The Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program is unique amongst Cadet Professional Development Training. For most Cadets, CULP is the first chance to perform a real-world overseas mission. I had the privilege of being selected as the Country Commander for the first-ever CULP mission to Paraguay.

CULP Paraguay was assigned two missions: Support U.S. Embassy by providing Cadet English Language Training Teams to Paraguayan language institutes and, also, “Subject Cadets to controlled culture shock,” as described by our Commanding General.

To accomplish this mission, we taught classes to mid-grade and senior officers and NCOs from all of the branches of Paraguay’s military service as well as National Police forces. We also taught Cadets from the Paraguayan Military Academy, and promising young students who earned a seat in the Ministry of Defense language institute. We taught five days a week for three to four hours per day from May 20 to July 20.

We achieved “Culture Shock” by training side by side with the Paraguayan military. We conducted small-arms ranges at the infantry school, trained in military horsemanship with the cavalry regiment, watched a graduating class make their final jump at the airborne school, rode in EE11 armored personnel carriers with the mechanized battalion, and even got to pet the “mascot” of the current Special Forces training class, an eleven foot long boa constrictor!

We toured the world’s most powerful hydroelectric dam, at Itépú, and witnessed the world’s largest series of waterfalls at Iguazu, We made pottery with the indigenous Guarani people in the remote Tobati region, and played soccer with a ball of fire during the Festival of San Juan.

CULP makes good Cadets great by allowing them to experience firsthand how a small unit contributes to national strategy. Cadets in my teams interacted with foreign soldiers at the tactical level, supported the Paraguayan Minister of Defense’s initiatives at the Operational level, and were told by the U.S. Ambassador that their efforts made an impact at the Strategic level.

I would recommend CULP to any Cadet who wants to get an early look at the way our Army shapes the world. You can learn more about CULP Paraguay at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/127842857382779/
Happenings Across the Battalion

Physical Fitness Excellence

Congratulations to the following Cadets who scored 300 points or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test at the 2013 Leader Development & Assessment Course conducted at Joint Base Lewis-McChord:

- Cadet Christian Burne – University of Scranton: 344
- Cadet Nicolette Pizzo - King's College: 331
- Cadet Shane Stark – King’s College: 316
- Cadet Nicholas Constantino—University of Scranton: 315
- Cadet Michael Shannon – Wilkes University: 313
- Cadet Michael Stauffer – Marywood University: 311

Leaders are charged with improving the organization while accomplishing the mission. They should leave the organization better than it was.

Leaders motivate, inspire, and influence others to take initiative, work toward a common purpose, accomplish critical tasks, and achieve organizational objectives.

King's College Cadet Take Part In CULP Mission

Cadet Elizabeth Conn of King’s College teaches English to members of the Lithuanian Armed Forces as a part of her three-week Cultural Understanding and Language Program mission. Cadet Conn was deployed to Lithuania from 13 May to 13 June during which time she took part in a series of Military to Military exchanged training programs. Cadet Conn was one of nine Cadets from the Royal Warrior Battalion to take part in the U.S. Army Cadet Command CULP program this summer.

Colonel Scott W. Heintzelman Assumes Command of 2nd ROTC “Freedom” Brigade

On 08 July Colonel Scott W. Heintzelman assumed command of the 2nd ROTC Brigade from Colonel Twala Mathis in a ceremony conducted at Joint Base Dix-Maguire-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Colonel Heintzelman earned his commission as an Infantry Officer through the Army ROTC program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Included among his duty assignments have been Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Assistant Battalion Operations Officer, Brigade S1, Brigade Operations Officer, Brigade Executive Officer, Battalion Commander and Infantry Observer/Controller. Prior to assuming command of the 2nd ROTC Brigade, Colonel Heintzelman served as the G3/5 Eight Army, Republic of Korea. His operational deployments include Operation Promote Liberty (Panama), Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, Ranger School, Command and General Staff College, School of Advanced Military Studies and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in Liberal Arts.
This past June, U.S. Army Cadet Command afforded me the opportunity to enhance the United States' relationship with the Republic of Georgia through the Cultural Understanding and Language (CULP) program. While in Georgia, 41 Cadets and four Cadre attended the physically and mentally rigorous Georgian Military Mountain School located in the small town of Sachkere. At this school we learned various technical and tactical mountaineering skills, as well as many aspects of Georgian culture from a team of Georgian instructors.

After in-processing and long days of briefing at Fort Knox, Kentucky, we finally boarded the planes to Georgia. We arrived extremely jet lagged from the long trip but were nonetheless excited to get started on training. While traveling through Georgia to get to Sachkere, it was immediately apparent that we were very far from the U.S. While the landscape of the country, which featured the Lesser Caucasus mountains to the South and the Greater Caucasus to the North with untouched land in between, was beautiful, the war-torn cities were a sad sight. The cities told of a long and storied history full of occupations by larger nations and empires.

Even though the Georgians have faced many hardships in the past, it is evident that they retain their national identity through rich traditions. One such tradition is a large feast called a "supra" that is made up of mounds of food, drinking horns, and an ocean of homemade wine. The Georgian culture is a very proud culture. Our Georgian cadre conveyed this culture to us by taking pride in the training they offered at their school.

Our training began with hours of tying knots. We practiced tying these knots until we felt comfortable with producing them on command during pressure situations, such as when these knots were the only thing keeping us safe from a 200 ft fall. Knowledge of these knots gave us the ability to perform other feats such as an obstacle pass, descending a fixed rope, ascending a fixed rope and crossing a river. The other events we needed to complete to pass the school included the successful climbing of a rock wall, the completion of a mountainous ruck run in under two hours and fifteen minutes, and finally the most memorable part of the trip which was a 34-mile ruckmarch. On this two-day movement we crossed many obstacles and endured many blisters on the way to a 7,000-foot peak. The view was priceless.

This CULP mission took me completely out of my comfort zone. It made me conquer my fear of heights and gave me many new skills I never anticipated learning. It was a pleasure learning about the rich culture of Georgia and experiencing the Georgian way of life. I am thankful for the opportunity I was given and highly recommend this CULP mission to every cadet in the future.

(Photo: Left) Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley cases the colors of the 12th ROTC Regiment during the regiment's graduation ceremony held on Thursday, 01 August. LTC Remley served as the Regimental Tactical Officer for the 12th Regiment which was comprised of 444 Cadets and 48 Cadre. Assisting in the casing of the Colors is Master Sergeant Roland Cuellar who served as the Regiment's Sergeant Major during Warrior Forge 2013.

(Photo: Right) Cadet Liam Morrissey of Marywood University takes a break from training at Fort Benning, Georgia, along with fellow Cadets from the Colombian Military. Cadet Morrissey took part in training at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.