Live Fire Exercise, mounted movement training, and their week long FTX. At the FTX we were given the opportunity to lead a STX lane with a squad of Basic Trainees.

We were expected to PT with the soldiers every morning and encouraged to join them for breakfast. Ft. Jackson was probably the least exciting place to go for CTLT, but I honestly don't think I could have had a better experience anywhere.

-Julia Martin c/MAJ



# c/MAJ Blair: Combat Diver Qualified

## RECEIVING A SLOT:

LTC Leslie is a former Commander of the Special Forces Underwater Operations School (SFUWOs) at Key West, FL. He currently works for Cadet Command, and every summer he heads the effort which allows Cadet Command Cadets to attend CDQC. Over the past few years, Cadet Command has received a total of 10 slots for the course, which lead to 20 Cadets being allowed to try-out the week prior to the course start date.

In early May, five additional slots became available to Cadet Command. Only five more cadets were able to attend try-outs on such short notice. I was one of those cadets.

**TRYOUT WEEK:** Without the training and exposure to the different events received in the Tryout Week, I would not have passed Pre-Scuba. The Tryout Week began on May 20th and was conducted by SFUWO cadre with full access to the school facilities making the training received of the highest caliber. Special emphasis was given to all pool tasks, tested and non-tested, which would be covered in the first week of training to include: an APFT, Five Mile Run, 50m Underwater Swim, Clump Retrieval, Two Minute Tread, Navy Drown Proofing, Underwater Knots, Equipment Recovery and Surface Swims ranging from 500 meters up to 1500 meters.

Class 3-13 started with 75 members, 25 From Cadet Command, eight from West Point, 41 from the Special Forces Groups and one from the First Ranger Battalion. Thirty seven ultimately graduated with 12



from Cadet Command, seven from West Point, 17 from Special Forces as well as the Lone Ranger from the First Ranger Battalion.

The CDQC is divided into six total blocks of instruction each lasting approximately a week.

**PRE-SCUBA:** The first block of instruction is designed to remove students who will not meet the physical requirements from the course along with the students who are not comfortable subsurface. Panicking subsurface could cause a student to seriously injure himself and/or team members in the subsequent blocks of instruction.

**POOL WEEK:** In the second block of instruction students are introduced to compressed air in a safe and controlled environment, the pool. Tested events include Equipment Ditch and Don, the One Man Confidence Swim and the Two Man Confidence Swim.

**ADVANCED OPEN CIRCUIT:** The third block of instruction focuses on certification as Navy Master Divers and exposure to different types of peace time operations conducted by military divers. The only must pass event in the third block on instruction is a 130 foot dive. Other training includes ship bottom searches, ocean floor search techniques and body recovery.

**INTRODUCTION TO CLOSED CIRCUIT:** The fourth block of instruction introduces students to the Dräger Re-breather System. Students conduct a series of day and night navigation dives culminating in a must pass 1500 meter navigation dive. The navigation dives are graded on a sliding scale which takes into consideration the time taken to cover the distance as well as the accuracy of the navigator.

**ADVANCED CLOSED CIRCUIT:** The fifth block of instruction familiarizes students with the tactical applications of the Dräger System. Training includes Depth Proficiency Dives, Beach Landing Procedures.

**WATER INFILTRATION CRAFT:** The final block of instruction focuses on the Combat Rubber Raiding Craft, or zodiac. Training included building and troubleshooting the CRRC, as well as airborne and Helocast infiltration ops, and Beach Landing Procedures.

-R. Atticus  
S. Blair,

c/MAJ







The run is named in honor of Captain Philip B. Piazza, a veteran of the Pacific Theater in World War II. Captain Piazza served in the U.S. Army's 5307 Provisional Unit, more widely known as Merrill's Marauders.

He retired in Clemson, SC, and lived there until his passing on May 29, 2011.

CPT Piazza was a major supporter of the Clemson Ranger Club, ROTC, and the University in general. Every year, CPT. Piazza came to the ROTC awards ceremony to present the award, named in his honor, to the outstanding Clemson ranger for that year.

The Clemson Ranger Club is always extremely excited to put on this event, which is in memory of a worthy patriot that gave so much to this great nation. This year's run was quite successful, making over \$1000 from day-of registration, alone. Find us on Facebook, and join us next year!

[facebook](#)

## Recent and Upcoming Events

- **POW/KIA Ceremony 19 SEP 13**  
The Fightin' Tiger Battalion conducts a joint ceremony with Air Force ROTC to honor prisoners of war both past and present as well as those lost soldiers killed in action.
- **ML III Field Training Exercise 21 SEP 13**  
Third year ROTC cadets will receive extra training the morning of the 21st with land navigation and a field leader reaction course.
- **Day Land Navigation Training 03 OCT 13**  
The Fightin' Tiger Battalion will execute land navigation at Fants Grove in Clemson's Experimental Forest. This training will test cadets' ability to find points in the forest using only a map, a compass, and grid coordinates. Land navigation tests a cadet's spatial reasoning skills, physical fitness, attention to detail, ability to stay calm in an unfamiliar environment, and resiliency.
- **Tactics I Lab 17 OCT 13**  
The Fightin' Tiger Battalion will practice basic squad level tactical maneuvers, such as the conduction of a squad attack, in order to further their knowledge of squad level operations.
- **ML III Tactics I Lab 24 OCT 13**  
Third year ROTC cadets will receive extra training in squad level tactical operations in order to enhance their skills and prepare them for Warrior Forge 2014 and future officership in the United States Army.
- **Ranger Challenge 24-27 OCT 13**  
The Ranger Challenge team will compete against over 40 other colleges in our Brigade on a variety of Army-based skill sets including grenade throwing, basic rifle marksmanship, rucking, an obstacle course, and a zodiac-based water course, among other events.
- **Fall Field Training Exercise 1-3 NOV 13**  
The Fightin' Tiger Battalion will conduct a weekend long training exercise in order to test cadets' knowledge of land navigation, tactical operations, and give them experience in the field. All training will be conducted at Fants Grove under the supervision of ROTC instructors and ML IVs.

To the right is the class picture of the new MS III cadets in 'full battle rattle' after their first advanced lab. 'Battle Rattle' includes Kevlar (helmet), knee/elbow pads, eye pro, and LBV (load bearing vest).



Fighting Tiger Battalion: September 2013

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in becoming a cadet? Con-  
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"This

We'll

Defend!"