Happy New Year Alumni! Thank you all for the support the past year. This past year, your generous donations have allowed us to purchase a camouflage wrap for our pickup, new battalion coins and advertising at the SDSU Wellness center. We also started a new tradition with the cadets firing a 75mm pack howitzer at all home SDSU football games.

We have a busy semester of training events planned, although our staff will be short one key player for the 2015 spring semester, Garnet Wosje is retiring after 29 years of loyal service to the U.S. Army and South Dakota State University. She has provided exceptional mentorship, cadet/cadre support and has been the "glue" for Army ROTC. We had a "Thank You Celebration" for Garnet on January 23rd. It was well attended and a great event for Garnet and her family. Thank you Garnet!!

We commissioned 2LT Jordan Smith in December and have four cadets who will commission on May 8th, 2015. We will also have our awards banquet on this day. If you are in town, feel free to stop by and share in the cadets’ accomplishments.

CPT Geoff Guthrie (APMS) will also be leaving SDSU. Thank you for your service to SDSU. MSG Charles White (SMI) departed for Fort Bliss, Texas, in December and we are lucky to have MSG Kevin Staddie on board to help teach, coach and mentor our cadets for the next three years. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

January 29th (7:00 pm Frost Arena) will be Military Appreciation Day at the Jackrabbit Women's basketball game. Bring your current or retired military ID to the game and receive (2) free tickets. Come cheer on the Jacks. Our cadets will also present the colors at the Minnesota Timberwolves game on February 28th.
A huge thank you to Gene and JoAnn Goodale for endowing a scholarship in honor of their son-in-law COL Evan M. Renz. COL (Dr.) Renz earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and commission from SDSU Army ROTC in 1983. Currently, he serves as the Commander of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. The first recipient for this scholarship will be awarded in May 2015. Thank you Gene & JoAnn! HOOOOAH!

The West Point of the Plains Alumni Association is planning to celebrate the 100 year anniversary for Army ROTC on October 1st, 2016. More information will be coming from WPPA.

As you have all heard, the Army is facing serious cutbacks in regards to personnel and budgets. However, the commanding general for Cadet Command, MG Peggy Combs, has no intention of closing Army ROTC programs. We need adaptive, flexible leaders to face the battles of tomorrow.

As always, whenever your travels bring you close to SDSU, stop by and visit. If your schedule ever allows, contact me and you can be a guest instructor to share your military experiences with the cadets.

Thank you for your service to this great nation.

AARON C. SCHULTZ
LTC, FA, PMS

2LT Spotlight: 2LT Jordan Smith

Meet Second Lieutenant (2LT) Jordan Smith from Williamsburg, VA. 2LT Smith commissioned and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Management in December 2014. 2LT Smith’s commissioning ceremony was held in Lincoln Music Hall.

2LT Smith was first a scholarship Cadet and later became a SMP in the South Dakota Army National Guard. Following graduation, 2LT Smith went back home to Virginia and will serve in the Virginia Army National Guard. 2LT Smith will attend the Corps of Engineers Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in August.

2LT Smith contracted as a freshman into the Army ROTC program with a Four-Year Army ROTC Scholarship. While at SDSU, 2LT Smith participated in Color Guard, Drill Team, and competed in Jiu-jitsu. In the summer of 2014, he attended the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox, KY. 2LT Smith served in several leadership positions within the Cadet Battalion at the West Point of the Plains Battalion and assisted in preparing younger Cadets to succeed in the program.
Dressed in vintage uniforms, Army ROTC Cadets lead the Hobo Day parade on horseback. Cadets are (left to right) Joshua Nyquist, Jacob Kruse, Cody Leins & Chelsey Cahoon.

**Army ROTC Alumni Reunion**

Please join in the fun of planning and later attending an Army ROTC Alumni Reunion. The event will be held on **September 30 and October 1, 2016** in the McCrory Gardens Great Hall on the campus of South Dakota State University. The reunion will be held in conjunction with the 100th Birthday Celebration of The Reserve Officers’ Training Corps in 2016. If you would be interested in helping out with the reunion, please contact the president of the West Point of the Plains Association, Tom Martin, [tom.martin@usd.edu](mailto:tom.martin@usd.edu) You can assist from any location by contacting other alumni, designing an invitation or working on special projects. Come and join in the fun, renew acquaintances and see how SDSU has changed!
Peter Hauff (left) visited Jan Griesenbrock (right) at Waldoboro, ME, the third week in October 2014. Photo at Maine Lighthouse Museum, Rockland, ME. Weather was rainy, cloudy and windy but did not stop us from travelling around area to visit lighthouses, boat harbors, museums, belted galloway (Oreo) cows, antique store, and aerial views of New York City from airplane. Area is dominated by trees along roadside with very few open areas along with harbors, bays and rivers along Atlantic Ocean.

1742nd SDARNG recently returned from deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. CPT Tyler Gerlach, Commander, class of 2008 and 1LT John Breeschoten, class of 2012 are in the photo.

Army ROTC Alumni are on Face Book at 
https://www.facebook.com/SDSUArmyROTCAlumni
West Point of the Plains

Alumni and Friends

It has been great to hear from so many Alumni and Friends of Army ROTC that have been stopping by the office, calling or sending emails to stay in touch. That is so much fun! Thank you for taking the time to stop by for the visit or attend one of the social events. Emails and phone calls are also appreciated. The connection between the current program’s Cadets and Cadre and Alumni and Friends is an important link.

Our appreciation to Andrew Larson, Jim Langdeaux, Frank Luczak, Jill Faris, John Emick, Terra Kettwig, Korey Jackson, MAJ Chris Browne, Bruce Kylonnen, Sarah Holt, Jess Powell, Asha Evjen, Lucas Shama, Josh Thill, Nick Breeschoten, Robb Meert, Krisma DeWitt, Betsy Logue, Heath Abraham, Mark Suich, Nikki Kriz, Jeff Nelson, Tom Williamson, Mark Van Hout, Becky Flores, Joe Bendorf, Kyle Nordmeyer, Dan LaMaack, Chase Olson, Peter Hauff, Tom Martin, Paul Gibson, Joe Winter, Adam Sokolowski, Elle Miller, Gene & JoAnne Goodale, BG Myrna Williamson, Betsy Suhr, Andrea Miller, Jon Auch, Mike Kain, Randy Nelson, Lowell Kruse, Charles Streeter, Marty Skovly, Loren Dennert and Orv Smidt for their visits, calls or emails. Please accept an apology if you were not listed; the list may not be all-inclusive.

Our Cadets and Cadre appreciate the various ways alumni give back to the Army ROTC program. Plan to attend a social function, stop by for a cup of coffee, teach a class or contribute financially to the program through the SDSU Foundation website http://www.sdsufoundation.org. Contribute through the Foundation’s secure donation site or mail your donation to our department and we will deposit your contribution at the SDSU Foundation. All donations are tax deductible.

The SDSU Foundation maintains accounts for our department, either the Greater State Fund or the West Point of the Plains Fund. These funds are used to subsidize events such as paying for travel expenses when Cadets travel to Ranger Challenge or Buddy Ranger competitions, to cover the costs of a meal when the department hosts a welcome back activity at the beginning of a semester or to provide a meal at field training exercises.

Sincere thanks to the Army ROTC program donors. Some Alumni and Friends have donated to the Army ROTC Foundation Fund or the West Point of the Plains, while others have endowed scholarships. Army ROTC has received generous donations these past few months from Steve Kool, Don & Donna Broksieck, Bob & Eleda Brotsky, Floyd & Jill Hansmeier, Bob & Judith Howard, Duane Hughes, Jay & Bev Manns, Verlin McCarthy, Richard Peiper, Dennis Ryland, D. Scott Tillema, Terry & Sally Keizer, Pat & Donlynn Rice, Michael Biddle, Pete & Patty Retzlaff, Bill & Connie Biggar, Dwight Clough, Burdette Blumer, David & Georgia Anderson, John Heemstra, Gene and JoAnn Goodale, Evan and Diane Renz, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Adelaine, Dave & Mary Howard, Martin & Gloria Kloster, Orv Smidt, Duane & Barbara Harms, Jerry & JoAnne Jorgensen, Richard & Kathryn Howard, Don Bunkers, and the family of Marlin Scarborough.

There are many memories and stories to share between alumni and staff and Cadets. If you are interested in sharing a story, photos, or history of the program in an article for an upcoming newsletter, please contact Garnet at wosjerg@itctel.com. Everyone has a story to tell; please consider sharing yours.

Thank you to all Alumni and Friends of Army ROTC for your generosity. Together we can continue to produce the best officers in the US Army.

Nick Breeschoten correctly identified the alumni photo of Regan Norgaard in the Summer Edition of the Army ROTC Alumni Newsletter. He received a t-shirt for identifying the photo.
Major General turned 2 years in Army to 33 years in Reserves

Gary Wattnem thought his military service was over following a 2-year commitment with the U.S. Army after being commissioned in January 1969.

But 43 years later the retired major general is thankful he listened to an Army Reserve officer who approached him about staying active in the military. So in November 1971, Wattnem began a 33-year with the Reserves, serving in staff and command positions at every rank from captain through brigadier general.

The Mason City, Iowa, resident retired in November 2004, five years after being promoted to major general as the assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics, headquarters, Department of the Army at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

“I didn’t think I wanted a military career, but found I loved it. I loved the challenge and camaraderie. I loved working with the soldiers. I gained a satisfaction with each rank and each assignment,” said Wattnem, a 68-year-old Estelline native who earned a degree in economics from SDSU in 1968.

He maintained civilian employment through his career in the Reserves, primarily with Reichert Technologies, of Buffalo, New York.

Wattnem retired in September 2012 as director of sales for the Americas responsible for an administrative and sales management staff covering the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America. The firm sells ophthalmic instruments to eye clinics.

“I was very fortunate to have a very understanding family and a supportive employer. I was gone 100-150 days a year for my military career,” Wattnem said.

Reserve career began in Waterloo

“I had some great assignments. The missions we took on were some great missions all over the world. I had opportunities to participate in exercises all around the United States, Europe, Korea and Japan. It was just great working with professional soldiers in the active Army, Army Reserves and National Guard,” Wattnem said.

While his time in the active Army was with a transportation corps, he spent most of his career in logistics units.

After beginning with the 404th Signal Company in Waterloo, Iowa, he went to the 394th Ammunitions Battalion in Ames, Iowa; and then the 103rd Corps Support Command at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. That was followed by the 56th Material Management Center at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

In September 1993, he was selected as chief of staff for the 19th Theater Army Area Command at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. In August 1996, he was assigned as the commanding general of the 3rd Corps Support Command at Fort Des Moines and promoted to brigadier general.

In June 1999, Wattnem began his position at the Pentagon.

Company commander days foundational

At age 27, he became commander of the 404th Signal Company in Waterloo, responsible for 256 soldiers. He held the position for three years.

“I told officers, you’ll always remember serving as company commander. It’s your first opportunity to be the boss and old man in running the unit. You’re responsible for setting the tone and culture in your unit. It’s where you learn a lot about the military and how to lead the young men and women in your unit,” Wattnem said.
Regardless of his assignment, he said he “always had been a firm believer in treating people fairly and equally and letting people do their jobs and not micromanaging.”

Wattnem’s training for those positions began at South Dakota State, where he said he made lifetime friends with whom he still communicates.

“I was always amazed wherever I went in the world for Army exercises, I would run into officers that graduated from SDSU and did well in their careers,” he said.

During his active duty career, Wattnem spent 11 months in Vietnam with the 71st Transportation Battalion at Long Binh, Republic of Vietnam. He was going to SDSU during the time of an unpopular military draft and all males at State were required to have two years of training in the ROTC.

**Public perceptions change**

Wattnem volunteered for four years in the ROTC so he could exit as a commissioned second lieutenant.

“I had fully expected I would probably be drafted. If I was going to go into the military, I wanted to go as an officer,” said Wattnem, who doesn’t recall negative treatment of the military on campus. He does recall such response when returning from Vietnam through the San Francisco airport.

He adds that early in his Reserve career, many times soldiers did not wear their uniform in the civilian sector because of public response.

Wattnem appreciates the change of heart in America. “I was assigned at the Pentagon when we started up the war in Afghanistan. The perception of the pubic in the airports has certainly changed. People will stand up and start clapping or go up and tell the soldiers they appreciate what they’re doing. It has come full circle since Vietnam,” he said.

The military itself has improved since the days after Vietnam, Wattnem said.

“After Vietnam, it was a hollow military. Since the ’80s, I feel like the military is on the right track. We had the budget and equipment we needed to train. I think the military we have is made up of best young men and women we have. I would know because I still have contact with the Reserve as the Army Reserve ambassador for Iowa,” he said.

**Now serves as Reserve ambassador**

The chief of Army Reserve appointed Wattnem to post, which is responsible for getting the word out to the communities in the state about the Army Reserve and to work with our elected officials, informing of them of the capabilities and the needs of the Army Reserve in our state, he said.

In early December, he helped organize a reunion for retired Iowa Army Reserve officers.

In addition to military service, Wattnem also has been active in Kiwanis, twice being awarded the Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award; has been an adviser to Junior Achievement, served on various boards of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City and is member of the Mason City Airport Commission.

Wattnem and his wife Vicki (Mulder) have two married daughters, Melissa Mahoney, of Minneapolis, and Jina Long, of Des Moines, and five grandchildren.

**Wosje Retires..........**

I am finally retiring! It has truly been a pleasure working at Army ROTC at SDSU for so many years. The Cadets, staff, former staff, and alumni all have unique ties to Army ROTC at SDSU and to each other. I met so many good, kind people & have lots of memories. I am just retiring; I will still be in the area so please contact me at wosjerg@itctel.com or 605-480-2236 if you want to visit or have that cup of coffee that I didn’t always have time for in a work day. This newsletter has been published for ten years and I will compile the summer edition since the HRA position will be vacant for a few months – please send me your articles and ideas. Godspeed to you all. Garnet Wosje
Our “Where Are We Now” article continues to generate some interest. The intent of the newsletter is to connect old friends with each other or perhaps connect alumni living in the same part of the country. The page will include the information you want posted whether it be a brief synopsis of your career or merely list name, area and contact information.

**COL (P) Jill Faris, Class of 1987.** Assistant Surgeon General for Mobilization, Readiness and National Guard Affairs. [Jill.k.faris.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Jill.k.faris.mil@mail.mil)

**COL Evan Renz, MS, Class of 1983.** New position as Commander, Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX. Married to [Diane Goodale Renz, Class of 1983](mailto:drenz@satx.rr.com)

**SFC Lynn Vanzandt, Cadre from 94-98.** Retired for 15 years and is teaching Junior ROTC at Grissom High School, Huntsville, AL. [lynn.vanzandt@hsv-k12.org](mailto:lynn.vanzandt@hsv-k12.org)

**Joe Winter, Class of 1993, AN.** After 21 years, retiring on 31Jan15. Will stay in the Ft. Sam Houston, TX area. [gjioeeagle@msn.com](mailto:gjioeeagle@msn.com)

**Jim Langdeaux, Class of 2005,** Commander, 82nd ABN Div 1 BCT, Ft. Bragg, NC, [james.j.langdeaux.mil@mail.mil](mailto:james.j.langdeaux.mil@mail.mil)

**Jaymes Sorbel, Class of 1991,** Owner of Operate Your Own Bookstore, [jim@chrislands.com](mailto:jim@chrislands.com)

**Andrea (Opoien Twedt) Miller, Class of 2004,** Account Executive, G&R Controls, Incorporated, Sioux Falls, SD. [Andrea.miller@grcontrolsinc.com](mailto:Andrea.miller@grcontrolsinc.com)

**LTC Jason Kettwig, Class of 1998,** Commander of South Dakota Army National Guard 139th BSB, Brookings, SD. Married to [Terra, Class of 1999;](mailto:Jason.w.kettwig.mil@mail.mil) [Jason.w.kettwig.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.w.kettwig.mil@mail.mil)

**Pete Retzlaff, Class of 1953,** Gilbertsville, PA, [ppr44@aol.com](mailto:ppr44@aol.com)

**Jeff Nelson, Class of 1971,** retired General Manager of East River Electric Power Cooperative, Madison, SD, [noslenjln@gmail.com](mailto:noslenjln@gmail.com)

**Nikki Kriz, Class of 1994,** works for the National Park Service in Seward, Alaska. [nicolekriz@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolekriz@yahoo.com)

**LTC Robb Meert, Class of 1997,** is currently the Supply and Services Branch Chief, G4, US Army Europe, Wiesbaden, Germany. In July, LTC Meert will take command of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany. [Robb.a.meert.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Robb.a.meert.mil@mail.mil)
ALUMNI FEATURE  
Brian Logue

**Brian Logue, Class of 1995**, graduated with highest honors at SDSU with a degree in Chemistry. Brian was a Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned Educational Delay. He attended Oregon State University where he earned a PhD in Analytical Chemistry in 2000. Brian attended the Chemical Corps Officer Basic Course, Unit Ground Force Protection Course, and the Chemical Defense Agent Training followed by duty as a Platoon Leader in the 7th Chemical Company (BIDS), Fort Polk, LA. He served as a Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS) platoon leader for the only active duty biological defense unit in the Department of Defense. In 2002, Brian became a Primary Investigator at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Brian’s main area of research at USAMRICD was to develop analytical methods to verify if individuals were previously exposed to chemical warfare agents. Brian was also charged with the development of technicians with backgrounds in chemistry, biology, physical therapy, and biochemistry. He mentored soldiers with varied education levels and was aggressively involved in a number of science awareness programs. He fostered a strong background in environmental analytical chemistry, bioanalytical chemistry, and materials/organic chemistry while gaining experience in a wide variety of analytical procedures, including biosensors, chromatography, and mass spectrometry. Brian earned a Parachute Badge at Airborne School as a Cadet and also completed Air Assault School in 2001.

In 2004, Brian returned to SDSU as an Assistant Research Professor in the Chemistry Department where he had worked while attending SDSU. Brian has been fortunate to continue to pursue his interests in research while working in the graduate degree program here at SDSU. He brought his USAMRICD research focus to SDSU where he continues to investigate innovative analytical methods to help determine exposure to chemical warfare agents among other research. Brian developed sensors and innovative analytical methods to determine exposure to chemical warfare agents and his considered the world’s expert in the analysis of cyanide, its metabolites, and cyanide therapeutics. His interests continue in further developing chemical and biological sensors for environmental analytical and bioanalytical applications with emphasis on the nanoscale. Brian currently serves as an Associate Professor teaching multiple Analytical Chemistry courses and Elementary Organic Chemistry.

Brian is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Analytical Chemistry Division; Phi Lambda Upsilon Chemistry Honor Society; and Sigma Lambda Sigma Mortar Board Academic Honor Society.

Brian recently received the SDSU Sewery Colloquium Research and Scholarship Lecturer Award and was the 2013 SDSU Graduate Teacher of the Year. In 2008, he was the SDSU College of Arts and Science Distinguished Researcher of the Year. While on active duty, Brian earned the Global War on Terrorism and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medals, the Army Commendation Medal and was the Air Assault 20K Road March Champion.

Brian has garnered research support in the millions of dollars and his publication history is remarkable. He has worked on over thirty publications on analytical chemistry, photochemistry, electrodes, solar cells and toxins to name a few. Currently, he is campus coordinator on a proposal for the South Dakota Board of Regents, “Security Printing and Anti-counterfeiting Technology (SPACT) Center: A Unique Opportunity for South Dakota” as well
as being the campus coordinator on the “REU Site: Security Printing and Anti-Counterfeiting Technology” project and manages the “The analysis of cyanide and emerging cyanide therapeutics” proposal for DoD/NIH as the principle investigator. Early in his career, Brian has been privileged to collaborate with renowned researchers and present his research throughout the world while working on the campus of South Dakota State University on projects for NSF, NIH, NASA, EPSCoR and DoD.

Active in synergistic services, Brian has served as a judge for state regional high school science fair, is involved in recruitment and training of high school students through the George Washington University Science and Engineering Apprentice Program as well as in recruitment and training of undergraduate students to participate in the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Summer Internship Program. He has reviewed multiple articles for colleges and journals, including Environmental Science and Technology and the Journal of Chromatography B. and redesigned an undergraduate elementary organic chemistry course to incorporate the general education guidelines of the university.

Brian’s family includes his wife, Maureen, whom he met when he was a college student at SDSU. Maureen is a pharmacist, and they have four children, Tayler, Morgan, Trevon, and Dreyton.

Garnet Wosje poses with South Dakota State University junior Ray Talley and the quilt she received at her retirement reception Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, at DePuy Military Hall. Wosje has served as HRA for the SDSU Army ROTC detachment since 1986 and ends her career Tuesday, Jan. 27. Talley, of McLaughlin, is a member of the junior class that gave the quilt to Wosje and the grandson of the quilt maker, Alvina Dobler of Mobridge. More than 375 lieutenants have been commissioned during her tenure at SDSU. She said she will miss the students but not the winter commute from Nunda.

SDSU University Relations, Dave Graves
HOW CAN YOU HELP ARMY ROTC?

1. **The West Point of the Plains Foundation Account** provides financial support to the overall Army ROTC program. Please make donations payable to the SDSU Foundation account 70423.

2. **The Greater State Fund** was established by the SDSU Foundation in recent years to provide another opportunity for donors to support Army ROTC. Please make donations payable to the SDSU Foundation account 70967.

3. **The Colonel Dwight L. Adams Scholarship** was established several years ago in honor of COL Adams’ investment in Army ROTC. He was PMS for several years and supported the program for many more years while he lived in Brookings. The scholarship fund is nearly depleted, and the account will be closed without additional support. The fund has provided one Cadet a $500 scholarship each year. Please make donations payable to the SDSU Foundation account 80009.

Your donations to any of the great programs listed above will ensure that the West Point of the Plains Battalion Cadets will carry on your legacy and that the SDSU Army ROTC remains Army Strong!

To access the SDSU Foundation website, please follow the link to [http://www.sdsufoundation.org/](http://www.sdsufoundation.org/) and click on the “How to Give” tab or mail donations to the SDSU Foundation, Box 525, Brookings, SD 57007.

See us at FACEBOOK [https://www.facebook.com/SDSUArmyROTCAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/SDSUArmyROTCAlumni)

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