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Volume 3, Issue 1

# Red Storm Newsletter

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A letter from the Red Storm Battalion to our esteemed alumni



Welcome back, St. John's University ROTC Alumni! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer. As the new school year begins, we would like to take this opportunity to fill you in on what our Cadets were doing all summer, and what is to come this semester at St. John's University.

Many of our Cadets were afforded the opportunity to attend some sort of summer training this year. We had thirteen Cadets attend Advanced Camp, fourteen Cadets attend Basic Camp, four Cadets attend Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), three Cadets attend the Cadet Command Cultural and Leadership Program (CULP), two Cadets attend Project Global Officer (GO), and one Cadet attend the U.S. Army Airborne School. They all achieved great successes in their endeavors, and are better students, Cadets, and citizens for it.

We are gearing up for the Fall 2018 semester, and as we get into the thick of our training calendar, we are planning many events. 45 Cadets are participating in the annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers run on 30 September. A number of Cadets will be making the trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Army Ten Miler on 7 October. Our Ranger Challenge team, highlighted on page eight, is hard at work preparing for the Brigade competition, which will be held at Fort Dix from 19-21 October. Our Fall FTX will once again take place at Fort Dix from 26-28 October, and the annual Turkey Bowl with the Hofstra ROTC program is scheduled for 20 November.

We hope you will follow us through another busy and exciting year. We welcome any opportunity for you to stop by and visit the program, and we will be sure to keep you posted on all upcoming events on our Facebook page. Red Storm!



*LTC Eric P. Fekete  
Red Storm ROTC PMS*



*MSG Jonathan  
Alexander, Red Storm  
ROTC SMI*

## *Greetings from LTC Fekete*

Friends & family of the Red Storm Battalion,

A new school year is upon us and is in full swing. The Cadets of this program have had an eventful summer and are eagerly working hard in this semester to prepare the program for FTXs, camps and training, and graduation and commissioning.

Over the summer, we had numerous Cadets attend both the basic and advanced camps; several attend Project Global Officer internships and Cultural Understanding & Language Program trips; MSIV Cadets participated in the Cadet Troop Leadership Training program at FT Shafter, FT Bliss, and FT Bragg; and one Cadet earned her wings at the Army Airborne School. As you can see, they were certainly busy!

As we move into the fall, the program is in full swing in our annual cycle of training Cadets in basic and advanced tactics to increase their confidence and proficiency for the upcoming field training exercise. In addition, we have completed the first round of the accessions process, with twelve of thirteen MSIV cadets being selected to serve on active duty and one electing to serve in the Army Reserve. Six of those thirteen have earned the distinction of Distinguished Military Graduate, with three of those six having earned a place in the top 10% of the national order of merit list. An amazing accomplishment!

As with any military organization, we have said farewell to members of the team and welcome new faces on board. SFC Christopher Lumpiesz has come from the NCO Academy at FT Stewart and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience; CPT Carlo Wei has joined as the Executive Officer, coming from an assignment as the Brigade S-2 in the 75<sup>th</sup> Mission Training Command; and Ms Xinia Mejia is stepping into the HRA position. In addition, we have members from the NY National Guard and the NYC Recruiting Battalion (Queens Company) working with the program to build our relationships in support of acquiring and training the future leaders of our Army. We're excited for the opportunities that will come of these relationships and look forward to expanding this program with this team.

Finally, the Red Storm Battalion celebrated a significant milestone this year, having served as a continuously operating ROTC program for 50 years. We are proud of the heritage and precedent this program has established, and look forward to many years of forging the future leaders of our Army.

Red Storm!



## *Cadet Leadership*

# The Red Storm MSIV Cadet Leadership is ready to take on a brand new semester!



C/LTC  
Vanslyke  
Battalion  
Commander



C/CSM  
Asencio  
Command  
Sergeant  
Major



C/MAJ  
Cheung  
Battalion  
Executive  
Officer



C/MAJ  
Dibble  
Battalion  
Operations  
Officer



C/CPT  
Luong  
Battalion S1



C/CPT  
Horton  
Battalion S2



C/CPT  
Fenn  
Battalion S4



C/CPT  
Yam  
Battalion S5

The Red Storm Senior Class has been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to lead the Battalion for three long years. They have learned much serving as junior leaders in the program, and now it is their turn to lead their fellow Cadets through another year. Their experience in ROTC has undoubtedly prepared them for this, and they are highly motivated and full of great ideas that will lead the Red Storm Battalion into the future.



*Cadet Alexander Cheung was given the opportunity to join Charlie Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion at Fort Bliss, TX for three weeks of training. He is a senior and is majoring in Biology.*

## Cadet Summer Training

This summer I attended (Cadet Troop Leading Training (CTLT) at Fort Bliss, Texas. CTLT was a great experience and I learned a tremendous amount about life in the Active Army.

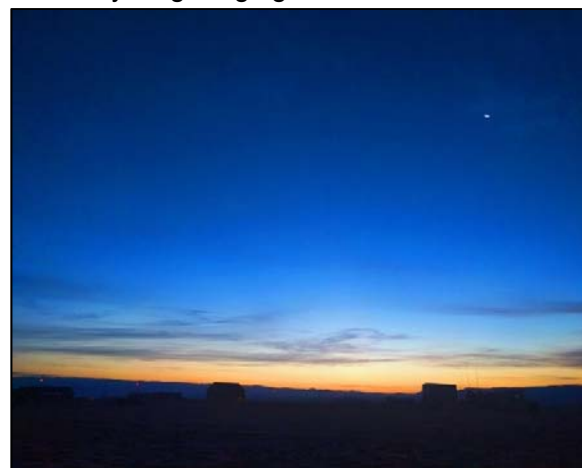
I was assigned to 2LT Gross of C Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1/1 AD. Being with C Company was a unique opportunity.

The company is a Signal element within a Brigade Engineer Battalion. C Company's function was to fulfill any of the Brigade's communication or network requirements. As a result, the Company was broken down into retransmission teams to support maneuver Company

Commanders, Brigade Tactical Operating Center (TOC) support, Battalion TOC support, and the Company Command Post. I got to see it all in action during Operation Iron Resolve. Iron Resolve is the Division's final exercise before going to the National Training Center (NTC). While I was exhausted after Advanced Camp and ready for a vacation, I learned a great deal about the Signal Corps and how it plays into the Army's Operating Concept.

C Company's personnel composition is equally unique. The Commanding Officer is a Signal Officer that served as an Infantry LT, the Executive Officer is branched Engineer, and 2LT Gross is branched Armor. As a result, I had a spectrum of experiences to learn from. On top of that, the Soldiers of C Company were extremely welcoming and respectful. They were very considerate and taught me everything ranging from Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services

(PMCS) of vehicles to setup of their equipment including the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) and the OE-254, a ground-based antenna. In the short time, I got to know everyone pretty well and I wanted to stay with unit and go to NTC with them. I did not get to see much of El Paso because it was so busy. It is a small price to pay in exchange for getting to spend ten days out in the desert for professional development. CTLT



was an eye-opening experience. It also solidified Signal Corps as first on my Branch Preference List. I highly recommend CTLT for every Cadet regardless of branch interest and assignment.



*Cadet Lauren O'Halloran attended Project Global Officer (GO) through Marquette University. She spent just under two months in Oman, attending classes and exploring the country. She is a junior and is majoring in History.*

## Cadet Summer Training

My experience for Project GO was one of many emotions, first with the excitement of being picked for Marquette University's Oman program in the Middle East and then the sudden trepidation of being away for 2 months. My first



week started with a 6-day beginners course at Marquette University's campus, located in downtown Milwaukee. There, I met 8 Cadets from both Army and Air Force ROTC programs from around the nation. Within the six-day period we learned the Arabic alphabet, gave briefs on Omani culture, and talked one-on-one with the staff at Marquette supporting our journey abroad. On the sixth day we left Milwaukee

and drove to Chicago O'Hare International airport and met up with 11 more intermediate and advanced Arabic speaking Cadets.

As we arrived in Oman and settled into life in Nizwa, we got to know one another and our prior experiences within ROTC. I learned not only from the surrounding environment and the Omani people but also from the Cadets. Everyone was welcoming and there was a camaraderie we shared from being so far from home. The University of Nizwa impressed all of us on our first visit due to how welcoming the Dhad Institute for TASOL (Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages) staff were and the enthusiasm our Arabic teachers displayed about starting lessons and incorporating their dialect and culture into our education. The purpose of Language Partners was to only speak Arabic and talk to me with vocabulary I had learned that day. I made many friends by talking to my Language Partners, Rahema and Nusyba, and the students on the campus. We were afforded the privilege of being invited into families homes, attending a wedding, participating in a ritual celebration marking the end of Eid al Fatr and traveling throughout the country the Ramadan Break.

On the weekends when we weren't studying or in class, Cadets would go

on excursions planned by the University of Nizwa and DHAD Institute which allowed us to go sightseeing and experience the Omani culture. My weekends abroad featured mountain climbing, cliff jumping, hiking, swimming, and museum/mosque touring. Oman features an array of different climates and terrain features such as Temperate Mountains – which we camped out on one night; deserts – which we



toured in Jeeps; tropical climates – Salalah to the South had dense rain forests and a 130 ft tall waterfall we visited. Wadis – fresh water springs located in every part of Oman which we swam in; beaches – we boat taxied out to a small island and picnicked there for the day; and old forts/cities – archival sites we were able to visit with a guide to explain their history. I found my Project GO experience to be enlightening and it allowed me to understand Middle Eastern culture.

## Cadet Summer Training

My name is Emily Simone and I am currently in my MS3 year at St. John's University. This past July, I was given the opportunity to attend US Army Airborne School. Though I have a horrible fear of heights, I accepted this personal challenge and headed out to Fort Benning, Georgia, refusing to come home unless I had wings. While I was at Airborne school, I was a member of Charlie Company, First Platoon, Fourth Stick. My initial class had over 450 Officers, NCOs, Cadets and Privates. My graduating class had roughly 270 students, 14 of which were female. Airborne School was an amazing experience consisting of two weeks of intense training that prepared us for a final week where we jumped out of either a C-130 or a C-17 five times.

Prior to jump week, Airborne students learned about the gear we were jumping with, the aircrafts we were jumping from, how to properly exit an aircraft, how to handle emergency situations and how to perform a proper parachute landing fall (also known as PLF). In order to properly simulate for our training, the Airborne Sergeant who ran the course had us practice how to fall constantly. We learned how to fall off two-foot-high landings, five-foot-high zip lines, twelve-foot-tall swing landing trainers and thirty-four-foot-tall towers. All of our fall practice prepared us to fall from 1,250 feet in the sky.

In my Airborne experience thus far, I have conducted three jumps without gear (also known as 'Hollywood') and two with full combat loads. My first jump was a day, Hollywood jump out of a C-130. On my short flight prior to jumping, I was extremely nervous. I don't remember anything in the time between being in line in the aircraft and being in the sky, but the rush I got when I was finally falling in the sky was indescribable. Putting my trust in the training helped me to overcome my fears.

My second jump was much similar to my first as it was also a day, Hollywood jump out of a C-130, but my third jump differed as it was my first night, Hollywood jump, out of a C-17. I was not a big fan of the C-17 as it was much bigger than the C-130 and I was very intimidated by being in the dark. As a result of my uneasiness, I sprained my ankle. My fourth jump was a day, combat load jump out of a C-130. Combat jumps consisted of students not only wearing a parachute and a reserve, but also a ruck strapped to our legs and a weapons case attached at our side. When we were 250 feet off the ground we would drop our gear so that we may be able to conduct a proper parachute landing fall.

My final jump was a night, combat load jump out of a C-130. After landing on my fifth jump I became extremely overwhelmed with joy at the fact that I can conquer my fears not once, not twice, but five times. This opportunity to push the boundaries of my comfort made me more confident as a person and as a leader. I loved every second of Airborne school from 'embracing the suck' to receiving my wings at graduation and know that this was an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.



*Cadet Emily Simone attended the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. She graduated and received her jump wings, which she will proudly display on her uniform. She is a junior and is majoring in Criminal Justice.*





*Cadet Nicholas Vanslyke attended Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY. The event is the culminating event for an ROTC Cadet, and a requirement to be commissioned into the U.S. Army. He is a senior and is majoring in Criminal Justice.*

## *Cadet Summer Training*

At first, Advanced camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky was a dreaded experience, one that I wanted to get over with as soon as possible. Horror stories of getting lost during land navigation, leading strenuous patrols and of course, the heat, clouded my mind throughout the entirety of my MSIII year. My mentality while getting on the plane full of young college students dressed in polos and khakis was to simply go through the motions, hopefully learn something, and get through these next 30 days.



Upon arriving at the gates of Fort Knox, I remember feeling envious of my friends in previous regiments whom had already graduated and went on to enjoy their summers. This put me in a negative state of mind from the start. But then, something changed when I had realized the 39 other Cadets in my platoon were in the exact same boat I was. This presented two options for us;

work together and get through this or work individually and fall apart.

Upon this realization, the beauty of Advanced Camp was revealed. It is not about who can conduct a flawless ambush, who found all their land navigation points, or which lucky participant was able to conquer the pop-up range. It is about finding within myself the ability to persevere, to work with a group of my peers towards a common goal despite the fact that we just met, and to be a part of something bigger than myself.

My experience at Advanced Camp taught me that peer-to-peer trust is crucial to mission success, all the while establishing a mutual respect for the variety of ways strangers from across the nation decided to attack problems that pushed the physical, intellectual and emotional boundaries of a platoon.



*Pictured is the 2018 St. John's Red Storm Ranger Challenge Team. They were picked following a strenuous try-out, and will push their limits further to prepare for the Ranger Challenge Competition.*

*From left to right:*

*CDT Josey (MSI)*

*CDT Tam (MSIII)*

*CDT Horton (MSIV)*

*CDT Smith (MSII)*

*CDT Lynch (MSII)*

*CDT Jenkins (MSII)*

*CDT Reid (MSIII)*

*CDT Morin (MSIV,  
Team Captain)*

*CDT O'Neill (MSII)*

*CDT Nikolatos (MSI)*

*CDT Simone (MSIII)*

*CDT Ishmail (MSII)*

*CDT Rodriguez (MSIII)*

*CDT Filosa (MSI)*

## *Ranger Challenge 2018*



On September 15, St. John's Army ROTC conducted Ranger Challenge team try-outs to determine the team for the 2018 Ranger Challenge event on 19-21 October at Fort Dix, NJ. The try-outs consisted of a sequence of events including push-ups, sit-ups, knee tucks, and a two-mile run. This was followed by a circuit that included exercises such as dead lifts, low crawling, mountain climbers, burpees, weighted squats, and hand-release push-ups. The try-out concluded with a Squad-sized situational training exercise to determine which Cadets could function and execute tasks while physically exhausted and under pressure.

After two grueling hours and an assessment of their performance, CDT Morin, the team captain selected his team for this year's event. They will continue to train on campus every morning to prepare for the competition.

The Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Dix will consist of a day of strenuous events that will push the Cadets physically and mentally. It will test their ability to think through problems and work together as a team towards success. Events will include events such as an APFT, an obstacle course, weapons assembly, a grenade assault lane, a tactical combat casualty care lane, a rucksack march, and a tug-of-war between teams.

Under CDT Morin's leadership, the members of the Ranger Challenge team will push themselves physically and mentally while preparing for the competition. They will settle for nothing less than victory at the Brigade competition, and will hopefully bring the trophy back to St. John's for us to display. Good luck!





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## *This Semester at a Glance*

We would like to thank you all for your continuing support of the Red Storm Battalion. We look forward to this upcoming semester and sharing all the great accomplishments of our program.

If you are interested in doing more for the program, please see the contact information below. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us or give us a call, we look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming events:

30 September: Tunnel to Towers Run (Brooklyn/Manhattan)

3 October: Farmingdale Reserve Center Training (Long Island)

7 October: Army Ten Miler (Washington, D.C.)

19-21 October: Ranger Challenge (Fort Dix, NJ)

26-28 October: Fall FTX (Fort Dix, NJ)

1 November: Combat Water Survival Assessment (Long Island)

2 November: Cadet Staff Ride (Location TBD)

15 November: MSIV Branch Day (St. John's campus)

20 November: Turkey Bowl (St. John's campus)

**RED STORM!**

**REDSTORM.ROTC.ALUMNI@GMAIL.COM  
(718) 990-2745, MR. JOHNSON,  
RECRUITING OFFICER**

**RED STORM BATTALION  
8000 UTOPIA PKWY  
JAMAICA, NY 11439**