For many Military Science Level III Cadets the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) is the capstone training event of their ROTC careers. As a nursing Cadet, I consider the intensive Nursing Summer Training Program (NSTP) I received at the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) to be my capstone event.

Immediately following LDAC, I traveled directly to San Antonio, Texas to attend the Nurse Summer Training Program offered to all nursing cadets after completion of the third year of nursing school. For a month, I worked alongside an Army Nurse Corps Officer on a medical unit while also working rotations on the burn unit, intensive-care unit (ICU), emergency department (ED) and the operating room (OR). I worked three to four 12-hour night shifts per week and was given the full autonomy of a practicing RN, under supervision of a nurse preceptor.

Rated the number one trauma center in the Department of Defense, SAMMC presented me with many opportunities to observe as well as practice clinical skills beyond the scope of most nursing schools. A few highlights of my experiences include: learning and practicing how to place intravenous (IV) lines; transfusing blood; assisting with the placement of an intracranial pressure (ICP) monitor; performing dressing changes on patients with third degree burns; and receiving a motor vehicle crash (MVC) patient from the helipad off an Air-Life Flight.

Of all my great experiences, the most humbling experience I had the opportunity to have, was assisting in the reception of six soldiers from down-range in Afghanistan who were MEDEVAC’d to Lackland Air Force Base and then ground transported to SAMMC. Even though I had only a few short hours to talk and work with these fine men and women, my time with them served as a great reminder as to why I have chosen the profession I have.

After my great experiences and bountiful opportunities afforded to me at SAMMC, I look forward to what the Army Nurse Corps has in store for me.
Medical Internship In Germany
By MS IV Hope Oliver - University of Scranton

This summer as a cadet I had the chance to experience one of the most incredible journeys of my life that pertained to my major in school and hopefully career field or branch in the Army. As a future Second Lieutenant, I hope to be assigned to the Medical Service Branch where I can use what I learned in college and apply it in the real world. The medical internship I received from the Army was an honor in my opinion. The internship allowed me to learn even more about the medical field and made me realize more than ever how much I want to serve in the military’s medical community.

After attending and passing the Leader Development and Assessment Course I made my journey over to Landstuhl, Germany, to take part in my internship at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC). That hospital is the first stop that most injured Soldiers pass through before returning to the United States, whether they are physically hurt or psychologically injured. The hospital offers many services, from neurology to a women’s care center.

In this internship, I went with eight other cadets of various college majors who are looking to be in the medical field in some way. We had a cadet who wanted to be on the business side of the hospital where they ran the staff and another who worked with the physical therapists the whole time. Cadets had an opportunity to make rounds of the hospital outside of their fields to see if anything different would catch their eye. This was a great experience just for the fact that you were able to see if what you wanted was right for you or if something completely different satisfied what you wanted. I personally got the opportunity to work one day in the pediatric and NICU departments on top of my actual field of study which is Counseling/Psychology/Human Services. While there I worked in my field specifically with the Family Advocacy Department, Addiction and Drug Facility as well as the Behavioral Health Department. Here is where I shadowed counselors, psychiatrists and social workers throughout the hospital. At one point I even went to a different base just for the ADA (Air Defense Artillery) where they were starting a new program for them right on their own base. Seeing and working with the patients one on one and in groups was the most educational experience I have ever had. I would recommend this program to anybody and highly suggest, if you want the medical field, to apply to this program. It is an experience you will never forget.

As well as working in the hospital, the cadets and I got weekends off to explore Germany and everything it has to offer. Germany connects to so many places so easily by train, something you do not want to pass up. The internship was a lot of work but I was rewarded in so many ways from helping these brave soldiers from down range to exploring Germany. I appreciated every moment and highly recommend it.
The time spent at the Western Hemisphere Institute For Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) at Fort Benning, Georgia, proved to be an outstanding experience for me, not only as a leader but also as an individual as well. My graduating class was one of the most diverse in the program's history as we had Cadets from Colombia, Peru and, for the first time, Poland.

During our first week of training we were mainly in a classroom setting studying democracy and human rights and the effects the military has on both. At first, we all thought it would be a boring week, but we all agreed afterword that it was for the best because it allowed us an opportunity to discuss our differences and meet each other on a personal level before transition to the field to conduct training more hands-on tactical training.

The second week, the pace of operations increased significantly as we conducted both day and night land navigation with U.S. Army ROTC Cadets leading teams of 3-6 foreign cadets through the course. Our idea of land navigation differed greatly from theirs. They had always used Global Positioning Systems to conduct land navigation, thus using a compass to navigate proved a real challenge. Later that week we, took part in a cultural trip to Atlanta where we visited the Atlanta Aquarium and Coca Cola Museum, affording our exchange Cadets the opportunity to experience some American cultural.

The third week of training started with classes focused on weapons training, safety, and maintenance. Cadets received instruction on both the M16A4 and the M240B. Later we transitioned back to the field to zero and qualify on our weapons, as well as to conduct reflexive fire drills.

Our last week of training took all of our newly learned skills and tested them during a Field Training Exercise. We conducted Squad Tactical lanes with blank rounds and simulated artillery, ending with a raid on a mock village. Many of us at ROTC look at an Operations Order and stress, but explaining a OPORD and Terrain Model Kit in Spanish to a group our foreign cadets and Non-commissioned Officers was a whole new ball game. Luckily by this phase we had confidence in one another. We developed basic translation skills, as well as hand and arm signals, we conducted our attacks with extreme success.

Overall, WHINSEC was an amazing experience. It boosted my confidence and provided me with outstanding training that ranged from shooting, simulated combat casualty treatment, and leadership skills development. I highly recommend attending the course if you can!

2013-2014 Royal Warrior Battalion Distinguished Military Students

Congratulations to the following Military Science Level IV Cadets who were selected as Distinguished Military Students by the Professor of Military Science for the 2013-2014 academic year:

Christian Burne—University of Scranton  Nicholas Constantino—University of Scranton
Kayla Ellmann—Wilkes University  Alexander Flynn—University of Scranton
Dominic Loughlin—Marywood University  Richard Naperkowski—Marywood University
Zachary Niles—East Stroudsburg University  Hope Oliver—University of Scranton
Michael Shannon—Wilkes University

Cadets selected as Distinguished Military Students by the Professor of Military Science must possess outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character, exhibit a definite aptitude for military service and officership, rank in the upper third of their ROTC Class Order of Merit List, rank in the upper half of their college or university academically, be in good standing with their academic institution, actively participate in civic and campus activities and have successfully completed the U.S. Army Cadet Command Leaders Development and Assessment Course.