“...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.
Greetings from the Golden Eagle Battalion!

Last semester was turbulent. With the Army announcing program closure on 3 October, then reversing that decision and announcing probation on 7 November, we had an eventful few months. With all of this turbulence, we retained all Cadets and maintained focus on producing adaptive leaders for the US Army.

Next, I want to announce that we are not on probation. None of the 275 programs in US Army Cadet Command are on probation. On 31 January, US Army Cadet Command announced a new Annual Program Review that established criterion that all programs will strive to meet. The most important criterion is production. If we can commission 15 Cadets each year, then we will demonstrate the measurable progress to gain viable program status. Our Battalion projects to achieve the 15 commissions for 2014-16. 2017 projects to have strong numbers as well.

Speaking about 2014 commissions, on 12 December 2013, we commissioned five Cadets – 2nd Lieutenants Baldwin, Kilgore, Miceli, Murray, and Yonko into the Officer Corps.

We are scheduled to commission 10 Cadets in May and 3 Cadets this summer – giving us 18 on the year.

I want to welcome some new Cadre members:

Master Sergeant Charles Patrick assumed Senior Military Instructor duties on 31 January from Master Sergeant Derek Hall. MSG Patrick comes to us from 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. He is married and they have a son and a niece with them.

I also want to welcome 1st Lieutenant (Promotable) Eugene Ellis. 1LT Ellis comes to us from 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He is a geographic bachelor with his wife continuing to serve at Fort Bragg. They have a brand new baby son born in October 2013.

I want to welcome back some Cadre – Chuck Mitchell returns to the staff filling the Recruiting Operations Officer (ROO) position as a Department of the Army Civilian. Also glad to welcome back Kim Bishop – now she fills the MS III Instructor role and she is on orders from the Mississippi Guard – so call her Captain Bishop. It is truly awesome to have these folks as part of the team again.

I look forward to another exciting semester with many big events – Combined Field Assessment Exercise with Alcorn State at Camp Shelby 22-23 February, Joint Field Assessment Exercise at Camp McCain 27-30 March (with 14 other schools), and our Military Ball and Awards Ceremony later on 24 April. Alumni – be on the lookout for Military Ball invitations, we would love to have you attend that special evening as well.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to lead these great Americans.

Golden Eagles! Eagle Strike! SMTTT! Army Strong!
Well another semester down for most of you and a first semester for others, Welcome back to the Golden Eagle Battalion. This is my first official semester as your NCOIC and MSI Instructor. I am MSG Charles Patrick and I am a Scout, I just relocated from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

There are a lot of great things going on in the Battalion, We are contracting many cadets in the Battalion and hope to contract more. Our Ranger Challenge team placed 13th of 48 teams 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 IIs get ready to attend CLC, 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.

I look forward to working with the Golden Eagle Battalion. Have a great Semester and my door is always open.

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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 the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC), formally known as Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). Your academic, physical, and leadership performance this semester will determine how you perform at CLC, your component of service, branch, and initial duty station.

Joining us this semester is 1LT(P) Eugene Ellis. He is prior enlisted with many years of experience in the NCO corp. LT Ellis first entered the Army in the Infantry branch and later branch transferred to the Chemical Corp. He will be another valuable asset to the team to learn from.

The highlight of this semester will be the Mississippi Thunder JFAX 27-30 March at Camp McCain, MS. Coordinate with all of your professors to make up any classes, labs, assignments, quizzes, tests and drills that you will miss. Turn your assignments in early. This exercise will include an APFT, Land Navigation Exam, Day/Night Land Navigation, Garrison and Platoon Level Operations Evaluations. It is an excellent training opportunity in preparation for CLC. Take full advantage of it to develop your skills and identify any potential weaknesses for refinement.

As you already know, CLC has moved from Ft. Lewis, WA to Ft. Knox, KY and that platoon operations has replaced squad operations for your tactical assessment. There will be many challenges to this transition; however, you will be successful with a positive attitude and a desire to “win”. SFC Kerry and I will keep you abreast of the most current information on CLC as we receive it. Remember that it is a leadership assessment. Lead and the assessment results will follow. If you fail your initial APFT or any of the land navigation tests (day, night, or written exam), the best that you can earn on your efficiency report is “satisfactory.” If you fail any of these tests twice, the best you can achieve is “needs improvement.” If you are given camp credit, you will have just destroyed your OML score. Maximizing your APFT and land navigation tests will put you on your way to earning a rating of “excellent” and possibly “platoon top 5” and “RECONDO.” You have large shoes to fill in meeting or exceeding the performance results of last year’s MS IIs that earned the second highest ranking in the Brigade. Even though you will have a more complex and challenging tactical evaluation with platoon level operations, I am confident that you will perform to the best of your ability and represent us well. Let’s have a very successful semester and summer. Go hard or go home. SMTTT!!
Wow! What a roller coaster last semester!!!! As the MS II Instructor, I am happy to see many new faces in our classroom this semester after such a daunting semester during the Fall. As always, we should make our new students part of the team from Day 1 and help them overcome any and all issues. When giving my recruiting brief to prospects, one key point that I focus on is the esprit d’ corps found within our Cadet ranks here at Southern Miss. That feeling of belonging is not present at all schools and programs. In talking with a 1956 graduate of our program recently, one of the first remembrances he had was of this same esprit d’ corps. It was prevalent during 1995-1997 while I was a Cadet, and you, our current Cadets have taken it to the next level. Your commitment to excellence and to each other does not go unrecognized on our campus. Keep up the phenomenal work!

Recently, after our program faced closure, I came to you and asked for you to help us in four areas: Recruit, Retain, Progress, and Graduate. Those four areas are essential to maintaining the health and viability of our program. Many of you embraced this request as a personal challenge and the fruits of your labors are evident today as we quickly approach contracting our TY 16 commission mission Cadets. Due to your valiant efforts to bring more Cadets into our fold and mentor them to commissioning, we are not only going to meet the viable program requirements for TY 14 and 15, but will exceed that requirement. Due to your hard work, we are also poised to experience a record numbers of commissioning officers in 2016. We still need your help! Our work is not done. We all must strive to retain, progress, and graduate those who have already began the program while simultaneously recruiting for our out-years.

CDT Battalion Commander James and her team have a great recruiting plan that we will work to couple in conjunction with the cadre recruiting team. Fortunately, we now have another awesome tool in our box with LTC(R) Chuck Mitchell coming on board as the civilian recruiting operations officer. I have began transferring some of my duties to Mr. Mitchell already so that I can focus more heavily on Executive Officer duties, Guard and Reserve SMP recruiting, and MS II instruction.

I would like to say a personal thank you and job well done to 2LT Tyler Kilgore. 2LT Kilgore has been an invaluable part of our recruiting team since his graduation in December and has been personally responsible for mentoring numerous new Cadets into our program this semester. Later this month, Tyler and his wife Jessica will be moving on from the Golden Eagle Battalion to his BOLC and for her to finish college. Our battalion has been fortunate to have the Kilgores as part of our family. I wish both Tyler and Jessica good luck in their future endeavors!

Southern Miss To The Top!
ROO CORNER

Southern Miss
To The Top!!

In case you haven’t noticed there is a new ROO in town. Most of you that have been here a semester should know me as the former MS III instructor. I have moved offices, changed titles, and gotten a new job description. Stop by room 120 Southern Hall to meet your new ROO.

Our current recruiting environment has its challenges. The economy is improving, unemployment is easing, and stocks are up. The wars are winding down and the Army is facing downsizing and budget cuts. All this means that there are more options available to potential Army officers at the same time benefits are being reduced. Reserve component commissions will be a higher percent of total commissions. Active duty will become increasingly competitive. If you want to be competitive for active duty you will need to have a higher and higher order of merit score. If you do not wish to compete for active duty, check out the benefits of a guaranteed reserve forces duty contract. Committing early will earn you more benefits and a higher probability of getting your reserve component job of choice.

Officers who commission into the reserve component will be Citizen Soldiers. This means you will need to find a full time civilian job in addition to your Army duties. I highly recommend that all Cadets entering the reserve component take advantage of the Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) program. This program guarantees that you will get an interview with a participating company of your choice. Spend some time working on your résumé with career services and actively network for job leads. The officers you work with in the National Guard are also a great source of employment opportunity.

Alumni, I am going to ask you to assist us in job leads for our Cadets. If you or anyone you know is interested in higher quality college graduates with leadership training and experience, let us know! We have lots of exceptional future officers.

Cadets, the more you put into academics and ROTC the more you will get out of them. Your GPA, APFT, and weight are your personal responsibility and reflect on how you lead yourself and your potential for leading our Soldiers. Mission first. Never quit. Never accept defeat.

If you are not contracted, get with myself or Ms. Quiroga and find out what you need to do to get contracted. You are wasting time and money if you are taking your time to contract.

As always Cadets are our best recruiters. If you know someone at USM that you would like to have in the battle position next to yours, or as a platoon leader when you are a company commander, get them to my office. They will probably thank you later and you may even thank yourself.

Recruiting Information

Come see Mr. Chuck Mitchell about contracting and scholarships... don’t just chase the money, make it a reality for you!

601.266.4456 or 601.549.7835
Armyrotc@usm.edu
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 May 2014 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!!!!**
This years Alumni weekend was special for USM and Army ROTC. Bud Alley, Vietnam veteran, presented the Golden Eagle Battalion with 2LT Earl "Butch" Aull's medal and decorations on 16 Nov on the steps of Southern Hall. Bud Alley and Butch Aull served together in 2-7 Cavalry in the Ia Drang battle in the Vietnam War and Butch made the ultimate sacrifice for his country November 17th, 1965. Butch received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his heroism in combat and the Purple Heart Medal. 2LT Aull was a 1964 graduate of both USM and the ROTC program. As a Battalion, we accept his decorations with honor and humility and are a proud to know that such a hero and great soldier once walked the hallways of USM Army ROTC. EAGLE STRIKE! SMTTT! HOOAH!
Look who made 2LT!!

2LT Tyler Kilgore, Distinguished Military Graduate, National Guard, Branch– AR
2LT Bobbi Baldwin, Active Duty, Branch– Nursing
2LT Lance Murray, Active Duty, Branch– Nursing
2LT Dominic Miceli, National Guard, Branch– Corps Engineer
2LT Joseph Yonko, National Guard, Branch– Military Police

Congratulations!
Golden Eagle Battalion will be holding their Annual Military Ball April 24th, at Southern Oaks. Invitations will be extended to our Alumni at the end of March. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there this year.

- Golden Eagle Battalion