



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
49ER ARMY ROTC BATTALION
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE
9201 UNIVERSITY CITY BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28223-0001**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

February 2, 2010

PMS, 49er Battalion

Dear Alumni:

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to visit our website. I am Lieutenant Colonel Eddie Johnson, the Department Chairperson, and Professor of Military Science for the Army ROTC program here in the beautiful Queen City of Charlotte, North Carolina. I enjoy the opportunity of having the best job in the Army on one of the most beautiful campuses in America. As customary in the Army, I want to put the bottom line up front. This letter is to establish the foundation for the first ever UNC Charlotte Army ROTC Alumni Organization and reach out to our alumni all over the world. We want to grow the 49er ROTC Alumni Association into a premier organization that offers family support, scholarships, employment networking assistance and much, much more. To do this, we need the help of everyone to get the word out. As we work through our databases, we are having difficulty locating many of the alumni out there, so if you know a friend who knows a friend please email us with the most up to date information. Please help us as we form the strongest 49er Alumni Association possible.

I would also like to share some news on the future of the 49er Program here at UNC Charlotte. Since 2007, the program has grown from 74 Cadets to our present number 179. The program is on a glide path to surpass 200 by January 2011, so please understand you are part of an organization that has potential to be a powerhouse in its own right.

Our program, along with the Air Force program, has graciously been given our own building that we share. The building previously known as the Brocker Health Center is now Memorial Hall. We now have three classrooms surrounded by offices and our new and improved Cadet lounge.

The 49er Battalion has introduced into the Army ROTC program the Pershing Rifles Club; which is one of three new student organizations that focus on color guard, drill and ceremony, and performing in national competitions. Along with the Pershing Rifles, we have the Scabbard and Blade National Honor Society, which is another student organization formed on campus limited to the top twenty percent of each Junior and Senior ROTC class. The purpose of these organizations is to introduce joint operations between the Air Force and Army ROTC programs, and to acknowledge those who have achieved great success in their academic performance, along with creating strong support networks.

As a result of growing the Battalion, the Ranger Challenge team has exploded into the Ranger Company which reaches out to the rest of the UNC Charlotte 49er Battalion for those who strive to be on the "actual" team, pursue high physical standards, and want to enhance their military knowledge in becoming the best leaders our Army has to offer. Our Ranger Challenge team placed 9th overall out of 39 schools this past October (2009). Upcoming events planned for the Ranger Company include preparation for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in the spring and in pursuit of a winning team for the fall 2010 Ranger Challenge Competition. ARETE!

I would like to recognize the last three George Marshall Award winners identified on my watch since I took over this outstanding program: 1LT Justin Smigiel, currently identified and selected as one of the Army's brightest junior officers and as a result is going to work for the National Security Agency's Network Warfare Command. 2LT Brandon Forrester is presently our Gold Bar Officer until he moves to Fort Benning, Georgia to begin Infantry Officer Training. Cadet LTC Shahn Trussell, prior service Ranger, Pathfinder, Airborne, Air Assault and Combat Infantry Badge holder is the Cadet Battalion Commander until he commissions in May of 2010. He will move on to Aviation Officer Training at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

I would like to invite everyone to the Memorial and Classroom Dedication in honor of our fallen hero 1LT Leevi Barnard at our new facility, Memorial Hall, on 24 April 2010 at 11:00 a.m. 1LT Barnard was an Alumni of UNC Charlotte and graduated in 2007. He was killed in action from an improvised explosive device in Iraq on May 21, 2009. Please come help us and his fellow classmates celebrate his memory.

Also, our Military Ball will be held on the same day; Saturday evening, April 24th at 6pm at the Hilton Hotel. The registration forms are available online at <http://www.arotc.uncc.edu> if you do not receive one in the mail. If all else fails please call our department Administrative Support Associate, Mr. Curtis Lawrence at 704-687-8101.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support as we build the finest alumni organization for the best ROTC Program in America. To help fund our new projects and growing organization, we would like to extend to you the opportunity to make a donation(s) to our program. The Forty Niner Battalion wishes you good luck in your endeavors wherever you may be. Continue to take the fight to the enemy if you are in a combat theater and we hope to see many of you at our Classroom Dedication and Memorial for 1LT Leevi Barnard, and our 2010 Military Ball.

Go Niners!

Sincerely,



Edward B. Johnson
Lieutenant Colonel, NCARNG
Professor of Military Science
UNC-Charlotte