

THE CADET CONNECTION



Volume 19, Issue 5

September, 2011

A program of HQ 2D BN 127th INF (IBCT) Wisconsin National Guard and Exploring Learning for Life
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STRENGTH

Current Unit Strength: 15
Projected Losses: 0/ Projected Gains: 3
Projected Unit Strength: 18

DRILL

Monday 26 September, 2011
UNIFORM – ACU's w Patrol Cap
1730 - 1830 Leaders Leader's Meeting
1830-1930 ASSIGNED OPEN HOUSE
1930-2000 ALL Clean Up

BRIGADE COMMANDER – COL BRIAN BLAHNIK

PH: (920) 850-3026

Email: brian.blahnik@gocadets.org

An exciting year ahead and some big changes!

2011 brings change as do every year in the program. As some of you may have heard CPT Winker is taking a leave of absence as he wraps up his active Army duties and prepares for a new chapter in his life. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed LTC Dave Grimm, Brigade Personnel Officer as the new Commander of the Army Cadets of the Fox Valley. LTC Grimm has experience at all levels of Cadetting and looks forward to his additional assignment as he will still be responsible for Brigade level duties. We certainly wish CPT Winker the best of luck during his leave and look forward to his return in the future. We also thank LTC Grimm for making this commitment which we all know is not something to take lightly.

FAQ

Q: Do the hours I volunteer for the Wisconsin Army Cadets qualify for community service hours for my school?

A: Yes! If your school has a requirement to fulfill a set number of community service hours to graduate you can use time volunteered during our fundraiser events. Just bring your hour's sheet to your first line leader who will turn it in to be filled out and signed.

UNIT COMMANDER (ACTING) – LTC DAVE GRIMM

PH: (920) 560-2431

Email: dave.grimm@gocadets.org

A new training season has arrived. 1LT Jon Winker will be taking a leave of absence as Company Commander for an undetermined amount of time. I will be filling in as the Unit Commander (Acting).

I look forward to an exciting year filled with high-speed educational activities that all should enjoy. These drills and activities will include the foundation of Cadet Conduct, Customs, and Courtesies. Each Cadet and Officer will be reminded of these fundamentals and will be expected to practice them at all times. This will assist our Cadets who plan on pursuing a military career.

As the fall progresses, the Staff will be working hard to develop the curriculum and the operational materials that it is going to take to amplify the motivation, attitude, and professionalism of our members.

BRIGADE COMMANDER – COL BRIAN BLAHNIK

PH: (920) 850-3026

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Thank you Wisconsin Army Cadets Staff!

This past year has been a transitional year for us as we move out of the US Army Cadet Corps and reestablish the mighty Wisconsin Army Cadets, a program that has been around for almost 20 years and has provided more than 10,000 youth across Wisconsin with a unique military style educational experience. I would like to thank each of our staff who has spent quite a bit of time in meetings, retreats and calls helping to clean up and republish our program materials. I think most of you know but it is worth mentioning again, ALL, every single one of our staff is a NON-paid professional, in other words....a volunteer. NO one gets paid to do what we do. So when you participate in an incredible training event, or enjoy the fruits of the program, remember that it was a volunteer who made it happen! Be sure to thank them whenever you can! I know I certainly appreciate ALL of their hard work this past year!

NEW IN 2011 / 2012

Cadets and Recruits alike will experience some new things in 2011.....from new training gear like tactical helmets and M4 rifles to new training programs and standards. Exciting new traditions will be born and many old ones will be coming back. Do you know what a chow formation is? How about bracing or sounding off with motivated or dedicated. One thing is for sure, this isn't the place to be if you aren't into excitement and adventure. What's our new slogan.....Explore Today! If you really want to have a great time, get involved, attend drills, participate and show motivation and watch our unit take off!

EAA AIR VENTURE

EAA Air Venture was a success again this year with more than 40 volunteers contributing 800 hours of service. This helped to raise \$4,859. For the unit. THANK YOU to Melissa Casper and CPT Jon Winker who lead the event. We also thank ALL of you who volunteered, cooked meals, supervised at night, drove your Cadets, parked cars and more. This event is always an amazing feat of logistics and people power. Long hours, hot days and noisy nights lead to exhaustion and fatigue and our unit stood out as one of the best on site! Thank you can not be said enough!

RECRUITING AND RETENTION

We need your help! The best resource we have for getting new cadets involved in our program is word of mouth. If you have any friends interested in the Wisconsin Army Cadets get them in contact with us. You know how great this program is, let your friends share this experience with you. Don't let your friends sit at home playing Call of Duty when they can be getting the experience of a lifetime with the Wisconsin Army Cadets! They may not be interested in the joining the military but are they interested in having a great time and getting a chance to ride in a Blackhawk Helicopter or participate in a high adventure Field Training Exercise. Talk to your friends and get them involved!

Want to take it a step further? Talk to your Cadre about setting up a table at your school. Maybe you can get an announcement made in your school. The Wisconsin Army Cadets can provide marketing materials upon request. Just let the cadre know about your plans and we will help make it happen.

TRAINING FOR 2011 / 2012

1LT Lauerman (Training Officer) is working with 2LT Thorr Prieto (Training staff) to set up a year of exciting training for our Cadets and recruits. Our first major event will be in late October when we travel to Fort McCoy for Basic Cadet Training and Leadership development. For many of you this will be your first exposure to an Army environment. Fort McCoy offers an exciting opportunity for Cadets to immerse themselves into the Army culture. This will be the first of many trips to Fort McCoy this next year. As you may have noticed, our annual training calendar has a slightly different look this year in hopes that we are providing you with even more helpful information. Also note our Annual Training event next summer. ALL personnel are expected to attend annual training which will include a mix of high adventure events, activities and training. Please take a look at the year ahead and prepare your schedule now.

QUARRY QUEST 2011

Once again we will be supporting the Quarry Quest community mission by providing parking support, pedestrian control, military vehicle and equipment display and demos. This event helps to raise \$75,000 - \$100,000 every year for charities in and around the Fox Valley. The Wisconsin Army Cadets are also one of those benefactors receiving a significant donation each year. Last year we received \$5,000. These dollars go to the unit account and help supplement your annual enrollment fee. The Quarry Quest event is very important and we want to be sure we have enough staffing. ANYONE 14yrs of age or older can assist on Saturday September 17, 2011 in Neenah, WI. To offer your assistance please contact COL Blahnik at brian.blahnik@gocadets.org or (920)850-3026. ALL Cadets, Recruits and Officers are expected to assist.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House announced for September 26th at 6:30pm lasting approximately one hour. NOW is the time to get your friends involved! NOW is the time to spread the word, hand out flyers and get announcements in your school newspaper or digital signs. The best recruiter is YOU! If we each bring one strong lead to the open house we can grow our unit to an incredibly rewarding size. This year recruits that join in September will have the opportunity to attend a 4 day basic training at Fort McCoy Get the word out. If you need any materials or have questions speak with 2LT Rose or email him at jeremy.rose@gocadets.org or have your friends visit our website at www.gocadets.org

20 YEAR CELEBRATION

COL Blahnik is looking for volunteers who would like to sit on a planning committee for the 20th anniversary community celebration for the Wisconsin Army Cadets. The event will be held next December and will include a dinner, awards, recognition, silent auctions and more. The goal will be to raise money for Armed Forces Family Support Groups, a foundation for the program and scholarships for our Cadets. If you have experience in working with large event planning, fundraising or are well connected in the community...we need you. Please contact COL Blahnik at brian.blahnik@gocadets.org Meetings will begin in November.

**Wisconsin Army Cadets
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