WHO: Cowboy Battalion  
WHAT: Junior Raider Challenge  
WHEN: 11OCT2014  
WHERE: University of Wyoming  
SUMMARY: On 11OCT14 the Cowboy Battalion hosted the annual Junior Raider Challenge, which was sponsored by the American Legion and the Wyoming National Guard at the University of Wyoming. The event is open to all JROTC programs and involves competing in multiple events. The events for this year’s competition were the Army Physical Fitness test, one rope bridge, run-dodge-jump, obstacle course, and the leader reaction course. A total of ten high schools with multiple teams per school attended the event from across Wyoming and Colorado.

The first event was the modified APFT. It assessed the physical fitness of each team and consisted of 1 minute of push-ups, 1 minute of sit-ups, and a 1-mile run. After the APFT, schools were broken into groups to perform the other events throughout the day. The obstacle course involved a quick-turn shuttle sprint & water can carry, tire step, low-wire crawl, and change of direction lanes. The run-dodge-jump contained a trench jump, bat-run & dodge, and a water jug run. The obstacle course and run-dodge jump events were utilized to assess the teams further on their level of physical fitness.

The one-rope bridge event was graded based on the team’s ability to move all personnel and equipment across the rope in the shortest amount of time. The one-rope bridge is constructed using a static climbing rope anchored to one tree on the far side of the obstacle and is tied off at the near end with a pulley system. This event was to simulate a tactical situation in which an area needed to be crossed in order to reach an objective.

The last event was the leader reaction course, which consisted of the trial and error labyrinth, the stranded survivor, a simulated minefield, the sandstorm, and blackout soccer. These events were used to assess each team’s leadership capabilities and behaviors.

The culminating event of the Junior Raider Challenge was the award ceremony at the conclusion of the competition. Awards given were: 3rd place certificates for each event, 2nd/1st place trophies for each event, top male/female APFT score trophy, and a trophy for the overall team winner. The overall team winner for this year’s competition was the Loveland/TV/MV high school JROTC program.