Rattler Battalion
“Committed to Excellence”

FAMU Alumni to be Promoted to Full Bird

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LTC Promotable Cedric Carrington
Lieutenant Colonel Cedric Carrington is a native of Tampa, FL and joined the Army after graduating from Florida A&M University class of 1994. As student, Carrington was active in the Student Government Association, Marching 100, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Army ROTC and served as the King of Orange & Green. In 1994, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and earned a Distinguished Military Graduate commission as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army. Over the past 20 years he has served as a leader in Infantry Divisions broadening assignments and the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Advice/Tips to Future Lts:
Determine your passion. Figure out what makes you happy. Ensure your branch of choice is as fun for you as it is challenging and intriguing. Maintain a positive attitude. Start building your reputation as an altruistic leader the moment you arrive at BOLC. Don’t be afraid of the tough jobs and assignments. Don’t lose confidence in the leader you are. Learn from every mistake you make. Share those lessons with peers.

Interview conducted by Cadet Charles
A Look Back Into Fall

Orlando Classic

Cadets Hargrove, Perinon, Schulte and Woods attended the Florida Classic last Fall in Orlando, FL. It was a three day long event that included major recruiting events, The Battle of the Bands at the Amway Center and the Florida Classic football game at the Orange Bowl.

At the recruiting events, cadets were allotted the chance to meet high school seniors telling them there stories of Army ROTC and life as a cadet; as well as having the privilege to meet a Brigadier General. The Battle of the bands was a great event where we were allowed to intermingle with Cadets from Bethune Cookman to exchange stories and experiences. The final event, which was the football game, was the best event in my opinion. The three other cadets and I presented the colors before the game during the National Anthem. A little after halftime I was presented with my 3 year Army Scholarship on the field. - Cadet Hargrove

Battalion Christmas Party

The Rattler Battalion enjoyed a night full of games, gifts, great food and laughter at the Fall Christmas Party. Cadets got the chance to participate in Secret Santa and class skits to playfully mimic people and funny situations that happened throughout the semester. All for the purposes of building unity and comradery within the Rattler Battalion.

Fall Joint Leadership Training Exercise or JLDX

In the past, our training events went by the name of FTXs or Field Training Exercises. We executed much of the same things however this time around the focus is much different. Before, as cadets, we were caught up in being the perfect soldier, executing missions perfectly, with no mistakes, pushing forward to the end. Now, cadet command sees that no battle is predictable; there will always be mistakes! That's why now our trainings are Leadership Training Exercises targeting our leadership development and critical thinking skills once those mistakes and obstacles arise. MSIV Cadet Moore had this to say, “My experience as an OIC for this joint event was very constructive and educational. We had the opportunity to work alongside the Seminole Battalion, which doesn’t happen too often so it helped with unit and team cohesion and created diversity among the operation.”
Fall Commissioning Ceremony

At the end of last semester, we re-ignited a celebration that is a constant tradition of the Rattler Battalion. Revitalizing the imagination and drive of the Rattler Battalion to succeed and push on for a dream and a mission. This mission is to become another memorable member of the United States Army and begin with the first step as a Second Lieutenant. December 12, 2014, 2nd LT Stefan Sabur and 2nd LT Brittany Blackmore and the rest of the battalion were lifted to new heights; they made a commitment to uphold and carry on the tradition and the standard for more to follow. The speech given by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Reginald D. Howard, was a celebration of LT Blackmore and Sabur’s ascension into the honor of Army officership.—Cadet Cortinas

Ranger Challenge

Competition- Camp Blanding

The Ranger Challenge is a two-day event, where over 50 ROTC teams in sixth brigade from schools from all over Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico all come to Camp Blanding, in Jacksonville, Florida, to complete military-related tasks while exhausted from a long day of rucking with anywhere from 35 to 50 pounds of weight on our backs. An 8 obstacle Air-Assault confidence course, carrying and rowing a zodiac weighing close to 300 pounds, shooting, throwing grenades, and land navigation across thousands of meters in the pouring rain were just a few events we participated in to challenge our physical and mental toughness. “The Ranger Challenge was a great opportunity to be a part of. I learned so many new techniques when training for RC. I became closer to the cadets on my team and grew a respect for the cadets who wear the Ranger Challenge Tab, just because I know the pain they went through to represent their school and compete with the best. Next year I stride to become Captain and leader of the RC team to lead my team to victory.” -Cadet Woods
COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL TEST OR CWST

The combat water survival test or CWST, as we often refer to it as, is a requirement for cadets to pass, in order to commission. Before taking the actual CWST we must find out the strong swimmers and help encourage the weak swimmers. Once we make the distinction; the strong swimmers tread water for a total of 5 minutes and swim laps back and forth for a total of 10 minutes (without stopping or touching the wall) before moving on to complete the other events. This test is broken up into three events: 1) Swim across the pool with a M-16; 2) Jump into the pool with a LBV (Load Bearing Vest) and M-16, drop the rifle and remove the vest, resurface and swim to the edge of the pool. 3) Walk off diving board blindfolded and swim to the edge of the pool.

“The diving board event was a great trial for me; I had never been on a diving board before and I am terrified of heights. My first time walking onto the diving board, I found myself in tears and eventually walked off without jumping. But after some reassurance I was able to successfully jump on and complete the task. Although the CWST had a few bumps in the road for me, after the fact I must admit that I truly enjoyed myself and am proud to say that I’m one more step closer to commissioning.”

–Cadet Alexis (right)

Future Officers Look Back
On Their Army ROTC Career and Give Advice and Insight to Those Who Follow in Their Footsteps

Octavia Lewis
Active Duty Engineer

“I like the fact that my ROTC Battalion is very close and we consider ourselves as family. We are always there to help and support one another for educational, business or personal events.”

“You may get to a point in life and in the AROTC program where you may have to evaluate your true desires, motivation, and life’s decisions. Do not let anyone (cadre or cadet) deter you from accomplishing something that you have been working so hard to accomplish or what you want for yourself.”

Larry D. Smith Jr.
Active Duty Transportation Corps.

“Advice to MS1 or JROTC cadets is to be prepared to work hard, have great time-management skills, get involved in campus activities, maintain a 3.5 G.P.A. or above IOT compete for AD (active duty) and maintain 280 + APFT (Army Physical Fitness Test) score.”
Joshua Thomas
Active Duty Military Intelligence

“ROTC has been a great experience in which I have learned how to become an effective leader in the United States Army. The Cadets at Rattler Battalion are some of the best in the nation and will succeed and overcome any obstacle.”

Terrance Stewart
Active Duty Infantry

“The road you are on has a lot of obstacles and distractions. If you stay the course and remain focused on your goals, then the experience and success will be well worth the sacrifices.”

Peter V. Falcone
Active Duty Infantry

“What I love about the branch that I’m going into is it will challenge me and push me to and past my limits. I owe it to my future soldiers and their families to be the best lieutenant I can be.”

Melody Traylor
Reserved Transportation Corps.

“The reason I chose this branch is because everything the Army is, transportation is, and it is the only branch that implements it all. Nothing happens until something moves!”

LaMicah Darnell Lagree Harris
Reserved Transportation Corps.

“The thing I like most about the Transportation Corps is that you can easily transition into a civilian job having Transportation on your resume.

“ROTC teaches and practices professionalism; the things that we learn don’t only set us up for success in the Army, but in the civilian world as well.”

Jennifer J. Hulse
Active Adjutant General

“I love the fact that ROTC is full of opportunities for males, females, blacks, whites, Hispanics, Native Americans and many more.

Opportunities are opened to all; you as the individual just have to fight for what you want because those opportunities are limited to the best cadets.”

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Jerome Maples  
Active Duty Quartermaster

“To future cadets, follow your dreams. Things will not always be easy or go your way, but always remember what you sought out to do and get it done. Also remember you only fail when you stop trying.”

D’Vante Morales  
Active Duty Armor

“Do not settle for less. If you have no competition become your own and motivate others to do the same.”

“I am truly thankful for the opportunities that was given to me and hope to continue to achieve great things.”

Brianna Renee Cromartie  
Georgia National Guard Field Artillery

I would tell a MS1/JROTC cadet in order to be a good leader you MUST be a great follower; and if you are a good leader it is known NOT told. Have a creative mind and remember to enjoy yourself during these years because with great power comes great responsibility so have fun.

Erode Jean  
Reserved Military Police

One thing I would tell the MS1 is do not try to be someone you are not. It’s important to stay committed to the program, and at the end all the hard work and time you put in the program will be worth it.

Tyler Moore  
Reserved Signal Corps

“Prior to commissioning, I’ve performed duties as an enlisted soldier in the Signal Corps. I like the technological aspects of this branch because it allows the unit to possess Internet, phone, and encrypted data anywhere in the world. I believe that it is fascinating to know that not too many people are qualified or capable to complete that type of task.”
Upcoming Events

February 21, 2015
Spring Preview/Army Adventure Van

March 9-13, 2015
Spring Break

March 20, 2015
Commander’s Cup

March 21, 2015
Pat Thomas Rifle Range/LDX

April 9-11, 2015
Spring JLDX

April 17, 2015
Military Ball

April 20-22, 2015
ROTC Finals

May 1, 2015
Commissioning Ceremony

May 4-8, 2015
Pre-CLC