Commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army was the proudest day of my life. After 4 years of training with the Royal Warrior Battalion, my college experience was officially over and I was ready to begin my Army career. The first stop for every new 2nd Lieutenant is the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). The length and location of this course is dependent on which branch in the Army you are commissioned into. Upon graduating from BOLC, every 2LT is considered “branch qualified” and ready to enter their first assignment as a Junior Officer.

With the great honor of being selected as an Engineer Officer, I was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to conduct my BOLC training. The thought of reporting to an unfamiliar post, surrounded by new 2LTs from across the country was intimidating, but I trusted that the training I received in the RWB had prepared me well for the course. Engineer BOLC is a five month program designed to evaluate your leadership potential and establish a fundamental understanding of the Engineer role in the current operational environment. A typical day in Engineer BOLC involved a two hour PT session followed by a full day of classroom instruction and practical field exercises.

All training was evaluated and graded which created an extremely competitive atmosphere within my class of 70 Lieutenants. I quickly learned that in order to be successful and rise above my peers, I needed to spend many hours each week studying and training on my own. This inevitably resulted in many late nights and early mornings, but was worth it when I earned Distinguished Graduate honors, finishing in the top 10% of my class.

My advice to all of the Royal Warriors is to arrive at BOLC physically fit and ready to lead. You cannot be afraid to take charge, make tough decisions, and learn from your mistakes because BOLC is the last opportunity to get some “free chicken” before reporting to your first unit as a Platoon Leader.

Note: 2LT Westendorf reported to Fort Hood, Texas on 12 June 2012 where he was assigned to the 36th Engineer Brigade.
The Month In Pictures

Caption (Left): Cadet Hope Oliver of the University of Scranton stands in the opening ceremony for Operation Garuda Shield, a joint training and learning exercise conducted between the United States Army and the Indonesian Army. Cadet Oliver took part in Garuda Shield through the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s Cultural Understanding and Language Program.

Caption (Below): Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley, along with Battalion Executive Officer Captain Erin Leach present the Tobyhanna Army Depot Garrison Sergeant Major, SGM Kelvin Spencer with a Royal Warrior Battalion Belt Buckle for his outstanding support to the Cadets and Cadre of the unit. The presentation took place during the Army Birthday celebration held on June 14th at Tobyhanna Army Depot. SGM Spencer will retire later this summer making the end of a long and distinguished military career.

Caption (Left—middle): Senior Military Instructor, Master Sergeant Alexander Ortega prepares for another day of training at the Leadership and Development & Assessment Course held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. MSG Ortega serves as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Tactical Training Base—West. Over the course of the summer nearly 3,000 Cadets and Cadre will train at the TTB-West site.

Caption (Left): Cadet Sean Cogan sports Spanish Airborne Wings after spending three weeks training with a Spanish Airborne Brigade as a part of U.S. Army Cadet Command’s Cultural Understanding and Language Program in Spain. This marks the second year that Cadet Cogan has participated in the CULP program, as last year he trained at Fort Benning, Georgia with Cadets from Colombia’s Military Academy.
Happenings Across The Royal Warrior Battalion

Former Royal Warrior Selected To Command 55th HBCT Brigade

Congratulations to Colonel David Konzman on his recent selection to take command of the 55th Heavy Brigade Command Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Colonel Konzman currently serves as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 55th Brigade. He will assume command of the organization during a ceremony slated to be held on Sunday, August 19th. Colonel Konzman is an Infantry Officer who earned his commission at the University of Scranton in 1983.

2012 Royal Warrior Army Ten-Miler Team Set

The following Cadets and Cadre will represent the Royal Warrior Battalion at the 28th Annual Army Ten-Miler to be run in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, 21 October:

Cadet Ian Poshka—Team Captain
Cadet Jessica Persoon
Cadet Jennifer Bullis
Cadet Hope Oliver
Cadet Ryan Bair
Cadet Kelly Tracy
Cadet Neil Jayakar
Cadet Katlin Reznick-Lipina
Major Kris Thompson
Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley

This marks the second year in a row the Royal Warrior Battalion has had Cadets and Cadre participate in the race.

Air Assault Graduate

Congratulations to Cadet Zachary Niles of East Stroudsburg University who successfully completed the U.S. Army Air Assault School at Fort Benning, Georgia on 11 June. 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.

The Royal Warrior Battalion would like to say “Farewell” to Sergeant First Class (Promotable) Joseph Wilkerson who departed the organization on 18 June for the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. SFC Wilkerson has served as the Battalion’s Military Science Level II Instructor for the past two and a half years. He also served as the lead Action Officer for the unit’s Military Ball each of the last two years. Additionally, SFC Wilkerson represented the 2nd ROTC Brigade at the 2011 U.S. Cadet Command Military Science 201/202 curriculum review board held at Fort Knox, as well as represented the Royal Warrior Battalion at the 2011 Thurgood Marshall Dinner held in New York City. The Royal Warrior Family wishes him safe travels as he moves to his next assignment.