Welcome to BGSU!

Ms. Harrell

Krystel Harrell was born in De Bilt, Netherlands to Air Force (RET) SMSGT Kenneth and Delores Harrell. After receiving her undergraduate degree in Economics at the University of Central Florida, she joined the U.S. Army in 2008 and commissioned through Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia, as a Signal Officer. While active, she deployed with 176th Signal Company, 1/25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. After finishing her contract, she attended Webster University in Oklahoma and received an MBA and an M.A. in Information Technology Management.

FTX at Oak Openings

On 14-15 Oct. 2016, the Fighting Falcon Battalion went to Oak Openings Metropark to attend their first Field Training Exercise (FTX) of the year. Throughout this event, cadets’ skills were tested in multiple areas, including land navigation, ruck marching, patrol base operations and field craft, and tactics. For many, it was their first experience with ruck marching and staying in the field in a patrol base. Also, they were able to see firsthand the basic planning and leadership required to set up patrol bases and conduct squad-sized attacks, ambushes, reconnaissance, and how to react to contact. Keep learning all you can to be the Army’s future leaders, Falcons!

Top Left: Cadets conduct a tactical road march through Oak Openings to get to their patrol base site.

Left: CDT Steiner gives instructions to CDT Crawford during a tactical exercise.
**Bold Warrior Challenge 2016**

This year, cadets from the Ranger Challenge club competed in the Bold Warrior Challenge. This challenging event took place on 21 Oct. and 23 Oct 2016, at BGSU. First, there was an APFT (2 minutes of push-ups, 2 minutes of sit-ups, and a 2 mile run). Then there was a 1800m team sprint at The Doyt football stadium. Here, each cadet would sprint 100m in full ACUs before tagging another team member who would then sprint. Each team member did this twice, for a total of 200m per cadet and 1800m for the team. The next event was the 6-mile road march, which took place on the road surrounding The Doyt. In this event, participants competed individually and the times of each member were averaged. After this, they moved to Memorial Hall to complete a mental challenge, which consisted of matching flags to various facts about the countries they represented. Once this was completed, the next event was the infamous one-rope-bridge, which was completed out in the field behind Memorial Hall. The next and final event was a flexed-arm hang. The team qualified for the brigade-wide competition at Fort Knox, KY, but was unable to attend.

**Veterans’ Day 5K/Oaks Dining Event/Royal Greens**

The Fighting Falcon Battalion has been busy with extracurricular activities this year. The Royal Greens club continues its tradition of community service by cleaning up a portion of Route 75 and helping the Kiwanis set up their community pancake breakfast. Cadets also put on an event at the Oaks Dining Hall at BGSU, where they gave out prizes during a push-up contest, let students sample MREs, and talked to students about the ROTC experience. Also, the Veterans’ Day 5K took place again on campus, with many cadets participating as runners and helpers during the event.

**Military Ball 2016**

The 2016 Military Ball was a success, with the Army and Air Force ROTC cadets coming together to plan a great event. We were honored to have many special guests, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Mario Aloise, Colonel Theodore G. Jenkins, USMC (Ret.), Brigadier General Donald E. “Gene” Kirkland, USAF, and a recent inductee into the inaugural National Army ROTC Hall of Fame, Dr. J. Robert Sebo. The event consisted of many traditions, such as posting and retiring the colors and a POW/MIA table. Also, we had the privilege of hearing Dr. Sebo speak about his experience with leadership and how we should apply it in our future careers as leaders. The night ended with dancing and cadets, cadre, families, and friends forging bonds and building camaraderie that will hopefully carry on for years to come.
After commissioning into the Medical Service Corps in December 2015, I attended BOLC at Ft. Sam Houston, in San Antonio, TX from January to March. In Medical BOLC you learn how to lead a medical platoon and run an aid station in numerous levels. After BOLC graduation, I reported to my first duty station at Ft. Riley, KS as a Battalion Medical Operations Officer for 2-34 AR, 1 ABCT, 1 ID. Upon arrival to my unit, I became responsible for the medical readiness for the Battalion, as well as becoming the Platoon Leader for the medic platoon. I learned a lot from my first field exercise by running the aid station.

The greatest challenge and learning experience I have encountered thus far was at the National Training Center I recently finished in Ft. Irwin, CA. I spent 14 days in the desert, running the aid station for the BN, planning medical operations for the BN, and being shadowed by Observer Controllers helping myself and my platoon sergeant. I learned so much on how my job contributes to the Battalion. My next journey begins in October as my brigade begins a rotation to South Korea for 9 months.

I offer a few words of wisdom to the future leaders. First of all, do everything whole-heartedly focused on leading your soldiers from the front. Secondly, keep an open mind at all times and live in the moment one step at a time because your time goes ever so quickly. And lastly, do not be afraid to make mistakes as long as you learn from them and better yourself and your team from those mistakes.

I am open for any questions anyone may have on commissioning, medical service corps, or active duty life.

Talons Up!

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Fall 2016 through Thanksgiving

The Fighting Falcon Battalion has done quite a lot, in addition to Military Ball and the FTX. There has been an APFT every month and a lot of new lessons have been taught at labs. These include patrol base operations and field craft, radio communication, orienteering and land navigation, a platoon competition with a variety of events to test physical fitness and tactical competency, patrolling, operations order and troop leading procedures, a Leader’s Reaction Course, and a financial briefing, where cadets received advice on how to be more financially savvy once they enter the military or their civilian careers. Also, seven cadets received a German Armed Forces Badge earlier in the semester, where they had to show competency in pistol marksmanship, first aid, putting on chemical gear, and passing a physical fitness test and ruck march. It’s been a great year so far, keep up the good work through finals! Falcons Lead the Way!