Fort Jackson, South Carolina is where I spent my three week Cadet Troop Leader Experience. When I arrived, I was placed with a Basic Combat Training Unit, Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry. My primary duties were to shadow my sponsor, First Lieutenant D’Elia, who currently serves as the Company’s Executive Officer, as well as to serve as a platoon leader to a drill sergeant and training platoon within the company. I worked with one other cadet who would shadow the same First Lieutenant, but who was working with another drill sergeant and platoon. As soon as I arrived I was told that I would work long hours and have a unique experience preparing Soldiers to enter the Army.

My days always started at 0430 with Physical Training which occurred between 0530-0700. We conducted platoon Physical Training six days a week, based on the Army’s Physical Readiness Training manual. Following PT, my days were filled with training Soldiers or shadowing 1LT D’Elia to better understand the duties and responsibilities of a junior officer.

I joined my platoon during the second phase of Basic Combat Training which is known as "White Phase.” While I was at Cadet Troop Leader Training, my platoon was focused on weapons qualifications, night fire ranges, Field Training Exercises, a confidence course, medical simulation training, and U.S. weapons familiarization.

Each day I would link up with my platoon where they were conducting training and assist the drill sergeants with providing training to these new Soldiers. When I left my platoon to head off to the Leader Development and Assessment Course, they had just entered into their last phase of Basic Combat Training called "Blue Phase."

Overall my experience at Fort Jackson provided me with a unique perspective on the Army. I was able to see how average civilians start the process of becoming extraordinary Soldiers. I also gained a different outlook on the Officer/NCO relationship. Every day I had the opportunity to interact with the company's 15 drill sergeants and the First Sergeant. I was able to hear their insight on what they expect and demand of newly commissioned officers, as well as their knowledge of training. CTLT is an experience that I will carry with me throughout my Army career.
Happenings Across the Battalion

Cadet Command Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students who earned national U.S. Army ROTC Scholarships during their senior year of high school based on their outstanding scholastic, athletic, and leadership qualities and achievements. The Royal Warrior Battalion welcomes these young leaders into our formation this Fall as they begin their Military Science Level I year:

University of Scranton
- Anthony Caputo / Emily Carmody
- Carson Clabeaux / Tara Demko
- Sarah Thomas

King's College
- Kylie Hanlon

Marywood University
- Daghan Hart

Air Assault School Graduate

Congratulations to Military Science Level III Cadet Daniel Pati from the University of Scranton, who earned his U.S. Army Air Assault Badge on 14 June. Cadet Pati successfully completed the two-week Air Assault Course at Camp Rilea, Oregon. During the two-week course, students learn how to rappel, sling-load equipment and supplies for transport by helicopter and must successfully complete a 12-mile ruckmarch in full combat gear.

Military Science Level II Cadet Visits Philippines Military Museum

Cadet Neil Jayakar from the University of Scranton recently had the opportunity to visit both the Manila American Military Cemetery and the Armed Forces Museum of the Philippines. Cadet Jayakar has spent three weeks in the region as a part of the U.S. Army Cadet Command Cultural Understanding and Language program. (Photo Right): Cadet Jayakar peers down an artillery tube during a visit to the Armed Forces Museum.

Tobyhanna Army Depot Celebrates The U.S. Army's 238th Birthday

Members of the Royal Warrior Battalion Cadre, along with special guests of the organization Mr. Ken Kraetzer from the Sons of the American Legion and Ms. Lauren Williams, Director of Military and Veteran Services for Marywood University, gathered at Tobyhanna Army Depot on 13 June to mark the Army’s 238th birthday. The luncheon was hosted by the Tobyhanna Army Depot's Chapter of the Association of the United States Army. The event’s guest speaker was General (Retired) Louis Wagner who served for over 35 years on Active Duty and earned both the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star while serving in Vietnam. General Wagner also served as the commander of the U.S. Army Armor Center, as well as the commander of U.S. Army Material Command.

(Photo Left): Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley, General (retired) Louis Wagner, Mr. James Mangino, AUSA Chapter President and Mr. Ken Kraetzer, Friend of the
Cadet Troop Leader Training
At Joint Base Lewis-McChord
by Seth Gray - Wilkes University

On 24 May I reported to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington for the start of my Cadet Troop Leader Training. My sponsor was First Lieutenant Michael Binecz, who is currently the platoon leader of the automotive platoon in the 542nd Combat Support Company of the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

My first week was an intense one since my company had recently been selected to partake in the SWTF mission (Severe Weather Task Force). This Task Force is responsible for responding to natural disasters across the United States. For the entire week, my unit mobilized its equipment and prepared all its vehicles so that any time in the next four months they would be ready to respond if needed.

At the same time, Lieutenant Binecz allowed me to establish a training schedule and supervise the unit as they prepared for the SWTF mission. The first week of CTLT flew by and the second week brought an awesome surprise.

My company commander Captain Schubert contacted the 17th Fires Brigade also located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to ask them if I could shadow their Alpha Battery Executive Officer. The unit obliged.

That week, I participated in M777 Howitzer familiarization training that they were conducting. I disassembled the gun’s bore and firing pin, learning how to operate the GLPS or gun laying and positioning system. On top of that, I attended briefings with the unit’s Fire Support Officers, where we went over M777’s trajectory calculations, which I assure you it was very confusing for me.

My time with the 17th Fires Brigade ended with an office call where the battalion commander allowed me to pick his brain as to what he expected from his incoming officers and what had enabled him to be successful in his career.

My last week in CTLT was spent with the 542nd as we prepared and conducted a day on the range. We set up the range not only for our Soldiers to qualify but also for the Soldier of the Year competition. Once completed, that ended my time CTLT experience. Overall, it was a great experience and I met and learned from a number of officers and NCOs, I would recommend CTLT for our next group of Military Science Level IIIs.

Congratulations to Sergeant First Class Emmanuel Cuevas and his family on his recent reenlistment. Sergeant First Class Cuevas has served in a wide range of duty positions across the Air Defense Artillery branch, as well as spent time in U.S. Army Recruiting Command. He currently serves as the Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge of the Battalion’s East Stroudsburg University Detachment.