UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

ARMY ROTC
NEWSLETTER
2018-19

Building Tomorrow’s Heroes
FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER

Rebels,

I’d like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for having been entrusted with this position and the responsibility that comes along with it. As the spring semester ends, I’d like to congratulate everyone on a fulfilling semester. Just as my classmates and I prepare for BOLC and the following expectations of being leaders, MSIIIs are preparing themselves for Advanced Camp. Our Spring FTX was completed in March giving the MSIIIs a final evaluation on their leadership competences. Our basic courses students are exploring summer opportunities through the many programs offered to us. These experiences will help them gain knowledge and a multicultural experience as young adults. With the proper mindset and focus on what’s in front of you, I’m sure not a single one of you will fail.

However, it is important to step back and enjoy the little things along the way, which will help maintain collective composure in this action-packed time. The MSIVs, as well as your cadre, are working hard to implement the fun-filled events we all know. From intramural sports teams to dining out I hope everyone enjoys these events because you all work hard and deserve it. We hope this spirit of camaraderie and competition is carried with each of you wherever you go. I know you’ll reflect the values of the Army ROTC program as professionals, as well as the Army. It has been an honor to lead you, and I can’t wait to finish strong in the upcoming months.

REBELS LEAD THE WAY!!!

Michael Lanagan
C/LTC BN CDR
UM Army ROTC

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ARMY ROTC CADRE AND STAFF

LTC Joshua Taylor .................. Dep Chair, Professor of Military Science
MAJ Seth Davidson .................. Assistant Professor of Military Science
                                      Executive Officer, MSIV Instructor
MAJ James Hughes .................. Assistant Professor of Military Science
                                      Operations Officer, MSII Instructor
CPT Derek Lee ...................... Assistant Professor of Military Science
                                      Assistant Operations Officer
CPT Jerry Hodge .................... Assistant Professor of Military Science
                                      Assistant Operations Officer
MSG Gabriel Brewer ................. Senior Military Instructor MSIII
SFC Anthony Douglas .............. MSARNG Recruiting NCO & Trainer
SFC Eric Wade ...................... Assistant Military Science Instructor
SFC Shavonda Carroll ............. Assistant Military Science Instr. MSI
Mr. Scott Caldwell .................. Recruiting Operation Officer
Mr. David Whitfield ................. Human Resource Assistant
Mr. Greg Johnson ................... Logistics Technician
Ms. Missy Downey .................. Administrative Assistant
Mr. Jon Gebhardt ................... Assistant Recruiting Operations Officer

Recruit, Develop, Retain, Commission
Rebel Battalion Mission and Intent

**Mission:** Through an unsurpassed partnership with the University of Mississippi, the Army ROTC Rebel Battalion will recruit, develop, retain and commission officers of the highest character, commitment, and competence.

**Intent:** Expanded Purpose: Protect the profession while developing tomorrow’s heroes.

**Key Tasks:**
- Develop and reward world-class cadre, faculty, and staff committed to producing quality officers and citizens while continuing to better themselves and prepare for their future.
- Create innovative solutions (incentives, outreach, exposure, and external support) to ensure we recruit and retain Cadets to achieve the mission without sacrificing quality.
- Focus on creating depth and not breadth in our Cadets: fundamentals, warfighting skills, physical toughness, mental resilience, emotional intelligence, and base doctrinal knowledge.
- Continue to partner with JROTC to assist in their mission of producing quality citizens.
- Create a positive atmosphere that promotes a constructive learning environment, develops a sense of selfless service and community.

**Endstate:** Mission accomplished through the production of line ready officers, capable of making an impact upon arrival. Staff is an efficient, adaptive team that is committed to individual and collective growth while operating on intent alone in conditions that are often uncertain.
• Alumni HoF: 80 members (MG Bela Chain, MG Robert Chestnut, Congressman Trent Kelly)
• Spring 2019: Five Division I Athletes enrolled in the program
• 2018: 10 Cadets make Chancellor’s Honor Roll & 16 Cadets make Dean’s Honor roll (6 Freshman earn academic honors) CDT Lorbecke SAME Award winner
• 2016: 2 x Top 25 Cadets nationally.
• 2012: #1 program in the Southeastern US. (#2 in 2018)
• Approximately 110 Cadets enrolled in the program annually.
• Approximately 60% of our Cadets are from outside Mississippi, representing 21 states and one foreign country.
• Over 27 majors and 10 different minors represented among 7 different college disciplines.
• Cadets are involved in almost every club, fraternity/sorority, Honors Society, and organization on campus including the Barksdale Honors College, Croft Institute, Intelligence & Security Studies Program, Gamma Beta Phi, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Study Abroad, Global Ambassadors, and Athletics.
• Countless hours of community service performed each year through Leap Frog, the UM Big Event, Gamma Beta Phi, Rebel Patrol, Volunteer Fire Fighters, and other service organizations.
• Cadets are enrolled in several foreign languages including Arabic, Russian, Chinese, German, French, and Latin. Program is developing partnership with ProjectGo. Cadets taking foreign language have opportunities to travel and study abroad through ROTC exclusive programs such as Project Go and CULP.
• Lead sponsor or representation: Task Force MS lead School, 9-11 Memorial Run, Ranger Challenge, Egg Bowl Run, Chancellor’s Review, US Army Advanced Course, Statewide ROTC exercises, Color Guard, etc.
• University and Oxford Community Outreach/Stewardship: multiple leadership seminars such as Leadership Lafayette, critical thinking, inclusiveness efforts and councils; oversight of 9 x High School Junior ROTC programs; Alumni recognition, etc.
LTC Joshua A. Taylor (AR)

LTC Joshua A. Taylor, Professor of Military Science and Department Chair for the University of Mississippi Army ROTC Department. He will be departing on the 26th of May, becoming the Battalion Commander for the 2-13 Infantry Battalion at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Previous Assignment History

Chief, Commander’s Initiative Group (June 2016-June 2017): Headquarters, Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS
Brigade Executive Officer (January 2014- August 2014): Headquarters, 3-25 Infantry Division
Squadron Operations Officer (August 2013 – January 2014): 3-4 Cavalry, 3-25 Infantry Division
Squadron Executive Officer (August 2012 – August 2013): 3-4 Cavalry, 3-25 Infantry Division
Olmsted Scholar (July 2008-July 2011): Three-year program (6 mos. in Defense Language Institute– 2.5 yrs. Buenos Aires, Arg). Selective multiservice scholar’s program designed to afford scholars the opportunity to achieve fluency in a foreign language, pursue a graduate degree at an overseas university, and acquire an in-depth understanding of a foreign culture to better equip the officer to serve in positions of greater responsibility.
Troop Commander (Nov 2006-June 2008): B/1-73 Cavalry, 2-82nd Airborne Division. Responsible for re-asserting a U.S. presence in an insurgent held Sadr City; establishing and providing command and control for the Sadr City District Joint Security Station (DJSS); providing force to maintain regional security in northern Baghdad, while working with Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police elements to create a secure and stable environment.
Assistant Brigade Operations Officer (Training) (February-November 2006)
Assistant Operations Officer /Observer & Controller (February-June 2005): Live Fire Division, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, LA.
Master of Military Arts and Sciences, School of Advanced Military Studies (May 2016)
Master of Arts, International Relations, University of Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 2011).
Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance. University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama (June 2001) Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate

Military Schools and Education:
Graduate of the Armor Officer Basic Course (Honor Graduate), Maneuver Captain’s Career Course, Olmsted Scholar; Command and General Staff College (Southwest Border Security Program Scholar); Red Team Member’s Course (US Army’s Critical Thinking Enterprise), Advanced Military Studies Program, Joint Firepower Control Course (Distinguished Honor Graduate), and the Jumpmaster, Cavalry Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, Ranger, Airborne, Maintenance Leader, and Basic Officer Leader courses.

Master Sergeant Gabriel E. Brewer, Senior Military Instructor of Mississippi Army ROTC Department, arrived to the Rebel Battalion in the fall of 2016. His extensive military background provided cadets with the knowledge of tactical military training and professionalism in order to become successful Army Officers. Master Sergeant Brewer will be retiring after 22 years of service.

The inbound SMI: MSG Kenneth King is expected Aug 2019

Previous Assignment History

MSG Brewer enlisted in the Army as an Infantryman and attended basic combat training at Ft. Benning Ga. Upon graduating he was assigned to Ft. Drum, NY where he served as basic rifleman, assistant gunner, machine gunner, spotter, and sniper. While assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, he attended Air Assault School and Airborne School as well as earning his Expert Infantryman’s Badge. From there he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at FT. Campbell, KY where he served as a Team Leader and Squad leader. Upon arriving at Ft. Campbell, he attended the US Army Ranger School and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

After redeployment, he was assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade and served as a Ranger Instructor from 2004-2006. MSG Brewer was later reassigned to Ft. Carson, CO where he served as a G3 Training NCO and he deployed to Taji, Iraq for the Counter Insurgency (COIN) Academy. From there he attended Pathfinder School, Electronic Warfare Operators Course, and Search Advisors Course. He was reassigned to Ft. Benning again where he served as a Platoon Sergeant and Instructor at the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course. He attended the advanced marksmanship course. His next move would take him to Ft. Wainwright, AK where he served in 3-21 IN as a Platoon Sergeant and deployed to the Panjwai Province of Afghanistan. Upon redeploying he served as the Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant before assuming the duties as a Rifle Company First Sergeant. He was reassigned to the 101st Airborne Division again where he served as the First Sergeant for Easy Company 2-506 IN.

MSG Brewer is currently assigned as the Senior Military Instructor at the University of Mississippi. MSG Brewers’ deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom I-V and Operation Enduring Freedom 11-12 (Afghanistan). MSG Brewers’ military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Arm Forces Medal. He has been awarded the Ranger Tab, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

MSG Brewer is married and has two children.
NEW CADET ORIENTATION

Each year, one week prior to the beginning of the fall semester, we hold new cadet orientation. This is where potential new Cadets come and learn a bit about the Army and our program. Participants are given an understanding of our physical exercise standards, what to expect in the classroom and at labs.
ADVANCE CAMP

CDT Victoria Heim, MS IV, won the Bold Leader Warrior Spirit Award at CST, which is "presented to the outstanding cadet in each company who demonstrated inspirational leadership, warrior spirit, and high CDT evaluation ratings.

“My experience at camp was actually pretty great. It’s a challenging month, but for someone like me who joined ROTC as a junior, your camp performance really gives you the chance to prove yourself to your peers. Most of the other Cadets in our program had been in it a lot longer than myself. However, I was able to compete with them and pass the same training as they did. My favorite part about camp was meeting everyone from different schools and getting to know them all so well in such a short time. To this day, I still communicate with most of my platoon. Although the weather and conditions made it rough, it was a great learning experience.”

BASIC TRAINING/CAMP

Many of our Cadets have been through basic combat training, which is 8 weeks long and can take place at any of the Army’s Basic Training Installations. During this time, soldiers learn basic Army skills like marksmanship, land navigation, tactics, and traditions. The training has three phases red, white, and blue with each phase giving them more freedom as they progress through their training. The changing of phase signifies trust the drill sergeant is giving as they see the platoon progress into a disciplined unit, no longer individuals. If they do not attend basic combat training, they attend basic camp which is structured similarly but is only a month long and takes place at Fort Knox, KY. In 30 days, Cadets spend time focusing more on the leadership qualities needed for future officers. In this setting all the people participating are Cadets, unlike basic training where most of their peers are enlisted.
Over the summer of 2018, I was given the opportunity to complete Cadet Troop Leader Training with an Armor Platoon Leader in the Blackfoot Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. For four weeks, I gained first-hand knowledge on the day-to-day activities of a Platoon Leader. I was also able to assist in planning training exercises for the Troop. I sat in on morning meetings, weekly training meetings, and a Leadership and Personal Development event. Another good learning opportunity I got while I was there was that I was able to follow an Observer Controller during a Brigade training exercise. I was able to see the decisions leaders faced and how they faced them in combat training exercises from a third-party point of view. This is different view-point than I am used to seeing, and taught me more about how operations like that work in the real world. It also helped me see the "bigger picture" behind the training we do. The best part of CTLT is that I was able to be with competent and professional leaders, both Officers and NCO’s that I really got along with. Of course, being in Hawaii, I was also able to see some great sights while I was there.”

- Colin Erickson, MSIV
Criminal Justice Major

Airborne School was an eye-opening experience. I not only received the opportunity to attend one of the U.S Military’s most iconic schools, but I also got to interact with personnel outside of cadet command and the Army. Airborne School also provided me the chance to step outside my comfort zone and overcome my fear of heights. I wouldn’t trade it for the world, and I can hardly wait for my next jump.

- Michael Lanagon MSIV
Political Science and Russian Major

This past summer I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to attend The Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. This was a ten-day course, consisting of three different phases: Combat Assault Phase, Sling Load Phase, and Rappel Phase. It is designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and Pathfinder missions. It was more challenging than I had expected. There were physical fitness tests, hands-on tests, and written exams. As much as I enjoyed rappelling, I was really amazed by the people I had met there and the friendships I made. We all worked together well, because we knew we needed to help each other to succeed. Overall, I was extremely happy with the experience, and would recommend it to anyone interested.”

- Nick Auck, MSIII
Criminal Justice Major
GUYANA

“This past summer I got the opportunity to attend CULP in Guyana, home to the world's largest collection of untouched rainforests. With a group of 30 Cadets from all over the country, over a month’s time, I was immersed in the Guyanese culture. While there, I was able to take part in their Emancipation Day celebration, explore the capital city of Georgetown, meet and train with their Cadets and train with their special forces at various bases. Further in the jungle where we slept in hammocks while rucking to different villages to work on humanitarian projects and to the top of the tallest single drop waterfall in the world. CULP allowed me to have a hands-on experience with a culture and military very different from our own and experience a beautiful culture and country. The relationships and experiences with the Cadets, officers, and non-commissioned officers I met will last a lifetime.”

- Katie Smith, MSIV
Criminal Justice Major

STUDY ABROAD

JORDAN

“I traveled to Jordan over the summer of 2018. I was there to study abroad per the requirement of the intensive Arabic program at Ole Miss. I spent about two and a half months there studying Modern Standard Arabic and Jordanian dialect. I lived in a neighborhood of apartments in a working-class area of Amman in a largely Sunni community. I lived with four other guys also studying Arabic, one of which is my really good friend. This was my second Summer in Jordan. Studying and living there was not only a great cultural experience but a great life experience. I learned to blend in well and even looked Middle Eastern with my beard. I met some nice people and some discontent ones. I believe that studying there truly bolstered my cultural awareness in an area that the American military largely operates in. I also believe study abroad is an opportunity every student should take advantage of as it expands your world view and helps you appreciate what we have in America and her people.”

- Jacob Isom, MSIII
Arabic Major
“I joined the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi to be a part of a program that would help me develop leadership skills, enhance my physical abilities, teach me how to serve my country, and be surrounded by others who want to be a part of a cause greater than themselves. Entering college, I knew I wanted to connect with a strong program that would help me develop leadership skills that are necessary to help others reach their full potential. Regardless, if I stay in the guard, go active duty, or work as a civilian, leadership skills are crucial to being successful in any situation as well as knowing how to motivate others to reach their goals. As a student, academics are a necessary evil, but physical training is an outlet I enjoy. The program provides me the opportunity to remain physically fit and challenges me to reach the next level of fitness. ROTC provides me with an amazing opportunity to become an officer in the United States Army. This is an honor and goal I look forward to accomplishing by taking advantage of the classes and summer opportunities that are available to me. Be a part of this program gives me a chance to be surrounded by great guys and girls who share the same goal. Staying connected with like-minded peers helps me remain motivated and focused. I also joined ROTC at the University of Mississippi because I knew I would have mentors who would provide me with the guidance I need or a swift kick in the butt to get back on track.”

- Jimmy Green, MSI
  Civil Engineer Major
In November 2018, the Ole Miss Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team competed in the state competition at Camp McCain, MS against teams from MSU, USM, JSU, and Alcorn State. UM teams finished 1st and 3rd in the state competition. The competition consisted of a written land navigation exam, tactical combat casualty care, land navigation practical exam, Army Physical Fitness Test, One Rope Bridge, and a 12-mile foot march. The Cadets ranked 18th overall at the SE Regional competition in FL in JAN. The competition gives the Cadets valuable skills that they’ll take with them once they commission as Army officers. Some have been participating all four years of college.
“Last semester, I participated in my third FTX. We went to Camp McCain in order to participate in the obstacle course they have on site. I have gone through the course before but this time we had to go on an obstacle known as the A-frame. I am not a fan of heights, so it already took a lot out of me to climb up on the regular rope. I started to panic because I was terrified of falling off the top of the obstacle. Everyone around me was pushing me to get up and do the obstacle which scared me even more. I began to climb the rope with my friend and began to cry because of how terrified I was. Once at the top of the first rope, I needed to climb across to the A-frame. I was shaking so much I could not stand up, so I had to crawl across the boards in order to reach my destination. After finally arriving, it took me a while to stand up because this was the part of the obstacle was most afraid of. The only way I could get up the A-frame without freaking out was by shimming up and climbing like a koala. I reached the top and began to panic again because of how high I was, but the last thing I had to do was climb down another rope ladder. Halfway down the ladder, I began to relax again, and I eventually stopped crying because the worst part of it was over. When I got my feet back on the ground, I did not want to let go of the rope because it physically gave my mind stability. I then had another anxiety attack because I was having trouble regaining my breath because I was amazed that I had just gotten over my fear of climbing that high. The obstacle course was a challenge to me that day and I was mentally exhausted. However, it showed me what I can do if I just apply myself.”

– Samantha Renson, MSII
Exercise Science Major
This year’s Spring FTX was hosted at Camp McCain involving five school from across Mississippi; UM, MSU, USM, JSU, and Alcorn. Cadets were split into 4 platoons 2 advance course and 2 basic course. Each had a mix of Cadet MSIVs and cadre lane walkers from different schools.

During the first day, Cadets qualified on the range, completed training in TC3, CBRN, tower rappelling, and completed the confident course.
Day two was dedicated to tactical training exercises. These are practical exercises conducted to assess a Cadet’s leadership abilities while conducting tactical scenarios against an opposing force. On the final day, Cadets executed two-foot marches. MSIII’s rucked for 12 miles while MSI’s and MSII’s rucked for 8. Every Advanced Course Cadet completed the 12-mile foot march with a 35 lb ruck within 4 hours. UM ROTC also had the fastest two times of all Cadets, each crossing within seconds of each other at the 2:15 hr mark.
UM was honored to send CDT Michael Lanagon to the prestigious GCM conference that annually hosts the top ROTC and West Point Cadets from around the nation. George C. Marshall was most well-known for his work in international affairs through the military and was a Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1953. The seminar was held in Fort Leavenworth, KS.

“Going into the week, I didn’t know exactly what to expect, I had done the pre-class readings on the new multi-domain operation doctrine and tried to keep an open mind. Upon arrival, I quickly became aware of the honor that this event really was. Being one of the 275 Cadets that were chosen to go to this seminar gave me a sense of accomplishment. I had the opportunity to network with Cadets across the country as well as experienced cadre from the senior NCO level to the junior officer level all the way to LTG Townsend himself. I was able to gain a broader perceptive on what to expect going into a unit and ways of mediating situations as a leader. Developing my leadership style will be key for me as I start my career and its exciting because I will not be alone on this journey. From the banquets and social hour seminars, small group discussions, and briefings on a variety of ideas and concept exchanges. By far this was the most enriching experience in my four years as a cadet.”

- CDT Michael Lanagon, MSIV
  Political Science and Russian Major
“Fall Field training exercise (FTX) was an experience, to say the least. FTX is a great way to start off any newcomer into the comradery of Ole Miss Army ROTC program. I was so happy I could experience it not only with my new-found friends of the freshman class, as well as the rest of the cadets in the battalion. Trading MRE snacks and getting lost in the woods during the land navigation course is all a part of the experience when you attend FTX. As a freshman, you learn from your counterparts by observing and being guided by the MS2s and MS3s who help you along the way in your squads. I was one of the Cadets who was not afraid of this new experience. In fact, I was eager to get started. I found myself challenged with people looking to me to perform, but that did not faze me in the slightest of ways. Climbing aboard the personnel carrier the first morning was a bit nerve-wracking, but it’s a great time to relax in between challenge courses and the multiple drills that you perform over the course of the weekend.

We executed a ruck march on the final day. We woke up early, grabbed all of our gear and set out for a four mile ruck in the Mississippi morning. In my opinion, this is indeed the greatest challenge of them all. You talk with others as your blisters come into place, but with your friends pushing you to your very limit, you succeed. Drenched in sweat and staring down the sun now peaking over the horizon, the pain of the ruck march slowly fades away. Lastly, are the smiles, and exchanging of experiences, and a feeling that you not only learned something but also accomplished something great. The hour-long shower after you step foot off the bus and the consumption of real food wraps up the experience. In those moments, you feel more a part of the program than ever.

I am very much so looking forward to this next FTX coming up in just a few weeks because I know it will be the same if not a better experience as we take the newly contracted Cadets and show them how it’s done. I’ve always wanted to be in the Army and I’ve always wanted the experience of being a part of something much larger than myself. The Ole Miss Rebel Battalion was the one to answer my call and take me in. My experience here has not only boosted my confidence and my physical and mental abilities but has also put me on the path to becoming the Army officer that I’ve always wanted to be.”

-CDT Matthew Walsh, MSI
International Studies Major
“Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) was at Camp McCain this last semester. It was my first one as a contracted cadet and the whole experience was very informative. After being broken up into our squads and groups, MSIII’s and Ranger Challenge Cadets got to get certified (rifle certified), while MSI’s and MSII’s practice in a simulation to work on marksmanship. With most of the first day spent on the range, we were later brought to an Obstacle Course, which was an excellent bonding experience among the Cadets in each squad. Soon after, the lower classmen were partnered up to do a day-to-night land navigation course. This was a valuable and beneficial exercise that really tested cadet’s ability to understand map layout and how to navigate through different terrain. Each event was a great source of training and testing of what we have learned, or what will be learned in the future. At the end of our day, we made a patrol base for the night, each person had a battle buddy, and throughout the night each partnership would switch out throughout the base to pull security. On our last full day, we practiced Call for Fire, one of the most important and informative parts of FTX. All the cadre and MSIV’s gave each cadet great information during our exercises and events. They really took our questions into account and gave back detailed answers that were tactful and detailed. Overall, the experience was a helpful experience for underclassmen and quality time for the upperclassman to test their abilities and skills in what they need to learn, and what they understand.”

- CDT Jordan Meredith, MSII
Criminal Justice
"My name is Shakeara Harris and I am from Biloxi, MS. I am a senior at the University of Mississippi, majoring in Criminal Justice. I am currently serving in the Army Reserves. Once I graduate, I will be commissioning as an Active Duty Military Intelligence Officer.

This past summer, I started a business selling Women’s Clothing. I have always had an interest in fashion! I love being diverse when it comes to my wardrobe. I have also always wanted to own my own business. My dad has his own business, so just being able to make your own hours and still do other stuff with your life is a great feeling.

Owning a business is a dream come true. It is also a dream I share with many. I am blessed that I had the vision and support. Starting this business has opened my eyes a lot more, I am continuously doing research on how to make my brand even bigger. I recently had an event on Self Love and Women Empowerment, on February 9th. I had a great turnout, and my goal is to continue to have events where I am able to build my brand, network, and be inspirational to others. I am currently working on releasing my first book, a business guide. I can’t wait to see what the future has in store!"

- CDT Shakeara Harris, MSIV
  Criminal Justice Major
“This summer I will be doing an eight-week internship at European Command (EUCOM) in Stuttgart Germany. There I will work in the EUCOM Comptroller (ECCM) Office. There I will serve as an Action Officer in my office, undertake and present research, analyze data and learn how the DoD/EUCOM functions and contribute to the mission.”

- Jacob Vaughn, MSIII
Bank & Finance, and Real estate
Double Major

“I am currently working two internships simultaneously. The first is a Social Media Marketing internship for an online private high school called Citizens’ High School where I conduct a content analysis of their social media accounts, monitor their accounts, and track their web traffic using Google Analytics. My other internship is with Ole Miss Athletics Communications. For this internship I create highlight reels for the baseball games, work the stats program after each play during games, create graphics for stats and scores, update the team and player stats in media guides, and I choose which pictures to use for social media posts.”

- CDT Justin Bush, MSIV
Integrated Marketing Communications
Cadet Keveon Taylor is a senior Public Policy Leadership Major from Merigold, MS. After graduating and commissioning, CDT Taylor plans to attend law school here at the University of Mississippi School of Law. In addition to ROTC, he is an active participant in multiple student organizations, as well as, the local fire department. He serves as the Vice President of Community Service for the Ole Miss National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Eta Zeta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He is a member of the Ole Miss Judicial Council and an array of other executive boards. CDT Taylor is a proven leader both on and off campus.
On most collegiate campuses across the nation, spring break is synonymous with road trips, beach parties, and fun in the sun. It is perhaps the most anticipated week of the spring semester for college students everywhere. Several recall fond memories from sunny locales such as Cancun, Miami Beach, and South Padre Island. When planning the perfect spring break excursion, and trying ever so diligently to select that perfect destination, one would be hard pressed to find the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), nestled in the rolling hills of Fort Polk, Louisiana, at the top of any recommended travel list. JRTC is not the place for the faint of heart, seeking to improve their tan. Instead, it is a world-class training center where military units from around the globe go to hone their war fighting skills. “It’s a place where Commander’s bring their units in order to go from good to great,” according to MAJ Brandon Hawthorne, the Executive Officer of the JRTC Live Fire Division.

For eight dedicated Cadets from the University of Mississippi Army ROTC, JRTC at Fort Polk would be their Spring Break ’19 destination. Rather than spending the week lounging poolside, these Cadets chose to observe a Live Fire Exercise as part of the JRTC Rotation 19-05, a brigade level training exercise, featuring the storied 3rd Brigade Combat Team “Rakkasans” of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). As a Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) exercise, Rotation 19-05 was designed to stress the Rakkasans and their systems, ultimately increasing their lethality and combat readiness. The Live Fire Exercise was intended to expose the Brigade to the intricacies associated with controlling multiple maneuver elements across a complex operating environment with varying terrain, all while safely expending live ammunition.

The Ole Miss Cadets soon realized the monumental effort necessary to plan and execute such an event for both the training unit and the JRTC live fire team providing control. For most, this was their first exposure to an exercise of this scale that truly highlights the firepower and effects that a Brigade Combat team with enablers can bring to bear in order to close with and destroy an enemy. One aspect that was particularly beneficial to the Cadets was observing multiple Lieutenants during the planning, rehearsals, and execution of the event. Earning a commission as an Army Officer and pinning on the 2LT rank is the paramount objective for any Cadet, and the culmination of all they do while in ROTC. However, their lack of experience inhibits their ability to envision what it takes to train and lead a unit through a capstone collective level training event, such is found at a US Army Combat Training Center. In as much, that was the greatest value of this opportunity for the Ole Miss Cadets. It was a peak behind the curtain into what some of their futures will hold. A means to observe the maneuver of platoon sized elements in conjunction with larger forces during a live fire scenario while gaining an appreciation for the integration and sequencing of multiple assets to set the conditions for tactical successes. A common question for any leader is “where do I need to be?” And, the common response is “at the point of friction.” However, the determination for where that is develops over time from intuition informed by experience. So, this provided a unique opportunity to question why and reflect on placement of the platoon leader during the fight with experienced observer and controller teams present to advise and mentor Cadets before, during and after the observation periods. It provided concrete experience around which they can form their visions of what right looks like in future training events.

"It was amazing to see the extent of the planning that goes into a Brigade sized mission, and then watching it play out in real time."
--Cadet Josh McClurg, MSII
Criminal Justice Major

Fort Polk, Louisiana, home of the Joint Readiness Training Center

Ole Miss Cadets receive a tactical scenario briefing from the JRTC Live Fire Division prior to observing training

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Immediately upon arrival at Fort Polk, the Cadets were integrated with the JRTC Live Fire Division. Each Cadet was assigned an Observer-Coach/Trainer (OC/T), a seasoned Army Officer or Non-Commissioned Officer, selected for their professionalism, and tactical and technical competency. The OC/T’s were quick to action, bringing the Cadets up to speed on the tactical scenario to be faced by the Brigade. Most Cadets were encouraged to discover that the training they conduct at their weekly leadership labs was certainly relevant outside of ROTC. As they diligently studied the Brigade’s tactical plan, the Cadets could draw several similarities to the training they conduct every Thursday afternoon on campus. Although the size and scale of the operation was vastly different, the principles remained the same. The Brigade had an objective to secure, just as they did. Rifle Companies were employing the same troop leading procedures as the cadets use in their Platoons.

After observing numerous rehearsals, briefings, and blank fire walkthroughs, the day the Cadets had been eagerly awaiting came on Tuesday, March 12th. Excitement was in the predawn air as the Cadets made their way to historic Peason Ridge, formerly known as Tiger Land to a million plus trainees preparing to deploy to the Vietnam War. Just before sunrise, the Live Fire Division OC/Ts crossed the line of departure, with anxious Cadets in tow. The first action of the day came in a mock village, which was to be cleared by Charlie Company, 3-187th Infantry. The Ole Miss Cadets watched closely as a young platoon leader conducted his leader’s reconnaissance, where he discovered the village was surrounded by a wire obstacle. The company elected to employ an explosive breach to gain entry into the village. After a quick recheck of their hearing protection, the Cadets took cover a safe distance from the breach site. The concussion of the exploding bangalore charge used to conduct the breach coupled with the violence of action of the assault forces as they charged into the village was an inspiring sight for the Cadets. Most were in awe of the raw power of the systems in use, the level of control of leaders, and the confidence of all Soldiers moving in close proximity to live rounds. At this moment, they were able to connect the proverbial dots and began to realize the importance of training, planning and rehearsals… but most importantly trust. Trust that others would do their jobs as trained and rehearsed to allow them to safely do theirs. These were not blanks or Cadets simply yelling “bang, bang” in some wooded area around a college campus. It was the full display of a well-trained combat unit conducting true combined arms maneuver under live fire conditions.

As the mission progressed, the Cadets had multiple other opportunities to see junior leaders employing different tactics, techniques, and procedures to solve problems under varied conditions. In addition to observing impacts from every indirect fire system in the brigade’s organic inventory, the Cadets were able observe fires from several other delivery platforms, both ground and air based. AH-64s coordinated with maneuver companies to destroy enemy vehicles on the objectives with 30mm cannons and 2.75 inch rockets. M1 Abrams tanks and M2
Bradley Fighting Vehicles provided suppression as dismounted rifle squads advanced from building to building to seize the objective.

The highlight for most Cadets came when the brigade’s forward elements discovered a mobility obstacle along the path to the final objective. The unit’s answer to this conundrum was the MCLC, or Mine Clearing Line Charge. This explosive charge consists of roughly 1,700 pounds of C-4 explosives, and is emplaced by a modified rocket. The Cadets were placed as close to the charge as safety would permit under the direct control of the OC/T teams and anxiously awaited for the 2 minute countdown to expire. The ensuing explosion was earth shaking. After the initial shock, every Cadet in the training area had a grin from ear to ear. They gained an immediate appreciation for the combined arms effects that cannot be replicated outside of a combat zone or a place like JRTC.

In addition to the live and blank fire observation periods, the Ole Miss Cadets gained an invaluable opportunity to interact with the JRTC Live Fire OC/Ts. These interactions were both formal and informal, as Cadets were led through discussions on current trends and observations of company level operations at JRTC. They received the opportunity to discuss the intricacies of planning and establishing a live fire training scenario. And, they benefited greatly from a formal instruction period on the echelonment of fires and integration of enablers into maneuver plans at the brigade, battalion, company, and platoon levels.

Making the transition from Cadet to an aspiring combat leader prepared to execute one’s duties during large-scale combat operations is quite a mental leap. However, it is one that all must be prepared to make. This unique experience was a large step in that direction for the Cadets from Ole Miss. It was the first of its kind as senior ROTC Cadets were afforded VIP access to a brigade level maneuver live fire exercise. It is an impossible experience to replicate elsewhere. The ability to witness a training event of this magnitude has instilled in these Cadets a desire to train harder now, so that they will be able to live up to what is expected of them in the future. It is a phenomenal opportunity that should be looked at for expansion within the capacity of JRTC in conjunction with Cadet Command. As Colonel David Gardner, Commander of Operations Group, stated during the planning of the visit with Ole Miss Army ROTC leadership, there is as much opportunity to grow these visits for the “re-greening” of Cadre as there is for the development of Cadets.

“"In a planning effort that took more than a year to realize, I am extremely happy with the outcome. It benefited our Cadre and Cadets in ways they may not fully realize until several years down the road... an incredible experience all around. I hope to see it continue and grow in future years. A sincere thank you to Brigadier General Pat Frank, Commanding General of JRTC and Ft. Polk, Colonel David Gardner, Commander of Operations Group, and all of JRTC Live Fire Division for the opportunity and their world class support.”

--Lieutenant Colonel Josh Taylor, Professor of Military Science University of Mississippi Army ROTC
Outside of the physical activity required like rucking and PT, many of our Cadets participate in challenge courses. We represent the University and the program as Cadets and students. Some are military sponsored like the Maximus and Special Forces Challenge, as well as University sponsored events like the Rebel Trail Challenge. They exceptionally represent the program when they do not have to and excel in the things they do.
The color guard led by Zachary Hatcher has the honor of presenting the colors at multiple military or military affiliated events. Pictured above top left and right is the ole miss military appreciation game and the dining out event of the R&R battalion. Pictured bottom left and right are from the homecoming parade and the on-campus promotion ceremony of COL Nichols, CDR of the 168th EN BDE, MSARNG and Ole Miss alumnus.
When a student takes the step to contract and be sworn in, they commit to upholding our standard and, in the end, commissioning as an Army officer. The ceremony is held along with the awards and change of command ceremony. (Top left picture)

At the end of each academic semester a change of command ceremony is held. It signifies the change in power and responsibility from one battalion commander to the next. (Middle and bottom picture left side)

Cadets Lanagon, Erickson, and Haymans were ranked top 25% nationally among all ROTC Cadets. This demonstrates that they are not only capable but have the ability to excel and exceed the standard. (Top right picture)
The Chancellor’s review is a yearly tradition in which all the ROTC programs conduct a pass and review in front of University staff and Alumni. The chancellor is a part of the open rank inspection. This is followed by the march and salute of units as they pass their cadre.
9/11 RUN

NEVER FORGET
The sixth annual Egg Bowl run was completed with Ole Miss and Mississippi State ROTC Cadets. MSU Cadets met our Cadets in Calhoun City with the Game Ball and we ran it back to Oxford, finishing at the Lyceum. A shadow Egg Bowl Run was also carried out by the MSNG 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team currently deployed in the Middle East.

CDT Loret and Faulkner participating in the food drive for Thanksgiving

Ready to Lead. Ready to Serve.
At the end of Warrior Week, the military appreciation game honors the armed service members. The ROTC programs marched on the field during half time, as the canon is fired.

The Veterans Gala was held Nov 2nd and honors alumni and students that served, pictures over are some of the Army Cadets that were present at the event. The guest of honor and speaker was Will Jimeno, a 9/11 survivor.
Every March, the senior class takes a trip to Shiloh to visit the old battleground. In groups of two, they go about describing the parts of the battle throughout the area. The importance of each aspect of the battle gives the Cadets an understanding of how this battle affected the war effort.

This learning experience helps shape their understanding of why leaders choose the tactics they employ in battle. As leaders they will be expected to make the best choices for the mission and their soldiers. Being able to learn from the past will help hem create a better future.

They greatly appreciate the support they receive to conduct the trip and the food provided.
The military ball is a time-honored tradition held at the end of the academic school year for the Army ROTC Cadets. Honored guest such as retired generals, Hall of Fame alumni, and more come to give empowering speaks of excellence. Awards are presented to distinguished guest and Cadets who prove to exceed the standard. Although a mostly formal affair, socializing and comradery dominates the remainder of the evening with music and food.
“I completed the Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course in Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. The course teaches army engineer offense, defense, demolitions, project management, bridging, horizontal, and vertical tasks. I immediately attended Sapper Leader Course where combat engineers develop in mobility, counter-mobility, and survivability in infantry tasks. I also received distinguished graduate in EBOLC and Commandants List for Sapper.”

- 2LT. Donald L. Lorbecke Jr.
CADETS OF THE MONTH

Jillian Zakrezeski broke multiple shooting records on the rifle team in February. MSII

Denton Coker providing outstanding support and organization during Fall FTX. MSIV

Keveon Taylor was named Lafayette County Fire Department Firefighter of the Year, MSIV

Jillian Zakrezeski broke multiple shooting records on the rifle team in February. MSII

Logan Kirkman almost beat the Special Forces challenge course record (3:24) at 3:29 and will be completing the mountain man marathon ruck next month. MSII

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Scholars – Athletes – Leaders
In April we conduct most of our support events our fundraisers at chipotle and a battalion bash at lost pizza. A certain percentage of the food profits are donated to our program. This helps us buy extra things the Cadets would like for the program. We also volunteer at the at home track meets during this month. At the meets, everyone is placed at different events to help clean, set up and take down equipment. This will be our third year participating and we are excited to continue our partnership with Ole Miss Athletics. We are currently selling gray polos everyone is welcomed to purchase one in support of the program.
To become a Voting member, send your $25 check to the address below with the check payable to the Ole Miss Army ROTC Alumni Association.

In care of David Wells
6 County Road 218
Oxford, MS 38655

Membership fees are not substitute for the Endowment Fund or Cadet Activities Fund. Membership fees help defer the Association’s operation expenses, pay for awards, etc. The Endowment Fund helps provide scholarship support to deserving Cadets. The Ole Miss Army ROTC Alumni Association encourages your support and participation in promoting and supporting a strong Army ROTC program and its Cadets. Thank you.

- David K. Wells (‘67)
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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TEXT MSGUARD38 TO 36260

CONTACT
Mr. Jon Gebhardt
662-701-8727
JMGEBHAR@GO.OLEMISS.EDU

REBELS WANTED
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18th – Dining Out
May 11th – Commissioning/Graduation
August 13-17th – New Cadet Orientation
September 7th – 9/11 Run
October 24-27th – Fall FTX
November 7-9th Ranger Challenge Competition
November 7th – Chancellor’s Review
November 11-15th – Warrior Week
November 26th- Egg Bowl Run
December 5th- Awards Ceremony
December 8th – Winter Commissioning
January 23-26th- Ranger Challenge Competition
(Camp Blanding, FL)
March 21st- Staff Ride
March 26-29th – Spring FTX
April 17th – Dining Out
April 30th– Awards Ceremony
May 9th – Commissioning

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Rebel BN Alumni are encouraged to join the University Alumni Association. To join go to
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