



Fall 2021 Alumni News Letter

We started the semester at a full run. Partnering with the Softball team during Softball Bootcamp was amazing. The Cadets, Cadre, and players loved it, and we are planning to do it again in the fall. Our Cadets excelled at Advanced Camp last summer, and our cadet population almost doubled this year. Last year we had 64 Cadets in the program. We started this semester off with 118 Cadets. Three of our Cadets earned the RECONDO badge at Advanced Camp. The last time we had a Cadet earn the RECONDO badge was in 2013, and in that year, we only had one earn the badge. I truly appreciate all the support we receive from the Alumni. Our success would not be possible without you.

LTC Travis J. Easterling

26th Professor of Military Science



During the Fall, training is focused on the individual Cadet and Leader to set conditions for the Spring Semester's collective training in Platoon level operations. As always, the primary focus is on preparing the MSIII's for Cadet Summer Training — Advanced Camp. This Semester's classroom instruction, labs, and field training exercise constitutes the "crawl" phase of this year's training. Our successes in this semester sets the foundation on which to build robust Spring semester training and continues the Gamecock Battalion's glidepath for excellence.



August: The Gamecock Battalion kicked off the Fall 2021 Semester on 18 August with the largest freshmen class in recent history nearly doubling the Battalion's footprint. We hosted a 5-day Boot Camp for the Softball Team building team cohesion and creating an environment to identify and develop the Softball Team's leaders. The Boot Camp included a modified Army Combat Fitness Test, Squad on Squad airsoft capture the flag, a four mile ruck march, high intensity interval training, and a multi-event Commander's Cup.



September:

We dug into the Fall Semester in September with physical readiness training, classroom instruction, and labs as all the Battalion's Cadets settled into their new roles: MSIVs in their Battalion leadership and staff roles, MSIIIs in their platoon and squad leader roles, MSII in their team leader roles, and MSIs learning to serve as members of a team in an Army environment. We established a strong presence on campus tailgating before each Football home game and providing color guard at the Jacksonville 9/11 annual remembrance ceremony and numerous other events. Lastly, we conducted our Fall Army Combat Fitness Test on 27 & 28 September to assess individual physical readiness and identify additional physical readiness training needs.



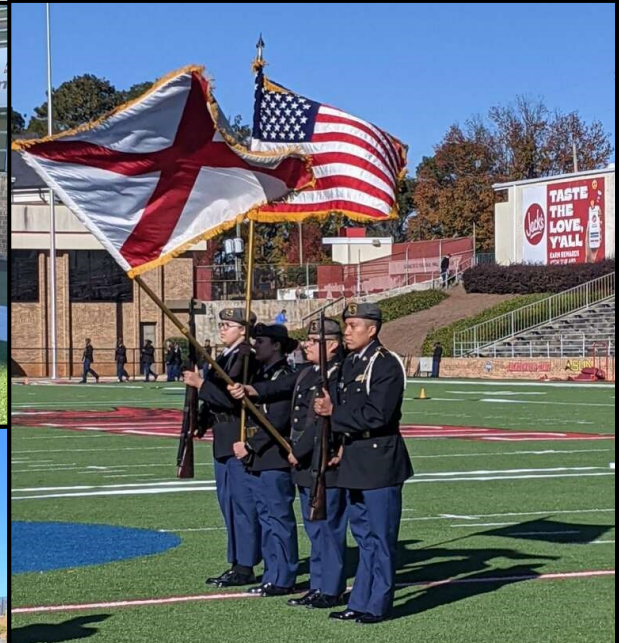
October:

The Gamecock Battalion conducted its Fall Field Training Exercise with the University of Northern Alabama ROTC Program from 21-24 October at Pelham Range. Cadets conducted a leader reaction course, land navigation training, and situational training exercises to develop our Cadets' leadership skills, build cohesive teams, and prepare MSIIIs for Cadet Summer Training — Advanced Camp. Partnering with the University of Northern Alabama ROTC provided our Cadets insight into an adjacent unit and supported networking with peers in preparation for service in the Total Army. Additionally, the Gamecock Battalion's Ranger Challenge Team competed in Part 1 of the 6th Brigade's Ranger Challenge Event on 29 October.



November:

The Gamecock battalion continued pushing through the end of the Fall Semester in reviving the Gamecock Challenge, a multiple event JROTC competition. The Gamecock Challenge consisted of a drill competition, color guard competition, academic evaluation, and fitness competition on 13 November during which 7 schools competed and 2 schools observed. The AL ARNG supported the Gamecock Challenge with 18 NCOs serving as the event's judges. This partnership with the AL ARNG demonstrates the active and strong partnership the Gamecock Battalion has with the AL ARNG. Sparkman High School was this year's Gamecock Challenge overall winner.



December:

The Gamecock Battalion commissioned 2LTs Shametria Braggs and Savannah Ervin into the Military Intelligence Corps on 9 December. The guest speaker for the commissioning ceremony was former Gamecock Battalion Military Science Instructor, SFC (Ret.) Michael Parker. The Gamecock Battalion's support to the JSU Fall Commencement Ceremony with a color guard and the legendary bell closed out the Fall 2021 Semester.

