"It's a New Season at FAMU" stated our newly inaugurated President, Dr. Elmira Mangum, but it's a new season for the Rattler Battalion as well. We celebrate our 66th Anniversary as an ROTC institution of excellence this year with our new Senior Military Instructor, MSG Anderson, and myself. This Fall semester has truly shown me the commitment and dedication that all of you have for meeting the vision of being "committed to excellence". First and foremost, I am excited to be your Professor of Military Science. My expectations are simple - be Army Strong! Through precision recruiting, rigorous leader development and focused retention, the Rattler Battalion will commission the future Army officer leadership for service to the Army and Nation. Always be professional and disciplined on and off campus. Be ambassadors for this battalion - recruit other quality prospects and we'll have strength in numbers. The outcome for this battalion and the US Army is to commission quality lieutenants who are strong in will, character, and body and excel in most everything they do. They are skilled, physically fit and do a great job on their worst days. They can SWIM, navigate while dismounted and have a positive mental outlook that allows them to overcome any obstacle. Rattler 6 out.
ROW Week

Rattler Orientation Week, or ROW week is an annual initial inside look to FAMU’s Rattler Battalion for first time freshman, and a warm welcome back to the higher MS classes. During ROW week, the Battalion Commander and his staff along with the MSIV corps; assemble together and begin to refine the planning process for the semester ahead. The main body of the battalion arrives on the Wednesday before school to participate in ROW week. This day is where everyone will get their initial counseling and briefings on different areas of interest, teams, activities and opportunities our battalion holds. This day, is also when it’s our turn to support our fellow rattlers and participate in FAMU’s dorm move-in.

Thursday is where the Battalion received important briefings pertaining such as SHARP and ACE; following with the award ceremony for individuals who attended summer programs and individuals who received a 3.0 or above the previous semester, takes place on Friday, before enjoying some BBQ. Leading this week to its close is FAMU’s annual Grape Harvest Festival. At this festival you get a chance to stomp grapes, pick your own grapes, there’s live entertainment, a petting zoo for kids and of course the 5K Vineyard Run. This 5K is unlike most others; at this event, teams of seven enter the race attached to various organizations. These organizations actually race against each other fighting to get there whole team across the finish line first to be the first to win The Grape Harvest Festival trophy!

PAT THOMAS

The Rattler Battalion partook in a full day of fun and great training at this year’s first field training exercise, or FTX. On September 27, we had the chance to bond with our sister university, Florida State, for our first of many combined training events. This event took place at the Pat Thomas Police Academy; here, cadets were exposed to a day packed back to back with training, especially our MSIIIs. This day, cadets zeroed and qualified M16 rifles, familiarized with M9 pistols, repelled from a 50 foot tower to build confidence, participated in BRM classes to gain knowledge, cleaned weapons and attacked a dynamic land navigation course… some of which were doing some, if not all, of these things for the very first time. However, new to the range or returning, the training at Pat Thomas was a great opportunity to freshen up on basic marksmanship skills and learn new ways and techniques to lead from the front by eventually shooting expert. While at Pat Thomas, the lower level MS cadets were able to learn about their weapon system inside and out, learning the necessary information for how to safely utilize their weapon system to its fullest ability. MSIV cadets offered the MSIII cadets their insight and experience during land navigation before they began the course. Over at the fifty-foot tower, cadets learned to count on their battle buddy to get them safely down the tower and some even conquered their fear of heights, gliding on the way down. As a future leader, it is important to train in these aspects now, because anything we task our subordinates to do, we should know how to do even better. As leaders we are the example, we are to provide guidance, intent and purpose and field training events, such as Pat Thomas, is where it all starts.
Summer Training

On the 26th of July, ROTC CULP cadets conducted humanitarian aid at the University Clinical center of Kosovo in Pristina. The visit was planned and prepared by the US Embassy in conjunction with the Kosovo nonprofit Care for Kosovo Kids. Cadets volunteered on the pediatric floors along with Kosovo Security Force members to assemble furniture and rearrange working spaces for the floor staff.

The event provided not only an opportunity for the cadets to work hand in hand with the KSF students they are teaching English to, but also provided a valuable service to the clinic. New furniture provided by Care for Kosovo Kids was assembled and placed in rooms on the neonatal/pediatric floor, and old, worn-out furniture was removed. Care for Kosovo Kids has a partnership with the pediatric ward and has been there previously with local volunteers, raising funds for new equipment and decorating the walls for the newborn children and their families in the clinic.

Upon the completion of summer, MSIVs nationwide began to get ready to be shipped off to Leadership Development Assessment Course also known as LDAC, in Fort Knox, Kentucky. They were to endure 30 days of vigorous training where they were assessed on their physical and mental abilities to withstand unexpected pressure and situations; qualities that new, upcoming Army Lieutenants must possess. There were a variety of training events ranging from: the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Victory Tower, the Confidence Course, buddy team live fire, land navigation, cultural awareness trainings and simulated infantry missions. Those events were used to enhance and practice not only their tactics, but also leadership abilities when a variety of unforeseen scenarios were thrown their way. Cadets were also placed in garrison leadership positions throughout the training to instill confidence and enhance their skills in the art of leadership. Our Rattlers did an exceptional job this summer bringing home eight Excellent (“E”) ratings as well as PT award badges. LDAC is a place to learn, grow, network and train for future endeavors in an ARMY Officer’s career. Summer training programs that are offered include: Air Assault, Airborne, CTLT, CULP, LDAC, and LTC. To be considered for these summer trainings you must possess three things: a competing GPA, a great PT score and a strong commitment to the ROTC program. There are many benefits to these programs and for most of them, the benefits are of monetary value. If interested, be sure to speak to your instructor and stay informed, don’t let these opportunities pass you by!
Pink Tie Ball

The Florida A&M University (FAMU) Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its annual Pink Tie Ball at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 24, at Kleman Plaza to raise money for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world’s largest private organization for breast cancer support, advocacy and research.

FAMU’s RATTLER BATTALION SHOWED MAJOR SUPPORT TAKING HOME THE TROPHY AND THE $500 CASH PRIZE!!!

Mentorship

No matter how smart or accomplished we think we are, every one of us needs a mentor. None of us can make our way through this world without the advice, coaching or example of others. The fact is that many leaders fail to knowingly, regularly and thoughtfully mentor others, and if they would only listen, they’d hear those needing it most asking for mentoring in so many ways.

Mentoring is not about hanging onto the coattails of a successful person, or trying to gain wisdom or status through osmosis, or dragging along promising subordinates. Neither is it hoping that by standing in someone else’s limelight you can get the light to shine on you. It is about taking and giving advice and wise counsel, about taking the time to share ideas and experiences with others. It is simply part of one of the basic military leadership responsibilities—taking care of soldiers.

Serving as a mentor is one of the easiest things you can do as a leader. All it takes is that you demonstrate care and concern for the well-being and development of others.

Above: Mentors: Cdt Hollaway/Traylor Mentees: Cdt Patterson, Trapp, Carney, Ford all had dinner cooked by the mentors, as we bonded, ate, studied, and watched a movie before leaving to get sleep before PT.

Left: Cdt Hulse with one of her mentees Cdt Duncan working on a social work assignment for the major they both share.

The semester is almost up! Hope you are getting to know, hang and talk to your mentees and mentors, because mentorship is a two way street.

Mentorship is very important, as stated above, so don’t take this opportunity lightly.
At the Rattler’s Battalion, Miss Army ROTC dates all the way back to the year 1950. Though the role and duties may have evolved over the years, the purpose and importance for having a Miss Army ROTC has remained the same. Miss Army ROTC represents the highest ideals; she is a true combination of beauty, intelligence and strength, she is what an Army female or any female for that matter should strive to emulate, obtaining physical and academic excellence.

Miss Army ROTC attends several events throughout the academic school year acting as the face of the Rattler Battalion; she is also responsible for hosting several community service, mentoring, fundraising and battalion comradery events of her own, to keep our battalion in line with its commitment.

On Tuesday October 14, 2014 at 8p.m. the FAMU Army ROTC hosted its annual Miss ROTC pageant hosted by former Miss ROTC, Cadet Melody Sade Traylor. Cadets LaDonna Carney, Brittany Hill, and Yvenka Quettant competed against one another to take the crown. The three contestants competed in a series of events including; reciting the Army Cadet Creed in full ASUs, presenting their platforms and a question and answer portion from the judges. At the conclusion of the events, the judges deliberated keeping in consideration the contestants’ PT score and GPA. Cadet Quettant was chosen by her fellow Miss ROTC potentials as Miss Congeniality for helping out whenever needed and for possessing the best attitude throughout the pageant. LTC Escobar had the pleasure in announcing The Rattler Battalion’s new Miss ROTC: Cadet LaDonna Carney. We look forward to seeing her platform points unfold with the cadet corp and cadre’s full support! Congratulations.
Upcoming Events

October 24-25, 2014
Brigade Leadership Development Exercise

October 26-Nov 1, 2014
Homecoming Festivities

October 31, 2014
Haunted House Party

November 24-25, 2014
RECORD APFT

November 11, 2014
Veterans Day Parade

November 22, 2014
Orlando Classic

December 2-4, 2014
ROTC FINALS!

December 5, 2014
Christmas Party

December 12, 2014
Commissioning Ceremony

Trees to Tree

Cadets had a chance to have fun and build some camaraderie amongst each other zip lining and traveling from tree to tree.