The Places They Will Go

Early November, the MSIV cadets of the Ute Warrior Battalion received their components and branches from Cadet Command. For the National Guard, CDT Moreno received Medical Services and CDT Preszler received Military Intelligence. Those going Active Duty, CDT Eisenhauer - Signal, CDT Maddox - Engineer, CDT Rinderknecht - Ordinance, CDT Simmons - Quartermaster, and CDT Wedge - Nursing. Also CDT Chlarson became the first cadet in the entire state of Utah to accomplish branching Cyber. CDT Duncan, our battalion commander, branched Medical Services for Active Duty and was the Distinguished Military Graduate, graduating in the top 10% in the nation!
Fall Field Training

From November 15-17, the Ute Warrior Battalion participated in their annual Fall FTX at Camp Williams. Despite temperatures dropping into the low 20s, cadets low crawled, rushed, and rucked over the hills of AO Honolulu during all hours of the day and night.

Upon arrival and dawning of their camouflage, the cadets immediately got to work conducting land navigation in the dying light of the evening. Once darkness fully settled in, they were set loose across the terrain to search for points yet again, this time in the pitch black. Army officers must be able to competently lead their platoons to specific locations via land navigation, whether it is day or night.

The next morning at 0400, cadets gathered their squads to begin their day of tactics, including squad attack, recon, and ambush lanes. Over the course of the next 12 hours, squad leaders planned and conducted missions focusing on each tactic, culminating in the evening for the first platoon sized operations that this year's MSIIIs had conducted: a platoon sized patrol base.

The next morning, waking up at the crack of dawn and despite having rucked ten miles the previous day, the entire battalion began their grueling 12 mile foot march back to civilization. CDT Lunt received the fastest male time with 2 hours 43 minutes, and CDT Roberts received the fastest female time. The cadets then got to enjoy some Ute Warrior Battalion tradition KFC as their reward for a hard weekend’s work. We wish them luck for the coming semester, as what is expected of them will be increased!
Cadre Spotlight

One of the several new cadre members joining the Ute Warrior Battalion this year was Major Margaret Lankford from Madison, South Dakota. MAJ Lankford began her Army career in 1996 when she enlisted as a 91B, what is now a 68W- combat medic. After several years in Active Duty, getting married, and having her first child, SGT Lankford decided her best course of action was to join ROTC and branch into the National Guard so she could spend more time with her children. In 1999, LT Lankford commissioned as an Adjutant General officer in the National Guard. During her time in the National Guard, she deployed to Afghanistan, serving as a Brigade S1 (Personnel Officer) in a brigade combat team for 13 months.

MAJ Lankford now continues to work on her promotion to Lieutenant Colonel by participating in a master’s program for organizational leadership and attending required Army schools as they are made available to her. All while imparting her wisdom to future Army officers as one of the MSI and MSIII instructors at the Ute Warrior Battalion.

Ranger Challenge

After weeks of intensive training throughout the beginning of the semester, the Ute Warriors sent ten of it’s best cadets to complete in the Ranger Challenge late this October. Located this year at Fort Collins, Colorado, the team stood up against 12 other schools across eight states for the top spot. Over the course of just 36 hours, the Ute Warrior Ranger Challenge tested their tactical skills in many events: call-for-fire, tactical combat casualty care, rifle and pistol marksmanship, land navigation, zodiac race, CBRN (Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear), functional fitness, all culminating to finish with a Spartan Race! All these challenging events took them over a distance of 35 miles with a 35lb+ ruck.