

Colonial Journal

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DECEMBER 7, 2012

*Motivated Every Day Colonial Battalion Leads the Way!!!
HOOAH!!*

Service Learning - Soldier Care Package Collection Drive

This year, the Army JROTC Colonial Battalion will again be sponsoring a collection drive for soldiers stationed overseas. The collection drive will begin in December and end on January 31, 2013. The homeroom that shows the most support will win a pizza or ice cream sundae party.

Soldier care packages are boxes with essentials and snack foods. The JROTC cadets try to encourage their classmates to bring in various items by sponsoring a contest between the homerooms. Each box sent out will also contain a letter from a cadet in the battalion.

As of the first week in the competition, Mrs. McMinn's homeroom is in first place with 385 items. Sergeant First Class Harmon's is in second with 142 items, third place is Mr. Dunham's with 82 items and fourth place is Mrs. Wolfe's with 49 items.

Listed below are examples of the types of items we are collecting. Please help support the troops and bring in some of the following items:

Food:

Applesauce, gum, mints, chips, pretzels, cookies, crackers, instant coffee, tea, oatmeal, oodles o' noodles, pop-tarts, cereal, granola bars, jerky, non-perishables, etc.

Clothing:

Black or white socks, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts and washcloths.

Entertainment:

Batteries, disposable cameras, envelopes, paper, pens, pencils, playing cards, pocket games, paperback books, puzzle books, flashlights, DVDs, etc.

Personal Hygiene:

Chapstick, combs, dental floss, mouthwash, female hygiene products, foot powder, hand sanitizer, hand and body lotion, soap, stick deodorant, toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc.

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Community Service and Involvement



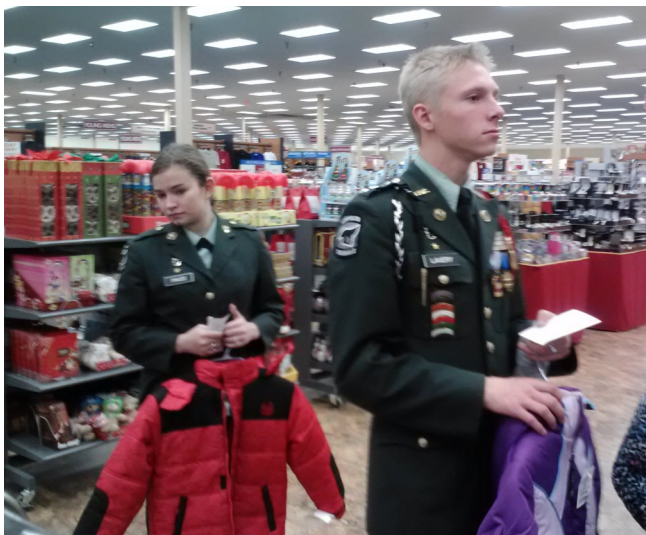
Project Bundle Up

On October 27, 2012, twenty cadets from the Colonial Battalion assisted Project Bundle Up by acting as personal shoppers for needy individuals. Cadets reported to the Burlington Coat Factory in Uniontown Mall at 4:00 p.m. and shopped until 7:00 p.m. Coats, hats and gloves were purchased for many needy families. Cadets had the opportunity to work with children and had the satisfaction of helping others in the community.

"It was amazing, helping people to keep warm. It made me happy when one of them smiled."

-Samantha Bankhead

Thank you to all of the cadets who willingly gave up their Saturday to help with this amazing event.



Color Guard at D. Ferd Swaney Elem.

On November 7, 2012, five cadets took part in a Veteran's Day program conducted by Rolling Thunder and assisted by posting colors at the event at D. Ferd Swaney Elementary school. Those cadets included Chad Morrison, Lloyd Drake, Austin Martin, Jessie Weaver and Emilee Kephart.

They had an opportunity to meet and talk to the members of Rolling Thunder prior to the program and they learn a lot from the organization.



Color Guard at Veteran's Service at the Allison Christian Church

On November 4, 2012, four cadets had the opportunity to perform at a special Veteran's Service at the Allison Christian Church. These cadets included Michael Kmetz, Lloyd Drake, Megan Gilmore and Jarred Gilmore. The Laurel Highlands JROTC program also attended the Veteran's Service and lead the pledge of allegiance.

After the ceremony, cadets had lunch with members of the church and their guests.

"The ceremony was a great experience. Those of us who had the privilege of attending are very grateful for the chance to honor the church."

-C/CPT Lloyd Drake

Hurricane Sandy Relief Drive

State Representative Tim Mahoney hosted a hurricane relief drive to benefit those who had been affected by Hurricane Sandy. The goal was to fill up a tractor trailer that was then delivered to a distribution center in New Jersey.

A call was made to the Albert Gallatin High School Army JROTC Colonial Battalion to see if we could help out. The collection drive was scheduled to be held for three days; Friday, November 16th from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, November 17th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday November 18th from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

We planned to help out after school on Friday and a few cadets that were not on the drill team could help on Saturday and more would help on Sunday.

But as luck would have it, school was canceled on Thursday and Friday due to a sewer line break. Therefore, cadets were called Thursday evening and Friday morning to see if they could attend to help out with the drive Friday afternoon. Eight cadets answered that call and reported to the Uniontown mall in the front parking lot by Sears.

Cadets sorted various non-perishable food items, clothing, coats, blankets, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. After the items were sorted they were boxed and loaded in the trailer.

Individuals continued to drop off items all day as the cadets and other volunteers sorted the items. The generosity of the citizens of Uniontown was overwhelming.

Cadets returned to assist on Saturday and on Sunday. Overall it was a rewarding experience to volunteer our time and assists others in need.



Competitions

Academic Competition

On November 19, 2012, the Battalion Academic Team gathered for three rounds of intellectual quizzing. With bright eyes and strong enthusiasm, the team blasted their way through questions regarding JROTC knowledge, mathematics, grammar, vocabulary, science, reading comprehension, and current events.

With scores of perfect 100s, the team scored excellently in grammar and science, though a 66 marked their rough point in mathematics. Even so, the team refused to allow it to ruin their good time.

"For our first competition, I think we did a good job. We had a very high score overall and it was fun. All of us worked together as fast as possible to answer each question correctly. I look forward to the next competition."

-c/Sergeant Sierra Bloom

An astounding number of 1,576 teams participated in the first level, and those who made the cut were separated into Divisions within their brigade. Our battalion was placed in Division 1 of our Brigade, and in order to advance to the third and final level, and win a trip to Washington D.C. to compete in June, we must come in first place within our group of 30 other schools.

Be sure to congratulate our team of Brian Brashear, Chelsey Capozzoli, Sierra Bloom, Austin Martin, Jessica Mesler, and Ryan Thomas, and while they did well and hope to continue to achieve, it's important to remember the true meaning of this event: teamwork. Without the cooperation of each member, we would not have achieved as well as we did.

- c/MAJ Jessica Mesler

Leadership Competition

On November 20, 2012, the Battalion Leadership Team completed Level 1 of the Army JROTC Leadership Bowl with over 1,349 teams nationwide competing. The Leadership team members include Jared Gilmore, Samantha Bankhead, Kaitlyn Hendrix, Codie Lavery, and Weston Bloom.

The team was tested on George C. Marshall's Principals of Leadership, and units from the LET curriculum to include: Thinking Maps, Winning Colors and Leadership in Action, Foundation for Success, History and Government.

The team worked hard and competed well, but were disappointed that they did not score high enough to make it to round two of the competition.



Albert Gallatin Colonial Battalion
2012 Leadership Team



Albert Gallatin Colonial Battalion
2012 Academic Team

Drill Competition at Preston High

On October 27, 2012, 22 members of the Colonial Battalion participated in the Annual Fraternal Order of Eagles Drill Competition hosted by Preston High School in Kingwood, West Virginia.

There were seven High School JROTC programs that competed in the event. Those schools consisted of: Laurel Highlands High School, Lincoln High School, Northern Garrett High School, Southern Garrett High School, Preston High School, Wayne County High School and Albert Gallatin High School.

Albert Gallatin High School Colonial Battalion placed second in the Unarmed Platoon Drill Competition. In the individual knockout competition, C/LTC Megan Gilmore placed fourth. The knockout competition consisted of over 100 participants.

Northern Garrett Drill Competition

On Saturday, November 17, 2012, the Albert Gallatin High School JROTC Drill Team ventured to Garrett County Community College in Maryland to participate in our second drill competition in this school year. Four teams came together for a day of healthy rivalry, friendly supervisors, and excellent food. The four high schools, excluding ourselves, were Northern and Southern Garrett, and Preston County.

The team arrived at six o' clock in the morning, dressed in their prime and proper Class A uniforms, showing wonderful dedication and discipline to their teams, themselves, and the whole battalion all the while looking smart.

The competition went well, all teams putting their best effort in and coming in the top three. Both Armed and Unarmed Squad came out on top of the game, both teams arriving in first place. Armed Platoon gave did very well, coming in second place. Unarmed Platoon and Color Guard gave an excellent effort, both teams taking home third place.

However, it was not over there. The Command Sergeant Major took center stage and made an announcement that stunned all the cadets. Tension spread through the gymnasium; there was a tie between two schools for the first place overall! The announcement went slow, our superiors harmlessly amused by the strain felt by the cadets. The judges explain that while they normally used a system assigning points to the first, second, and third places, the system had failed, computing a tie. No worries, because they simply added the points up from each individual event.

Silence reigned, it was time for the final declaration. The two schools had came very close in their totals: 4,947 and 5,029 points.

Finally, the statement came.

We took first place!

- c/MAJ Jessica Mesler



Masontown Veteran's Day Parade

On November 12, the Colonial Battalion marched in the Annual Veteran's Day Parade held in Masontown. Kayla Ferland and Tanya Bricker lead the way carrying the JROTC banner, followed by the color guard, being lead by Lloyd Drake. Alpha Company and Bravo Company followed, calling cadences as they marched. The weather was perfect and the parade was an overall success.

Three of our cadets had the honor of marching with the VFW's honor guard because they were short three of their members to perform the 21 gun salute. Those lucky cadets were: Michael Kmetz, Jay Bobish and Levi Fox.

After the parade, they also performed another 21 gun salute at the Masontown VFW for the Veteran's Day ceremony.



Veteran's Day Dinner at Golden Corral

After the Veteran's Day parade, cadets volunteered their Monday night to help with the Veteran's Day Dinner Hosted by the DAV at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Uniontown. Cadets talked to the guests as they waited patiently to be seated. All the veterans who attended the dinner had the chance to meet and talk to other veterans.

The event was a great opportunity to meet and talk to veterans. Thank you to all the cadets who sacrificed their evening to attend the dinner and a thank you to the Golden Corral Restaurant for donating free dinners to all veterans.

"Cadets were helping seat veterans, and they held the doors open. Over all, the event went great."

-c/2LT Samantha Bankhead



Mock Inspection

On Tuesday, November 20, 2012, the Colonial Battalion attended a training day in the high school gymnasium to prepare for the upcoming inspection in February. SFC Harmon contacted the recruiting office and several recruiters attended from the Army, Air Force and the Marines.

A formal inspection has a sequence that must be followed. First the CSM (command sergeant major) falls in the battalion. Each company gets accountability of all their members. Attendance is an essential aspect of the inspection. The company commanders and platoon leaders take charge of their company and platoons and the battalion commander, c/LTC Megan Gilmore leads the battalion in reciting the battalion motto and the cadet creed.

Finally the battalion is then prepared for the inspection, as the command of open ranks is given. The recruiters, acting as the inspecting officers, ask each cadet questions from a list of inspection questions, the chain of command and inspect each cadets uniform for deficiencies.

After the inspection of each cadet was complete, there were other activities scheduled during our training day. A drill competition between platoons was held using the inspection sequence, with c/CSM Emilee Kephart judging each platoon. c/CPT Lloyd Drake and c/CPT Doug VanDivner conducted a class on uniform wear and proper placement of ribbons and awards. In addition, all cadets were given another opportunity to go before a promotion board.



Although the day was stressful, it paid off in the end. The LET 1 cadets experienced their first battalion formation and learned what was involved in conducting a battalion inspection and the staff learned what needed to be improved prior to our actual inspection in February.

We ask that **ALL** cadets attend the inspection in February and be sure to **STUDY!**

Keystone PVA Awards Banquet

The Colonial Battalion staff had the honor to provide color guard for the annual Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Awards Banquet again this year. The cadets had the opportunity to practice proper etiquette and visited with numerous paralyzed veterans. They also the pleasure to hear the guest speaker, Augie Malekovich speak, a former Marine and a marksman from Top Shot Season Four.

After the ceremony, cadets had the pleasure of meeting Augie and talking with him as he signed autographs.



Albert Gallatin High School
Army JROTC— Colonial Battalion
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Uniontown, PA 15401
School Phone: 724-564-2024 Ext. 1131

Upcoming Events

December 6 No School - Parent Teacher Conferences
December 7 Pearl Harbor Day
December 10 Fruit and Cheese Cake Fundraiser Delivery
December 21 Early Dismissal for Christmas Break
January 8 Parent Booster Meeting
January 21 No School - Staff Work Day 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.
February 2 Drill Competition, Seneca Valley High School
February 6 2nd Brigade Inspection
February 12 Academic Team Competition, Round two
February 12 Parent Booster Meeting
February 18 No School - President's Day
March 5 Parent Booster Meeting
March 23 Raider Competition, Slippery Rock University
March 28 Beginning of Easter Break
March 31 Easter Sunday
April 9 Parent Booster Meeting
April 27 Military Ball
May 10 Senior Prom
May 22 Cemetery Clean up at McClellandtown Cemetery
May 23 Place Grave Markings at Point Marion Cemetery
May 25 Memorial Day Parades - Point Marion and Fairchance
May 26 Memorial Day Services - Lafayette Cemetery
May 27 Memorial Day Parades - Masontown and Smithfield
June 2-5 JCLC Camp Odyssey, Boswell Pennsylvania

Visit us at:

www.albertgallatin.k12.pa.us

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Click on the JROTC-Main Link