We began the new school year on the tail of a very successful summer of Cadet training. 1/3 of the Cadets we sent to LDAC last summer achieved top scores (i.e. “Es”). That’s the highest percentage since at least 2006, the farthest back I’ve been able to find records. All of the Cadets we sent to special schools graduated (Airborne, Air Assault, etc.), another first in several years. In addition, we sent Cadets to professional internships, cultural exchange programs, and troop-leading time in active duty units around the world! So, while this year’s MS IV class is one of the smallest, they started the year off strong.

We also began the year with our first-ever iteration of Cadet Initial Entry Training, otherwise known as JumpStart. We brought new / prospective MS Is and IIs in a week before school officially started to participate in a week of training focused on the basics – things that normally take the entire first semester for them to learn. With such a solid foundation, earlier, we hoped this would put our new Cadets on a trajectory towards even higher standards and levels of success throughout their ROTC experience. So far, it seems to be working. Ironically, Cadet Command is looking at a similar model for all basic course Cadets in the future.

And all of this, before school started! Then we were off! Football games, involving cannon crew and color guard; weekly leadership labs, where our Cadets continued to raise the bar on tough, realistic training; the Military Appreciation football game, where our Cadets and campus veterans presented the National Colors and our drill team performed a “first time anyone can remember” half-time show; combat water-survival training, where we tried to drown our Cadets; and our Fall field training exercise (FTX) where our Cadets finally got to practice all the things they learned in the first quarter. At the same time, our MS IVs received their accessions results. Most of them received their first-choice for branch – a noteworthy point. Even more unique, Kelly Joiner received an educational delay to attend graduate school for a Doctoral in Physical Therapy (DPT). This is an extremely competitive selection process! Ultimately, she will serve as a physical therapist in the Army, fulfilling one of her life goals.

Despite the harsh winter weather, things didn’t slow down one bit around here. In addition to higher-echelon collective training during labs and FTXs, our Ranger Challenge Team competed against 32 other squads from across 8th Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, WA. In the most grueling event ever, our relatively young team placed in the top third of all teams – another “better than ever” event (or at least, better than anyone can remember). That is, until the old timers show up at our military ball and start talking about what ROTC was like, when THEY were here.
All kidding aside, this year’s military ball was a special one because our guest speaker, Gary Volesky (Class of ’83) had just been promoted to Major General and announced as the next commanding general of the famed 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. Screamin’ Eagles! We were honored to have him here, along with several of his esteemed classmates.

The rest of the year is still a blur! It seems like we’ve been training constantly, while adjusting to big changes across Cadet Command at the same time. The Leader Development & Assessment Course (LDAC, formerly known as Advanced Camp) has moved to Fort Knox this year. For decades, it has been at JBLM (Fort Lewis) amongst other locations. The move is just one part of a larger set of strategic changes across ROTC, mostly due to the downsizing of the Active Army, budget reductions, and a push towards a better leader development program for tomorrow’s future leaders. Some of these changes come with gloom and doom: fewer slots for active duty, a more competitive accessions process, fewer scholarships, etc. However, I’m not worried about it, and nor should you be, because our program and our Cadets are outpacing these changes altogether! The gloom and doom assumes all else remains the same and wishes for the good ole days, when things were easy. Our Cadets are pushing themselves and one another so much farther, faster, if anything I see greater opportunities ahead for them.

To see some of the things our Cadets will be doing over the summer, you should check out the following links. We will be posting stories & photos specifically about our Cadets at https://www.facebook.com/ewurotc

Leader Development and Assessment Course: http://armyrotc.smugmug.com/LDAC/2014 (MS IIIs, typically between Junior & Senior years) http://clc.futurearmyofficers.com/

Leaders Training Course: http://armyrotc.smugmug.com/LTC/2014 (MS I & IIIs, typically following their Freshman or Sophomore years) http://ciet.futurearmyofficers.com/

Cultural Understanding & Language Proficiency (CULP): http://armyrotc.smugmug.com/CULP/CULP-2014 (MS IIIs, typically between their Sophomore and Junior years) http://futurearmyofficers.com/category/culp
Airborne School
by Cadet Alexandra Smith

AIRBORNE! The one word I have said more than any other this summer. It nearly became my entire vocabulary while at Ft. Benning, Georgia for the most humid three weeks of my life. But aside from the most humid, they were also the most tiresome, the most work, and the most amazing three weeks I have ever experienced.

Even when I was exhausted from lack of sleep or having to run everywhere (literally), even when I was drenched in sweat from head to toe, I loved it. I was a part of Bravo Company, Second Platoon, and was lucky enough to end up with a great, motivated team. From day one on our APFT, we were supporting each other, all trying to help get each other through Airborne to get our wings.

We all wanted it! Cadets, NCOs, Officers and Enlisted, it didn’t matter; we would help each other. Through the experience, we all learned a lot about each other, and I also learned a lot about active duty army. People were excited to exchange experiences, and I was lucky to have people who answered my questions and asked me some of their own about my being a Cadet. Cadets often discussed their programs between one another and I became friends with people from all walks of life, and it really enhanced the experience for me. Not only was I learning how to be a paratrooper, but I also was gaining patience, discipline and friends. Some of my battle buddies still text me with various phrases that we said over and over again for those three weeks until we said it in our sleep, like “Jumpers with a T11 parachute, HIT IT”. Going to Airborne school wasn’t just about how cool it is to jump from a plane and slowly float to the ground, but about the experience as a whole. I’ll never forget anything from this experience, and I couldn’t be more grateful that I got to go.

If I had any advice for other Cadets going to Airborne it would be this: before you leave do a lot of running, and make sure your upper back and shoulders are strong, when you get there listen to your black hats, they will keep you safe and well-trained, and most importantly ALWAYS keep your feet and knees together. Airborne; all the way!

To see an article from the Easterner about Alex Smith and other Cadets from EWU Army ROTC who attended summer training in 2013, click here:
http://issuu.com/easterneronline/docs/vol._65_issue_1/4
Nurse Summer Training Program  
*by Cadet Chelsea Wilhelm*

For 28 days this summer, I attended the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. NSTP consists of 120 clinical hours on various units, an individual in-service project, a group health-related presentation, and a staff ride. I spent 72 hours on a mother-baby unit, 12 hours with labor and delivery, 12 hours in the ICU, 8 hours with a nurse anesthetist, 8 hours in the operating room, and 8 in the Emergency Room.

While at Tripler, I was chosen to be the class leader for the month by responsibilities such as delegating tasks, checking in with the Cadets military and civilian staff alike and was supported throughout my time working in the hospital. I learned a lot about what it means to be an Officer in the Nursing Corps and gained a great deal of clinical experience. As far as advice for future Cadets attending NSTP, ask questions! Make sure to seek opportunities to learn and experience something new or practice a skill. Also, on your days off relax and have some fun. Your schedule will seem packed at first, but you will have some good days off. Go explore the base you are on and the surrounding area. Be safe, be responsible, but have fun with your peers!

My in-service project was on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and how to prevent newborns from falling victim to it. My rotation's group project was titled "The History of Tripler Army Medical Center and its Effects on the Surrounding Community." Our staff ride was to the USS Arizona and USS Missouri. It was very interesting to learn the role and history of both battle ships.
Cultural Understanding & Language Proficiency (CULP) Program
by Cadet Katie Emery

This summer, I participated in a CULP military-to-military mission in Romania. My team was assigned to work with the 21st Romanian Mountain Battalion in Predeal. For approximately three weeks, we helped the Romanian soldiers become more familiar with the English language and American culture. The Romanian soldiers in turn taught us, the American Cadets, different skills and tactics that were unique to a mountain unit.

We learned how to tie a multitude of knots and how to set up a harness system in order to climb. We rock climbed, learned how to rappel down a rock face as well as a free rappel off a helicopter pad. We also learned more specialty rappels, like rappelling upside down and Aussie rappelling by walking vertically down a rock face. We learned about mountain land navigation and how to adjust to the ever-increasing altitudes and elevations. We also learned quite a bit about their weapons systems and got to mess around with their various weapons.

We had a lot of time to really see the many different tourist aspects of the country. We visited a lot of castles and medieval towns, went on mountain hikes, and even went on a high ropes course that took us high above the trees. We spent some time embracing Romania’s urban life in their capital, Bucharest, and visiting the Black Sea in the beach town of Constanta.

It was great to be able to meet so many new types of people throughout my trip. It was interesting to meet new ROTC Cadets from around the country and to trade stories from our respective schools. I also enjoyed meeting our Romanian counterparts and learning all about Romania and its culture. I made so many great friendships that I will never forget!

My advice to future Cadets who participate in a CULP mission is to make sure you immerse yourself in the culture as much as you can while in the country. It’s not every day you get that kind of opportunity after all! Also, make sure to really take the time to get to know the other Cadets on your mission trip, as well as the foreign counterparts that you will meet. Everyone has so much to share and there is so much to learn! It will definitely make the trip more fun and truly enhance the experience as a whole. I am so thankful for everything I learned, and the connections I have made.
Eastern Washington University is holding their 50-year reunion for the Classes of 63, 64 and 65 as one – October 17-18, this coming Fall. We plan to piggy-back with the university to have some of our own events focused on ROTC Alumni, particularly those who served in Vietnam, all as part of our 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

While the commemoration has been ongoing since Memorial Day, 2012, we plan to surge in 2015. After all, 1965 is the year we got heavily involved in Vietnam and 65-75 spans the era most associate with the conflict. With the Classes of ’63-’65 coming next year for their reunion, we hope to put together a parallel reunion of our own - focused on those who graduated from 65-75, but open to any Alumni from Eastern's ROTC program who served in Vietnam.

We have been steadily building our own Vietnam Commemorative Display in Cadet Hall, using mementos from Vietnam donated by several of our Alumni. We will continue to build upon this and welcome others to contribute. Special thanks to Jim Dostert, Bob Heinemann, James Zimmerman, Bob Wilkinson, and Jerry Mellick for their contributions to our display thus far.

One of the things we want to create for our reunion is a huge banner, much like what you see below, that allows our Alumni to leave us with a reminder of their part – in ROTC and in Vietnam. If you plan to come to the reunion, you can certainly wait until you are here in person to write on the banner. However, if you worry you won’t be able to make it, but still want to join in, you can simply write your message and signature on a piece of paper and send it in. We will scan it and include it on the banner before we get it printed; then the rest of us will pile on. If you want to digitally scan your message and send it, please email it to dflores@ewu.edu. If you want to simply write it on a piece of paper and snail-mail it in, please send it to Army ROTC, 202 Cadet Hall, Cheney, WA 99004. We recommend using a medium-point black permanent marker, with your name, when you attended EWSC, when/where/with whom you served in Vietnam – this sort of thing. We will have rubbings from the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. for our Gold-Star Alumni along the top of the banner. We are still figuring out a way to display the actual charcoal rubbings. They are quite special!

In the meantime, if you would like to contribute your time, energy, souvenirs from Vietnam, or funds to help us improve our commemorative displays, please let us know. We will share more details about event plans soon, but mark your calendars and make your reservations now! October 17-18! We look forward to seeing as many of our Vietnam-era Alumni as possible.
EWU ROTC ‘JumpStart’
*Success through Trial by Fire*
*by Cadet Mike Hantho*

After years of creating an excellent officer-training program, Eastern’s Army ROTC seeks to make that training even better with a new program called JumpStart. JumpStart was designed to accelerate the speed at which future cadets are trained by instilling Army basics early on, thus allowing them more time to develop and test their leadership skills throughout the year.

Taking place a week before fall quarter, nearly twenty-four cadets sacrificed the last of their summer to become better cadets. Some of the basic tasks in ROTC that were covered include proper marching, physical conditioning, marksmanship, battle drills, and equipment maintenance. For many of these cadets, it was the first time they had ever been a part of anything related to the military. Kaylee Tate, a freshmen cadet in Eastern’s ROTC, describes her experience with JumpStart as initially overwhelming. “It was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but looking back, I’m glad I did [JumpStart].”

For others, who were already proficient in the ways of doctrine, but lacked the experience in using that doctrine. Regardless of knowledge or experience, JumpStart placed each cadet in a situation of great adversity, pushing them to new and various limits of physical and mental endurance.

JumpStart is the first of its kind for Eastern’s ROTC. While there were some great challenges along the way for both the cadets and cadre running the program, everyone involved has gained greatly from the experience. Anyone who is interested in becoming an officer in the Army, or curious about the military in general should try out JumpStart. The program lets participants gain experience, confidence, and leadership, while having long-lasting moments of bonding.
MSI Reflections
by Cadet Ashley Wright

My first year in EWU ROTC started a week before classes began when I participated in the first annual JumpStart program. JumpStart was a little bit of a culture shock for me since I had little to no military knowledge coming in, but it was a great experience. Besides a few blisters, I also gained some basic knowledge on what to expect during my MS1 year.

Fall quarter I enjoyed getting to know my fellow cadets as we grew together and formed some very special bonds with each other. The military appreciation football game is one of my favorite memories. I loved waving the giant flag before kickoff, watching the game with other cadets, and setting off the cannon. Winter quarter our Ranger Challenge team started training hard again for our competition at the end of the quarter. I was fortunate enough to travel and participate in the competition with nine awesome cadets by my side. It was the most physically and mentally demanding thing I've done my whole life, but I'd do it all over again! Spring quarter wrapped up the year with two FTXs which I learned a lot from. And that ride in a Blackhawk was the best ten minutes of my life! I am sad to see the MS4s leave, but I know they are going to be great officers. And I am excited to see what the next year of MS1s will have to offer!

Montana Spartan Race
by Cadet Shelby Johnson

The Montana Spartan Sprint was my first time participating in a Spartan Race. My experience was more than I imagined. The Fighting Eagles team was super supportive. We finished each obstacle together and helped each other out over walls, across the monkey bars, and encouraged each other when we needed that extra boost of confidence and strength. There were other competitors who noticed that we were doing burpees as a team regardless if we passed the event. We started together, finished together, and embraced the suck together. This past Spartan Race has made me want to do more whether they are with the team or by myself for time. This summer I will be doing the Spartan Sprint in Washougal, WA as well as the Spartan Beast in Killington, VA. I am definitely looking forward to it. I AM A SPARTAN! AROO!
Annual Military Ball
We held our annual military ball on March 14th at Center Place in Spokane Valley. Our guest speaker was MG Gary J. Volesky, (then) Army Chief of Public Affairs, 1983 graduate of EWU Army ROTC and future Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). A native of Spokane, MG Volesky’s visit made the front page of the Spokesman-Review. Several of his ROTC classmates attended the ball to congratulate him on his recent accomplishments. He spoke to Cadets about his own experience in the Army, the outlook for future junior officers, and things that will contribute to success, all tied together by the theme “Are you ready?”

Commissioning & Accessions (Branch) Results
Every year, Cadet Command conducts a very deliberate accessions process to determine what component of the Army our Cadets will serve, and in what branch. For many Cadets, this is one of the most significant times in ROTC, as it determines to a large degree what they might do in their Army career. This year’s MS IVs (Seniors) had a relatively good run through the accessions process, with most of them getting their top choices for branch. We invite alumni from these branches to reach out to these very promising future officers and offer any advice / mentorship they see fit. Vanessa Abshire and William Grant are end-of-camp commissionees and will commission at the end of LDAC this summer. The others commissioned on 13 June; congratulations to EWU’s newest Second Lieutenants!

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<th>2LT Jennifer Hawkins</th>
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The 2014 Ranger Challenge competition was more unpredictable than any competition we have faced before. Through the many different events, the squad of ten cadets was tested mentally, physically, and emotionally during the two-day event. The buildup and training leading to the competition was rigorous and demanding. Last minute changes, time sacrifices, a multiple tests to determine a final team did not deter the team’s spirit, and the 2014 Ranger Challenge Team entered the competition ready and fierce.

The 2014 Ranger Challenge Team came together as a strong cohesive group. The teamwork, dedication, and sacrifices all participating made created a bond in which brought success and an unforgettable experience. As team captains, Aubry Blad and Markus Duhamel, we are proud and honored by the outstanding performance by all who embraced the challenge of this year’s competition. We also extend a thank you to Cadet Hantho who stuck it out for every practice and kept a motivated spirit, despite not attending the competition. The reigns have been passed to Cadet Trabun, who will continue the strong and intense training in preparation for next year’s competition. Training has already began and we look forward to another strong season. RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!
MSIII Reflection & LDAC Outlook
by Cadet Anthony Fleck

Going into the year I had all sorts of thoughts and nerves jumping around. I was excited that I would be a better asset to the mission but a little nervous that I might also be the one who could completely mess it up. Once the year got started things started falling into place and the nerves seemed to fade away. I was fortunate enough to have such a great class to be part of. Everyone brought a different aspect to the table and constantly built each other up while developing our own skills. The biggest challenge was trying to deal with SGT’s time and all of the MSIII’s jumping around from the platoons to teach classes. Even when peer evaluations came up we remained strong as a class and continued to strive for further heights in learning and self-development. As the rest of the year progressed and we continued to conduct STX missions the MSIII’s grew closer and have developed our own system of joking and dealing with the everyday stress of being a cadet and a student.

Part way through the year we were informed of the change of LDAC to Fort Knox, KY. This was a bit discouraging to a lot of the cadets, especially those who spent last summer in Fort Knox doing other training. In my own opinion I am really excited about going to Fort Knox despite the knowledge of the miserable heat and humidity. I want to see more of the world and the Army is allowing me to go to and experience a different climate to do training. When I get there I am sure that I will hate the heat as much as the next cadet but I will try to push through and get the most out of my training. I am a bit disappointed that there will be no water confidence course this year but I have to believe that everything has a reason.

Overall, it has been a good year and I look forward to what will happen in the future for training and the ever impending commissioning.
MSIV Reflection
by Cadet John Meier

I feel confident in the ability of the EWU Army ROTC Program to continue to teach, train, and create future leaders for the U.S. Army. As a product of this leadership/commissioning program I feel extremely prepared for my future service as an Army Officer.

Not only have I received good instruction from the Professors in Military Science, but I have also gained practical experience in the leadership of peers and subordinates. Coming from active duty service prior to my experience with EWU ROTC, I feel the program can be credited with much of my success, an Active Duty commission and my branch of choice. I want to say thank you to the Professors for the leadership that they gave me.

George C. Marshall Army ROTC Seminar
by Cadet Kelly Joiner

The purpose of the George C. Marshall seminar was to communicate the leadership principles of General George Marshall: candor, commitment, courage, integrity, and selflessness. General Marshall was an extraordinary leader who served as the Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense. He was hailed as the “organizer of victory” by Winston Churchill for his leadership during the Allied victory in World War II. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for the Marshall Plan. This seminar left us with admiration for his leadership, inspiration to serve as courageously as he did, and a better idea of how to model his leadership in the modern operating environment as Army Officers.

While conducting our MS IV Staff Ride, studying the Indian Campaigns of 1858, we met up with an old retired farmer / local historian who was eager to share his knowledge with us. It was the highlight of our day; probably his too.
The seminar was held in Lexington because Virginia Military Institute was General Marshall’s alma mater. We were able to hear from leaders of the Army and Department of Defense, such as GEN (ret.) Richard Cody (Vice Chief of Staff, U.S Army, 2004-2008), BG Peggy Combs (Commanding General, U.S Army Cadet Command), GEN Raymond Odierno (Chief of Staff, U.S Army), LTC Horoho (Surgeon General, U.S Army), and LTG Perkins (Commanding General, TRADOC).

The seminar also provided us with the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions on major national issues with experts in their fields. I had the chance to learn about the complexities of working in Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational environments with MAJ Howk, a Foreign Area Officer. I learned about our multifaceted relationship with Pakistan from Mr. Busa, a former U.S Department of State, and professor from the U.S Military Academy. A virtual staff ride of “Operation Anaconda: the Battle for Roberts Ridge” shed light on some of the tough decisions that we will need to make as Army Officers. COL Besslar, who has commanded all the ANSF mentors and trainers in the Western Provinces of Afghanistan, explained some of the cross cultural challenges in Afghanistan; specifically dealing with coalition, local politics and society.

BG Combs explained where Cadet Command is headed with summer training, and why the evaluation process is changing. In summer training, it will be vital to think your way through every problem, instead of memorizing checklists, so we will become more adaptive leaders. There will be more of a focus on development, and less emphasis on evaluations. There will be 21 straight days in the field. When you’re hot, tired, and working with new people, will you still have patience, tolerance and understanding? Are you a team player? Do you inspire others? The real leaders will emerge during this intense training.

The George C. Marshall Army ROTC Award Seminar was the most influential experience that I have had the opportunity to attend, and I hope that we can all take away some information from the experience. If you are interested in what was covered at this seminar, the website is: http://marshallarmyrotc.org/index.html

MG Gary J. Volesky assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY on 20 June 2014. A distinguished Alumnus of EWU, Class of 1983, MG Volesky was the guest speaker at our military ball this year. We are all very proud to have a former Fighting Eagle as Eagle 6!
EWU Army ROTC “Fighting Eagles” Foundation Funds

The Cadre and Cadets would like to thank the many Alumni, Family, and Friends of our program who have contributed to our foundation funds recently. These funds allow us to do so many things! They help us keep the Willys Jeep running well and looking good. Not only did we re-paint the jeep this year; we also bought a trailer to make it easier to take to events off campus.

The foundation funds allow us to continue improvements downstairs in Cadet Hall, where we have added a functional fitness area to the rifle range. Having our own space and the right equipment has encouraged Cadets of all fitness levels to come in for extra workouts, pushing one another farther and faster than they could in traditional Army PT. What was once a lounge area with couches and a TV is now a center of excellence for aspiring military athletes – males and females alike – waking up early, every day of the week, working to be their best.

We will use the same funds to resource our 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration as well. With your support, we are able to create several commemorative displays in Cadet Hall and around campus, we will host reunions for our Vietnam-era Alumni, and we can promote awareness of Eastern’s role in providing military leaders during such a crucial time. For more information about the commemoration, click on the link below: http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/

We will be sending out more news soon, about our reunion plans this fall. Until then, we invite you to share your stories, photos, memories and mementos with us, that we might include them in our collections.

Several of you have chosen to make your contributions to our dedicated scholarship fund, rather than the traditional foundation fund. With these monies, we are able to recognize and reward exceptional talent and hard work from Cadets who might not be eligible for regular ROTC scholarships. They also help to encourage Cadets to pursue extra-curricular opportunities that they might not otherwise consider, because of limited funds.

With your generous contributions, we are better able to maintain the legacy of our program while continuing to build upon its prestige. So we thank you, all of you who have donated to our program and our Cadet’s continued success. They will undoubtedly produce remarkable returns on your investment. More than anything though, we hope you can come see what we have become, in person. The Jeep is still here. So is Cadet Hall. But wait ‘til you see what they’ve done with the place!