During the summer between a Cadet’s MSII and MS III year they have the opportunity to attend Cadet Professional Development training. Those opportunities encompass Airborne school, Air Assault, or in my situation Cadet Field Training (CFT). This summer training involved myself, as well as a hundred other Army ROTC Cadets from across the nation, 18 Midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy, 20 Cadets from foreign nations, and the entire upcoming sophomore class at the United States Military Academy.

The training takes place at Camp Buckner, New York, which is located on the West Point campus. The purpose of this training is to provide Cadets the opportunity to lead squad sized units through a host of missions in various environments. Not only did we conduct combat training lanes, we also engaged in other events making the experience that much more rewarding.

Cadets receive a wide variety of training at CFT. I personally learned and did some things that ROTC simply does not touch on. For example, we conducted Urban Operations training for 4 days at Camp Buckner and the West Point Airport. Here I cleared two story buildings with platoon and squad sized elements. Another notable aspect of the training was the Field Artillery day where we actually fired 60mm mortars, 105mm howitzers, and did call for fire missions with Forward Observers from the 10th Mountain Division.

Those days stood out the most to me, but we also did land and water obstacle courses, small unit leadership development, and improvised explosive device courses. These training days were not even the height of CFT, as they only led up to the final test which was a three day Field Training Exercise. This FTX was designed to encompass all that we learned while at Camp Buckner.

We conducted countless patrol bases and urban operation missions. We received little to no sleep, but it was worth it, as our last mission we flew by Chinook helicopters to our objective. Once on the objective we executed a raid on a mock-town. The icing on the cake was the black hawk helicopter flight back to Camp Buckner. The FTX was the most fun I have ever had despite the hard work which came with it. I loved every second of it.

CFT did eventually come to an end, which was marked by our Regimental award ceremony where my company, 1st Cavalry, 6th Company took 10 of 18 awards. We earned best company honors in the regiment. CFT was a learning experience and I know it will make my MSIII year easier. Based on the fun and knowledge CFT provided me, I highly recommend it to all MS IIs for their summer training.
New Cadre Join The Royal Warrior Battalion

**Captain Michal Dolan**

Captain Michael Dolan joins the Royal Warrior Battalion to serve as the unit’s new Recruiting Operations Officer and Officer-In-Charge of the King’s College Detachment. Captain Dolan’s previous assignments include time with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the 25th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

A native of Eastpoint, Florida, Captain Dolan is a graduate of the University of West Florida where he earned a degree in Engineering Technology/Construction. He was commissioned through Army ROTC into the Field Artillery Branch.

With deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, he has served in a variety of duty positions to include Company Fire Support Officer, Battalion Fire Direction Officer and Battery Commander. Captain Dolan is a graduate of the Field Artillery Captains Career Course, U.S. Army Ranger School, Cold Weather Leaders Course and Jumpmaster School.

Captain Dolan is married to the former miss Jennifer Kellett.

**Captain Joseph Cotterino**

Captain Joseph Cotterino joins the Royal Warrior Battalion to serve as the organization’s Officer-In-Charge of the East Stroudsburg University Detachment. Captain Cotterino will also instruct the MS II and MS III level Cadets at ESU. Captain Cotterino’s previous assignments are with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard where he has served in a wide-range of duty positions to include Platoon Leader, Battalion S1 and Assistant Battalion Operations Officer.

Currently residing in Dalton, Pennsylvania, Captain Cotterino originally calls Northeastern Maryland home. He holds a degree in Liberal Studies from Immaculate University. Captain Cotterino originally enlisted in the Air Force serving time on both Active Duty and in the Air National Guard. He elected to transfer to the Army National Guard and in 1999 was commissioned through Officer Candidate School.

An Armor Officer, Captain Cotterino deployed to Iraq in 2004. He and his wife Denise have been married 26 years.

**Sergeant First Class Emmanuel Cuevas**

Sergeant First Class Emmanuel Cuevas joins the Royal Warrior Battalion to serve as the Military Science Level II Instructor and Battalion Operations NCO. SFC Cuevas comes to the Royal Warrior Battalion following assignments in Germany with the 1st Armored Division, 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment and 603rd Air Operations Center.

A native of Long Island, New York, SFC Cuevas enlisted in the U.S. Army in June of 2002. He completed his Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Georgia and Advance Individual Training, as an Early Warning Missile Air Defense Operator, at Fort Bliss, Texas. In addition to serving as an Air Defender at Fort Bliss, SFC Cuevas served for three years as a U.S. Army Recruiter in Miami, Florida.

SFC Cuevas is pursing a degree in Business Management. He and his wife Cindy have four children and currently call the Tobyhanna Army Depot home.
I was fortunate enough to be selected by the Battalion to attend Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, after successful completion of the Leadership Develop and Assessment Course this summer. I can honestly say that attending this training was one of the best experiences of my life. I learned a get deal and participated in some great training during my time in Hawaii.

While in Hawaii I was assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon, 1-21 Infantry Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. The first two days with the unit were spent at a range on Schofield Barracks. On Monday we conducted a five mile road march out to the range where we would be conducting training for the next two days. Upon arrival we received a safety brief from the Range Safety Officer and general guidelines for training from the Company Commander. The training for the first day included glass house drills for clearing a room and dry, blank and live-fire runs through a shoot house during both day and night. The shoot house was a small building with about ten rooms and a catwalk above that allowed Soldiers the opportunity to practice clearing rooms and buildings, while allowing Company Leadership the ability to observe the training. The rest of the week was spent in the garrison taking care of administrative work.

The second week of CTLT was the week where I learned the most. The Platoon I was assigned to received a new Platoon Sergeant and I was fortunate enough to see what that process. I was able to sit in on the initial discussion between the Platoon Leader and the new Platoon Sergeant about how each envisioned the Platoon operating.

The first two days of week 2 were spent preparing for a 48 hour FTX. We left the office at around 1500 on Tuesday and had to be back at 2200 to begin the preparation for the Stryker Convoy to a Marine Corps training area on the other side of the island. The convoy departed at 0200 on Wednesday and I was assigned as rear air guard of the lead Stryker, so I was standing out of the rear hatch during the entire convoy. We arrived to the training area at 0430 Wednesday and began our first mission at 0700.

For the next 48 hours we conducted route clearance missions, both mounted and dismounted, Platoon sized raids and Platoon react to contact both mounted and dismounted. I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to be the Platoon Leader during a mounted route clearance mission. The mission was a success and the feedback I received from the Platoon members and Squad Leaders was all positive. The FTX concluded Friday afternoon when we returned to the Company area.

Week three was also a great learning experience. The Platoon conducted administrative work, so I was able to see both sides of being a Platoon Leader (the garrison PL and the training PL). The Company I was assigned to is receiving a new Company commander in the next few weeks so they had to conduct inventories of all their equipment, as the new Company commander will have to inventory and sign for it. This was very tedious work, but it was necessary and definitely something good to see before you receive your commission. During this week I was also able to see how awards, NCOERs and Article 15s are written.

I did have some time off while in Hawaii. It was nice to relax but I had the most fun when I was with the Platoon training. If there is one thing I could pass along to the rest of the Royal Warrior Battalion, it would be to take care of your Soldiers and trust your NCOs. The Platoon Leader that I was assigned to put his Soldiers needs before his own and it was obvious that the Platoon respected him and would do anything that he asked of them. They also anticipated orders and made sure things were done without having to be told and they always completed a task quickly and efficiently.

If you are fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to participate in CTLT, take it! I learned countless lessons that will help me in my future career and it was a great personal development experience.