



# Fighting Falcon Battalion NEWS

October 2016

## Welcome to BGSU!

### CPT Howell

CPT Howell comes to BGSU Army ROTC after serving as the Forward Support Company (FSC) Commander for 2nd BN, 7th Special Forces Group (A). CPT Howell enlisted in the Army in May 1995 as a 92Y, Unit Supply Specialist. He served in that capacity until September 2010 when he attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where he commissioned as a Quartermaster officer. Since commissioning, CPT Howell has served as a Platoon leader, Company XO, BN S4 and Company Commander. CPT Howell has deployed 3 times in his career, Kosovo in 2001, Iraq 2006 and Afghanistan in 2014. CPT Howell has graduated from Army Jumpmaster school, Airborne school, Air Assault school and Pathfinder school. CPT Howell is single and has 2 boys, 12 and 10.



### MSG Escalante



MSG Escalante was born in Ecuador, and entered the Army in Queens, New York in 1994. He attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and graduated as a 13B Cannon Crewmember. MSG Escalante has held various positions as a cannoneer, to include: howitzer crewman, gunner, section chief, gunnery Sergeant, platoon Sergeant, AIT Instructor, Drill Sergeant, Operations Sergeant, and First Sergeant. His assignments include, Schofield Barracks, HI, Fort Sill, OK, Fort Polk, LA, Fort Wainwright, AK, and the Headquarters Detachment, Fires Center of Excellence on Fort Sill, Oklahoma. MSG Escalante's military education includes all three levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, First Sergeant Course, Drill Sergeant School, AIT Instructor's Course, Cadre Course, Jungle Survival School, Air Assault School, and other professional development courses. MSG Escalante has completed 3 combat tours two to Iraq in 2003, 2009 and one to Afghanistan in 2011. He is a recipient of the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. He has five beautiful children, Denishia , Ashley , Fernando , Jonah, and Christian.

## New Cadets

Please welcome the following new cadets to the Fighting Falcon Battalion:

Abbey	Alvarado	Baird	Beal	Belofsky	Brunzman	Butler
Butterfield	Catalano	Childress	Chui	Cordle	Cotrell	Day
Digman	Dunnett	Ernst	Ernst	Evers	Frank	Forrest
Geyer	Hammond	Hoy	Husien	Johnson	Jones	Kelty
Latona	Lewis	Lorenzo	Mollick	Nolen	Peterson	Richards
Ryan	Tatum	Tear	Titsworth	Ueberroth	Vance	Wasilewski
Walter	Williams, C.	Williams, M.	Yambor	Young.		

We look forward to having a great semester with you all!

## A Big Summer for Past Cadets

Fighting Falcon alumni were busy this past summer with seven cadets commissioning as Second Lieutenants and two former Falcons being honored by the Army on a national scale.

### Summer Commissioning

There are seven new officers out there as Second Lieutenants: Balzer, Burnfield, and Wisniewski of UNOH and Second Lieutenants Bintz, Dawson, Duncan, and Stearns of BGSU finishing out their college careers and heading out into the world to accomplish great things. Congratulations and good luck with your careers as officers and leaders!



Top Right: MAJ Kolczynski administers the oath to 2LT Balzer of UNOH. Left: Newly commissioned 2LTs Wisniewski and Burnfield of UNOH. Bottom Right: LTC Hoppingardner administers the oath to 2LTs Bintz, Dawson, Stearns, and Duncan.

### Alumni Honored

Additionally, CPT Jeff Sowecke, who commissioned out of BGSU in 2007, and Dr. Robert Sebo, who commissioned from BGSU in 1958, were honored by the Army this summer. CPT Sowecke received the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for being an outstanding junior/company-grade officer. CPT Sowecke graduated from BGSU in 2007 with a degree in criminal justice and began his Army career in 2007. During this time, he has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, has been a company commander, and is currently stationed in Germany, as a company commander of an international seaport (BGSU Marketing and Communications). Dr. Sebo, who graduated from BGSU in 1958 with a Bachelor's of Business Administration and an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration, was one of 100, among 50 generals, to be inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame (Salem News). Dr. Sebo served six years in the Army, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant, where he was a commander of the NIKE Air Defense Company. As a civilian, Dr. Sebo has gone on to be the Owner and CEO of Paychex and receive numerous awards, including being inducted into the BGSU Army ROTC Hall of Fame in 2013.



Left: CPT Sowecke receives the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

Right: Dr. Sebo is inducted into the ROTC Hall of Fame.



Congratulations to all these individuals on their accomplishments and a job well done. Falcons Lead the Way!

# Summers Spent Abroad

Four cadets from the Fighting Falcon Battalion were fortunate enough to broaden their horizons by getting to travel abroad and/or attend special training. Cadets Gero, Fenton, Walton, and Ladden traveled abroad, going all over the world to study abroad or work with other nations' militaries. Cadet Fenton also attended the Basic Airborne Course.

Cadet Fenton attended the Basic Airborne Course, where she learned about all the equipment included in parachutes and made three Hollywood-style and 2 combat-style jumps, and studied abroad in Salzburg, Austria. While in Austria, she took a German course and visited several landmarks, including several castles, cathedrals, the Mirabellplatz, Berchtesgaden (Germany), and a salt mine. Additionally, she was even able to visit a Fighting Falcon Battalion alumni, 2LT Savage! Overall, she expanded her knowledge of different cultures and gave her a different outlook on the world.

Cadet Gero attended the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP) at a small NATO airbase, just outside of Kecskemét, Hungary. His CULP mission consisted of teaching Hungarian military members English, who need to pass a NATO English proficiency test to work at the airbase. He also visited Budapest, where he was able to admire the beautiful sites, including a castle.

Cadet Walton attended a CULP mission in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo for 21 days. While there, he conducted language exchanges with people at the Congolese American Language Institute (CALI). Additionally, he interacted with members of their military (FARDC) and not only met with officers who trained in the United States, but also toured some of their logistics camps, where he was able to camp out in tents and prepare homemade meals of chicken and goat.

Cadet Ladden participated in a CULP mission in Leipzig and Dresden, Germany. While in Germany, he qualified with the G36 rifle and the P8 pistol and went through many shooting exercises designed to develop the muscle memory for combat. Also, he attended a German Officer Army School with other international cadets and learned about the German military and officer corps, as well as how they conducted operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was also able to visit many places throughout Germany, including East Berlin and Buchenwald. He says he has "gained a newfound respect for those who lived and survived through those years."



First Row: CDT Fenton at the Basic Airborne Course.

Second Row: CDT Walton with a FARDC officer.

Third Row: Left: CDT Walton with students at the CALI.  
Middle: CDT Ladden in Germany.

Right: CDT Gero posing with the old Russian amphibious vehicle he had the opportunity to drive.

Fourth Row: CDT Fenton while touring Europe.



## Summers Spent Abroad (Cont.)

Cadets Pendleton, Wright, Snyder, and Mansaray attended Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), where they shadowed lieutenants to see how active duty Army officer life really is.

Cadet Pendleton attended CTLT in Fort Bliss, TX and observed how things worked on a platoon through brigade level by shadowing a lieutenant in the the 377th Transportation Company (Heavy), 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He participated in Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS) training, casualty evacuation (MSTC), a ground guidance course, and a convoy simulator where he was the TC of the lead vehicle in the convoy. A major lesson he learned was to not distance oneself as an officer from the enlisted. Get to know them and be friendly, while keeping it professional.

Cadet Wright attended CTLT in Fort Polk, Louisiana, where she shadowed a quartermaster platoon leader in the 5-25 F FSC Field Artillery, who was responsible for supplying the company with the items they need to be mission-ready. Her experience included learning about day-to-day operations in a motor pool and experiencing the platoon conducting very detailed training to prepare for their deployment next fall using the RVTT system, running mock supply routes and IED training, where she learned about the biometrics used for identifying terrorists who place IEDs, how to identify and spot IEDs using hand held machines, and going through an IED lane, which simulated a mission where she was Convoy Commander. A culminating lesson she learned was that a leader needs to place their soldiers first and often act as an "ultimate problem solver."

Cadet Snyder attended CTLT in Fort Hood, Texas. While there, he was shadowing a battery executive officer with the 4/5 ADA. This included the observation of many duties that accompany this position, including the operation of the various weapon systems utilized by the Air Defense Artillery. For him, the most memorable was observing the Patriot Missile System's operation firsthand.

Cadet Mansaray attended CTLT in Camp Stanley, Korea, and shadowed a platoon leader and executive officer with the 560th Medical Company Ground Ambulance (MCGA) for a month. While at CTLT, the unit was preparing for the Ulchi Freedom Guardian Exercise, which simulates an attack by North Korea and the unit's response to it. Additionally, he was able to interact with many personnel and participate in the unit leadership's planning process.

Overall, these cadets gained invaluable military and cross-cultural experience that they will be able to carry into their future Army and civilian careers to be the best leaders they can be.



Top Row: CDT Pendleton with some HETS in Fort Bliss.

Second Row: CDT Wright with her platoon at Fort Polk.

Bottom Left: CDT Mansaray in Korea.

Bottom Right: CDT Gaier with his awards at the National Youth Engineering Challenge .



## National Champion

Cadet Gaier participated in the National Youth Engineering Challenge at Purdue University and was National winner in the Bicycle and the Team Engineering Bowl events. The National Youth Engineering Challenge is an event allowing youth from around the country to showcase their knowledge and skills in a variety of engineering contests and activities, consisting of exams, skill tests and presentations. CDT Gaier's team came out on top in the Engineering Bowl and Bicycle competitions. Congratulations CDT Gaier, way to make the Fighting Falcon Battalion proud!

# In the Army Now

## 1LT Morey

### Life after ROTC

ROTC teaches young cadets how to be an army officer, in general. All successful ROTC graduates will have a basic military foundation upon which to continually develop and build over the coming years. BOLC is the next stage of development for young officers. It is here that you will learn branch-specific duties and how to be an officer in the branch you are assigned. Once BOLC and any follow-on training is complete, you will report to your first duty station and be given the responsibility and privilege of leading American soldiers. You and these soldiers are part of the one percent that volunteered to serve in the military. Always remember that fact.

I commissioned in May 2014 and branched Military Intelligence. I then attended MIBOLC at Fort Huachuca for 16 weeks. MIBOLC was broken down into three phases. Phase alpha refreshed key warrior tasks on an individual level. We did land navigation and M4 qualification, along with several others. During phase bravo, my class received instruction on key intelligence products and how to be an intelligence officer during a conventional fight with a near peer enemy. Phase charlie was the most mentally challenging. Here we learned how to provide intelligence support during stability operations and a hybrid threat conflict. My BOLC was designed to give new 2LTs an overview of their role in unified land operations and a working knowledge of the steps to intelligence preparation of the battlefield (IPB). You need to make the most of your time at BOLC. Have adventures and build relationships with your classmates. Work hard and learn as much as you can. Lieutenants should always have an open mind and constantly be learning.

After BOLC, I joined the 1-110th Infantry Regiment as the assistant S2. Your first duty station is where you will learn the daily operations of an Army unit. My very first task was to conduct HHC's sensitive items and cyclic inventory. This is a tedious task, but an important one. Not only is it important to keep accountability, but it helps new lieutenants learn what equipment the unit has. It is critical for the battalion intelligence officer to understand his or her unit's capabilities, which will allow for better analysis and educated recommendations to the battalion commander.

Once my time as the assistant S2 was over, I became the battalion S2 actual. My biggest duty here involves the mission analysis step during the Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP). As the S2, I work with the other primary staff officers to paint an accurate common operating picture (COP) for the battalion commander. I rely heavily on my team of analysts and NCOs to develop intelligence products. As a new lieutenant, you need to trust in your soldiers. They can make your job easy or difficult. You serve them. If you care about them and put forth the effort to take care of them, they will take care of you. Currently, I am deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. This operation has a hefty intelligence mission, while supporting partnership training in the fight to degrade and defeat Da'esh. This deployment is where I have learned the most about the role of a battalion intelligence officer. Here, I see how my intelligence analysis fits into the bigger picture.

My advice to you, as an ROTC cadet, is to study hard while in school. Soldiers want to be led by smart hardworking officers. While in ROTC, learn as much as you can about the military and be active in the organization.

Good Luck!

Bill Morey

1LT, MI

I can be reached for any questions or comments at the following email addresses:  
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## Fall 2016...So Far

This semester has already had its fair share of action at the Fighting Falcon Battalion. We started off the year with Family Day and New Cadet Orientation. Family Day saw the family, friends, cadets, and cadre all get together for a good time as they met one another, were introduced to cadre and staff, and watched eight cadets all sign ROTC contracts and embark on their journey to become officers. The following day, returning cadets taught new cadets the trick of the trade as they received instruction on PT, wear and care of the uniform, and drill and ceremony. Throughout the semester, various types of PT have been conducted, including plenty of company runs, PiYo dynamic stretching, 60/120s, and callisthenic circuits, to name a few. Additionally, cadets are learning a lot in class and at lab, with topics ranging from land navigation and team-building to drill and ceremony and individual movement techniques. Also, during lab, many cadets recently took the contracting oath and set out on the path to become officers. And to top it all off, the 7th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command Brigade Commander, COL Oskey, paid BGSU a visit, during which he received a campus tour and conducted a Q and A session for cadets. The semester is off to a great start; keep pushing hard Fighting Falcon Battalion!



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