WHO: Cowboy Battalion
WHAT: Fall LTX
WHEN: 25-28SEPT2014
WHERE: Camp Guernsey, Wyoming

SUMMARY: During the days of September 25-28 the Cowboy Battalion traveled to Camp Guernsey, Wyoming to participate in the annual Fall Leadership Training Exercise (LTX) for four days. While at Camp Guernsey, cadets were immersed in Army lifestyle, participating in weapon familiarization with M16s, M9 and the M249 SAW, land navigation, obstacle course and squad STX lanes.

The Fall LTX took place in September and was designed to integrate cadets into Army lifestyle and provide leadership training opportunities for cadets at every level. The cadets started the weekend with an Army certified obstacle course where they completed nine obstacles. They conducted weapon’s familiarization, shot the M16, M9 pistol and the M249 SAW. The cadets executed classroom training on the weapons before shooting them at the range. Then cadets participated in land navigation and Squad Tactical Exercise (STX) lanes for the remainder of the weekend.

Land navigation is a training event designed to teach cadets how to orienteer. Cadets utilize maps, compasses and their individual pace count to find points designated by MS4 leadership. The MSIs are attached to MSII mentors to navigate the course, while MSIIIs take on the course by themselves as a test of what they have learned since their MSI year. The land navigation course consists of a day and night portion, with the day portion requiring them to find five out of eight points to pass and the night portion requiring three out of five.

The climax of LTX is STX Lanes; they are designed to test everything from being able to take a message or an order known as an Operations Order (OPORD) and turn it into a tangible goal relevant to a squad. During STX Lanes, skills in land navigation, classroom work, weapons training and leadership culminate while testing and evaluating MSIIIs. This event in general is meant to teach leadership and critical thinking through the vessel of tactics. STX lanes end with a battalion wide weapon cleaning session where the unit comes together for some pizza and camaraderie to end the weekend events.

The Fall LTX is an event designed to teach cadets about the Army and what is expected of them in ROTC while testing them on what they have already learned. Cadets built confidence, leadership skills and friendships to last them throughout the remainder of their careers and lives.