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00-183

Media Advisory

September 12, 2000

What/ Who? **Eastern Illinois University's ROTC Panther Battalion** has invited members of **both the Charleston and Mattoon VFW** and the **Mattoon American Legion** to spend an afternoon of reminiscing, demonstration and bond-building.

Veterans will be able to observe Eastern's cadets as they spend a late afternoon tackling a single-rope bridge across a 20-foot-deep ravine. In exchange, the cadets are asking the area veterans to share stories of their time in the military.

When/ Where? Thursday, Sept. 14

Fox Ridge State Park, located approximately seven miles south of Charleston on Route 130. Members of the press/media are invited to meet Cadet Gary Kelly at 3 p.m. in the parking lot just south of Eastern's Klehm Hall in order to caravan out to the site. Directions can be provided to those unable to arrive on campus by the given time. A hot dog grill-out will take place between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. for all attendees.

Why?

One of several outreach activities planned for Eastern's 2000-2001 school year, which commemorates the Panther Battalion's 20th anniversary on the university's campus. Allows the cadets to say "thank you" to these veteran groups who have helped in training and fund-raising efforts over the years.

Contacts:

Lt. Col. Laurence J. Sefren – (217) 581-5944 **Cadet Gary Kelly** – (217) 345-0912

Also, EIU's Panther Battalion will travel to Marsielles, III., on Friday, Sept. 15, for a threeday field training exercise with cadets from Illinois State University. Any media interested in featuring this exercise should contact Cadet Kelly.