



Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Yellow Jacket Battalion



Spring 2016 Events:

- Combat Water Survival Test
- Rifle Range
- Leader Development Exercise
- Dining out
- Commissioning

In this Issue:

Page

Commander's Corner	1
ROTC 100th Anniversary	2
Desk of the SMI	3
New Cadets	3
Making Headlines	4
Ranger Challenge	5
Combat Water Test	5
Hall of Fame	6
Newest Lieutenant	7
Hail and Farewell	8

~ Professor of Military Science Corner



The Fall 2015 semester proved to be no different from my previous two semesters as the Yellow Jacket Battalion Professor of Military Science. It was busy.

This semester was a little extra challenging as we welcomed two new cadre members; our new Senior Military Instructor (SMI), Master Sergeant Thomas Ray and our new Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS), Captain Lonnie Wilson. They both have brought new ideas to the program which we have already begun to

implement.

I began the semester emphasizing to our Cadets that they are here to graduate and they need to do everything to achieve that goal. I remind them that no matter how much effort they put into ROTC they cannot be successful without studying and putting in maximum effort in all of their classes. Most of them found a balance with all their military requirements, which included labs, color guard, homecoming, Ranger Challenge, football games, a LDX, CWST, and drill if they are a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

I am soliciting everyone's support as we celebrate 100 years of Army ROTC in 2016. There will be national commemorative events throughout the year. The Yellow Jacket Battalion will celebrate on 22 April 2016 with a 5K fun run in the morning and a dining-out that evening. Look for details on both events in the very near future. We would like to have as much participation as possible at both events.

Finally, I also had the pleasure of swearing in seven new Cadets that accepted the challenge to do what it takes to become a second lieutenant. This is seven times what we contracted last year. I continue to solicit your support in helping us find highly qualified students to become part of the ROTC program here at WVSU. Remember that we also have partnerships with the University of Charleston and West Virginia University of Technology to develop and commission students from those institutions as well.





Yellow Jackets

- ROTC 100th Anniversary

THE RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS: 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION AND THE U.S. ARMY, 1916-2016

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

Prepared and written by
Leo J. Daugherty III, Ph.D. USACC, Historian

West Virginia State
University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295
Fax: 304-204-4019
E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu

June 3, 2016 marks the 100th Year Anniversary of Army ROTC. The program has traveled a remarkable journey from its humble beginnings to arrive at the successful, well-organized and well-led program that exists today. More than a half-million men and women have become Army officers through the program since its inception 100 years ago. Army ROTC has provided the nation with the right leaders, at the right time. It has yielded exceptional and visionary leaders such as Sam Walton, Founder of Wal-Mart, Former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice, Samuel Alito, and countless others that achieved extraordinary success after completing the program.



The official start of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) began with the signing of the National Defense Act of 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson on June 3, 1916. While military training had been taking place in civilian colleges and universities throughout the U.S. as early as 1819, it was never formalized until the signing of the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862 when military instruction became a part of the curriculum in many colleges and universities throughout the U.S. In the post-Civil War era, Congress passed a series of measures in order to improve collegiate military training and encourage its growth. In 1866, the President Andrew Johnson detailed 20 active duty Army officers to teach military science at land-grant institutions. In 1870, small arms and equipment were authorized to be issued and in 1880, retired Army officers were granted permission to teach military science. In 1888, the War Department (forerunner of the Department of the Army) granted assistance to schools other than land-grant colleges including high schools offering military instruction. By 1900, there were 42 state and local universities and colleges with a Military Science Department.



After 100 years of service to the nation, Army ROTC retains its goal to produce officers for the Army and citizens for tomorrow, who can meet the needs of the nation and represent American communities throughout the country. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the talented team of staff members, cadre and Cadets that continue to support Army ROTC, the program is poised to continue to develop adaptive leaders who are lifetime learners, agile thinkers and problem solvers capable of succeeding in the military and the civilian sector.



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion





Yellow Jackets

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

West Virginia State
University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295
Fax: 304-204-4019
E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



~Desk of the SMI



I would like to take this opportunity to say what an honor it is to be the newest member of the Yellow Jacket Battalion.

Since the beginning of the semester I have helped the cadets focus on improving their abilities to meet current and future obligations they will face as Lieutenants in

the United States Army. They have participated in Physical Readiness Training, Combat Water Survival Training, Ranger Challenge, and the Fall Leader Development Exercise. Which they all did an outstanding job!

I look forward to the getting to know each and every one of the cadets and the opportunity to build on a very strong program. I plan on using my experience to mentor and develop these future leaders of tomorrow.

I would like to thank LTC Spears and Mr. Kinsey for welcoming and supporting my family and I during the transition from FT. Irwin, CA.

~ Welcome New Cadets



To meet the challenges that await the new Cadets, Cadre pledge to provide the best possible instruction and realistic training while offering one-on-one interaction. As new members of the Yellow Jacket Battalion, it is your duty to attend all training activities. With the combined efforts of Cadre and Senior Cadets we are confident that the Yellow Jacket BN will continue to produce the best qualified and capable Officers.

Cadet Dalton Masters-WVSU class of 2019

Cadet Sam Schoolcraft-WVSU class of 2018

Cadet Kristan Spencer-WVSU class of 2019

Cadet Marshall Tully-WVSU class of 2018

Cadet Brittany Watkins-UC class of 2018

Cadet Enya Williams-WVSU class of 2018

Cadet Delanta Yancey-WVSU class of 2018



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion



Yellow Jackets

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

West Virginia State University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295

Fax: 304-204-4019

E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



CDT Burn's Experience in South Korea

This past summer I was given the opportunity to spend a month in South Korea. I was placed in a Field Artillery unit. I worked side by side an active duty junior officer and was placed in a platoon leader position. I was given tasks that typically junior officers handle. I quickly learned how to plan ranges and other necessary training for a platoon to be successful. I also came to the quick conclusion that the road ahead of me was going to be long, but very rewarding.

Although I was consumed with daily tasks, I was extremely fortunate to explore the country and see its beauty. The officer I was paired with was in a sorority when she was in college and had, since arrival in South Korea, made friends with other officers whom were also Greek. During one weekend, we took a group of officers to an orphanage to help provide food and interact with the children. I was given the opportunity to play soccer and piano with the children living there.

The following weekend, I was taken by my LT to the Demilitarized Zone and toured the Joint Staff Area. She told me on the way, "If you don't know why you joined now, after this visit, after what I am about to show you, you will. You will feel it in your gut." It was a quick reminder of not only how proud I am to be a United States citizen, but also a member of the U.S. Army. We stood together on the boarder, gazing to the other side at which other people were standing. There are many words that could describe that experience, but I personally believe that hopeful would be the best. I stood there hopeful that these people would one day know what it is like to be free. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and become a better officer, but most of all, the best person I can be.

Cadet Ashley Burns

Air Assault School



This summer I had the opportunity to go to Air Assault School at the Warrior Training Center in Fort Benning, GA. The school was broken up into three phases. Phase I was on aircraft orientation, Air Assault and Air Movement operations, introduction to Pathfinder operations, and aero-medical evacuations. Phase II was rigging, preparing, and inspecting sling-loads. Phase III was the rappelling phase of the course.

Air Assault School was a great experience. It was very rewarding as I made new friends, learned a lot about Air Assault Operations, and I earned the honor to wear the wings. If anyone gets the opportunity to go I recommend you get ready mentally to say "Air Assault" at least a couple million times because it will happen while you're there. Even though it got to be annoying after the first day, by graduation it meant a lot more when all those that finished the course sounded off for one final time with "Air Assault!"

Cadet Vincent Bird



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion



Yellow Jackets

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

West Virginia State
University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295

Fax: 304-204-4019

E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



~2015 Ranger Challenge

WVSU competed in a rigorous two day Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Pickett, VA. Thirty-eight schools from all of the Mid-Atlantic and South-East were present and ready to take on the myriad of events that awaited them.

This year's team (from back to front, left to right):

- Cadet Savilla
- Cadet Proctor
- Cadet Tully
- Cadet Schoolcraft
- Cadet Peterson
- Cadet Williams
- Cadet Fitzgerald
- Cadet Bird
- Cadet Swauger
- Cadet Thompkins
- Cadet Ochoa



Ranger Challenge is Army ROTC's varsity sport, with competitors earning a Ranger Challenge Tab and service ribbon upon successful completion. The competition focuses on the basic infantry skills, with Squad-sized teams competing against other schools in rifle marksmanship, constructing a rope-bridge, patrolling, disassembly and reassembly of the M16A2 Rifle, the Army Physical Fitness Test, and multiple timed road marches.

~Combat Water Survival Training

The Combat Water Survival Test, commonly known as CWST, is an exciting, but challenging series of events. It is a requirement for every cadet to commission at the end of their college career. The test consists of five different events, all varying in difficulty. It can be considered a weak swimmer's nightmare, and even those proficient at swimming have trouble passing the test.

The CWST relies almost entirely on stamina in the water. The first event cadets must pass is a ten-minute swim in the Army summer PT uniform. Cadets are not allowed to touch the edge of the pool, or assist other cadets during the event. Cadets are then allotted a five-minute break before starting a five-minute tread in water, the same rules apply in this event as well.

The final series of tests are a meter drop, equipment ditch, and a 15-meter swim. These events are all done in ACU's or BDU's. The meter drop and equipment ditch are done on a 3 meter diving board, while the 15 meter swim requires cadets to swim the width of a pool in uniform, including a LBV and M-16.





CAPTAIN ROLAND BELCHER

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

West Virginia State University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295
Fax: 304-204-4019
E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



Captain Roland U. Belcher was born on June 8, 1941 to Jack Belcher and Mary Catherine (Belcher) Hawkins, in Red Jacket, West Virginia. He was the second of three children. Captain Belcher was educated in the West Virginia school system. He originally began his high school education at Liberty High School and completed it at Magnolia High School in Matewan, West Virginia. During his time in high school Captain Belcher was active in sports, social clubs and even found time to play the drums for the high school band.

Upon completion of high school, Captain Belcher attended West Virginia State College (WVSC) where he was very active in the ROTC program and swim team, of which he became team captain.

Upon graduating from State in 1963, he received his commission and went into the Army as a Second Lieutenant. He did his basic training at Ft. Benning, GA, before being transferred to Erlanger, Germany in 1964.

Prior to his transfer, Captain Belcher married his high school sweetheart, Deborah Yvonne (Taylor) Belcher. She, too, followed Captain Belcher to Germany, and it was there that she gave birth to their son, Roland Belcher, II. Captain Belcher was stationed in Erlanger for three years. During that time, he was company commander of 196th Light Infantry Brigade. As company commander Captain Belcher received numerous awards and commendations for his outstanding service.

He was sent to Vietnam in July 1967. Sadly, two weeks before the Tet Offensive on January 9, 1968, Captain Belcher along with most of his troops were killed in a fire fight. Captain Belcher and his troops' actions are detailed in the book, "Through the Valley," by James F. Humphries. After his death, a memorial was erected for him at the Army base in Erlanger, Germany. He was buried in the National Cemetery located in Philadelphia, PA. His name can also be found on Panel 34E, Row 4 of the Vietnam Memorial located in Washington, DC.

During Captain Belcher's time in the Army, he was awarded the Silver Star Citation; the Purple Heart; the Army Commendation Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon; the Combat Infantry Badge; and the Parachutist Badge.



CAPTAIN GEORGE COLEMAN



Captain George Coleman was born August 2, 1937 in Birmingham, Alabama the fifth of eight children born to Will Matthew Coleman and Norma Coleman. Captain Coleman attended Ullman High School in Birmingham, where he played varsity football. Although he was an above average student, Captain Coleman left school and enlisted in the U.S Army in 1954. His travels in the military included an assignment in South Korea. After completing his military duties, Captain Coleman enrolled in the Greene County Training School in Greene County Alabama where he excelled academically, played football and basketball, and received his high school diploma in May of 1958.

As a teenager, Captain Coleman was mentored by Reverend John Wesley Rice, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama and father of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Reverend Rice advised Captain Coleman to continue his education at West Virginia State College.

Captain Coleman enrolled at West Virginia State College in September 1958 and majored in Political Science. He was inducted into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in the fall of 1959 and played quarterback and defensive back on the WVSC football team for three years. Because he wanted to resume a career in the military, Captain Coleman enrolled in the Army ROTC Advanced Course and received his Commission in 1962.

He was stationed at Ft. Benning, GA and received his Special Forces training at Ft. Bragg, NC. He received additional training at Ft. Gordon in Augusta, GA. In June 1967, Captain Coleman was deployed to Viet Nam for a thirteen month tour of duty. He was killed on May 13, 1968, after eleven and a half months in Viet Nam as the result of mortar fire while stationed with a signal battalion. He received the Purple Heart and numerous other meritorious awards and medals.



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion



Yellow Jackets

~Newest Lieutenant in the U.S. Army

2LT Chevelle L. Raines

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

Cadet Chevelle L. Raines is commissioning in the West Virginia Army National Guard as a Chemical officer. She will attend Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri with following on duty at the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Regiment in Fairmont, WV.

West Virginia State
University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295

Fax: 304-204-4019

E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion



Yellow Jackets

Check us out on the web!
<http://www.wvstateu.edu/Academics/ROTC.aspx>

West Virginia State University Army ROTC

Ferguson-Lincoln Building
PO Box 489

Tel: 304-766-3108 / 3109 / 3295

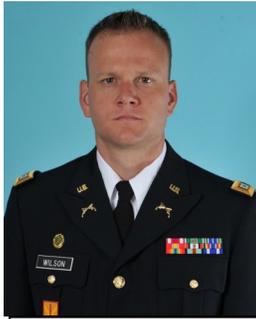
Fax: 304-204-4019

E-mail: rotcmail@wvstateu.edu



www.facebook.com/yellowjacketbattalion

~Hail



CPT Lonnie Wilson

CPT Lonnie J. Wilson is currently the Assistant Professor of Military Science at West Virginia State University.

CPT Wilson enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 2005. In 2006, he participated in the Simultaneous Membership Program with the Kansas State University Reserve Officer Training Corps. CPT Wilson graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and received a commission into the United States Army (active duty) as a Second Lieutenant in May of 2008.

CPT Wilson has served in a variety of places, including Fort Richardson, Alaska, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Riley, Kansas, and he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

CPT Wilson is married to the former Meilani Koehn and they have two children: Samantha (10) and Logan (6).



MSG Thomas Ray

MSG Thomas Ray enlisted in the United States Army upon graduating high school and attended Basic training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1996.

MSG Ray has served for 19 years in various Infantry assignments, to include 2nd Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment (Baumholder, Germany), 1st Battalion 12th Infantry Regiment (FT. Carson, Colorado), 1st Battalion 29th Infantry Regiment (FT. Benning, Georgia), 2nd Battalion 34th Armor Regiment (FT. Riley, Kansas), 1st Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (FT Irwin, California). MSG Ray has deployed to Kosovo as part of a peace keeping mission, two combat tours to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and one combat tour to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He has held leadership positions as a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Section Sergeant, Master Gunner, Master Gunner Instructor, Platoon Sergeant, Operations Sergeant Major, and First Sergeant.

WVSU Army ROTC Video

Check out our video. It can be found on our website, Facebook page, or on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aD1LcLcX8mk>