Greetings from the Golden Eagle Battalion!

Our Cadets executed an awe-some Fall Semester – excelling on academics, physical fitness and leadership development.

We commissioned one Cadet – 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Morrow, Nurse Corps into the Officer Corps with our commissioning ceremony on 13 December 2012.

We project to commission six Cadets in May and one Cadet this August after she graduates from Leadership Development and Assessment Course.

Fall semester was very busy with football games, Homecoming, Military Appreciation Day, Combined Field Training Exercise with Alcorn State Army ROTC, and the Christmas Party.

Military Appreciation Day was a tremendous success. Our first event was the 6th Annual Purple Heart 5K Race. We raised $8000 for the Wounded Warrior Project and had over 500 registered racers - I want to thank all of our alumni who attended the football game and hope to see you again next year. Please spread the word so this event will grow, I want to see more of you up there next November.

I look forward to another exciting semester with the Combined Field Training Assessment with Alcorn State at Camp Shelby in March, Joint Field Assessment Exercise at Camp McCain later in March (with 16 other schools), a staff ride to the National Military Park at Vicksburg in April, and our Military Ball and Awards Ceremony later in April. It continues to be an honor and privilege to lead these great Americans. Army Strong! Eagle Strike! SMTTT!

“leading and caring are essential to readiness and excellence...”

- General John A. Wickham, Jr.
Former Chief of Staff, Army

Commander’s Comments – LTC Worley

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SMTTT!
"Soldiers will not follow any battle leader with confidence unless they know that he will require full performance of duty from every member of the team."

- GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower

Well another semester down for most of you and a first semester for others, Welcome back to the Golden Eagle Battalion. I hope all of you had a great time over the holidays and were able to spend them with family and friends.

There are a lot of great things going on in the Battalion, our MS IIIs performed very well at their Joint Training at Camp Shelby last semester. They set the standard for the Brigade finishing on top in the Brigade. We are contracting many cadets in the Battalion and hope to contract more. Our Ranger Challenge team conducted tough training last semester and represented the Battalion well at their competition here in January at Camp Blanding, Florida. We still have work to do and need to stay focused, as our MS IVs get ready to graduate and Commission, our MS IIIs get ready to attend LDAC, and as our MS IIs and MS Is continue to train so they can continue to grow and become our leaders in just a few short years.

We will focus a lot on Mentorship this semester and build our Mentorship program. I want all cadets to take an active role in their Mentees and help develop them into the leader they need to become. Remember being a leader is not a job, so don’t treat it as one. Taking care of soldiers and junior cadets is the number one rule of life in the military.

Have a great Semester and my door is always open.

Welcome and welcome back for those MS II who are returning for another semester of Military Science and Leadership. Congratulations to Cadets Smith and Rushing on receiving Culture and Language Program (CULP) assignments for this summer.

I will be your OIC and MSG Hall will be the NCOIC for the semester. I will be your primary instructor for the semester; however, SFC Kerry will provide you with some great instruction in my two week absence at Captain’s Career Course in April. I recommend that you read the syllabus thoroughly and review it often. The class and lab schedule portion of the syllabus will be especially helpful to you for reading text material ahead and preparing personal equipment for labs. I am very “low threat” in the classroom so don’t be afraid to ask questions. Come prepared to listen, write and think as a significant portion of your homework will be geared toward receiving/preparing operations orders and refining map reading skills in order to make a good transition to your MS III year.

Start considering special schools to attend this summer. We are allocated a certain number of slots from Brigade for Airborne and Air Assault. We’ll get notification shortly after mid-term on those. Your grades and physical fitness are among the top criteria that we look at in establishing the Cadet Order of Merit List for who gets to attend.

Lastly, embody the Warrior Ethos, live the Army Values, and do your very best in all that you do. Expectations are set high as you pursue a commission in the U.S. Army and will continue as you enter the Officer Corp to lead Soldiers. Always remember that attitude is contagious, communication is key, and first impressions are the most important.

Be proud to be a part of the Golden Eagle legacy.

SOUTHERN MISS TO THE TOP!!
MS III's:

Happy New Year! Welcome to the most critical semester of your Cadet career. This is the semester that you will determine the majority of your order of merit score for accessions and finish preparation for LdAC (Leadership Development and ASSESSMENT Course). Little “d” and big “A”. Some development and lots of ASSESSMENT. Your academic, physical, and leadership performance this semester will determine how you perform at LdAC, your component of service, your branch, your initial duty station, and what you do during your career as an Army officer.

There are still lots of changes shaping up for LdAC 2013. We will keep you abreast of the most current information as we receive it. Remember, it is a leadership assessment. Lead, and the assessment results will follow.

The Fall JFTX was an incredible event for USM Army ROTC. Our MS III Cadets had the best performance of any ROTC program at the event. A special congratulations to Cadet Dustin Dubose who had the high land navigation score achieving perfect scores on written, day, and night land navigation. Cadet Dubose was also the best overall male Cadet at the JFTX.

Congratulations to all MS III's on their December record APFT. Six Cadets earned the Army Physical Fitness Excellence Badge: Paul Collier, Thomas D'Angelo, Dana Diesi, Dustin Dubose, Shane Ivy, and Steven Walton. Cadet Diesi scored 307 and Cadet Dubose scored 321. All MS III's passed the APFT and had the high average as a class for the Army ROTC program. If you scored below 70 points in any event, you are still below last semester’s goal. Your APFT goal for this semester is 260 points with no less than 80 points in any event. Upon completion of the semester you will need a plan to maintain your score until LdAC. Physical readiness is a way of life and a state of mind.

Last semester was exceptional for academic achievement. The following Cadets earned a spot on the President’s List with a perfect 4.0 GPA: John Carte, Thomas D’Angelo, Dana Diesi, Danielle Gargiulo and Zachary Pittman. Even more Cadets earned a spot on the Dean’s List with a 3.5 or higher GPA: Jacob Dinger, Shane Ivy, Michael Kennedy, and Steven Walton. Your efforts will greatly increase your OML score and assist you in earning the service component and branch of your choice. Keep up the effort. Academics is your job. Do your job. Use every tool available to ensure you earn the best grade possible for all of your classes. Plan ahead and have self discipline. This is the last semester to raise your GPA and strengthen your OML score for accessions. It is the last 50 meters to the OBJ.

The highlight of this semester will be the Seminole Spear JFAX 2-24 March at Camp McCain, MS. Coordinate with all of your professors to make up any classes, labs, assignments, quizzes, and tests that you will miss. Turn your assignments in early. This exercise will include an APFT, Land Nav Exam, Day Land Nav, Night Land Nav, Garrison Leadership Evaluations, SSTX Evaluation, and Platoon Level Operations Training. This event will be an excellent training opportunity for LdAC. Take full advantage of it to develop your skills and identify any potential weaknesses.

This summer you will attend LdAC at Fort Lewis, WA. 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.” The final leadership dimension is “Gets Results.” In the end this is how we will all be judged.

As always, SFC Kerry, SFC Barberet, and I will give you every resource in our control to allow you to be successful. Let’s have a highly successful semester.
ROO CORNER

OK, so the economy is not rebounding as quickly as we’d like. As the Federal Government works through their issues, military budgets and scholarships begin to feel the pinch. How do we combat these reductions? We find the best qualified applicants to make our program viable and keep it strong.

Our Cadets have always been our best recruiters. You sit in the classrooms next to hundreds of students every day. You see more students than all Cadre combined. Seek out those persons who fit your mold, those who you know can be successful in our classrooms, and those who you want to serve beside and lead the next generation in the Army. Find them, and bring them to the George Hurst Building for more information.

Alumni, please don’t forget us. We need your help, as well. You have upheld the leadership principles learned at the Golden Eagle Battalion. Send us the best in your units, schools, and civic organizations, so that they can be a part of the best ROTC unit in the country!

Our Simultaneous Membership Program continues to be strong. There are many ways that the Army can support paying for your college education. There are scholarships available. But, you must be among the best and the brightest to earn them. In the movie “Field of Dreams”, the line is quoted as, “If you build it, they will come.” USM has established a great foundation of building leaders. We will continue to assist Cadets in their quest for leadership. That’s why the Golden Eagle Battalion has been so successful – we have all built it; and with the help of all of you, they will continue to come.

Cadets, you know what you must do to be successful. Study hard, work hard at physical training, and apply yourself 100% to everything you do. You will not fail.

Now, let’s shift gears. We would like to congratulate all the Cadets who contracted late last semester and this semester. We wish them good luck in their future endeavors with the Golden Eagle Battalion. For those who are awaiting contracting eligibility, don’t ever give up. Keep trying as hard as you can and you, too, will make it.

Let’s give it our all this semester. Let’s finish strong.

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. You also need to see me to complete a CRB/Cadet Record Brief for the spring semester. To all of you who have already completed the above, thank you.

All Cadet attending LDAC this year, we will start working on the camp files next week and will start the accessions process the following week.

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

CULP attendees continue forwarding me the emails that you receive. Pay attention to the suspense's.

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:

- Notify a Cadre member or your Cadet COC AT ONCE!!
- Come see me (Ms. Dani) and let me make a report.
- If you (and your instructor) think you need to see a doctor I will do all the paperwork for you.
- 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.
- 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 your have to PAY YOURSELF!!!!**
November 17th, 2012 Golden Eagle Battalion hosted their 6th Annual Purple Heart 5k. Army ROTC hosted more than 300 runners, including several community runners groups and several USM athletic teams. Through all the donations, entry fees and sponsorships from business throughout our community, Golden Eagle Battalion donated $8,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project.
Our 3rd Annual Army ROTC Alumni/ USM Military Appreciation Day was a GREAT Success! Golden Eagle Battalion rented space in the upper deck and had it catered for Alumni and guest. It was a wonderful evening spent with our Alumni. We will be doing this event once again next year, so make sure you don’t miss out!

Following our race the day was open to tour the campus and see the changes, we also had an open house in the ROTC building for a few hours and asked that the Alumni come by and see us. It was a great turnout and wonderful to hear all the stories that were shared.

Here are a few photos of the event! Can’t wait to see all of our Alumni next year. SMTTT!
Look who made 2LT!!

2LT Matthew Morrow will attend AMEDD BOLC at Fort Sam Houston, TX on 14 March 2013 and will attend follow-on schooling at Fort Bliss, TX. Nurse Corps!

HOOAH!

Congratulations!
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Golden Eagle Battalion will be holding their Annual Military Ball April 25th. We would like to extend an invite to our Alumni. E-mail invitations will be sent out the beginning of March.

SMTTT!

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