

# CLEVELAND ROTC Wolfpack Newsletter!



FALL / WINTER  
JANUARY 2017  
Issue 2



## PMS ♦ Pithy Points & Perspective!

by LTC Matthew Johnson, Professor Military Science

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What a year we had in 2016 in so many ways, and on so many different levels! Your Army ROTC program had an incredible year and is primed for an even better year in 2017.

Since our last newsletter in May 2016, our Cadets, Cadre, and alumni have done some amazing things. We commissioned 14 new Second Lieutenants into our Army; we graduated 13 from the Cadet Command Advance Camp at Ft. Knox and we participated in community events from the City of Cleveland level down to local campus functions. This included: 2LT Mauer ('16), as a guest of the **Secretary of Defense**, meeting **LeBron James** at a **Cavs playoff game** in Cleveland; Cadets and cadre met the

**Secretary of the Army** and **Army Chief** at the AUSA convention. We had numerous local interactions with veterans and students (*from colleges, high schools & elementary schools*) to develop connection with the Army and ROTC.

Most importantly though, I believe each Cadet in this program wakes up every morning better than the day before. The program helps force that growth, but does so with support from the cadre, the faculty/staff of our various schools, our concerned alumni, and our Cadets' families. In the end, each Cadet depends on their own discipline and desire to wake up daily and be better. For that, I thank all of our Cadets, cadre, and supporters for a great year - and I look forward to an even better year in 2017!

**LTC Matt Johnson**

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*Congratulations!*

- LTC James Sanders**, APMS promoted Nov '16 to Lieutenant Colonel
- MSG Travis Leonhardt**, SMI Selected for SGM - academy this summer
- SGM Frederick Carmicle** Army retirement after 27 years this summer
- MG Tim Wojtecki** (CSU '88) Promoted from Brigadier General
- LTC David Diamond** (CWRU '96) Awarded the Soldiers Medal
- GEN Carter Ham(Ret.)** Selected as the new AUSA president and CEO



# CLEVELAND ROTC

## Activities FALL - summary 2016

see next page for details



### August - September

**School of the Pack!** Annual fall ROTC orientation event for incoming Cadets

**Blood Drive** One of several Blood Drives during the year - organized by Cadets

**Staff Ride, Gettysburg** This annual, road trip: Cadre & Cadets take to the road!

**Military Appreciation Football Game** A new event & organized by the Cadets

### October

**JCU Homecoming Pershing Rifle Tailgate** Fun and grilled items were had by all!

**AUSA, Washington, D.C.** MS4's in DC, courtesy of GEN Carter Ham, USA (Ret)

**AUSA, Leadership Dinner, Rob Stall** A very informative event for Cadre & Cadets

### November

**Multiple Veterans Day events** Cadre & Cadets, deep appreciation for our Vets



**CWRU Wrestling ROTC table** promotional event at Case

**Fitness Seminar** MSG brought in professional fitness trainers to teach Cadets, Faculty/Staff

### December

**Dining In** Cadre & Cadets enjoyed dinner and *esprit de corps*!

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- **School of the Pack** - Our annual ROTC orientation event for incoming Cadets. New Cadets get a taste of the athletic and military expectations that the program requires as well as a chance to meet other new Cadets.
- **Blood Drive** - On September 12&13 JCU Cadets volunteered with the American Red Cross to host another Blood Drive at JCU! Many Cadets worked the registration desk and made donations! The Red Cross met its donation goal for this drive and we look forward to more successful Blood Drives in January & March!

- **Gettysburg Staff Ride**

There is always something new to experience in Gettysburg! This year the park had a large contingent of WWII re-enactors. We were once again privileged to have our own resident expert Dr.

Vourlojinis from JCU's History Department. He is the Professor for Military History and faculty adviser to the Pershing Rifles.



Gettysburg Staff Ride with WWII Re-enactor and his jeep!

- **Military Appreciation**

**Football Game!** On September 24th, Cadets hosted a veteran's awareness table and passed out ribbons to veterans and other attendees, to honor those who have served. Getting a bit of a workout, Cadets did pushups in the end zone with each JCU touchdown! The Wolfpack is deeply invested in JCU & our veterans.

- **Tailgating!** On October 8th 2016, we held our annual Homecoming Tailgate jointly with Pershing Rifles! We grilled hotdogs and hamburgers before the game to promote the program and to celebrate our JCU school spirit! Cadets hosted a ruck weight guessing game, a push-up competition and a "Photo Op." The Wolfpack is a proud member of team JCU!

- **AUSA Conference** - In October, four MS4 Cadets attended the AUSA conference in Washington D.C. courtesy of **General Carter Ham, USA (Ret)** a distinguished alumni of JCU. Cadets Haas, Comiskey, Laubert and Lamantia had the honor of attending this annual gathering of top U.S. Army leaders. Cadets toured the expo to see the next-generation of weapons systems/equipment. They attended formal events and met the commander of **SOCOM**; the **Undersecretary of the Army and U.S. Army Olympians!** A highlight was the speech by **Chief of Staff of the Army, General Milley**, who laid out his vision for the Army of the future and discussed potential future conflicts. The conference was an extraordinary, unique experience that gave us a clear vision of our future.

- **AUSA Leadership Dinner** - In October, in partnership with AUSA (Newton D. Baker chapter), the Wolfpack hosted our annual Leadership Dinner. The purpose of the event is to highlight active leadership in our community by both a person's example as well as



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# CLEVELAND ROTC

## Activities **Fall** details 2016

(continued)



Veterans Day

learn from their insights. This past year, **MG (ret.) Robert Stall** spoke on how his military experience relates to his leadership as the Cleveland Clinic's International Operations Officer role. AUSA also presented **LTC (ret.) Peter Bernardo** with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his exceptional service to the Army and ROTC throughout his life - thanks Pete! Finally, we are always looking for potential guest speakers with a leadership story to tell and learn from, in or out of uniform. If interested or know a good candidate, please let us know.

- **Veterans Day/Week** – The Wolfpack participated in a variety of events to honor and support America's veterans. We traditionally participate in the Beachwood Historical Society's annual Veterans Day event. Beachwood Police & Fire represented the city and served as the drill team along with our **Cadets Pacalo, Reilly, Donner, Vidika and Coleman**. The event was held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Beachwood Cemetery which dates back to the early 19th century. Vets of seven wars are buried there, including the Revolutionary War.

The guest speaker was **SGM Frederick Carmicle** who moved all with an electrifying, heartfelt speech, bringing tears to most eyes. Special attendees included Beachwood's Mayor, Merle Gorden; Holocaust Survivor, Michael Blain (*Korean War vet as well*); and JCU professor, Dr. George Vourlojianis.

Other events during the week included CWRU hosting the **Surgeon General to the Army, MAJ Gen. Nadja West** with ROTC participating and hearing her speak. CWRU's Wrestling team asked ROTC to host a table providing Army information at their open tournament that week, which also brought attention to military service. At the JCU wrestling dual meet on Veterans Day, ROTC presented the colors and assisted in acknowledging Veterans before the matches. At all campuses, Cadets hosted a table in the student areas and gave out ribbons in honor of Veterans Day, and posted signs to celebrate service. These events were humbling experiences for our Cadets and further connects them to their Veteran predecessors that have already sacrificed for our country.

- **Fitness Seminar** - In November, MSG Leonhardt organized a physical fitness training program covering nutrition, training plans and injury prevention. Highlights included weight lifting techniques by professional coaches from Elite FTS who demonstrated and discussed these topics. With females now being authorized to participate in combat units, Cadets got to hear directly from a professional female weightlifter. She talked about developing the confidence that we all need in order to succeed.



- **Dining In** – We held Dining In at JCU's Green Road Annex and three, new annual awards were established: The '*Green Hornet*' award is given to the Cadet with the most spirit/enthusiasm. CDT Brubaker, an MS2 from CSU won the *Green Hornet*. Also new, the '*Toilet Bowl*' award went to the MS1 class for their win in the 1st annual Turkey Bowl football game. Finally the '*Derbis Award*' for *exceptional lapse in intellect* was awarded to CDT Binkiewicz. The award, a golden helmet, was given out for pronouncing *debris* as *derbis*! It was a great event which fostered comradery.

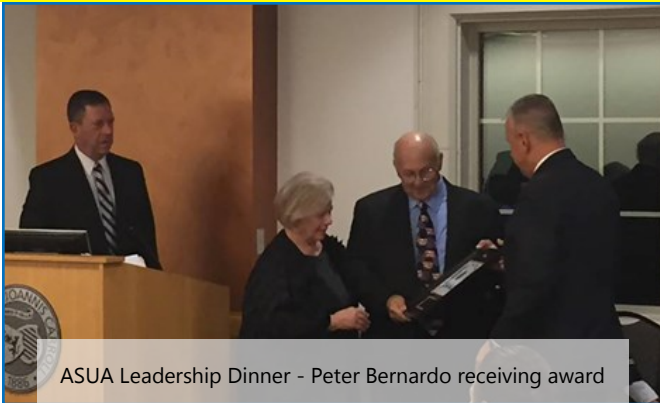
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# CLEVELAND ROTC

## Event Photo Gallery



ASUA Leadership Dinner - Peter Bernardo receiving award



Veterans Day - Beachwood, OH

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Veterans Day - Beachwood, OH



ASUA in D.C. with Socom Commander Gen. Raymond A. "Tony" Thomas



At CWRU with LTC Johnson, Maj. Gen. West, CDTs Schmitt ('20) & Joo ('18)



ASUA, in D.C. - Cadets & Under Secretary of the Army, Patrick J. Murphy




AUSA Leadership Dinner




# Alumni Update


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**U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ)**, presented the **Soldier's Medal** to **LTC David Diamond (JCU ROTC '96 & a CWRU graduate)** for his heroic actions following the Boston Marathon bombings on April 15, 2013. The Soldier's Medal is the highest peacetime award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service. (photo right: John McCain pins a Soldier's Medal on Lt. Col. David P. Diamond for saving lives at the Boston Marathon three years ago. The medal was presented during a ceremony on Capitol Hill, Sept. 27, 2016.) [click here for more info](#)



Congratulations to **GEN Carter Ham ('76)**, retired, for his selection as **President and CEO of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA)**. Excellent choice in a leader to continue to serve and lead our Nation's Army and a true advocate and steward for the profession, we couldn't be more proud and excited for the future.


In a mini PR reunion at Schofield Barracks, an update from former Wolfpack member **Dr. George Vourlojanis ('70)** notes, "*in the Hawaiian Islands...all successful young captains. I am very impressed and proud of them.*" Dr. V met up with **Dan Warner (09)**, **Glen Pegher (10)**, and **Pat Higgins (11)**.



Pictured are **former JCU ROTC Cadets Kevin Comiskey ('12) & Jack McCarthy ('14)**. Now stationed in FOB Bastion, Helmand Province Afghanistan. Both are assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2 BCT, 10th MTN. McCarthy is a Rifle Platoon Leader & Comiskey is a heavy weapons company XO. McCarthy will soon be taking a second platoon in Comiskey's company. Wow, deploying in the same BN & soon in the same company!



*Please share anything you have to inform the next generation of leaders. Share insights from your experience. Forward articles or links about leadership, military, or the profession. If you are nearby, stop in! **Thanks to all and Lead the Pack!***  
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**★ ANNOUNCING ★**

The Wolfpack & JCU Alumni will be co-sponsoring, a new Military Monument honoring all branches of service on the JCU campus!

Currently, this is planned for the SW corner of the football field & will incorporate a new flag pole. More to follow once final design is complete; but wanted alumni to be aware of this exciting new project!










**Testimonials from our Current Cadet Crew!**

Below are comments from our Wolfpack regarding the recent term. We use "MS" to refer to "Military Science." For example, an MS I is a first year Cadet while MSIII refers to a third year Cadet.

**Freshmen (MS I)**

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**CDT Boling** - Throughout the semester, I have learned many valuable skills from the ROTC program. I have already done basic training and this term served as a good refresher. Revisiting material such as: first aid, nine-line medevac and buddy carries have been helpful and ensure I will be ready if a situation arises. I have also learned new material, including, how to properly set up a claymore, ambushing and reacting to contact.



One of my favorite labs taught us how to properly raid a room! We have covered a lot of information this semester. I enjoyed getting to know others that share similar goals including wanting to serve for something greater than themselves. I look forward to learning and growing stronger along with my fellow Wolfpack Cadets!

**CDT Schmidt** - I greatly enjoyed the camaraderie that developed among the MS1's - I feel we have and will continue to grow together as a team. I've learned that cooperation and communication make the team operate smoother. I look forward to learning more about military tactics and to strengthening our team.

**CDT Schleitwiler** - The opportunity to be part of the Wolfpack has been a great learning experience for me and has helped a great deal with my transition to college life. Being a member of the Pack is not just about being in ROTC, it's about being in a *fellowship*. This camaraderie is probably what I have enjoyed the most. It not only helps with the transition to college but it helps motivate us in our classes. Most importantly, we have learned to function efficiently as a team - this will help guide us in our military careers. I am looking forward to the ROTC camp opportunities this summer.

**Sophomores (MS II)**

**CDT Donner** - This past semester was the first time we got responsibility within a squad. I learned how to lead a small 4 man team as a part of a 9 man squad. I also learned a great deal about the technical aspect on the officer side rather than the tactical side - which we learned last year. We learned about Troop Leading Procedures and the proper way to handle OPORDs. My favorite part of the semester had to be Pershing Rifles FTX! I really enjoyed and learned so much in those few hours about both tactical and technical! I look forward to the new challenges that await!



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**Testimonials from our Current Cadet Crew! (cont'd)**

**CDT Coleman** - I enjoyed the squad lanes the most this semester. Working together as a team, and building on each other's strengths helps to improve our weaknesses. I learned how to be accountable for my team. This means making sure that they have what they need and know what to do. I look forward to becoming a squad leader, since it is the next step in the chain of command. I want to have greater responsibility, so I can continue to further my goal of becoming a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army.

**CDT Miller** - Upperclassmen and cadre are preparing us to assume the roles of squad leaders in the coming semesters. This marks an important milestone in our ROTC careers in that we must master customs and courtesies, tactics, drill and ceremony, as well as a host of other essentials. We all look forward to the challenges ahead and take pride in the training we have already received.

**Juniors (MS III)**

**CDT Vidika** - I enjoy ROTC for the variety of daily challenges. One day I can be responsible for leading 8-9 Cadets and on another day, take on the difficult task of leading upwards of 50 Cadets from three different schools. It is a job that most students never get the chance to do. The junior class is responsible for teaching the younger Cadets key skills. The biggest lesson I learned this semester is how to effectively communicate knowledge I've acquired. Passing knowledge on is crucial in order to produce effective Army officers. I look forward to being put in more leadership positions and assuming the responsibility that comes with it.



**CDT Pacalo** - Another semester is wrapping up and I am one step closer to commissioning as an officer! Each semester I learn more about myself and the Army. This past semester, I really learned a lot about the importance of having a positive attitude. If I, or another MSIII, is complaining, the younger classmen pick up on it and it affects their mood negatively. Now, I keep a positive attitude around subordinates - however, it can be challenging! I enjoyed being a captain for the German Armed Forces Badge and the assistant captain to the Ranger Challenge Team. I enjoyed planning workout and training sessions. Next semester I am really looking forward to the Mountain Man Memorial March! Last year I could not ruck because of a shoulder injury. I am very eager to get back to rucking again and to winning the "half-heavy" like we did my freshman year!

**CDT Schmitz** - The highlight of this semester was Pershing Rifles FTX in mid-November. Our company spent the weekend out in the woods training at the squad



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**Testimonials from our Current Cadet Crew! (cont'd)**

level. It was a great opportunity to build upon progress made during the Battalion FTX, focusing on basic squad tactics and the Troop Leading Procedures. The weekend gave us the chance to build even more unit cohesion in a much more informal environment than our regular Battalion training. I learned how to plan a two-day training event, something I have never done before. With this added responsibility and experience, I am looking forward to senior year, where we as an MSIV class will create a training plan for our underclassmen Cadets that will not only prepare them for the challenges of Advanced Camp, but more importantly, for their future careers as Army Officers.

**Seniors (MS IV)**

**CDT Teleha** - This semester has certainly been different than those prior. As an MS4, you see a whole different side of planning that goes into the Wolfpack's training. Obviously, leadership plays a big role during this year, as we are expected to oversee individual training events that are direct results of our own planning. Being a part of that process and seeing its refinement throughout the semester has actually been an eye-opening yet, enjoyable experience. As both the S6 and a computer science student, I have been able to apply a lot of my technical expertise to maintaining some of the Battalion's communication systems. It has been a valuable experience and has added to my own "kit bag." Next semester I will be First Sergeant. I am looking forward to being able to interact with the underclassmen in a more direct way and building my skills in direct leadership and communication.



**CDT Comiskey** - Throughout the first semester of senior year, I was able to gain more knowledge and take away some of the largest lessons of military life and skills learned up to this point in my Wolfpack career. For example, by being placed as the battalion operations officer I gained a more nuanced understanding of what it takes in order for the battalion to function day to day and how to facilitate the training and development of the Wolfpack. I was also able to learn, improve and develop myself because of the experiences and opportunities that my peers and I have had in ROTC while being exposed to operational units of the U.S. Army. As my time in the Wolfpack nears an end, the item I am truly most excited about gaining a solid understanding of my future career. I want to develop myself further for a career in the profession of arms.

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# Pershing Rifles

***Mission First, People Always***

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### **A Note from PR President CDT Comiskey**

Pershing Rifles Company M-1 transitioned command to CDT Matthew Comiskey '17 this year and expanded its capabilities and influence in the Wolfpack battalion and throughout the John Carroll campus.

The Pershing Rifles company completed one of the most color guard intensive semesters yet, with highlights to include being able to present the national colors for the Cleveland Browns and in the City of Cleveland Veterans day parade.

The Company was able to facilitate and aid in the certification of all members within the Wolfpack Battalion on color guards skills in order to send forth more knowledgeable and capable members of the Wolfpack. This allowed the Battalion to participate in numerous Veteran's Day events and other color guards.

Company M-1 completed an externally successful fall field training exercise in the cold of November, completing continuous day and night operations to better ready all members of the company for their future as leaders in the profession of arms. This training further developed their confidence in their abilities to perform key tasks under duress.

Company M-1 will be seeking to expand with the forthcoming candidate process beginning in the second academic semester.





## SMI Scoop!

This semester we focused on Squad level operations. The Cadets learned basic Soldier skills including Combat Casualty care, how to employ a claymore mine and AT4 anti-tank rocket. The also focused on Squad Level Battle Drills to prepare them to transition to Platoon level operations in the Spring.

The Battalion continues to grow as a team and the Cadets are becoming the future leaders the Army needs and or Soldiers deserve.



### MSG Travis Leonhardt

Senior Military Instructor

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## Contact US! Wolfpack – Cleveland ROTC Office:

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office: 216.397.4421

Please contact us with your interesting events; accomplishments or any other updates on our alumni. When able, take a picture with a former or current Wolfpack member ([click here](#) to access our "Flat Stanley") and send it to us for posting or sharing. Please contact us with question; comments or information on the program.

### Upcoming Spring Events!

Pershing Rifle FTX Company M1 Candidate Field Exercise: *Preparing the*

Tactical Training to prepare for Cadet Summer Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky

Hymers Challenge - a voluntary skills competition open to MSI, MSIs and MSIIIs.


JFTX - Joint Field Training Exercise with Akron & Kent, replicating future operating environments


Mountain Man Memorial March - annual memorial event held in Gatlinburg, TN


Military Ball Annual Awards Dinner celebration, April 29, 2017


Commissioning May 20, 2017


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