February 2016

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Committed to Excellence Second to None
Rattlers – Happy New Year and I hope the year 2016 brings you closer to your goals. This Spring semester is busy one which started with an M4 Rifle familiarization range and rappelling at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. As the world continues to change and become more complex, we are ensuring that we continue to meet the future challenges that will face our nation through our leaders. Our focus remains on recruiting the highest quality future officers for our nation. We are also gearing up for our summer training and look forward to this great training opportunity for our Cadets. Keep an eye out for the key events – the FAMU Army ROTC Leadership Conference, the Leadership Developmental Exercise at Camp Blanding, the military ball, and lastly, the 2016 Spring Commissioning Ceremony.

2016 Army ROTC Leadership Conference

“Readiness is the #1 priority – there is no other one...readiness is developing the future force” General Mark A. Milley, 39th Chief of Staff of the Army highlights those “marching orders” and what an excellent opportunity to execute this and be a part of this year’s 2016 FAMU Leadership/Mentorship Conference.

I am truly excited to start this year with a myriad of topics and participants that will enable this conference to improve upon last year’s success. As a team, we will emphasize the basics of what Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 6-22 defines leadership as from all points of views – Active, Retired Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and Leaders for Life. The “take away” for these Cadets is to embrace the leadership requirements model (LRM) in what a leader is (attributes) and what a leader does (competencies). The FAMU Leadership/Mentorship Conference will be held at the Army ROTC building, Howard Hall, from 12-13 February 2016.

We will also celebrate the Rattler Battalion’s Anniversary during the conference! Although, the birth of this great unit was July 1948, it is difficult to celebrate it during the summer as the Cadets and Cadre are executing Cadet Summer Training.

Committed to Excellence Second to None
Greetings! I am Dorothea Rhodel the 65th annual Miss Army ROTC. It's an absolute honor to hold this title; a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I hope to continue to fill the shoes just as the prior 64 Miss Army ROTC have before me.

Upcoming Miss Rotc Events:

Community Service Opportunities
Mentor/ Mentee Bonding

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.- Colin Powell

The Spring 2016 semester is officially underway. It is my pleasure to serve as your Battalion Commander. I look forward to watching you all attack the events we have planned this semester with the enthusiasm and fervor that makes the Rattler Battalion unique. We have everything from the Alumni Leadership Conference in the historic Howard Hall to the Leadership Development Exercise (LDX) at Camp Blanding planned and ready for everyone to gain knowledge from. The end goal for this semester is preparation for those cadets leaving for Cadet Summer Training (CST) in a way that continues to bring great credit upon themself as well as the Rattler Battalion as a whole. We’ve established a standard that will continue to be met and exceeded by current and future Rattlers alike. By doing this we can continue to proudly exclaim in a loud and clear voice “Committed to excellence, second to none, RATTLERS!”
FAMU ARMY ROTC program presents to you our ten newly contracted cadets of Spring 2016: Breann Baskett, Tyalliah Early, Baidy Gadio, Lesleyann Jackson, Rudsheld Plaisir, Crystal Randolph, Cleeford Saintpierre, Marcus Scott, Jordan Sealy, Jacari White. These cadets were sworn into the Army during the ROTC contracting oath ceremony at Howard Hall on January 7th, 2016. Congratulations to you all on being contracted and welcome to the Rattler Battalion!

These cadets have exemplified leadership, academically and physically, and they will continue being leaders by contributing to the Rattler Battalion. We look forward to seeing you all succeed in the program and becoming 2nd Lieutenant Army Officers.
The Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) is a Professional Military Education (PME) commissioning requirement. The CWST consists of a 15-meter swim in Army Combat Uniform (ACU), sneakers, fighting load carrier (FLC) with M-16; 3-meter drop from a diving board blindfolded with weapon and FLC, removing blindfold and swimming to side of pool without losing weapon; and equipment removal after entering the water in which the Cadet discards weapon and FLC and swims to side of pool.

Committed to Excellence Second to None
Part of becoming an Army Officer is challenging yourself beyond what you can do. We include adventurous activities into our program allowing Cadets to push themselves to the edge and beyond and to do things most Americans do not get to do. Ranger Challenge is the Army ROTC Varsity Sport. The team forms early in the semester and trains rigorously nearly every morning of the week. Ranger Challenge team members accomplish more before 8am than most college students accomplish in an entire day. The team trains all the way up until the Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition. Like most sport teams, cuts have to be made and only the best remain. The remaining members will go on to represent the Rattler Battalion in the local 6th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition.

The Firing Range

On 23 January 2016, the Rattler Battalion traveled to Pat Thomas training center to conduct live fire and rappel training. It was a cold morning with temperatures near freezing; though, that would not stop us. Pat Thomas is designed to provide confidence to cadets in marksmenship and to cadets with fear of heights. Rattlers first conducted PMI and Pre Rappel Instruction. After training, cadets fired the M-16 series rifle at ranged simulated targets. Rappel training was conducted on Pat Thomas’s 38 foot Rappel tower. There were zero fall outs on the rappel tower meaning that every cadet rappelled, some conquering their biggest fear. HOOAH Rattlers!
The Cultural Understanding & Language Proficiency (CULP) Program

For Army ROTC Cadets, the world is their classroom. Every year hundreds of Cadets travel the globe, spending up to three weeks immersed in foreign cultures, learning more about how others around the world view the U.S. and, in the process, learning more about themselves. The Army recognizes the need for young leaders to develop more cultural awareness and foreign language proficiency skills. These opportunities expose them to everyday life in different cultures and intensifies language study, which helps produce commissioned officers who possess the right blend of language and cultural skills required to support global operations in the 21st Century.

These Rattlers were selected by competing with cadets around the nation in several factors, such as GPA, physical fitness, an essay, and other pertinent selection criteria.

Cadets attending CULP Summer 2016

Michael Schulte
CULP: El Salvador
Major: History
I look forward to traveling to El Salvador and working with their military. It will offer a new perspective on how foreign militaries operate.
Jasmine Towner  
CULP: Paraguay  
Major: Animal Science  
I want to go to Paraguay to get a taste of their culture and traditions.

Danny Hargrove Jr.  
CULP: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Major: Nursing  
I want to go to the DRC to experience African Culture and re-connect with my motherland.

Joshua Rigo  
CULP: Estonia  
Major: Computer Science  
I want to go to Estonia to explore the Estonian culture and way of life.

Dorothea Rhodel  
CULP: Albania  
MAJOR: Health care management  
I truly grateful that that I have the opportunity to explore a new culture as well as bond with cadets from all over. Both domestic and foreign.
The FAMU ARMY ROTC Battalion says farewell to Colonel (Reired) Herbert Gerald Parker. Colonel Parker enlisted in the U.S Army in 1947, he later became an infantry officer’s Candidate School graduate. In addition, with serving as the commander all over the U.S Special forces in the Mekong Delta, Republic of Vietnam. His last mission was to serve as the professor of Military Science at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University from 1973 until his retirement in August 1977. Parker’s passion for service still remained active after 30 years of military service. During his retirement, Parker remained active in Tallahassee Urban League, The Capital Chords men, Boy Scouts of America, and The Capital Rotary Club of Tallahassee. Parker leaves behind his wife, a daughter, Christie Parker Smith (Gerald), Olney, Maryland, and grandson, Matthew Warren Smith.
I am an Army Cadet. Soon I will take an oath and become an Army Officer committed to DEFENDING the values which make this Nation great. HONOR is my touchstone. I understand MISSION first and PEOPLE always.

I am the PAST: the spirit of those WARRIORS who have made the final sacrifice.

I am the PRESENT: the scholar and apprentice soldier enhancing my skills in the science of warfare and the art of leadership.

But above all, I am the FUTURE: the future WARRIOR LEADER of the United States Army. May God give me the compassion and judgment to lead and the gallantry to battle to win.
This year Cadet Command will celebrate 100 years of existence. MG Combs has sent letters to all University Presidents and each program will celebrate the anniversary with specific events. ROTC has been in an official capacity on FAMU since 1948, but traces its origin to the military and drill instruction which has been provided by the Professor of Military Science since the beginnings of the institution.