The Royal Warrior Battalion gathered on Saturday, February 25th to host their annual Military Ball. The Military Ball is a forum to gather and celebrate the unit’s achievements both past and present. It is an opportunity to recognize those Military Science Level IV Cadets who will commission in May for their hard work and contributions to the unit.

This year the Battalion’s honored guest and speaker was Colonel John Thomson, who currently serves as the Director of the Planning Group for the 38th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Raymond Odierno. Colonel Thomson is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and over his distinguished career has held a number of command and staff positions to include command of the 41st Fires Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas and 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Other distinguished guests joining the Battalion included Major General (retired) K. Fredrick Mauger, Brigadier General Walter Lord, Deputy Commanding General of the 28th Infantry Division, and Colonel George Schwartz, Commander of the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Among the event’s biggest highlight was the traditional punch bowl ceremony, where the Military Science Level III Cadets prepared a special punch for the MS IV Cadets to celebrate their dedication to the Royal Warrior Battalion and the fact they will soon be leading our Army’s Soldiers.

Colonel Thomson addressed the audience sharing with them his thoughts on leadership and the challenges these soon to be officers will face. Colonel Thomson shared the following, “To the cadets here tonight, thank you for pursuing the privilege of leading our Nation’s sons and daughters. You represent the best our Nation has to offer. Deciding to raise your right hand and taking an oath to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic” is a noble calling and vitally important to our national security.” He also challenged Cadets to, “First, and most importantly, be the moral and ethical compass of your organization. Live the Army’s values in all you do and say. Your Soldiers will look to you for example in this regard from the day that you show up in your unit. This becomes especially important when your formation is under stress, in combat.”

Following Colonel Thomson’s remarks, Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley and Senior Military Instructor, Alexander Ortega presented Colonel Thomson a set of Battalion Colors as a token of appreciation from the Cadets and Cadre.

LTC Remley and MSG Ortega also presented Royal Warrior Battalion belt buckles to Cadets Jenna Caserta and Joshua Soto for their superb leadership this school year while serving as the Cadet Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major respectively. Buckles were also presented to Major General Mauger and Mr. Ken Kraetzer both dear friends of the Battalion and avid supports of Army ROTC.
Looking For A Good Book???

MS IV Cadet and King’s College Detachment Commander Edward Ferkel recommends the following professional readings:

"The Good Soldiers" by David Finkel. *Troop surge in Jan 2007 during the Iraq conflict. 2-16 Infantry Battalion "Rangers" One of the highest casualty producing units of the war.

"Reluctant Lieutenant" by Jerry Morton. *Discusses the everyday life and training of a OCS candidate during the Vietnam war.

"Beyond Band of Brothers" by Major Dick Winters. *Shows a different view of Maj. Winters and his command of the paratroopers.


"Imperial Grunts" by Robert D. Kaplan. *Discusses the current worldwide operations of US special forces units.

"Generation Kill" by Evan Wright. *Based on the HBO series this book explains in detail the experiences and events of a Marine Recon unit during the initial invasion of Iraq.

Cadets of the Royal Warrior Battalion. Sidney is a graduate of the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was also selected by U.S. Army Cadet Command as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

This year the Marshall Conference will take place 15-18 April. Cadets from some 270 Army ROTC Battalions will take part in several working groups and discussion panels, as well as have the opportunity to hear from some of the Army’s most senior leadership.

Cadet Sidney Jaques will commission on Active Duty as an Adjutant General Officer in May.
Cadets Profiles
King’s College Detachment MS IIIs

Cadet Matthew Smith

Hometown: Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY
School: Misericordia University
Major: History
Campus & ROTC Activities: Humanities and Service Association President

What are you doing to prepare for LDAC: “Mostly reading up on LDAC for the year. The Blackboard has some really good resources.”

What has been the most valuable lesson you have learned while enrolled in ROTC courses: “Keep your head on straight, think. It seems more often than not that getting flustered will result in failure.”

Cadet Ryan Lord

Hometown: Mechanicsburg, PA
School: King’s College
Major: Criminal Justice
Campus & ROTC Activities: Intramural Basketball, Intramural Soccer, Intramural Flag Football

What are you doing to prepare for LDAC: “I have been reading over the TACSOP for LDAC in order to familiarize myself with all the information I will need in order to be successful at LDAC. I have also been practicing writing operation orders so that I can become comfortable with writing and briefing them once I get to LDAC. I have been physically preparing myself by running and lifting weights every day with CDT Lawrence.”

What has been the most valuable lesson you have learned while enrolled in ROTC courses: “The most valuable lesson that I have learned would be that it is okay to make a mistake. Nobody is expected to be perfect and everybody will make a mistake at one point. Your leadership capabilities will not be judged based upon the mistakes you have made, but rather, how you recover and react to the mistakes you have made and what you do in order to be sure those same mistakes are not repeated in the future.”

Cadet Margaret Troxell

Hometown: SHAPE, Belgium
School: King’s College
Major: French, Psychology, Secondary Education
Campus & ROTC Activities: Circle K Club, Color Guard, president of the King’s College chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma

What are you doing to prepare for LDAC: “To prepare for LDAC, I am absorbing every tip and trick I can get from the MSIVs. Fortunately, I got one of the best mentors out there (shout out to CDT Tate) who has helped me with everything from OPORDs to PT to studying for my midterm. I am also lucky because I have two siblings who have been through LDAC the last two years. My brother has been helping me with creating a good skeleton for my OPORDs and my sister, who is currently an MSIV at NDSU, has given me every detail I could possibly ask for about LDAC.”

What has been the most valuable lesson you have learned while enrolled in ROTC courses: “I have certainly learned a lot in ROTC but I think the most valuable thing, which also carries into my civilian life, is planning. In ROTC, if you don’t have a good plan, everything can end up crumbling around you. ROTC is a huge undertaking in college. At first, it’s very tough to find a balance. As a freshman, I found myself in a completely new place surrounded by new people and it was all very overwhelming. Through ROTC, I was taught how to plan for everything from tests and papers, to PT sessions and lead labs. The planning process is almost more important than the mission itself. In fact, if a plan is good enough, I’ve found that the mission practically carries itself out. With the planning skills I’ve developed in ROTC, I have been able to maintain a good GPA, my standing as a good cadet, a good sleep schedule, a decent social life, and still have time to relax.”

Senior Military Instructor, Alexander Ortega takes note as the 2nd ROTC Deputy Command Officer, Dr. Michael Anderson offers guidance during his visit to the Royal Warrior Battalion on 16 February. During the course of his visit Dr. Anderson received several briefings from Cadets and Cadre on the Battalion’s operations and personnel. Dr. Anderson praised the Cadets for their hard work and commitment to leadership excellence.