“...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.

**Contracting Excellence in Fall 2014**

USM contracted 6 Cadets into mission set (MS) 2016, 8 Cadets into MS 2017, and 1 Cadet into MS 2018 within the first month of the fall semester 2014. These contracts are a direct result of the near heroic efforts of our Gold Bar Recruiter 2LT Nolan D’Angelo and our Human Resource Assistant Ms. Teresa Quiroga. 2LT D’Angelo stayed in constant contact with our contracting Cadets, encouraging and assisting them in completing their paperwork. He also planned coordinated and supervised our summer physical fitness program that resulted in all of our contracting Cadets scoring a 210 or higher on the APFT. Ms. Quiroga assisted Cadets in completing all contracting paperwork, working scholarship requests, managing the Cadet Command Information System data base, and keeping the chain of command informed of the status of all contracting Cadets. We were incredibly fortunate to have these two dedicated professionals working with us this summer. The battalion is in your debt.

This completes contracting for MS 2016 with 22 contracts. MS 2017 is currently at 17 contracts with 2 scholarship offers starting in the spring semester 2015, 4 Cadets ready to contract, and 7 solid prospects. Unfortunately our success has brought with it other issues. Despite increased standards for contracting (2.5 CGPA and 210 APFT) and scholarships (2.7 CGPA and 230 APFT) we have continued to see our ranks grow. We have now been limited by brigade to 20 contracts per mission set. Once we reach our contract limit additional Cadets wishing to contract into a mission set will have to compete for contracts from other programs that have not been filled. Cadets will be placed on an order of merit list based on STEM degree, CGPA, APFT, and ready to contract status. Cadets will then compete at the brigade level for contract spots in November of their junior year.

It is in the best interest of all Cadets desiring to contract to earn the highest CGPA and APFT possible, major in a STEM degree, and complete all contracting requirements as quickly as possible. This will enable you to contract on the earliest date possible and ensure you have a slot to contract into.
Greetings from the Golden Eagle Battalion!

For Fiscal Year 14, our Battalion commissioned 18 Lieutenants into the Army. We commissioned 5 in December, 11 in May and then 2 over the summer. We announced December’s graduates in our Spring 2014 newsletter. Here is a list of our most recent graduates.

2LT John M. Carter, Field Artillery
2LT Paul L. Collier, Infantry
2LT Thomas N. D’angelo, Medical Service Corps
2LT Jacob G. Dinger, Infantry
2LT Kaneicia B. Doss, Quartermaster Corps
2LT Dustin G. Dubose, Infantry
2LT Shane D. Ivy, Military Police
2LT Nathan E. Pfeiffer, Engineer
2LT Bryce D. Salles, Armor
2LT Thomas R. Schmidt, Ordnance Corps
2LT Candace A. Stuart, Military Police
2LT Tre Adams, Engineer
2LT Keyana M. James, Air Defense

Our Cadets traveled all over the world this summer – learning, growing and representing the Battalion, USM and the Army. Eighteen Cadets graduated from Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Knox, KY. The Battalion sent six Cadets to experience the Army first-hand, participating Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). Cadets Hooks, Lynch, Rushing, Smith, and Young worked alongside lieutenants at Fort Bragg, Fort Lewis, Fort Bliss, and Fort Stewart. Cadet Linton graduated from Basic Mountaineering Course. Cadet Landrum earned the Air Assault badge. Cadet Hartfield earned the Parachutist Badge. Finally, Cadets Walton, Williams and Wikstrom trained with other Cadets from across the country in Czech Republic, Macedonia, and Albania as part of Cadet Command’s Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP).

In a strong recruiting effort, we sent some contracting prospects to the Leadership Training Course (LTC) at Ft. Knox, KY to catch up their ROTC training experience. We sent four prospective Cadets. Two have already contracted. We expect to contract a third one.

While on the recruiting front, I want to announce our strong Mission Set number for 2015-17. We project commissioning 18 in 2015. We have contracted 20 Cadets for 2016. We have contracted 17 of our 22 authorized contracts for 2017. We anticipate filling those remaining contracts in January 2015.

I stand honored to start my fourth and final 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!
I want to welcome the new and current Cadets and Cadre back to the USM Campus for the 2014 Fall Semester. I am glad to be back on Campus from Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox Ky. The results from this year’s LDAC were 9 of 17 received an Excellent evaluation. This is all due to Cadets and Cadre working hard every day and on even the weekends to prepare them for their thirty days at Fort Knox Ky. There are a few changes this semester with the curriculum at USM ROTC mostly with the MSL 4 class. But I’m sure that our Cadets will overcome the changes and excel throughout the year.

I would like to welcome Captain Ellis to the USM ROTC family. He has played a huge part to in coaching, teaching, and mentoring these fine Cadets to receive the great ratings at LDAC.

This year we have many new Cadets in the MSL I class. The ROTC curriculum has changes for me this year. To a name a few new classes that will be taught this semester, will be Virtual Battlespace3, Antiterrorism and critical thinking. Introducing these new classes will subject these young Cadets to information that the ARMY is using at this time. Making them more adaptive, and testing their leadership skills at the freshman level.
What a summer! Again, our battalion exceeds the standard on all fronts! Congratulations to those who have recently completed LDAC, LTC, CULP, Airborne, Air Assault, Basic Combat Training and/or Advanced Individual Training. This summer, Cadet Walton and I were able to serve as the Mission Command element for the Czech Republic CULP rotation. After 23 years of service, even as a field grade officer, CULP was one of the most rewarding experiences I have been afforded the opportunity to take part in. It was incomprehensible to believe that the 29 Cadets assigned to our rotation would mature in their military careers to such a great degree in such a short period of time. I encourage every eligible Cadet to explore the possibility of attending a CULP rotation during the upcoming summer. It doesn’t matter where, just go. I encourage you to talk to Cadets Walton, W. Williams, and Wikstrom about their CULP experience as well to see if it is a right fit for you.

To say that I have been pleased to watch many of the students I recruited into the program finally reach a point where they are able to contract has been truly rewarding. As the Army gets smaller, competition for contracting opportunities will become more competitive as will competition for Active Duty and the slot that you want in the National Guard or Reserves. Each of you must find ways to improve your GPA’s, not only for contracting, Active Duty, or slotting in the Guard or Reserves, but for graduate schools as well—which you must have to remain competitive as an Army Officer.

As the MS II instructor, I have a phenomenal group of Cadets with a very promising future. 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.

While on campus and attending numerous meetings and events as a faculty member, I am able to meet many key department chairs, faculty, and staff. 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 premiere 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 many significant events on campus and personally recognized by senior administrative officials at almost every event we attend—they truly appreciate your commitment to our Nation. Let’s make them proud!
MS IIIs:

We are starting another successful academic year in the Golden Eagle Battalion. Once again a batch of motivated, capable and ethical Cadets have taken up the challenges that LDAC had to offer. More than half received an “Excellent” rating while attending the course. Now it is your opportunity to lead the way and be successful at the MS III level. This year may be the most critical year of your Cadet career. Despite the changes that are occurring at USACC, this year can partially 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 preforming the individual task (leading yourself) to executing the collective task (leading others).

It is our intent to see you grow as a leader. Take the initiative and don’t fade to the back of the crowd. You will lead the crowd. It is your opportunity to turn those crowds of MS I and MS IIs into an organization. You must lead, coach, teach and train them to become a capable force. These opportunities will present themselves as we conduct garrison operation, labs, PT, FTX, academics, mentorship etc. You have a greater responsibility as you transition throughout this year. It’s not just you that you have to be concern about. You have to prepare yourself. Most importantly, I want you to believe in what we are doing as a professional organization at USM. We expect you to have internalized the Army Values and Soldier’s Creed.

In closing, I feel honored to be a member of the Golden Eagle Battalion team. I enjoy assisting in the development of our future Leaders. I’m proud to witness new officers commissioned at USM and transition on their way to the honorable calling of leading America’s young men and women. Once again another batch of enthusiastic and talented young folks have taken on the challenge of pursuing the same by joining our ranks as new cadets. This newsletter’s articles and photos, written and taken by our Cadre and staff provide a small example of what happens between the new cadets joining us and the new officer leaving us. It is an amazing transformation and I am excited about our future. Let’s get started!

Eagle Strike!
I visited the Czech Republic on a CULP mission this summer. I was there with twenty-eight other Cadets and five Cadre members to train with the Czech military and learn about the Czech culture. Cadets rode BMPs and T-72 tanks, fired numerous weapon systems, and trained on foreign obstacle courses among other things on this mission. Cadets and Cadre also explored the city of Prague, visited the battlefield of the Battle of Austerlitz, and enjoyed other various sites in regions of Moravia and Bohemia. I learned many things and had an amazing on my CULP mission.

–CDT WALTON

My participation in the Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP) this summer can be described as a mil-to-mil training event with an emphasis on cultural engagement; however, that description falls far short of describing the bond that emerges when a group of twenty-five cadets and cadre are brought together for three days at Fort Knox and then dropped into a foreign country and told to make the United States proud. My trip took me to Macedonia, where me and a couple other of America’s best climbed mountains, swam snowmelt reservoirs, ran alongside Roman aqueducts, trained with Albanians, Macedonians, Brits, Serbians, Bulgarians, Bosnians, and learned how they fought, donated clothes to orphans, built homes for the homeless, mentored Macedonian high school students that want desperately to attend American universities, and most importantly, operated as a team, regardless of our different backgrounds. We broadened our perspectives and learned to appreciate the culture of a land half the world away so that we could make a positive difference.

–CDT W. Williams

Having never been outside of the United States before, I had no idea what to expect when I was accepted for a military to military (mil-mil) mission in the small country of Albania. After a few shuttle flights around the southern states I found myself in Ft. Knox on June 29, waiting to fly out to a country I only knew about through intense Google and Wikipedia searches. So July 4 hits and a find myself flying across the Atlantic to Rome and then to Tirana, Albania. I knew what to expect the instant before our wheels touched the ground. Cold War era equipment could be seen just off to the side of the runway, and the countryside was sparsely populated. Hours later (after meeting the mission commander, LTC Charles Rote) we were soon staged at a hotel intended for high-ranking military officers on the ministry of defense compound. During my three week stay in country I assisted in the training of Albanian non-commissioned officers’ conversational English skills, took part in humanitarian effort, and even got to train with some Special Forces weapons instructors. Outside of our mission activities, we were able to travel the country. We visited some amazing coastal towns and toured ancient castles and forts. Honestly, I could write a book on the specifics about my time in country. Being that it was my first official assignment in a foreign country, it’s something I’ll never forget.

–CDT Wikstrom
Recruiting has gotten off to an excellent start this fall. Make sure you congratulate our recently contracted Cadets:

- Mission Set 17: Jeffrey Abram, Rachel Daene, Alexander Herty, Gary Plowden, John Wesley Smith
- Mission Set 19: Britt Ruble, Jacob Palmer

Although I talk a lot about scholarships and benefits, the greatest opportunities provided by Army ROTC always remain excellent leadership training and an opportunity to serve your country.

Our current recruiting environment is becoming increasingly competitive. The wars are all but over and the Army is facing downsizing and budget cuts. Officer production missions are being reduced as standards are being raised. To contract Cadets currently need a 2.5 CGPA and a 210 APFT. To compete for a scholarship Cadets need a 2.7 CGPA and a 230 APFT. Contracting into Mission Set 16 is now closed to USM. Any Cadet wishing to contract into Mission Set 16 will now need to be placed in a BDE order of merit list (OML) which will be conducted on 1 November. Mission Set 17 contracting has been capped at 20 total contracts for USM. Reserve component commissions are becoming an increasingly higher percent of total commissions. The Army is still offering guaranteed reserve forces duty (GRFD) scholarships to fully qualified Cadets who are willing to sign up now to commission into the reserve component. Active duty is become increasingly competitive. If you want to be competitive for active duty you will need to have a higher (3.0 or above) and higher order of merit score. If you do not wish to compete for active duty, check out the benefits of a GRFD contract. Committing early will earn you more benefits and a higher probability of getting your reserve component job of choice.

The Army needs science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) majors. Many branches now require a percent of officers to have specific STEM degrees with minimum GPAs including Engineers, Signal Corps, Cyber Warfare, Chemical, Air Defense, Finance, Ordinance, Quartermaster, and Adjutant General. STEM majors are also given a bump for their OML score - .5 for math and science majors and 1 for engineering majors.

Southern Miss – To The Top!!
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!!

2LT John M. Carter, Field Artillery
2LT Paul L. Collier, Infantry
2LT Thomas N. D’angelo, Medical Service Corps
2LT Jacob G. Dinger, Infantry
2LT Kaneicia B. Doss, Quartermaster Corps
2LT Dustin G. Dubose, Infantry
2LT Shane D. Ivy, Military Police
2LT Nathan E. Pfeiffer, Engineer
2LT Bryce D. Salles, Armor
2LT Thomas R. Schmidt, Ordnance Corps
2LT Candace A. Stuart, Military Police
2LT Tre Adams, Engineer
2LT Keyana M. James, ADA

Congratulations! HOOAH!
GOLDEN EAGLE BATTALION
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