

Cleveland's Army ROTC Newsletter

Fall 2019



A note from our PMS, LTC Brian Ferguson

Alumni, parents, friends and cadets of Cleveland's Army ROTC,

I waited to send this newsletter out until after Army **Night at Progressive Field**, but in hindsight I think I could have published two separate newsletters covering all of the amazing things the battalion has done in recent weeks and months.

Cadet Summer Training (CST) was a success for all of our cadets. As you read in subsequent pages, the cadets learned a lot and travelled extensively before and after spending time at Fort Knox. CST is the largest single training event that the Army holds each year. Our cadets and I were a part of it. However, I didn't fully realize the coincidence of my position until I was driving home from camp. I represented JCU as the Transportation Branch Chief for CST. I'm pretty sure no one at Cadet Command associated JCU with its Transportation Corps heritage; I certainly didn't make the connection until later. While I have served for 20 years now as a Field Artillery officer, I feel akin to those graduates of the program who served in the Transportation Corps. I salute you all. It's truly a tough job and someone has to do it.

This summer we finalized the renewal of the formal agreement between Cadet Command and John Carroll University. The previous document had not been updated for over thirty years. The significance of the agreement is that it forms the basis for all of our agreements with our partner and affiliate schools in our battalion.

Starting my second year as the PMS has afforded me some perspective. We're doing a lot of things very well. Our social media outreach, branding, and planning a rigorous, but professional academic year are some of the things that come to mind. That perspective also allows me to look at the program and see where we need to improve. Two areas that need emphasis are Basic Rifle Marksmanship and our preparation for the Army's new Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). The ACFT will replace the legacy test of push-ups, sit-ups, and a two-mile run which has been the test of record for a long time. The new test retains a two-mile run, but it will occur after stations like deadlifts, hanging leg tucks, hand-release pushups, medicine ball throws and the 'sprint-drag-carry.' After having taken it, I can honestly say that we will soon be producing an

Army of very fit Soldiers. Starting this fall and continuing in the spring we will incorporate these events into our fitness regimen.

The second area where we need to improve is on Basic Rifle Marksmanship. We were able to get to a rifle range last spring at Camp James A. Garfield (formerly Ravenna Arsenal), however some cadets continued to struggle at summer camp. In the regular Army, low scores would mean spending more time putting lead down range. However, in a resource- and time-constrained environment, we don't have that luxury. To combat this training shortfall, I intend to install a non-firing, laser range simulator in the basement of the ROTC house. MSG



Achterberg and I were able to check out one at Fort Knox. It won't be free for us, but it could mean sending experts and sharpshooters to camp and eventually to Army units instead of marksman or unqualified shooters. Leaders need to lead in all aspects of Soldiering. This is where I will need your help. **The system will cost a little over \$4,000** to fully implement. We need to

purchase the software and a laser-equipped rifle (or two) from the company. On our end, we need to build or purchase a standalone computer, purchase a projector, a screen, and do some minor work to prep the basement. Please know this is not a capital campaign being run from Military Science. The costs are directly related to our curriculum and the long term success of our graduates. The department will pay for it with or without support, but if you're interested in helping us achieve the goal faster, please don't hesitate to join our effort. When we're done, you can even come by and test your skills.

Thank you all for your continued and unwavering support of our various programs and initiatives. I mean it when I say, this is *our* battalion. To our **alumni, thank you for sending in your pictures, stories, and desire to connect.** Please continue to send them in. The Pershing Rifles room continues to gain artifacts, but I still have wall space if you have something you want to share. This year our battalion has swelled to over 70 cadets. While that might mean greater logistical requirements or more paperwork, the entire team here welcomes it. Our only consequence is finding larger spaces for our morning PT formation and a larger patrol base when we go to the field.

Summer and Fall 2019 Events . . .

SUMMER 2019

- **SUMMER PROGRAMS!** Cadets head to summer Basic and Advanced camps, CULP, Project Go, Airborne and Air Assault Schools.

AUGUST 2019

• SCHOOL OF THE PACK

PROGRAM: Over 20 new MS1 Freshmen joined JCU on campus for ROTC orientation, School of the Pack. The program was led by Cadet Jay Leffler. With food, water balloons and pushups, what else do you need?



SEPTEMBER 2019:

• VERY SPECIAL GUEST JUMP WITH U.S. BLACK DAGGER PRECISION PARACHUTE TEAM!

An extremely lucky group of Cadets and Faculty were selected to jump with the U.S. Army Black Dagger Team. They came from JCU and from Cleveland's Army ROTC partner schools. This was surely a once in a lifetime opportunity! All experienced a tandem parachute jump with the most skilled parachutists in the world! Represented were CWRU, CSU, Tri-C and JCU!



- **ARMY NIGHT AT CLEVELAND INDIANS BASEBALL!** What a spectacular night! The Wolfpack's Color Guard did us proud! Several cadets took the oath given by General John Murray. 2 Cadets were presented with **tuition checks totally over \$250,000!** Plus a spectacular display by the U.S. Army Black Daggers Precision Parachute Team! Amazing! Too bad the Tribe did not do as well against Philly!

OCTOBER 2019:

- **STAFF RIDE - FORT NIAGARA, NEW YORK.** A group of Cadets toured the area and learned about the Battle of Queenston from the War of 1812.



2019 SUMMER: CADET DUTTA (CWRU '22)



ProjectGO is a great opportunity for cadets interested in learning about foreign cultures and languages. Through ProjectGO, I was able to live in New Delhi, India for two months while learning about Indian history and culture through total immersion and achieving an intermediate level of understanding in Hindi. Not only did I interact with Indians on a daily basis in order to get to class, buy food, etc., but also lived with a host family who taught me about Indian beliefs and mannerisms.

I visited many historical sites such as the Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, and Victoria Memorial to learn about the significance of each landmark to the Indian people and about the different periods in Indian history they represent.

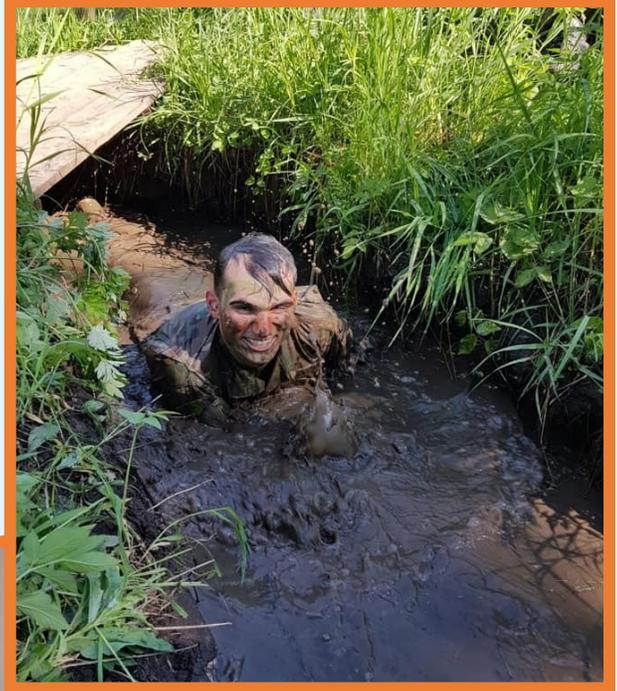
Adding a military element to the program, we visited the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA), an Indian think tank which conducts "objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defense and security," and the US Embassy in New Delhi. At the IDSA, we met with representatives from each branch of the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy) who briefed us on India's capabilities, perceived threats, and its goals for the future. Meanwhile, in the US Embassy, we met with the embassy's military attaché and spoke with three Foreign Area Officers about the US's military cooperation and strategic partnership with India. Furthermore, as ProjectGO is open to all branches, I learned a lot about the Navy and Air Force through discussions with other ROTC cadets from different services. I strongly recommend that other cadets interested in other countries and cultures apply to the once in a lifetime opportunity that is ProjectGO.

मैंने भारत में अपना समय प्यार किया।
(*"I loved my time in India"*)



2019 SUMMER: CADET WHITNEY (CSU '20)

CDT Whitney participated in the Cultural Understanding & Leadership Program this summer in Lithuania. These photos are from the King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion (KMHB) obstacle course. KMHB is stationed in Panevėžys. They practiced mechanized dismount/mount security and reacted to contact with the Lithuanian Army. Included in this program was a 6-day field exercise.

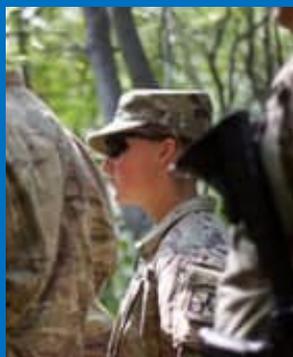


2019 SUMMER: CADET ZIDEK (JCU '20)

The Cultural Understanding & Leadership Program (CULP) was a great opportunity for me. I made friends at the Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School where I helped them practice their English. We also visited Buddhist temples and medieval ruins to learn more of Thai culture and history. To experience Thai culture I received lessons in Muay Thai, Thai dancing, and rice farming. I trained at the 34 ft jump and rappel tower as well as their Disaster Preparedness Center. We ended our CULP mission with a visit to a rural elementary school to spend time with the kids there and play games with them at recess. It was a great trip and I really hope more people will get the opportunity to get so immersed in another culture.



2019 SUMMER: CADETS LEADING AND COMPETING!



At Fort Richardson I was with Charlie Co 3rd Battalion, 509th Airborne Infantry. During my time with the unit, I was able to qualify on multiple weapons systems including the M4, M249, and M240B. Additionally my company executed team and squad live fires. During the first two weeks I was able to see the final steps of the planning process and different levels of prep-work that goes into setting this type of range up. From team level rehearsals to briefings with the BC, every aspect of the training was thoroughly thought out and every safety-risk was analyzed. The final week was spent in the field executing the live fires. I walked each lane with the PL, PSG, CO, and 1SG; this allowed me to watch the full-speed execution of battle drills that I've been practicing for the last couple years. This experience taught me so much: from filling out a DRAW to safely executing a live fire. Through shadowing the PL, XO, and CO I was able to observe the daily life of an Infantry Officer and be placed in leadership roles that I would not otherwise get to experience until I commission. I can confidently say that I am now much more prepared to commission and lead my future Soldiers. - Cadet Kiser (CWRU '20)



Two more Cadet Summer Training graduates! **Cadets Plant and Kullik (both CSU '20)** are as always leading the way! Great job guys, next step Commissioning!

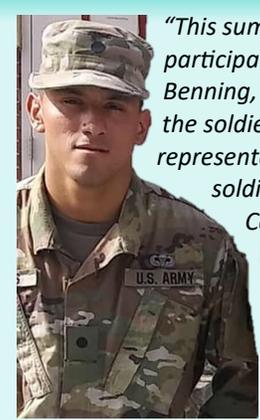
Airborne School was a great opportunity to meet & talk with a wide range of soldiers, from senior officers, to junior enlisted, & even soldiers who were with JSOC, and learn from their experience in the military. Jump school instilled in me the importance of personal courage in my Army career and in life outside the Army. I am grateful for being given the chance to go to Airborne School; it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to jump out of an airplane in flight & is something I will never forget. -**CDT Haas**



(left to right) **1LT Haas (JCU '17); COL Haas (JCU '89) and Cadet Haas (JCU '21)**



Wolfpack Battalion's **Cadet Cory Beam (JCU '20)** 5th Regiment Advanced Camp



"This summer I was blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. The training is very strenuous on the soldiers. All branches of the military are represented. My class 026-19 started with 526 soldiers and graduated 389 paratroopers! The Cadre said 'our class went through the hardest cycle they have seen' as we had longer days and shorter weeks of training. We had to pack in learning how to jump from the 34 foot towers, mock doors, sling landertrainer, pulling slips from the suspended harness, and practice emergency procedures on the aircraft and in mid air. We learned how to conduct proper parachute landing falls and mass exit techniques all in 8 days of training. This would prepare soldiers to have the courage to jump from a C17 Globemaster or a C130J Hercules at an altitude of 1250 feet above ground level. This wonderful experience taught me it takes courage and discipline to jump from an in-flight aircraft and that you have to trust everything will go as planned. I am thankful for this opportunity. It forced me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to grow in my Army career." - **Cadet Reyes (JCU '21)**



CDT Reyes leads the pack completing in pre-Airborne School APFT

2019 FALL & FALLING WITH THE BLACK DAGGERS & ROTC!



left to right: Ms. **Laura Atkins** (Assistant Dean, Boler College of Business); Dr. **Alan Miciak** (Dean, Boler College of Business); **CDT Haas** (JCU '20); **CDT Schleitwiler** (JCU '20); **CDT Cook** (CSU '22); **CDT Riley** (CSU '22); and Dr. **Walter Simmons** (Associate Dean, Boler College of Business. All jumped with **U.S. Army Black Daggers** team!!



Cadet Cook from Cleveland State University jumped with the Special Operations Parachute Team the Black Daggers. Congratulations and great job!



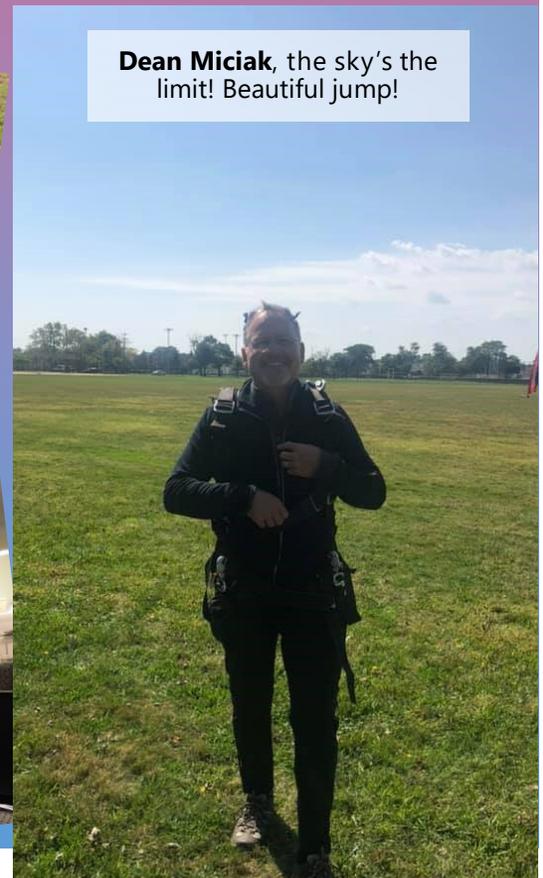
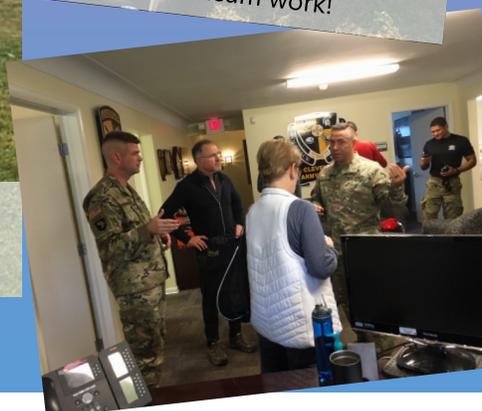
Dean Miciak, the sky's the limit! Beautiful jump!



Head Baseball Coach **Matt Englander** from Case Western Reserve University jumped too! Awesome jump!



Congrats **Victoria Berry** from Tri-C! Great team work!



LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN ACTION!



The 7th Brigade "Bold Warrior" Command team with Cadre & Cadets welcome **GEN John M. Murray**, Commanding General United States Army Futures Command, with **Command SGM Michael A. Crosby** to the **Cleveland Indians Ball Park** on 21 September 2019. Cadets got first hand information about the Army of the future!



gratitude

With special thanks to:

Cleveland's Army ROTC Leadership want to say **thank you** to **Parker Hannifin** for their outstanding support of the Cleveland ROTC Battalion during Army Night at the **Cleveland Indians** game on September 21, 2019. Their support played an important role in the success of the evening.

GEN (ret) Carter Ham, Jo'Anna Thomson, CPT Caleb Hopka, Stella Beech, Ron Smetana, Brian Barren, Ryan Hovanec, Bridgette Seip, Tony Stenulson, Sasha Davidson, Kim Gordon, The Black Daggers, JCU Faculty, Staff and Students! For all your efforts in making the event a success I am very grateful!
- MAJ Timothy Jenkins

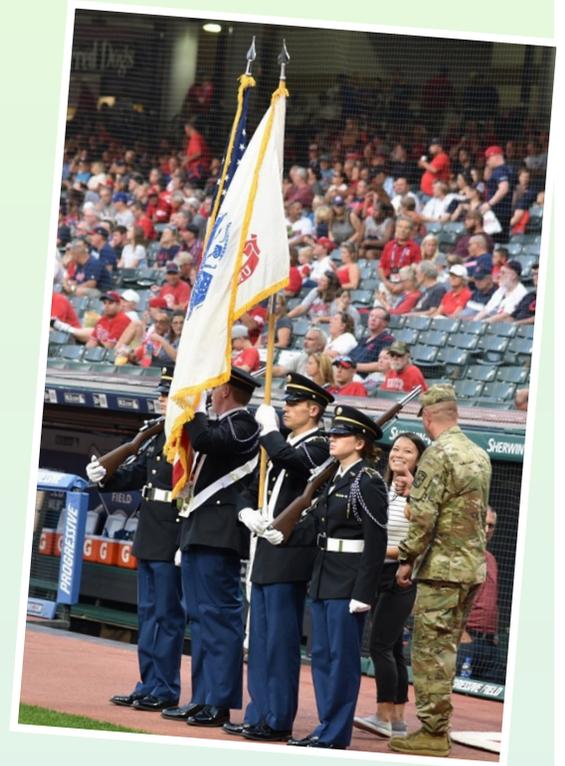


Wolfpack Army ROTC came together for a little Chaos Ball. Good times and we didn't break any Cadre!

PLAY BALL!



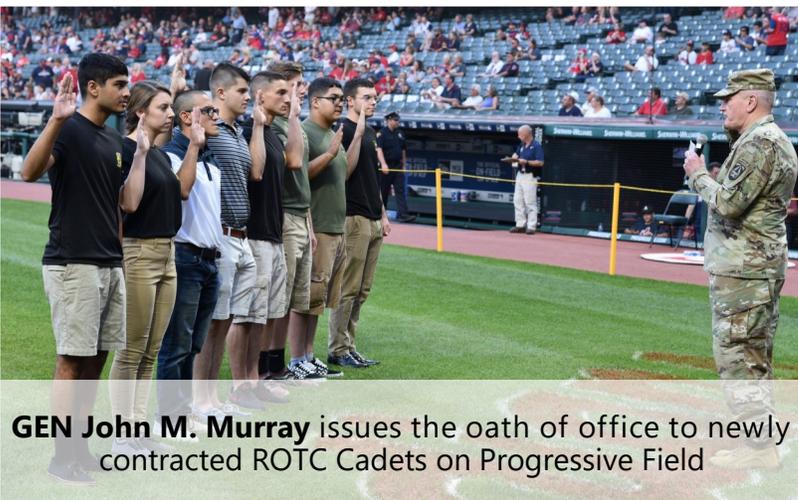
Color Guard: sets the tone for a great, proud event! Thanks to **MAJ Timothy Jenkins** for your management skills!



CSM Michael A. Crosby and ROTC scholarship recipients



The U.S. Army Black Daggers Team: major crowd thriller!



GEN John M. Murray issues the oath of office to newly contracted ROTC Cadets on Progressive Field



News from Alumni & ROO Corner

ALUMNI UPDATES!



LTC Michael Story writes....that he ran into Gen (R) Ham at an event in San Antonio! He also talked about the Class of 2000 and having their 20 year reunion possibly timed around the ROTC Class Spring Awards Dinner.

Pictured from left to right are:

- Gen Ham ('76)
- LTC Michael Story ('00, MS)
- MAJ Brian Andes ('03, JG)

Thank you for your update LTC Story!

LTC Story is the *Battalion Commander of the 264th Medical Battalion at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston*



Congratulations 2LT Pacalo ('18) for earning the coveted Ranger tab! Rangers Lead the Way!



ROO CORNER!

2LT Robinson (CWRU '19) and **Mr. Mac (Joe McCluskey)** scored a photo op with **CSU President Harlan Sands!** He's a Navy vet and we got him to say "Go Army"!!!



DATE *Fall 019*

Wolfpack Colleges

\$600,000+

Over Six-hundred thousand bucks!

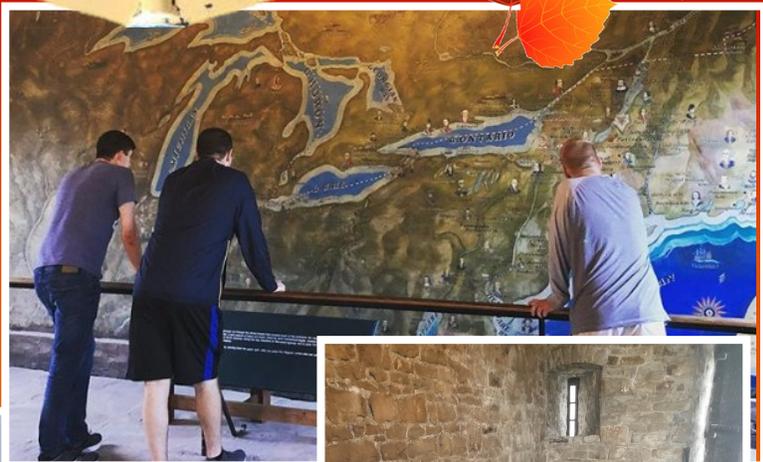
Interested? Call:
MEMO (216) 397-4286

U.S. ARMY

1234 5678 9876 543210

This semester, we've awarded over \$600,000 in tuition to our Wolfpack affiliated schools & Cadets!

2019 Fall: Staff Ride Trip to Fort Niagara!



The first weekend of October found a group of Cadets led by **MAJ Andrew Bischoff** in Fort Niagara, New York. They completed a staff ride around the Fort and were therefore able to satisfy a commissioning requirement. They *"analyzed terrain and reviewed command decisions along with other factors regarding the Battle of Queenston from the War of 1812."*



History :

The British held the post but were forced, by treaty, to yield it to the U.S. in 1796. Ft. Niagara was recaptured by the British in 1813. It was ceded to the U.S. a 2nd time in 1815 - after the War of 1812.

This was Fort Niagara's last armed conflict, and it thereafter served as a peaceful border post. Fort Niagara was a barracks and training station for American soldiers throughout both World Wars. The last army units were withdrawn in 1963. Today, the U.S. Coast Guard occupies the site.





• Save these 2020 dates •

Dining Out
AWARDS DINNER
Friday, April 24th

Ceremony for
COMMISSIONING
Saturday, May 16th

DONATE TODAY



Help Support Cleveland's Army ROTC

- Army ROTC funds are used exclusively to increase quality of student life for our cadets. Your donations give the Professor of Military Science the flexibility to augment monies received from the Army and universities
- Your gift will impact the areas of cadet morale, recruiting and retention, training, physical fitness and team building
- Your support makes an immediate and lasting effect and is greatly appreciated by the cadets of the Wolfpack Battalion

To make a gift by mail: Please make your check payable to:
Cleveland's Army ROTC and mail to:

John Carroll University
Department of Military Science
1 John Carroll Blvd.
University Heights, Ohio 44118

To make a gift online: [Click here to give](#) - please select "**Other**" as the designation. Then enter: "**Department of Military Science**"

For questions about gifts to Cleveland's Army ROTC please contact John Carroll University's Karen Krakowiak in Advancement, at (216) 397-4338 or kkrakowiak@jcu.edu or call our ROTC office at (216) 397-4421

