“Wet weather and chilly temperatures did not dampen morale or the level of training the Cadets of the Royal Warrior Battalion received at the Spring Field Training Exercise in Fort Dix, NJ,” Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley said.

LTC Remley, currently serving as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Scranton, credits the leadership of both the MSIVs and the Cadre who have been dedicated to providing a safe, yet realistic, training experience for the Cadets. He said their work ethic and level of dedication is not something that can happen on a whim or overnight — it is always present.

“It would have been easy for the Cadets to let their morale drop and lose focus but we haven’t seen that,” LTC Remley said. “Had we decided to stay out in that storm it would have really impacted the quality of training because everybody would have truly been soaked and miserable and would have detracted from what we’re trying to accomplish this weekend.”

“Leadership building was being accomplished,” UoS MSIV Cadet Evan Dimakas, said. This was made apparent during the Field Leader Reaction Course and in Squad Tactical Exercises when the cadets stood up and took control of their squads with purpose and direction.

“You see that happening all the time,” Cadet Dimakas said. “If someone’s not making it, they’ll grab their buddy and pull them right back up and say ‘come on, get up, you’re not out of the fight yet.’ That’s what it’s all about.”

MSIII Cadets used the weekend to prepare for this summer’s LDAC, the Leader Development and Assessment Course, at Fort Lewis, Washington. As the centerpiece of the ROTC program, it is a topic that carries with it a great deal of stress and pressure, but it carries also a sense excitement and adventure.

“I am ready to go,” Jonathan Beekman, an MSIII cadet from Kings College, said. “I am going with one of the early regiments, I’m with the 4th, and I’m shipping out June 15th. Hopefully the weathers nice at that time, but I’m ready to see what I can do. I feel that ROTC has prepared me for it.”

The Cadre believes that the Cadets are ready for the challenges that face them.

“When we have the collective group together and we go through this realistic training, they are getting even more prepared for LDAC,” Sergeant First Class Wilkerson said.”I believe they can receive great ratings and be prepared to become great commissioned officers.” As for the Cadets about to enter the larger Army, SFC Wilkerson said the level of leadership he has seen in the MSIVs has been “outstanding.”

“They’re going to do such a great job at leading Soldiers that I wouldn’t even mind being platoon sergeant for anyone of them,” Sergeant First Class Wilkerson said.

For LTC Remley, the proof of quality of his Cadets is further solidified by what he has seen from past graduates.

“In my mind the best validation has been the e-mails I’ve received from last year’s MSIVs,” LTC Remley said. “Those e-mails have all said that everything we do here in the Royal Warrior Battalion has prepared them to be successful at their Officer Basic Course or as Platoon leaders out in the force.”
Mr. Ken Kraetzer: Friend to the Royal Warrior Battalion and Our Army

Whether covering Army Football games in the Fall on a weekly radio show, appearing before Congress to gain support for the building of a memorial dedicated to Jewish Chaplains in Arlington National Cemetery or helping fund the Royal Warrior Battalion Army Ten–Miler team’s trip to Washington, D.C., few do more to support our Military than Mr. Ken Kraetzer.

Mr. Kraetzer’s connection to the Military runs deep as his father was a career Army Officer who attained the rank of Colonel before his retirement. Over the past two years Ken has engaged with the Royal Warrior Battalion on a number of fronts, including attending and reporting on the unit’s 2010 Ranger Challenge competition at Camp Smith, New York, hosting several Cadets on his weekly Sons of the American Legion Radio Report on WVOX 1460 AM out of Westchester, New York, or attending the Battalion’s last two Military Balls.

Recently Mr. Kraetzer hosted the Cadet Battalion Commander, Jenna Caserta and Cadet Commander Sergeant Major on his SALs Radio show to discuss the recent Military Ball, their experiences last summer at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, as well as what lies ahead for both of them once they commission in May.

Mr. Kraetzer also played a key role in arranging for the Battalion’s Color Guard and several members of the Cadre to take part and march in the New City Saint Patrick’s Day parade.

Through his weekly Sons of the American Legion Radio Show, Mr. Kraetzer helps bring a number of Veteran’s issues to the forefront. Whether it be medical benefits or the Post 911 G.I. bill, Ken brings on the air guest who help educate the public about these matters. A member of Pelham, New York Post 50, Mr. Kraetzer and many of his fellow Sons of the American Legion have organized multiple drives to send care packages to troops deployed in harm’s way. They also help support New York City’s annual Fleet Week events.

The Royal Warriors and Our Army are lucky to have a friend and know a Patriot like Ken.

Majors Selected to Lead CULP Missions

Congratulations to Major Kris Thompson and Major Ross Charton on their recent selections by the 2nd ROTC Brigade to lead Cadets from across the Nation on Cultural Understanding and Language Programs this summer.

Major Thompson will guide a group of twenty Cadets to Costa Rica, while Major Charton will lead a group to Thailand. Both Cadre members will report to Fort Knox, Kentucky in mid-May to meet their respective Cadets, complete last minute pre-deployment training and the depart for their thirty day CULP experiences.

ESU Cadet Dan Johnson

Athlete of the Week

Congratulations to Military Science Level IV Cadet Dan Johnson who was recently recognized as the East Stroudsburg University Male Athlete of the Week for his outstanding performance in Track and Field.

Cadet Johnson captured the PSAC Conference Indoor Track & Field championship in the heptathlon. Cadet Johnson will be a top contender for the decathlon title at the PSAC Conference Outdoor Championships to be held in May.

Cadet Johnson has earned Distinguished Military Graduate honors and will commission on Active Duty into the Military Police Corps this May.
Congratulations are in order for former Royal Warrior Captain Adam Ropelewski who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of Major by the Department of the Army. Not only was he selected for major but Adam was selected below-the-zone, ahead of his peer group. Captain (Promotable) Adam Ropelewski graduated with honors from The University of Scranton in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a Leadership Minor. Captain Ropelewski was a member of the Royal Warrior Battalion all four years at the university and received a four year scholarship.

Captain Ropelewski was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer and served his first duty assignment at Fort Hood, Texas with the 4th Infantry Division’s 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment. Adam initially served as a Fire Support Officer for a Cavalry Troop, but then was selected to serve as a Scout Platoon Leader shortly after the Squadron deployed to Iraq in the winter of 2005. Adam and his Scout Platoon were in near-daily contact and saw heavy fighting in southern Baghdad against elements of Al Qaeda and both Sunni and Shia extremist cells during the 2006 fighting season.

In the early winter of 2006 Adam redeployed his Scout Platoon and served as Troop Executive Officer until he was sent to the Field Artillery Captain’s Career Course at Fort Sill.

Following the Captains Career Course, Adam was assigned to the 41st Fires Brigade as the brigade’s Fire Control Officer. Adam deployed with the brigade in 2008 for fourteen months to Iraq’s Wasit Province and was selected for battery command in 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment. There he commanded a Multi Launch Rocket System Battery that was converted into a maneuver element that occupied a Combat Outpost within two miles of the Iraq/Iran border. Adam and his battery lived alongside their Iraqi Army partners and worked daily to improve Iraq Army capabilities. Adam and his unit also partnered with three local Iraqi Police departments and provided the initial training of a Department of Border Enforcement Infantry Company that was converted into a Special Weapons and Tactics Company.

Adam also partnered with the local district government, three town governments and dozens of local tribes all in an attempt to coach the local governments to improve their performance and to better serve their constituent’s needs. Adam redeployed his battery to Fort Hood and began training his men on their basic Field Artillery skills. Adam’s battery completed Section Qualifications before he changed command.

Following command Captain Ropelewski was selected as an Army Congressional Fellow. As an Army Congressional Fellow, Adam attended graduate school and was conferred a Masters Degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. He served all of 2011 on the staff of Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr, from Pennsylvania. While on Senator Casey’s staff, Adam advised Senator Casey on military and veterans issues. Adam also worked on defense authorizations and appropriations and assisted Senator Casey in identifying and promoting policies important to Pennsylvanians in the National Defense Act of 2011 and during the budget process.

Currently, Adam is serving a utilization tour following the Congressional Fellowship on the Department of the Army Staff in the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. Adam serves in Current Operations Branch of the Congressional Operations Division. Adam will remain at his current position until his tour is complete at the end of 2013.