If only I had a dollar for every time someone told me “Ma'am, your Freshman Cadets are amazing this year!”. I could not agree more, and yet I am not as surprised as everyone else, simply because I know these young men and women are capable of things they haven’t even dreamed of yet.

Frankly, that fact is the best part of my job. I can come to work every day, look at these Cadets, and tell myself that long after I am no longer wearing this uniform, the Army will be in good hands with leaders like this.

From day one of their Freshman year, the MS I Cadets were challenged to adopt the motto “Push The Limit”. I explained to them that pushing the limit meant stretching your performance in every area of life. It meant studying when their friends were partying, running three miles when they wanted to puke after 100 yards, and learning how to sacrifice themselves to help a friend. Over the course of four short months, they have taken that challenge to a whole new level. Now whenever someone asks them what their motto is, twenty-five souls respond in unison with a loud and thunderous reply that echoes across the entire campus. For a group of 18 year old students who used to think they may not be able to make it in ROTC, they have certainly found their voice.

Whether it’s been marching three miles up an extremely rugged hill with a fifty-pound pack on their back during our Fall Field training, or serving ice cream on a Wednesday night to true American heroes at the Geno Merli Veteran’s Center, these Cadets keep on giving it all they’ve got. It is rare in this world to find individuals that have both fierce determination to succeed and also a deep compassion for others around them.

Instead of struggling through their Freshman year feeling overwhelmed and alone, I see them organizing study groups to help each other through tough Chemistry or Biology exams, meeting at the gym to improve their Physical Fitness scores, and being a shoulder for someone else to cry on after bad news from home.

Names like Mary Beery, Ryan Caviston, Riley Foster, Jesse Hodges, and Alexandra Nachtman might not mean a whole lot to you, and maybe their faces blend into the crowd. But to me they are people who spend Christmas break volunteering with handicapped adults or working construction to help pay school bills.

They work in local churches as secretaries or choir directors. They are future nurses, politicians, educators, state department agents, and pilots. They are also future Soldiers, and if you ask me, they will be some of the finest.
(Left) SFC Joseph Wilkerson, MSG Alexander Ortega and SFC Walter Cannady enjoy a holiday social hosted on the evening of 08 December by the Cadets of Marywood University for Cadre, University staff and faculty. (Right) Cadet Battalion Commander Jenna Caserta (left) and Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major Joshua Soto (right) congratulate MS I Cadet Timothy Jurkowski on his finishing first overall in the second annual Royal Warrior Battalion Conquer the Mountain 5K.

**Royal Warrior Farewell**

The Royal Warrior Battalion would like to say farewell and best wishes to Mr. Robert Charnichko as he departs the unit on 03 January 2012. Mr. Charnichko has served as a Supply Technician for the Royal Warriors since April, 2008. He will transition to a position at the Tobyhanna Army Depot, where he will continue to serve as a Department of the Army Civilian employee. We wish he and his family the best as he begins his new job.

**Congratulations to the following Royal Warriors who were selected to participate in the Summer 2012 US Army Cadet Command Cultural Understanding and Language Programs:**

- MS II Hope Oliver—Indonesia
- MS II Sean McKee—Cape Verde
- MS II Daniel Pati—Honduras
- MS II Elmann—Angola
- MS II Bullis—Namibia
- MS II Morgan Hedden—Guatemala
- MS I Jesse Hodges—Estonia

These seven Cadets will take part in 30 to 45 day programs focused on the Language and Culture of their assigned country. The Cadets will deploy to their respective countries along with 15 to 20 ROTC Cadets from around the country, as well as a Cadre advisor who will oversee the trip. Cadets are selected for this program based on their demonstrated interests in foreign languages, academics, performance in Military Science courses and the recommendation of the Cadre.

**Congratulations to the following Cadets for achieving a score of 300 points or higher on the Fall Semester 2011 Army Physical Fitness Test:**

- MS II Christian Burne—353
- MS IV Andrew Wycheck—342
- MS II Michael Stauffer—322
- MS IV Evan Dimakas—321
- MS I Jesse Hodges—319
On Friday, December 9th the Royal Warrior Battalion marked the successful end of the semester’s PT sessions with the 2nd Annual 5K Run up Montage Mountain. The run is the perfect way to end the semester as it brings Cadets together from across all campuses for a friendly competitive run up the mountain.

The planning for the 5K race began in November and included the briefing of an operations order to Master Sergeant Ortega, the Senior Military Instructor. On Thursday we ran through a series of Pre Combat Checks and Inspections to ensure all the necessary safety measures were in place and required resources such as chem-lites, flashlights and timing systems were accounted for.

Despite a chilly 27 degrees, over 80 members of the Royal Warrior Battalion competed in the run which consisted of 1.5 miles up Montage Mountain to the turn around point and then 1.5 miles back to the start. This year MS I Timothy Jurkowski from Wilkes University was the top overall finisher and MS IV Christina Bayard was the top female finisher. It should be noted both are nursing students.

This year’s freshman Cadets in the Military Science Level I (MS I) have made a strong first step towards their goal of commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. In spite of a new college experience, new Cadre members, and new military concepts, the MS Is are true to their motto: Second to none.

The Cadets know that physical fitness is the key to their success as Soldiers. While many of their class mates were packing on the “Freshman 15,” MS I Cadets were up and working out at 6:30 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. From some humble beginnings, the MS I class has improved their Army Physical Fitness Test scores up to a cumulative average of 230 points. In the South Campus Detachment, Cadets Faherty, Conn, and Guarino have distinguished themselves by scoring over 270 points out of a possible 300.

The Cadets of the MS I class know that leadership is about more than pushups, sit-ups and the two-mile run. Aside from their normal load of class, leadership lab and Physical Training, Cadets of the MS I class have branched out and now represent the Royal Warrior Battalion in student government. Cadet Michael Guarino is the class President of the King’s College class of 2015. Cadet William Speede is the King’s College class of 2015 Secretary/Treasurer.

The MS Is of South Campus also represent the Battalion in intramural athletics. MS I Cadet Nick Gladfelter organized, trained and leads the Royal Warrior basketball team at Kings College. The team is undefeated after two games this season. “I’m pretty certain we’re going to win the title during Spring Semester,” said South Campus NCOIC and power forward Travis Griffith.

The MS Is also contribute outside the campus to various charitable organizations locally and nationally. In Wilkes-Barre, the MS Is joined their fellow Cadets in constructing picnic tables as part of the community garden and area beautification project for the Wilkes-Barre Community Center for Kids. MS Is also sold greeting cards during the holiday season to send to Soldiers deployed overseas. Proceeds from the sale of the greeting cards went to the Wounded Warrior Project, a charity which provides assistance to veterans injured in combat.

Cadet Thomas Spivey dives for cover during the Individual Movement Technique Leadership Lab at South Campus.