



Cadet Ables Visits Argentina

By Phillip Ables

My name is Cadet Ables, and I am a junior at Clarkson University majoring in Engineering & Management. Last year I was selected by cadet command, after competing nationally against all other MSII's (sophomores), to participate in the Cultural Understanding Language Program and the opportunity to travel and learn about another country. The trip was to Argentina, lasting four weeks, we explored different regions within the country.

The first phase was at West Point where all 24 cadets selected attended structured classes and learned as much about the culture as we could. We discussed topics such as diet and the different types of art forms in the country. We also had the opportunity to interact with cadets who attend West Point, allowing me to gain a new respect for all the cadets who went to the academy. After our short stay at West Point we traveled to Argentina. We stayed in the Hotel Etoile Recoleta in Buenos Aires our first night. The first thing that stood out was the

fresh smell of rotisserie cooking, a distinct feature of the country. The beauty of the rotisserie is that the meat is cooked very slowly over a long period with the result a superb taste. Our expedition to Argentina led us to some of the finest restaurants in the country, where we usually dined twice a day. We had numerous dining opportunities such as experiencing the food of a Serian club while watching professional dancers perform. Every day in Buenos Aires was packed with fun and adventure, and much of our time was spent exploring the streets of the city. One of the most memorable nights occurred when we all had the opportunity to learn how to Tango. The beginning of the night was spent learning basic steps from an instructor. Next we went to a restaurant where we enjoyed a live band, great food, and watched professional dancers show us how it was done. Everyone had a great time and some of the cadets even had the opportunity to dance with the performers during the show.

Another great destination was the very colorful La Bocca neighborhood, home of the La Bocca juniors one of the premiere futbol teams as they say. La Bocca is located at the mouth of the Buenos Aires River. However La Bocca is a very special and artful place, many artists created colorful paintings using oil and pastel on canvas. La Bocca is also the home of the Tango! We also went to Iguazu Falls, above the Tropic of Capricorn, and found the area extremely sunny. We had the opportunity to swim, run on the jungle trails, and go see the impressive falls. Iguazu Falls was the highlight of my trip, and to see it you needed to take a trolley to Devils Throat and then walk nearly a mile in the jungle. We also had the opportunity to visit Jesuit missions where ...

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CDT Ables (Clarkson), Dr. Emily Hoglr, LTC, John Hinrichs, CDT Victoria Hubickey (Vanderbilt), CDT Shania Coles (Xavier), enjoying a meal in La Bocca, Argentina

Cadet Wagner Attends DCLT

By Matt Wagner

Over the summer I had the opportunity to participate in a DCLT slot with an Infantry Basic Training Company. While at FT. Benning, GA I was attached to Delta Company 219th battalion within the 198th Infantry OSUT (Basic Training) Training Brigade. While with D219, I spent most of my time on Sand Hill, a section of Ft. Benning dedicated to the training of infantry enlisted Soldiers, shadowing the Company Commander (CO), executive officer and the drill sergeants. The majority of my time was dedicated to observing the training of the new Sol-

diers with the CO, and taking part in some of the training exercises. I was able to participate in physical training every morning, taught land navigation skills, practiced shooting the M16 rifle, and partake in some of the tasks as a Commanding Officer. The highlight of my 3 weeks was when I had the chance to lead a platoon sized element in an attack of a simulated enemy mortar site at night, while utilizing training equipment such as night vision goggles. The experience that I gained during my DCLT experience was one of a kind and extremely valuable. I was able to see the excellent training that

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every enlisted Soldier gets before going to the Army and the variety of backgrounds Soldiers have that make up the United States Military. The experience gave me a new understanding of the Soldiers that I will one day have the opportunity to lead.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Cadet Visits Argentina (continued from page 1)

we saw European styled structures that were designed to house natives in hopes of converting them. We learned about the engineering behind the structures, the tools that were used to make food and shelter, as well as the social class structures that were formed. After the missions we visited an Argentinean Military Reserve and had the time of our lives rip-lining in the canopies of the jungle. After hiking in the jungle of Iguazu and viewing the Parana River we headed back to Buenos Aires.

Back in Buenos Aires we again learned about the culture by exploring the Recoleta Cemetery. In the cemetery we saw immaculate mausoleums where centuries old families resided. The view from our hotel rooms overlooked the city and made swimming in the top floor pool quite a treat. Another great experience was going through the Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires. There were many paintings that were really interesting to look at and read about. There were many pictures that depicted the endless pampas and estancias of Argentina. We also saw drawings of ships sailing into the port of Buenos Aires, gauchos posing with their money belts showing their wealth,

and Indians raiding Argentine estancias. There were also numerous sculptures and displays that really made our eyebrows rise in curiosity.

The next was to the providence of JuJuy, where we stayed in Termas de Reynolds Hotel. We enjoyed a resort that offered heated pools, thermal baths, and vast lands in the Andes to explore. In Jujuy we had the opportunity to see a native fortress and also go into local barrios where we listened to small bands play. Our guides also brought us to a professor of fine arts and he showed us how certain materials were made, how creativity is drawn from the culture. He also showed us what to look for when shopping and most specifically how to tell handmade from imported. At the end of our trip we returned to Buenos Aires where our last meal at a Brazilian restaurant. It

was an all you could eat buffet, with meat servers coming to each table. Although the food tasted great we were all a bit sad knowing we were departing for home the following day. At the end of the night we rejoiced in a very special ride to the hotel as we said our good byes to Argentina.



After two weeks of training at the Army Mountain Warfare School, Ethan Allen Firing Range, in Jericho, Vermont, from July 11th through July 24th, it is difficult to summarize in a few words all that was presented. However, a brief overview of this training must include the importance of knowing your terrain, the technical skills needed to work effectively in mountainous terrains, and the importance of team work.

At Mountain Warfare School, the on going need to assess your terrain in order to determine the most efficient way to move and sur-

Cadet Brewer Attends Mountain Warfare School

By Charles Brewer

vive within an area was stressed as a key factor in having a successful mission. Also, since a team's health and maneuverability is greatly affected by altitude, team members need to continually re-evaluate the effect altitude can and will play on each team member. Because altitude and terrain can distort the perceived range of a target, this distortion must be taken into account when either trying to physically reach a target or when firing at a target.

The second key area that was presented at Mountain Warfare School was the technical skills needed to achieve your objective in mountainous terrains. Some of the technical skills that were reviewed or newly taught included land navigation, rappelling, and how to tie knots and when to use over 10 different types of knots. The skills needed to successfully traverse a mountainous terrain during the day and at night under limited light conditions were also practiced using fixed ropes, z-pulley systems, and vertical ascents. Additionally, how to properly pack and use mules in mountainous

terrains were taught.

Working as a team was the third key point at Mountain Warfare Training. From the first day of training, all members were divided into four squads. The four squads consisted of participants ranging in age from 18 to 47 years old, and were made up of active Army, reservists, and Cadets from throughout the United States. Throughout the two weeks of training, the squads worked together to access the physical, mental, and leadership skills of their members. When individual strengths and weaknesses were identified, experienced members were assigned to assist members who had difficulty in any area to assure the success of the team both in the field and on the tests that each member was required to pass. As a result, 49 participants graduated during the Army Mountain Warfare School Class 09-003 Ceremony on July 24, 2009.

Although the two weeks at Army Mountain Warfare School were both physically and mentally challenging, I would recom-

Cadet Learns the Ropes of Air Assault

By Erin McTarnaghan

I'm CDT McTarnaghan and I went to Air Assault School this summer after my MSII year. I really wanted Airborne School, but it turns out I'm very happy I went to Air Assault School instead. It was challenging mentally and physically and as one of three females there after Zero Day, it was definitely something to be proud of. Zero Day consists of an obstacle course, all the while getting smoked by the Air Assault SGTs between each obstacle, and then a two mile run. If you fail to complete an obstacle after two tries you go home. Zero Day may have been one of the most stressful days of my life but the adrenaline and fear of failing kept me going. After Zero Day the course begins and consists of three phases. Phase 1 was Combat Assault. It was three days of being in the classroom, and then a written exam. Phase 2 was Slingload Operations, and was three days long as well. This phase had a lot more hands on training with the slingloads because the phase test was a two minute inspection for

deficiencies on four different slingloads. Phase 3, rappelling, was the most fun. I actually had a funny incident during the combat rappel test which determines if you are a go or a no-go to rappel out of the UH-60. The combat rappel lock-in is hard because you will most likely tip upside down because of the weight of your ruck, and unfortunately my Kevlar slipped down over my face. I was upside down unable to see my ropes or anything I was doing. Thank God I figured it out. After phase 3, the weather cooperated and we were fortunate enough to actually rappel out of a Blackhawk. It was a great experience and something I am proud to talk about. The 12 mile road march is a different story. The worst part about the road march is drinking a canteen every 3 miles, but fortunately all you can think about is graduating later that day. Our class graduated approximately 179 Soldiers, including one female other than myself. If I had to go back and do it all over again, I would. I'm looking forward to find-

ing out who will be chosen to go this coming summer and I am willing to help prepare them as much as I can so that they can wear wings along with me and a few other Cadets in our battalion.



Jumping Through Summer

By Colby Sortevik

I never thought I would have to take a week of classes to learn the correct way to fall to the ground, but that's what I learned to do during the first week of Airborne School. Everyone knows falling isn't fun, but it's safe to say that going to Airborne School is one of the best things I've ever done. The first week is called "ground week", but to my surprise the 34 foot tower was included in ground week. It was during ground week when we learned PLF (Parachute Landing Fall) technique and how to assume good body form exiting an aircraft in flight.

The next week, tower week, was the worst week. It was the worst week simply because of anticipation of jump week. During tower week we learned the mass exit



technique on mock C-130s and C-17s, learning the proper exit techniques and command signals. In addition, we learned how to control our parachute during jumps and how to deal with obstacles such as landing in water, trees, and power lines.

These first two weeks had a set routine that we followed; up at 0515 for PT,

complete PT, eat at the DFAC, train for airborne operations, eat at the DFAC (dining facility), train for airborne operations, eat at the DFAC, and sleep. The third week was completely different. The schedule was based on available aircraft, weather, and wind. For the first two days we would wake up at 0330 or 0400, form up and run to the harness shed where we spent all but one and a half to two hours of our day, either being inspected or simply waiting. The hour and a half to two hours out of the shed were spent on a plane or on a drop zone. This is how the first two days and four jumps were executed. The third jump was the best of the five jumps, jumping at night, into the pitch black with combat gear. Not having a set schedule for jump week, we didn't eat in the DFAC, and simply ate MREs for the entire week. Quite simply, attending Airborne school was not only the achievement of a personal goal, but also one of the greatest things I have done.

Knight's Busy Summer

By Patrick Knight

Immediately following completion of Leadership Development and Assessment Course last July, I flew from Seattle Tacoma airport to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia the home of the Signal Corps and the location for my Cadet Troop Leading Training (CTLT) assignment. CTLT is a voluntary follow-on training option available to Cadets between their junior and senior years. It gives the Cadet an opportunity to shadow a lieutenant or captain, learning the specifics of his or her duties and responsibilities. Clarkson regularly gets several CTLT slots every summer, and they can be located anywhere from Schofield Barracks, HI to Fort Bragg, NC.

Fort Gordon has two Brigades. One is an operational Signal Brigade with which I had little contact. The second is the 15th Signal Brigade, training unit. The 15th Signal's responsibility is to train enlisted Signal Soldiers in a large variety of jobs. I was attached to the 73rd Ordnance Battalion that trains 94 series Ordnance Soldiers for one primary mission; repair and provide maintenance for all of the Army's equipment.

I had a great experience at CTLT and compared to the restraints of LDAC,

CTLT was refreshing. I submit that two things can determine the quality of your training experience; either your peer Cadets or your lieutenants can make or break your time. For me, the latter was the case. My lieutenant, a thirteen year Master Sergeant before going to Officer Candidate School and commissioning, took CTLT seriously and spent time to give me quality, pertinent training.

My training was a three week schedule that included the planning, execution, and recovery and phases. The week of my arrival was the T-1, or week prior to, a week of field training. I had the opportunity to watch last minute planning operations that included In Process Reviews at the company and battalion level. The second week consisted of field training exercises. Here, I had the chance to observe a Forward Operations Base operation, 94 series related technical training, and an M-16 qualification pop up range. This week also gave me several invaluable experiences past merely observing. I was certified as a safety officer on a live-fire M-16 range, where I walked Soldiers through a series of obstacles to engage targets from varying standing, kneeling, covered, and finally walking positions. I also

conducted urban operations leading a team of four Soldiers through room clearing procedures, engaging pop up targets in a mock building with blank rounds, and laser adjustments. Finally, my lieutenant tasked me with running a crew served range. Here, I worked with NCOs to circulate two companies through classroom style block instruction for 240B and 249 automatic weapon firing. This is an essential task for a young lieutenant, and the opportunity to plan for and execute this activity will undoubtedly serve me well during the next 18 months.

CTLT, like other experiences in ROTC and the Army, is as enjoyable and valuable as you make it. I made the best of my experience and can easily say that it was three weeks well spent. To all underclassmen, I suggest you seriously consider this option. It will give you a rare opportunity to absorb as much about the Army as possible, a behavior you must demonstrate as a young lieutenant.



“Wake up cadets, wake up, wake up, wake up, you’ve got twenty minutes to be out in formation with all your gear. Your beds better be made and my floors better be clean. (Papa Roach plays over the loud speaker).” This is what a cadet in attendance of the Army ROTC’s Leader’s Training Course (LTC) hears every morning, anywhere from 0430-0600, depending on what is planned for the day’s events. LTC is not a summer camp, but a serious course designed to help those who are interested in joining the Army ROTC program at their respective schools and receive the training they need to

My Summer at LTC

By James Wheeler

be competitive with other cadets who will be entering their MSIII year.

The first few days of the course were physically and mentally exhausting, as the cadres were not introduced, the drill sergeants taught us ‘what right looks like’. This phase included in-processing, and Drill and Ceremony.

The second phase of LTC is where all the hype for the course comes from, and I will admit that it was awesome. While I am not afraid of heights, I took on the high ropes course with enthusiasm, and a little bit of nerves, as it is something I had never done before; other events during this phase including Field Leaders Reaction Course, Rappelling (which included a 50’ skid), Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Land Navigation, and Rock Wall Climbing. These events aren’t just for fun, but are for gaining greater Army knowledge, developing teamwork, and gaining Personal Courage.

The third phase, the Bold Leader phase, was the evaluation of each cadet as it



pertains to their leadership capabilities. This is where all the classes on squad tactics, individual movement techniques, land navigation, and squad movement, cultivated in field training exercises. In addition to the normal STX training lanes that one would execute at their Battalion, we were also given the opportunity to do 4 lanes in Urban Terrain. These lanes included Entering/Clearing a building, an ambush, and movement down an alley, while using some of the best operating paintball markers, on the most developed lanes I have ever seen. The end of the Field Training Exercise was marked by a 10k tactical road march that started at 0300 and ended at 0700 with a ceremony to honor those of A1/46th Infan-

My Summer at LDAC

By Kerry Mitchell



I'm Cadet Kerry Mitchell and my 2009 Leadership Development and Assessment Course experience began with our arrival at North Post of Fort Lewis, WA. Upon arriving we quickly unloaded the buses and were directed to our barracks to begin assimilating into our assigned squads. The first five days in the barracks were filled with processing events, from checking medical records to signing paperwork. These days were very slow and we had a lot of down time in the barracks, that allowed us to get to know our squad members and develop standard operating procedures for the future training events. Also, during the slower periods we also conducted several basic skills lessons to prepare for LDAC, and I taught the land

navigation and yellow card assessment classes.

During the garrison and field portions of LDAC, we were placed in leadership positions as squad leaders, platoon leadership, and company leadership. While in these leadership positions we were evaluated by the company and platoon cadre that trained us throughout the whole process. After the in-

processing days we began our actual training with the PT Test, which tested us in push ups, sit ups and the two mile run. After seven slow days in the barracks we moved out to the field and occupied the forward operating bases (FOBs) around the training area. Out at these bases we were evaluated for our land navigation skills, as well as taught many new skills such as combat lifesaving, weapons systems, field survival skills, and had the most fun learning to deal with chemical hazards. The chemical hazard event allowed us to suit up in mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) suits and run an obstacle course in them, as well as get gassed by chemical smoke (CS) gas, painful but funny afterwards.

From these training events we moved to our evaluation period in the field,

which placed us in positions such as squad leaders and patrol leaders, leading our squad mates through simulated combat and civilian interactions. During these days we were forced to rely on the skills that we learned during the two weeks prior, and to successfully complete the missions and assist our squad members. After the last day in the field we performed a ten kilometer ruck march back to North Post and our barracks. During the march we sang cadences the whole time and laughed about the prior days in the field.

When we got back to garrison we had a five day wait for out processing and preparing to graduate from LDAC, which equaled a lot of down time similar to the first few days. During this time the camaraderie that developed during camp was evident as we shared laughs about camp and ourselves, and relished the shared experiences that we had incurred. Despite some tough and frustrating portions during the LDAC experience, it was a great process that I won't forget as I help to prepare this year's juniors for next summer.

Alumni News

LT. COL. Mary E. Abrams '89 (ID) commands the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Iraq, the battalion's home base is Ft. Drum, N.Y. During Mary's 18 years on active duty, she has served in Korea, California, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Virginia, Kansas, and Germany. She has also been deployed to Saudi Arabia, Hungary, and twice to Iraq.

LT. COL. Michael R. Darrow '88 (CEE) has served two tours of duty in Iraq with United States Army Corps of Engineers, helping to rebuild the war torn country. He has played a central role in incorporating Iraqi engineers into the Army Corps' Iraq reconstruction efforts, expanding their presence and scope of their duties. As head of Forat Area Office, Michael oversaw projects in Babil, Karbala, Najaf, Qudisiyah, and Wasit provinces.

LT. COL. John L. Tillman '86 (ME) received a Defense Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement testimony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He earned the award for his performance as a Battle Captain with Joint Staff Logistics Operations Center Logistics Directorate at the Pentagon. John helped monitor and direct strategic logistics for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In his 22-year military career, John received the Bronze Star Medal, four awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, three awards of the Air Force Commendation Medal, and two awards of the Air Force Achievement Medal.



LT. Bill Toft and LT. Mike McLaughlin Compete in Best Sapper Competition at FT. Leonard Wood, MS.

The Year So Far

Golden Knight Battalion

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