Throughout this summer, the University of Wyoming Army ROTC Cowboy Battalion will send a number of Cadets to participate in one of the Army’s toughest 10 days of training: Air Assault School. As a part of the opportunities that Army ROTC offers, military schools such as Air Assault give Cadets an opportunity to earn a skills badge they can proudly wear on their uniform for the rest of their military careers.

Air Assault school is a ten-day specialty school that prepares Warriors to utilize helicopter assets in the missions and operations they undertake through the rapid movement of personnel, equipment and firepower. The first Air Assault operations began during the Korean War and were recognized as an integral part of modern warfare when in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War, a battalion-sized Air Cavalry Unit held off a Division of Viet Cong Forces. It is with this proud heritage that the Air Assault School challenges Warriors both mentally and physically. Those in Air Assault School deal with the fatigue of an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), obstacle course, numerous “smoke” sessions and 2 timed 6 and 12-mile rucksack marches. It takes a mentally tough and physically strong individual to complete the physical demands as well as 2 major written tests, 1 inspection test and 3 rappel tests to finally earn their Air Assault wings.

The Cowboy Battalion is upholding their proud tradition at this school this summer by sending the best and brightest Cadets of the program to earn their wings. So far Cadets Kurt Lichtfuss, Daniel Bradford, Clive Rieke and Chans Woolery have earned their wings. Two additional Cadets, Jeffery Ajax and Jacob Williams are attending the school later this summer. It is a huge honor to be given a chance to attend this school and every individual attending will represent the Cowboy Battalion proudly. Air Assault!