“...It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier ... discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self confidence born of demonstrated ability.”
— George S. Patton Jr.

The Golden Eagle Battalion’s 16 MSIII Cadets ranked 1st of 39 schools in 6th Brigade on Warrior Forge 13/Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) results. LDAC is a training camp for Cadets to be tested on their skills they learned over their MSIII year. The Cadets perform in several events such as Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Day & Night land navigation, first aid, confidence course, STX, CBRN, platoon operations, Field Leader Reaction Course and several evaluation exercises. 6th Brigade consists of schools in Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. As a Battalion we were graded in 8 categories that are listed below with our percentages.

1. Pass % - 100%
2. APFT Avg - 276.3
3. LN Avg - 68.8%
4. Total E % - 37.5%
5. Total N % - 0.0%
6. Top 5 PLT % - 12.5%
7. RECONDO % - 18.8%
8. Peer Rank Avg - 103.6

We ranked above the Brigade and Cadet Command averages in all categories and topped our perennial rivals Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Auburn, Alabama, South Alabama, Tulane and LSU. Golden Eagle Battalion and Cadre are beyond proud of our Cadets. There is no question that Golden Eagle Battalion Cadets are well trained and prepared to be the future leaders in the U.S. Army. EAGLE STRIKE! SMTTT! ARMY STRONG! HOOAH!
Greetings from the Golden Eagle Battalion!

I want to discuss two big things in my part of the newsletter. First, our Department moved during the summer from the George Hurst Building to Southern Hall. Our new location places us in a better spot – in the front of campus, right behind the rose garden. We have more spacious offices and classrooms and we take up the entire first floor of the building. Our Cadre and Cadets executed most of the move and they did it with care and professionalism. Cadets, enjoy the better space and Alumni, I look forward to showing you our hallway when you visit or during the USM Military Appreciation Football game against Florida Atlantic University on 16 November. Current plan is to reserve space on the south end zone terrace of the Rock and watch the game.

My next topic is bragging on our Cadets. In May and July, we commissioned the very best our University has to offer with six Second Lieutenants joining the Officer Corps.

2LT Demetrius Hardaway, Quartermaster Corps
2LT Justin Hasley, Quartermaster Corps
2LT Kendrick Lewis, Transportation Corps
2LT Megan Sly, Adjutant General Corps
2LT Amanda Woods, Ordnance Corps
2LT Danielle Garguilo, Adjutant General Corps

Our Cadets traveled all over the world this summer – learning, growing and representing the Battalion, USM and the Army. Sixteen Cadets graduated from Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA. Cadets Collier, D’angelo, Delgaicco, Dinger, Garguilo, Ivy, and Kennedy excelled – they earned an overall “E”. Cadets D’angelo, Pfeiffer, and Walton earned the coveted RECONDO Badge. Cadet Ranshaw graduated from Leader Training Course (LTC) at Ft. Knox, KY. Cadets Kilgore, Gerald, and Paul earned the Parachutist Badge from Airborne School. Cadets Gerald and Walton earned their Air Assault wings. The Battalion sent six Cadets to experience the Army first-hand, participating in the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) or Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). Cadets Baldwin and Murray participated in NSTP, working at the Army Hospitals at Forts Benning and Bliss. Cadets Carter, Collier, D’angelo, Dinger worked alongside lieutenants in Korea, Fort Bragg, Germany Fort Benning. Finally, Cadets Dubose, James, Miceli, Rushing, and Smith trained with other Cadets from across the country in Kosovo, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Panama and Germany as part of Cadet Command’s Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP). I stand honored to start my third year as the Professor of Military Science for the University of Southern Mississippi program. Let’s maintain the high standards of excellence and uphold the traditions of the Golden Eagles! Eagle Strike! SMTTT! Army Strong!
Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

-Colin Powell

Well as usual I am writing my part of this newsletter late. However I am glad that I have done so. Just received the results from Brigade on how our Cadets performed this summer at LDAC. We knew they did well but now we know how well. They are #1 in the Brigade which has 39 schools. Congrats to the Cadets that performed so well and to ALL the Golden Eagle Cadre, everyone had a big part in all of this.

Now on to School year 2013-14. Everyone had big shoes to fill we must continue the level of training to ensure we continue to do well. That is becoming a tougher task since we are losing two of our Cadre at the end of September due to budget constraints. Also this semester we will be welcoming two new cadre, MSG Patrick who will be replacing me, should be in around mid November and Captain Ellis around the 1st week of December. Let's make sure we welcome them as part of our great team.

I am sure I will have a blurb in the next newsletter, however I want MSG Patrick to be able to put his piece in too. In March 2014 I will final out of the Army and start my retirement. I will retire with 20+ years and I have enjoyed all of it. My time spent here in the Golden Eagle Battalion has been great! I have watched a lot of you grow and become great leaders, I am sure we will stay in touch and I will be able to see you move through your career in the Army. Remember what you have learned here and always continue to improve yourself as a leader. Never forget where you came from! I will leave you with this.
Welcome to all of my new MS IIs. Welcome back for those MS Is and select MS IIs that are returning. I hope you had a great summer and are ready to hit the ground running this new school year. I look forward to getting to know you all.

I will be your primary instructor the first several weeks of the semester for MSL 201. MAJ Henry will become your primary instructor after 26 Sep 13 as I will move on at the end of my contract. He is an outstanding officer with exceptional charisma that you will learn a lot from. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at USM. It has been a great experience and you all (Cadre and Cadets) will without a doubt be missed.

Remember that your academic and physical performances are important whether you choose to pursue an Army career, a civilian career, or both. Your grades and Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) scores will be heavily focused on as the Cadre assess your abilities and provide input for contracting you. Leaders lead from the front. We must be physically fit and have the ability to critically and creatively think in an often, very demanding operational environment. Come in focused and ready to rock!

Also, look ahead and start thinking about additional schools like Airborne or Air Assault to attend. This year alone will be the most opportune time for you to attend these courses. Slots are limited, and only the most physically/mentally fit cadets will be considered.

Always remember that first impressions are the most important, communication and safety are paramount, and attitude is contagious. Embody the Warrior Ethos, live the Army Values, and do your very best in all that you do. Be proud to be a part of the Golden Eagle legacy. Go hard or go home….

SOUTHERN MISS TO THE TOP!!
Welcome to the most critical year of your Cadet career. This is the year that you will determine the majority of your order of merit score for accessions. Your academic, physical, and leadership performance this year will determine your component of service, your branch, your initial duty station, and what you do during your career as an Army officer. This year you will make the transition from leading yourself to leading others. We expect you to have internalized the Army Values and Soldier’s Creed. You should be able to get yourself where you are supposed to be, when you’re supposed to be there, prepared to execute. You cannot lead others if you are not capable of leading yourself. This year you will lead others – during garrison operations, labs, PT, FTXs, academics, mentorship... The final leadership characteristic on the Leadership Assessment Report is Gets Results! This is what a leader does.

Conduct an honest self assessment. Determine your weaknesses and develop a plan to fix those areas. Determine your strengths and figure out how to leverage them to your best advantage. Develop a team mentality. The Army wins as a team and you will win as a team. Winners hang out with winners. If you hang out with losers, you will soon become one. Get in the habit of winning. Watch out for each other all of the time.

Become physically and mentally tough – never quit.

Your year will culminate with the Leadership Development and Assessment Course. If you fail your initial APFT or any of the land navigation tests (day, night, or written, exam) the best you can earn on your efficiency report is “satisfactory.” If you fail any of these tests twice, the best you can achieve at camp is “needs improvement.” If you are given camp credit, you will have just destroyed your OML score. If you max your APFT and land navigation tests, you will be on your way to earning a rating of “excellent” and possibly “platoon top 5” and “RECONDO.”

Our current MS IV class did an exceptional job at LDAC 2013. 6 Army Physical Excellence Badges, 100% land navigation GOS, 3 Recondo Badges, 2 Platoon Top 5, 7 overall excellence ratings, and not a single dimensional Needs Improvement rating. They have achieved excellence and are ready and motivated to train you. Make excellent a Golden Eagle tradition.

Get on the OML list for Airborne and Air Assault Training. This is the best time in your career in the Army to attend these schools. Volunteer for Culture and Language Program (CULP), Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), Drill Cadet Training Program (DCTP), Internships, and join a sports team. Do your absolute best in academics. Earn the highest Order of Merit List (OML) score that you can.

Make the most of every training opportunity you have. SFC Kerry will give you every resource in his control to allow you to be successful. As Napoleon told his marshals, “you can ask me for anything, except more time.”

We look forward to working with you.
During the summer break from July 21st - August 20th, Cadet Miceli participated in the US Army’s ROTC Cultural Understanding Language Proficiency Program (CULP). His particular mission was to travel to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia along with Cadets from around the country in order to participate in an annual military-to-military exercise called Khaan Quest. Khaan Quest is a United Nations multinational peace support operations training exercise that takes place in a training area south of Ulaanbaatar called Five Hills Training Area. At the exercise, he was attached to the Alaskan National Guard and worked with Marines and soldiers from all over the world. The militaries present were from Australia, Germany, South Korea, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Nepal. They executed a wide variety of peace support operations ranging from checkpoint security operations to convoy route clearance. Cadet Miceli thoroughly enjoyed his experience working with international militaries and looks forward to doing so again during his Army career. -CADET MICELI

Cadet James, Keyana spent her summer in Bulgaria on a CULP deployment. The mission for the Bulgaria team consisted of: teaching English to the Bulgarian Cadets and getting culturally immersed in their traditions and belief. Teaching English to the Bulgarian Cadets happen to be the best part of the trip. We spent our first couple of weeks teaching English, to facilitate a series of cross cultural and learning dialogues in the English Language between the U.S. Army ROTC and host-country partners. The cultural immersion took place through a number of sporting events, participating in their physical training, and through visiting a number of historical monuments and museums. Additionally, James had an opportunity to train tactically alongside of Bulgarian, Serbian, Moldova, and Romanian Cadets. This was done by conducting live fire exercises and practicing different scenarios determining the possible outcome for force-to-force exercise or training.

This summer, Cadet Craig Smith went to United States European Command located in Stuttgart, Germany for three months. CDT Smith was an intern there assigned to the Policy, Strategy, Partnering and Capabilities Directorate known as the J5/8. Beyond daily work in that directorate, CDT Smith had multiple opportunities to interact with non-Army US military personnel, foreign military personnel, as well as nonmilitary government personnel. One such opportunity allowed CDT Smith and other members of his team to compete for and win the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. The Cadet was also able to experience a staff ride to WWI sites in France and a military medical mission to Moldova. CDT Smith gained a large amount of military and cultural knowledge from his experience and will be able to use the skills and knowledge he learned for the rest of his career.
ROO CORNER

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be back at the University of Southern Mississippi Army ROTC program! As a young cadet in the program, I could not wait for the day when it would be my turn to stand in front of the audience in the Cook Student Union and take my Oath of Office in the United States Army and Mississippi Army National Guard as a Second Lieutenant. Not too many years later, 16 to be exact, I was approached by the leadership of the Mississippi Army National Guard and LTC Worley, the Professor of Military Science about returning to the battalion, this time as the Assistant Professor of Military Science with duties as the Battalion Executive and Recruiting Officer as well future duties as the MS II Instructor. It did not take Shelly and I long to make a decision on our next move!

USM, along with the Army, is not something my family and I do, it is who we are. My wife Shelly and I are both USM alumni and our oldest daughter, Morgan graduates from here with her degree in Paralegal Studies this December. Shelly, Morgan, Emily, and Grant were all as thrilled about the upcoming move as I was, and remain excited even after the move. With our new assignment, we feel even more connected as a family with our Alma Mater and the Army. It is you as cadre, support staff, and cadets that have made our transition from a unit setting to an academic setting not only easy, but truly worthwhile.

My commitment to you is to provide the most sound, ethical and moral leadership and mentorship to which I am capable. I am unable to think of a more rewarding job in the military than to be able to work daily to recruit, train and mentor the future leaders of the United States Army being grown here at the University of Southern Mississippi. I am personally committed to always being approachable and ensuring that I do my personal best to assist you in resolving whatever problems you encounter and need help with.

In my short time here, I have made it a point to meet many key department chairs, faculty, and staff while on campus. All remark how professional and courteous our cadets are in class and on campus. You are the face of the Army on our campus. I implore you to keep up the good work and continue to ensure that our program is one of the premier and most widely recognized and appreciated departments on campus. There is a reason that you as Army ROTC cadets are invited as special guests to athletic and other significant events on campus and personally recognized by senior administrative officials in almost every event we attend. They TRULY appreciate your commitment to our Nation. Let’s don’t let them down!

Southern Miss – To The Top!!

Golden Eagle Battalion
All MS I and II Cadets need to either bring me a MEPS physical or have completed a DA 3425R Medical Fitness Statement at the USM Clinic. You also need to bring me a dental memo/statement giving the name, address and phone number of your dentist. To all of you who have already completed the above, thank you.

Cadets who are being commissioned in December 2013 need to forward me the emails you receive concerning BOLC.

With the start of the new semester brings reminders and changes, one thing that has not changed is the way we handle Workers Comp. If you are new to the program, or have forgotten, here is the process again to make sure it is done correctly. If you get hurt while training with ROTC:

1. Notify a Cadre member or your Cadet COC AT ONCE!!
2. Come see me (Ms. Dani) and let me make a report.
3. If you (and your instructor) think you need to see a doctor I will do all the paperwork for you.
4. It is NOT guaranteed that workers comp will pay your claim, you must come back after you see the doctor to see me and submit more paperwork.
5. About two weeks after you have finished your paperwork the final step is for YOU to call and get an approved claim number.

**SKIPPING any of the above steps can get your bill turned over to you and have to PAY YOURSELF!!!!**
Golden Eagle Battalion hosted their Annual Army ROTC Military Ball at Southern Oaks., with Cadets, their guests, Cadre and several special friends of the battalion. Among those friends of the battalion was our guest speaker BG Roy Robinson. The night was filled with great food and many presenters from different military organizations who attended and awarded numerous cadets with awards. With many traditions and memories made it was a great way to end another great school year. SMTTT! ARMY STRONG!
Look who made 2LT!!

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Congratulations!
Army ROTC has moved to a new location on campus, Southern Hall on the first floor! We have made it home rather quickly and enjoy very much. Stop by and come take a look at the new place!!

Last Years Alumni/Military Appreciation game was a success and we are hoping to make it even bigger this year. Details about the event will be issued soon. We look forward to seeing all returning Alumni as well and new Alumni!!!

DO YOU HAVE A BRICK?? If so, we thank you, if not.. Why not? The brick prices are $75 for the 4*4 and $125 for the 8*8– you can get an order form off our website, or by calling Ms. Dani. at the main office (601) 266-4456 or by email @ armyrotc@usm.edu