28 Feb-1 MAR-Bn FTX
14 Feb-President's Day
12 Feb-CWST (MS-III only)
11 Feb-APFT#2 Raiser
4-6 Feb-Battalion Fund Qualification Run
2 Feb-4-Mile Airborne Upcoming events:

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If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes.

~St. Clement of Alexandra

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20 January 2009 will go down in the history books as one to remember! There are so many things that we could take away and remember forever regarding the inauguration of the first African-American president in the history of the United States, but I’ll always remember the sense of brotherhood, sisterhood, kindness, consideration of others, love, togetherness, joy and laughter emanating from every venue throughout the inauguration celebration.

It was truly amazing to observe and witness President Obama and his family, joined by Vice President Biden and his family; wave to a cheering crowd and voices of nearly two million people from all walks of life; packed from the United States Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial. People cried; others hugged; celebrities and everyday folks took photos with digital cameras to cell phones to capture this historic moment. There really was an amazing energy that permeated throughout the crowd as we all witnessed an unseen barrier come tumbling down before our very eyes.

So, we should not forget or take light the words and challenge of our new President and Commander in Chief. President Obama gave the nation a challenge - he clearly stated that a new era of responsibility is required of us now. As current and future leaders; we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America. Do you understand your role and personal responsibility in helping and achieving that goal?

Finally, as the Black History Month (BHM) celebration begins, let us not forget those who helped pave the way for President Obama and others to break through glass ceilings. The United States Army and Bison Battalion will participate in several BHM related activities to highlight the U.S. Army’s appreciation of African-American Soldiers and their contributions to the military and nation. Please join us and others in our nation’s Capital in honoring, celebrating and commemorating the many contributions and sacrifices made by African-Americans from all walks of life!

Bison-6
“Leadership and Pride”

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” These prolific words, spoken by both Mahatma Gandhi and so assertively by President Barack Obama on the night of his Presidential Election, speak to the very nature of this Battalion. The Howard University Bison Battalion has taken tremendous strides towards achieving excellence. As I reminisce over my tenure at the Mecca, I can’t help but smile. The very thought of how much this program how grown, both in quantity and quality, excites me.

As the spring semester is upon us, I feel obligated to remind everyone to stay focused. The Howard experience, unlike any other institution offers a plethora of events, ranging from Spring Fest, Divine Nine Probates, Res Fest and Charter Day, just to name a few; however, we must keep the common goal at the forefront of our minds: Commissioning and Commencement.

The recent inauguration of our nation’s first African American President, Barack H. Obama is a powerful declaration that all things are possible. Regardless of your economic background, gender, religion or race, you too can obtain the highest position in the nation. However, just like President Obama stated, the CHANGE begins with you.

The Change that my staff and I look forward to for this Spring Semester is an increase in APFT scores, more involvement in community service and fundraising events and most importantly, a higher Battalion grade point average. In the words of our President of the United States, “Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it’s only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential.” I urge you all to go out into the world, to achieve your true potential. Bison-6 Charlie, “Leadership and Pride”

BISON HEADLINERS

♦ APPROVED FOR RELEASE: We are pleased to announce MG Rodney Anderson, Director, Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Pentagon will serve as the Guest Speaker at the 2009 Howard University Military Ball.

♦ The Bison Battalion says goodbye to 2LT Samuel as he leaves to continue his BOLC II training.

♦ Special thanks to the Bison Color Guard for the presentation of the colors at the GWC-AUSA luncheon.

♦ Special thanks to the Bison Color Guard for the presentation of the colors at the Renaissance Hotel.

♦ Congratulations to Cadet Morgan for receiving an “Excellent” rating during January’s Joint Situational Training Exercise (JSTX).
Cadet Johnson witnesses history in the making at President Obama’s Inauguration.

BISON IN ACTION

GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, the VCSA, takes a moment to thank the Bison Bn color guard for a job well done at a recent GW Chapter AUSA Luncheon in Crystal City, VA.

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Bison Battalion color guard posts the colors at the GWC-AUSA luncheon.

The Bison color guard take time to enjoy a meal after presenting the colors.

C/CPT Dorris takes a paintball shot to the body as his squad attempts to knock out a bunker.

Bison Cadets prepare for battle at squad STX.

Cadet Young takes a moment to send a message to the troops deployed worldwide while at the Renaissance Hotel.

2LT Samuel receives the Army Achievement Medal for his hard work and dedication.

CPT Smith gives words of wisdom to 2LT Samuel as he prepares to leave the Bison Bn to continue his training.

More Bison in action Photos in our album at http://www.coas.howard.edu/departments/#army

Check us on the web! www.armyrotc.com/edu/howard

LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

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~ BISON COLOR GUARD ~

Providing color guard support is just one way that Howard Army ROTC provides community outreach. On January 13th the Bison Battalion color guard was presented with a coin from the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. GEN Peter W. Chiarelli was the guest speaker at January’s GWC-AUSA luncheon and spoke on the Army’s mission strength and the contemporary operating environment. Cadets Minor, Hicks, Dorris, and Gardiner provided color guard support for the event.

During such an historic time in our nation’s history, it was expected that Howard University would take part in the many ceremonies that took place in the district to recognize the significance of Barak H. Obama as our nation’s 44th President, but Army ROTC Cadets got the chance to witness the pomp and circumstance firsthand. On January 19th Cadets were invited by the Renaissance Hotel to provide a color guard for the rededication of their presidential exhibit. Cadets King, Harrison, Young, and Morgan led a procession of hotel staff during the opening portions of the event.

Back at The MECCA, the campus was bustling with activity in anticipation of the swearing in of the new Commander-in-Chief. Barack H. Obama scored a victory against Senator John McCain of Arizona back in November of 2008 and promises to transform the way we use our military strength. His administration has promised to renew America’s leadership in the global community and to restore our economic prosperity. More than two million people gathered on the cold morning of January 20th to watch President Obama take his oath and to witness the historic nature of the event.

~ ALUMNI CORNER ~

Mark Benton

As my wife (Dr. Kim Lucas Benton ’84) and I visited Howard’s Homecoming (1st time in over 20 years) Oct. 08, we were engulfed with so much pride and inspiration. It was a bright sunny day as we walked by the ROTC Dept., where I received my training to become a Military Officer and was commissioned in “82”. I zoomed in on the outside door from across the street and in my mind went down memory lane. Stating to my wife, “There’s the ROTC building”. She responded, “Do you want to stop by? With hesitation, I said, “hummm” no that’s ok, lets just walking, I’m sure not much has changed.” Well, needless to say we ended up stopping by and boy was I wrong.

We opened the door and went down the steps. WOW! What a transformation! I was speechless. We were warmly welcomed by MSG Graves and a sign that read, “Welcome ROTC Alumni’. The lounge with the big screen TV, nice chairs and computers, was very impressive. The reception was topped off with great conversation with LTC. Williams, fellow alumni and cadets. I was just full of goose bumps to see so much progress in the ROTC program and in the Military. This experience was really reassuring to my wife and I, that we did guide our children in the right direction. As a Veteran, I always knew that the military experience is an awesome background to have and it worked out great for me. I loved the military, had a great experience and would not trade it for the world. After my training in the Crops of Engineers and the Military Police.

I was a Platoon leader, a Company Executive officer, then a two time Company Commander of a 300 + personal organization and various staff positions. That background has impacted my current employment as a Watch Commander with the San Francisco Sheriff Dept. Knowing that it’s not for everyone, we took a chance and encouraged our children to take a look at the program.

Now, both of our college children are Army ROTC Scholarship Cadets at their respective Colleges. I will share with you the same thing we told them. It’s a great time to be part of the military. A New Year and a New Black Commander-In-Chief. CNN reported that unemployment and lay offs are at an all time high and that the Government is the #1 employment source for weathering the economic turbulence.

Many companies can’t even pay for some of their long term employees’ retirement. With so many military opportunities available and financial support, it provides a chance for you to step up and help contribute to your own education. This in turn gives much needed relief to your families and /or to yourself. I know you may not feel like doing the military thing, but that’s ok.

Welcome to the world of doing things you don’t feel like doing. It’s about economics and not necessarily about patriotism. Like we told our kids, who else is going to pay you to get in shape, go to class and give you guaranteed employment? When you graduate, you won’t need to run back home to Mommy and Daddy to get a job to look for a job. So many college financial aid and scholarships are decreasing or totally tapped out. Financial resources are even limited for students with excellent grades.

My final point to you is this. I realize that many of you will not stay on active duty 20 years. My advice to you is to "NEVER" give up your commission. At least keep it and retire in one or a combination of the following: The Reserves, National Guard or the IMA. (Ask your Cadre about the IMA) With the uncertainties of the economy, life, personal goals and ever changing circumstances it’s all about having "OPTIONS". Do your research and keep abreast of all the Military has to offer. Yes, it’s an awesome time to be part of the Military. Senior Deputy Mark Benton is a Watch Commander for a Patrol Unit with the San Francisco Sheriff Department. Feel free to email him at benton300@yahoo.com.

Check us on the web!
www.armyrotc.com/edu/howard
Coming into the Howard University Army ROTC program, I expected to learn different tools that would help me become successful in the Army. As I expected, we have learned these essentials, however, I realized that they can also be applied to our everyday lives as young adults. In everything we do, we acquire tools that can easily be used when dealing with personal issues, financial issues and leadership. How has the Howard University Army program changed me as a person? It has taught me how to stand tall in the face of all my obstacles without fear. This program has given me fuel to my power; confidence. Life is predestined to have its natural ups and downs from an individual’s perspective because of the fact that people are simply not perfect. If you accept an attitude of defeat, at that very moment, you are defeated. If you have your mind fixed on achieving your goal, your decisions and path will naturally follow. In anything rigorous the Bison Battalion does, while getting the mission completed we simply say to ourselves “Too easy”. If we can convince our minds, the powerhouses of our bodies, that the task at hand is possible, then our body will naturally follow. I truly believe that there is nothing I cannot accomplish in life. No stars are unattainable. No wall is too high and no obstacle is too low. Achieving happiness and overcoming sorrow in life is all in the perception of your mind and attitude. I thank the leaders and superiors of the Howard University Army ROTC for instilling this in me as a future officer and young woman. In the Army as well as my everyday life, I will carry this tool everywhere I go. I will boldly face the world today and courageously stand tall, for I have nothing to fear. I believe no matter what life has thrown at me, I will get through it. I will live. There is nothing to fear but the power instilled in me to climb to higher heights; and that power is in the mighty Bison Battalion’s “can do” attitude. That’s right, fear it!

~FRESHMEN CORNER~ Cadet Lindsay Cooper

 Tango one six, this is Charlie tree one, over...Charlie tree one this is tango one six, over...tango one six, this is Charlie tree one, request permission to cross the LD, over...Charlie tree one, permission granted, over. This is Charlie tree one, roger, out!”

MS IIIs wait two and a half years to get the opportunity to take charge during squad tactics, transitioning from the classroom to the STX lanes at Ft. Belvoir, VA. On January 24th, the entire MS-III class from Howard University Army ROTC departed for what would become a day filled with excitement and learning. The training event was a joint exercise held with our “Army Strong” brethren from the Georgetown Hoya Battalion. Each Cadet was placed in one of nine squads which resulted in a training environment that fostered the sharing of tactical knowledge and techniques. For added realism MS-IVs provided opposition and resistance on all of the lanes and each Cadet was given the opportunity to use paintball guns to provide an added sense of urgency and realism to certain missions.

Cadets were evaluated on their ability to develop and brief an operations order as well as effectively accomplish the mission assigned by their higher unit. Missions included: knock out a bunker, movement to contact, conduct a reconnaissance, and setting up an ambush. Every MS-III learned valuable lessons regarding the conduct of Army operations at the squad level. Cadets are rated using the Leadership Development Program (LDP) that assesses a Cadet’s leadership capacity in over sixteen separate areas. The LDP process also rates a Cadet’s overall performance as either Excellent, Satisfactory, or Needs Improvement. C/CSM Morgan received the highest possible rating, an Excellent rating, for her performance on her lane!