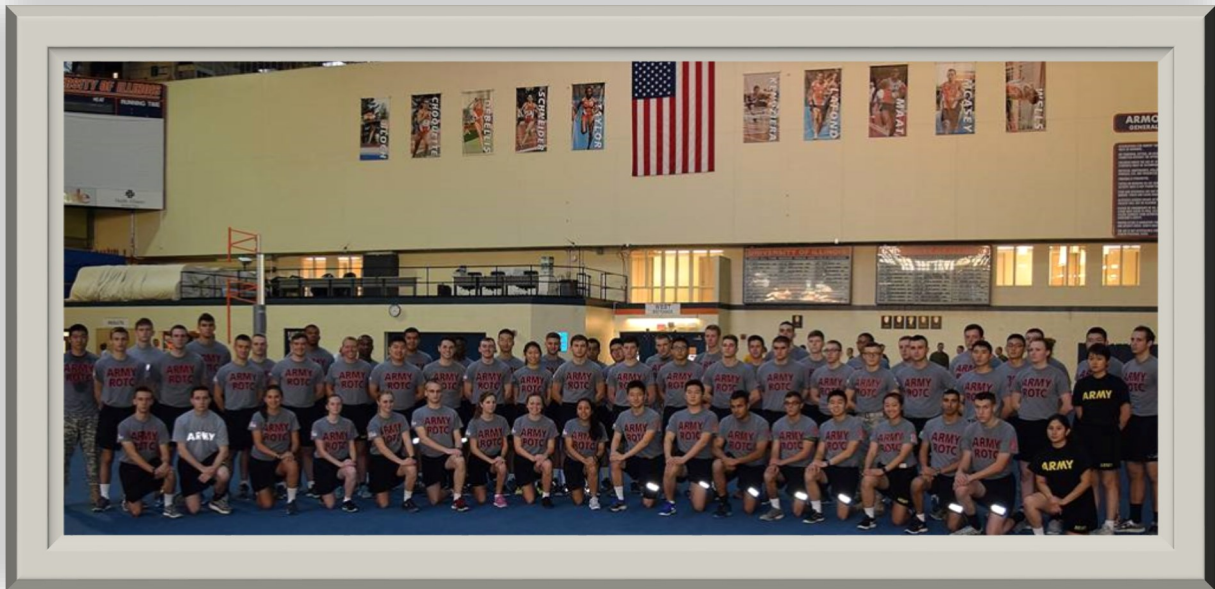


The MILLINI



A publication from
THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



Message from the Professor of Military Science

by LTC Randall Smith

Happy New Year to the Cadets, Alumni and friends of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion. My first semester here was an exciting whirlwind. I cannot imagine a better job than getting to work with our next generation of leaders each day, and I look forward to our training in the Spring Semester.

I've been extremely impressed with the level of training our unit provides and the level of performance by our Cadets. Within days of my arrival, our Cadets conducted a Cadet Orientation Program for new students arriving to campus. Over a period of three days we were able to welcome these new Cadets, and their parents, and begin their integration to both the campus and ROTC. Based on the motivation and success I'm seeing in our Class of 2020, I know this effort was highly successful.

Over the course of the semester our Cadets completed numerous training events to include a four-day Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury. The vast amount of planning and coordination allowed our Cadets to train on numerous events few other programs matched; such as weapons qualification, land navigation, confidence course and the Leader's Reaction Course.

On top of the demanding requirements of ROTC, our Cadets sent two teams to participate in Ranger Challenge; nine Cadets completed the Norwegian Ruck March; seven Cadets earned their German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge; the battalion supported numerous Color Guard requests; and cadets participated in numerous other events supporting our presence here on campus and in the community. They also conducted numerous fundraising events to raise money to support our Dining-In and ROTC clubs.

I want to take a moment to congratulate 2LT Jared Knightly who commissioned this December. I also want to congratulate the 13 Cadets who accessed this Fall and will commission in the Spring. As testament to the quality of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion, of the 13 Cadets accessed 2 were among the Top 10% and 2 more were in the Top 20% of all Cadets accessed this year.

As we look forward to our Spring Semester training, I assure we will continue to provide the best mentorship and training for our Cadets and the best Lieutenants for our Army. We will continue to meet our goals to: Be a Learning Organization; Get Better Every Day; and Never Quit.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we will continue the tradition of Fighting Illini Army ROTC producing the finest leaders for our Army.



On the Front Cover: The top photo shows the battalion after a tri service competition Physical Training event. The bottom photo shows the Army ROTC Push-Up Crew that supports every University of Illinois home football game.

Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by MSG Bruce Hutcherson

I would like to congratulate all of the Military Science Cadets on a very successful fall semester. The cadre were extremely well pleased with the growth and motivation demonstrated throughout the many events, classes and labs conducted. On the 25th of August, we welcomed all the cadets, both old and new, during the town hall leadership lab where we laid out the ground work for the events for the semester. The level of dedication from that point was astronomical.

The program had a number of cadets who volunteered to partake in the Ranger Challenge competition at Marseilles Training Area in which they represented the Illini well. This followed a rigorous fall Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Camp Atterbury presented the opportunity for cadets to develop and hone their skills on day land navigation, the Confidence Course, Key Leaders Engagement scenarios, to build teamwork during the Field Leader Reaction Course, the M16 zero and qualification range, and demonstrate they had the mental and physical ability necessary to complete a number of tactical road marches.

The month of October and November gave the cadets even more scenarios to learn and refresh themselves during several leadership labs focusing on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, communications, and Individual Movement Techniques (IMT)/move as a buddy team, which was very entertaining. In order to develop into a well-rounded leader, you have to know more than the tactical portion of your job. The cadets were introduced and briefed on many different policies effecting the U.S. military to include Anti-Terrorism, Force Protection, Equal Opportunity, Sexual Harassment and Rape prevention.

The Norwegian road march gave some of the cadets the opportunity to “embrace the suck”, as I like to say. I also had the great fortune to accompany seven highly motivated cadets to Western Illinois University to participate in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge event. We were extremely proud all seven of our volunteers represented themselves and the Illini AROTC program by receiving the coveted badge. Well done!!! The Tri-service ceremony held in the Armory on Veterans day showcased to all the student body and the surrounding community that our Armed Forces is a massively strong and talented organization that encompasses several different branches. Although competitive, these different branches of service always come and work together to accomplish any mission to standard. Now we’re looking forward to another great spring semester. Let’s keep our foot on the gas pedal!



ARMY ROTC



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UIUC Team that competed in the Norwegian Ruck March



Cadets execute one of the obstacles of the Leaders Reaction Course

***The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion
Forging Strong Leaders Since 1868***

Army ROTC: (217) 244-1407 arotc@illinois.edu Armory, Room 111

Fighting Illini Battalion



ARMY STRONG®

THE STORE

The *Fighting Illini Army ROTC Store* has been operating for over a year now. We thank all alumni and cadets that have purchased items from the store as a portion of each sale (\$3-5) goes towards Cadet operations. We have had requests to add ladies sizes as well so these have been added to our selection.

“The Store” provides an opportunity to fulfill the requests of alumni, assist in marketing our program through our supporters, while giving the Cadets a fundraising resource.

S/S t \$ 12.00



L/S t \$ 15.00



Crew \$ 20.00



Hood \$ 25.00



5015 polo \$ 35.00



5091 polo \$ 35.00



If interested in purchasing any of these items, fill out an order form by going to the following website: teshurt.com/uiucrotc You will pay and receive your order straight from the vendor. If you have questions, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu.

Again, thanks for your support and we welcome suggestions for future products. We will continue to refine this effort as we receive orders.

MS I Class Updates

What I Have Learned In My First Semester in ROTC

A Cadet Voice from the Military Science I Class

By Major Aaron Johnson, MS-I Instructor

It is an honor to be the Military Science Instructor for the new Cadets that join the ranks of the Fighting Illini Battalion. I get to witness the growth of these Cadets as they overcome challenges that many of their peers cannot even begin to comprehend. I asked a few of the new freshmen the question, “What have you learned the most in your first semester at UIUC?” Below are some of their responses:

Cadet Timothy Song: What I learned the most in my first semester in Army ROTC at UIUC is the importance of time management. I remember getting back from my first midterm of Chemistry 202, an accelerated chemistry class, and the pure disappointment of myself. This is when I realized that I needed to manage my time more efficiently. I also realized that I was not like the majority of the students attending UIUC. I was more. I was an Army ROTC Cadet and I had many more responsibilities than what other college students would have. Since my first chemistry midterm, my time management skills improved greatly all thanks to the Army ROTC program here at UIUC. Army ROTC gave me a tougher mindset throughout my first semester in college. It showed me just how tough life can be. There were many long nights spent writing lab reports, and studying for midterms because I just didn’t have the time throughout the day. The long nights were followed with waking up for physical training Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Throughout my tough first semester I learned perseverance. There were times where I wanted to quit. There were times where I wanted to sleep in instead of going to morning physical training. Despite the times of struggles, I did not quit. I was never late for a single morning physical training no matter how late I went to bed. I always showed up when the senior Cadets needed extra help or for a squad meeting. I learned that sleep sometimes has to be given up if you really want to achieve something great. In retrospect I am proud of myself on what I achieved this semester. I do feel that it’s going to be all worth it in the end when I graduate from UIUC and that makes me keep going with pride. I’m thankful for the Army ROTC to discipline me and to give me perseverance, and I am excited to be a part of this wonderful family.



Cadet Timothy Song up bright and early in his ACUs.

Cadet Cullen O’Conner: The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Battalion has not only taught me the fundamentals of being a leader, but I have been introduced to my limits. Limits I thought that could never be reached. I have learned how to push my limits to the absolute fullest, and that anything is possible. I came into the program hearing about all these opportunities, and thinking to myself, there’s no possible way I can ruck nineteen miles under four hours and thirty minutes. There’s no way I’ll make the Ranger Challenge team as a freshman. There’s no way I’d be able to score a 300 on a PT test; that will take years. With the motivation of fellow cadets and an inner drive I never knew I had, I was able to do all of it, and do it well. It might say on paper that I completed all of these by myself, but no one will see who helped get me there. It is humbling to realize that I would not be able to do this without the guys that were right by my side. I have truly learned the full value of teamwork, and that personal limits will be pushed harder with my brothers at my side. You learn that failure is not an option, because you won’t be letting yourself down, you’re letting down the ones to your left and to your right. Through the struggles that this program introduces, you learn to lose your ego. You are no longer doing this yourself, but for your team, your family. You become part of something larger than yourself. This is what the Fighting Illini Battalion has taught me, and they are lessons that I will hold close for the rest of my life.



Cadet Cullen O’Conner at the football game participating as a member of the push up crew.

MS I Class Updates

What I Have Learned In My First Semester in ROTC (Continued)

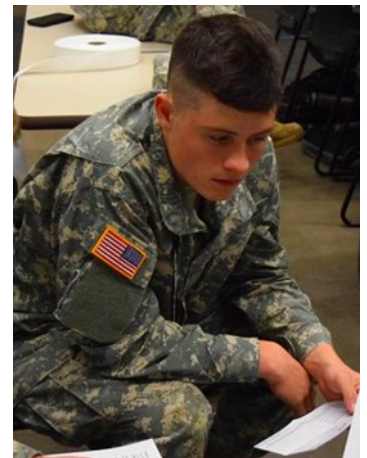
Cadet Roy Kim: When I first heard of Ranger challenge in my initial weeks of ROTC I didn't believe it to be an event that I could handle. I didn't think I was fit enough, that I was knowledgeable enough, or even mentally capable of handling such an event. I was scared I would crack under pressure or that I would let one of my team members down. However, when training began all my fears faded away. In those times I did not have time to fumble with my fears, I had to complete the task in order to be an efficient member of the team. Ranger Challenge allowed me the unique opportunity to be surrounded by likeminded individuals who pushed me to improve every day. My fears and worries melted in the face of the positive energy of my fellow cadets. Every day was a time for new inside jokes, comradery and improvement. I learned new skills and pushed myself further than I thought I could. Walls became simple hurdles, able to be overcome after adequate preparation. By waking up every day for training, self-discipline was developed and drilled into me. I understood that within our small team, my presence actually made a difference. I was able to fix my weaknesses; pushing my strengths even further. My efforts directly supported my team, my Ranger Challenge family.



Cadet Roy Kim giving the camera a thumbs up after completing an 18.6 mile ruck march.

Cadet Peter Dziak: I knew that it would take dedication and hard work to succeed in the program, but along with these characteristics I learned that it took much more. After having been involved in the program for many weeks, however, I now know much more and have built extra character than my peers who are not involved in ROTC. The Army ROTC

program gives me the tools to succeed and offers many life changing opportunities. What I learned from being a part of the Army ROTC program is that it is important to be extremely punctual. The leaders in the program are undoubtedly strict when it comes to being punctual. I have also learned that to be the best you can be you must put in 100% effort at all times. Whether it be physical training or just learning the basics of first aid, it is important to give your all in whatever it is you are taking part in. Another lesson I have learned is communication. Experiencing both good and bad communication has shown me how detrimental it can be to not have good communication within the entire battalion or just a squad in a platoon. All of these things I have learned just from being a part of the ROTC program and I am looking forward to learning more as the weeks go on.



Cadet Peter Dziak studying during the military communications lab.

Cadet Eugene Ro: Because I am going through my first semester of college, the most counter-logical piece of advice of "slow is smooth and smooth is fast" has shown to be valuable in learning new skills and adjusting to a new environment. Whether it be a new military skill, or the large loads of classwork for the week, I often find myself overwhelmed and I tended to panic in the face of an unknown. However, it is in these moments that I must take a deep breath and identify what I already know and figure out what I need to overcome the obstacle. Once it is done, I can think of an answer and execute a plan that will solve the current predicament.



Cadet Eugene Ro crawling under barbed wire during the ranger challenge competition.

Sometimes people believe that immediate action is the best approach towards solving a problem. While I do agree that overthinking a problem without any action is counterproductive, it is important to take a few moments, analyze the situation, and think up a general plan of action is a must in order to successfully solve a problem. Simply looking back at this semester, I find it amazing how something as simple as learning to tie a knot can teach me lessons I can use in future challenges. I look forward to seeing what more I can learn in my remaining time in this program.

MS II Class Updates

Looking Back and Looking Forward **Perspectives from the Military Science II Class** **By Captain Dave Tanner, MS-II Instructor**

The MS-II year of Army ROTC often proves a unique transition for Cadets. Whether new to the program or not, they begin to take on both assigned or formal leadership duties and roles as well as developing more informal leadership based on their comparative level of experience and maturity. This transition is as much an opportunity for them to learn and discover more about themselves as it is the chance to learn more about the U.S. Army, physical fitness, tactics, training, and leadership. A few of our current MS-II Cadets provided their thoughts on their year so far, and their observations showed their view on some of this reality. Each of our MS-II Cadets has great reason to be proud of their growth and achievement this semester. I hope you enjoy reading this to get a feel for the experience from their own perspective.

Cadet Jonathan Becker, Darien, IL, Major: Economics. Fighting Illini Army ROTC opened new doors for me both mentally and physically. This is especially attributable to my participation in Ranger Challenge this semester, which gave me the opportunity to push myself out of my comfort zone. The Ranger Challenge competition is grueling; more difficult than a Cadet who hasn't participated in it before can anticipate.

Throughout the semester the team trains rigorously for specific events, including studying for military knowledge tests and each physical challenge. However, what I found is it is difficult to train for the continuous rucking. The events you once felt prepared for become even more difficult as you are worn down from not only the prior challenge, but the trek to the event itself. Those who are best able to keep going are the Cadets who find the ability to push themselves past the point they trained for.

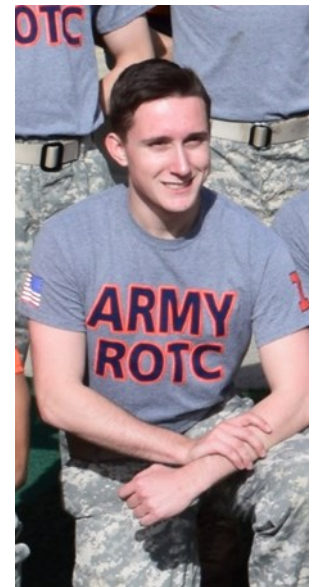
We kept moving and completing events, no matter how tired we were. My team was determined to complete the course, and we did. What we achieved that weekend says a lot about our preparation. However, I believe it says more about the individuals on my team. None of us would have made it through on our own. We went in with our best friends, and were able to push each other through it. I believe that is the key to success in ROTC. Keep waking up, embracing the suck to help your friends through it, in turn they'll help you through it as well.

Cadet Barsbold Darmabal, Northbrook, IL, Major: Molecular & Cellular Biology. I could not have asked for a stronger group of motivated and team minded individuals. This was especially apparent when I joined the Ranger Challenge team and learned mental toughness with the importance of team effort.

For Ranger Challenge, there are a lot of technical skills to master like the one rope bridge, land navigation, weapon familiarity, among others. The competition is time based and you are put into challenging and confusing environments. To develop and utilize my mental toughness I would often set small goals, which was incredibly helpful. When we would ruck for miles and miles in the heat, I would tell myself to go a little further and keep up until the top of the hill. Once I went to the top, I would repeat this process until we finished. Setting short goals helped to push me through and stay focused.

Whatever your skill level... you can become proficient and advanced with practice. Simple hard work and dedication of time is all it takes for you to do well. Another aspect of mental toughness I learned was the importance of encouraging others, as this was one of the strongest ways I bonded with my team of Cadets. We were all going through a challenging time; waking up early every weekday morning for workouts and training was something tough for us to do.

All of these lessons and aspects I learned through Army ROTC, and I can't say I would learn them better anywhere else. What I learned transcends ROTC and the classroom. It becomes integrated into my character and personality. This is one of the many reasons ROTC is valuable and helps us to train to be the leaders of tomorrow.



Cadet Jonathan Becker at Memorial Stadium after 2016 oath ceremony.



Cadet Barsbold Darmabal at the Camp Atterbury firing range.

MS II Class Updates

Looking Back and Looking Forward (Continued)

Cadet Andrew Lee, Arlington Heights, IL, Major: Finance. This semester was, undoubtedly, the hardest semester yet. Not only did coursework increase exponentially, the content of school work increased in difficulty, yet time stayed constant. However, as an MS-II Cadet in the Army ROTC program, I can see how I endured and grew from these challenges. I am constantly in the presence of team-building circumstances, while learning how to become a better leader, whether that be a transformative, transactional, or adaptive leader.



Andrew Lee in ACUs with the smile he always seems to have! Cadet Lee earned a 3-year scholarship this fall.

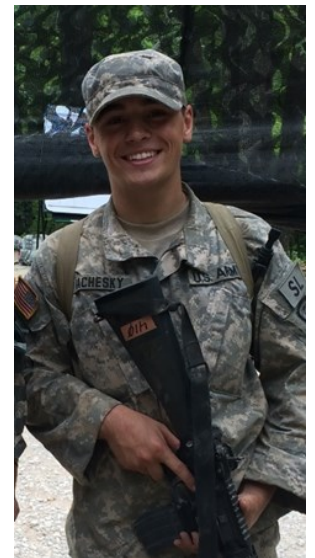
Early in the year, I was assigned as a team leader for my squad. Initially I exerted my presence as someone with authority and power. It was a great way to start off, but I knew I could not uphold that impression forever. Power and authority does not make you a great leader. From my interpretation of what a leader is from Captain Tanner's class, a leader is a person who can lead their subordinates to achieve a certain mission. However, in the process of that mission, a leader must develop the trust among his or her subordinates and understand their goals, personalities, and skills.

Certainly, I gained experience in such things this year. I understood how and why my squad wanted to improve and learned each member's skill level. I developed a personal relationship with each and every member, which instilled trust, and I made clear to establish goals which made us all improve physically, mentally, and just as a person. Even as the year becomes more difficult, I will never stop learning and working to become the best leader I can.

Cadet Alex Rachesky, Glenwood Springs, CO, Major: Molecular & Cellular Biology. Growing up I never thought I wasn't going to be a part of the United States Military. It was more a path chosen for me. My family holds a very strong bond with the Army, as my brother, grandpa, dad, and sister served this great nation. There was no doubt in their minds I would value and participate in our family tradition.

When I finally decided to participate in this great team, I decided to join Army ROTC. The ROTC program instills many great values within me, which I could never get anywhere else. The largest and most obvious one is leadership. ROTC is all about leadership. Everything you do, from the early morning physical training sessions to the class time is built from a curriculum to mold great leaders. They teach you how to be resilient, to be better every day, to be adaptable, and above all, they teach you how to be the future of the United States Army. There is no other program at this university where I could get training that impacts my life so greatly.

My favorite thing about Army ROTC is adaptability. Everything in life is tentative. A situation may arise unexpectedly or an activity you are participating in may take a turn for the worse. Army ROTC gives you the tools to make safe, sound, and efficient decisions when need be. The program spends a lot of time in the classroom teaching you things like Situational Leadership, Adaptive Leadership, etc. to show you the foundation you must create for yourself to become a better leader. These skills are not only learned so you may become a great Soldier; these skills translate across all aspects of life. Whether becoming a manager, a business executive, or even becoming a dad, you will be willing and able to manage the people you're in charge of while promoting a progressive work environment. Because I gain all of these things through the program, Army ROTC is really the best choice I ever made.



Cadet Alex Rachesky poses in front of the camera during Cadet Summer Training (CST).

Fighting Illini Army ROTC: Forging Strong Leaders since 1868 ... and into the 21st Century

MS III Class Updates

Responsibilities of a Third Year Cadet **An Overview of Current Military Science III Students** **by Captain Nathan Elkins, MS-III Instructor**

This semester I took over as the MS-III Instructor as Mr. Eric Ashworth took the daunting job of the Recruiting Operations Officer. Previously, I taught one semester as the MS-II instructor and the biggest difference that I have seen between the MS-II and the MS-III Cadets is the level of commitment and dedication to the program. Cadet Samuel Chung explained it best by saying, “Being a contracted cadet, my mindset has been different ever since I raised my right



Cadet Alex Kim instructs his squad during lab time.

hand and was sworn in. I am in the Army ROTC program to train and better myself, while preparing myself to become a future Army officer. My destiny is set. The Army became a lifestyle for me. Waking up early in the morning started to become easier as it turned from a struggle to an opportunity. Physical Readiness Training was a chance to grow physically and in leadership. The tasks of ROTC did not cause me to complain as much as in previous years.”

The main topics of instruction for the MS-III Cadets this semester has been training management, land navigation, and how the branches of the Army accomplish the war fighting functions. Cadet Alex Kim had this to say about what he learned this semester, “Coming from a background that provided me little to no knowledge about the Army, I learned a lot about how the

Army worked this semester. Learning things like the war fighting functions and how the different aspects of the Army contribute to those gave me great insight into how the Army operates. I also learned about the different branches of the Army and how they contribute to the goals of the Army as well as what opportunities the Army could offer me. This knowledge showed me that the way the Army achieved its missions was highly structured and organized while still allowing the flexibility needed for creativity to thrive. This is essential to solving the difficult and complex problems that the Army faces on a day to day basis.”

In addition to this instruction the Cadets are given more responsibilities within the Fighting Illini Battalion. They serve as Squad Leaders, Platoon Sergeants, Platoon Leaders, Company XO, and Club Captains. Cadet Brian Bell said this about comparing his MS-II and MS-III years, “The main difference between being an MS-II and MS-III Cadet is the amount of responsibility you and your classmates suddenly have. Whether it’s a Platoon Leader position or leading fundraising efforts, every MS-III in our battalion was given a position requiring all the characteristics of a good leader.”

These responsibilities are aimed at developing and assessing their leadership attributes and competencies as outlined in the Army Leadership Model.



Cadet 1SG Andrew Jacobs briefs the Company after a PRT session.

MS III Class Updates

Responsibilities of a Third Year Cadet (Continued)

At the same time these Cadets are attending classes for their degree programs, they are also leading physical training and taking physical fitness tests, executing weekly labs and club meetings, executing the field training exercise, and taking part in events such as the Homecoming Parade, Veteran’s Day Ceremony, and the annual Dining-In. Cadet Andrew Jacobs related this about the additional stress and responsibility, “Managing stress becomes the name of the game when school picks up and one finds themselves in a key leadership position. This semester I was placed in the leadership role of Cadet First Sergeant. My responsibilities compared to last year have increased tenfold. Instead of being responsible for the welfare of two other cadets I was now responsible for the training of an entire company of cadets. Not only did I immediately feel overwhelmed, but I also was not quite sure how I would be able to manage this position and the stress that came along with it. Luckily this program has given me the necessary skills and namely, the necessary resources, to cope with stress and to operate effectively in leadership positions.”



CPT Elkins and the current MS-III Cadets at the Dining Out.

Apart from learning the art and science of leadership, the MS-III Cadets learn intangible lessons about themselves and their leadership style. Cadet Katherine Kezon said this in reflection, “The semester has been filled with challenges, some exciting and others stressful, that have allowed me to reach a new level of self-actualization and have solidified my decision to become an officer. I am seeing more than ever that as students, Soldiers, leaders, and just people in general, we are constantly evolving. And that’s alright. You cannot stand in front of a formation, aspiring to earn trust and respect if you are trying to be something you are not.”

I would like to congratulate Cadets Lanise Branch, Katherine Kezon, Alex Kim, Kurt Kuzur, Alejandro Nava, Angie Park, Sushruth Pattekar, Dylan Shearer, Andreas Silbermann, Alex Tkaczyk, Fidel Toto, Hannah Wright, and Megan Zurliene for contracting this semester! Two others, Cadets Craig Muncaster and Zigmas Zamora have passed the board and should contract very soon. You have all committed to becoming an Officer in the United States Army and with that

have joined a team of teams. As a new comer to the Fighting Illini Battalion, Cadet Alex Kim said this about his commitment to the Army, “I’ve learned that I want to be part of the organization that defends the country that I love. I could be in a lot of other places right now, doing a lot of other things, but being in this program has shown me that there isn’t anything I would rather do with my life than join the greatest organization in the world as an officer of the United States Army.”

Lastly, I want to thank Ms. Emily Brown and Mr. Eric Ashworth for their hard work and dedication in working with and contracting 15 MS III Cadets this semester. It takes a great team and a lot of hard work to accomplish everything behind the curtain in order for the program to be successful.



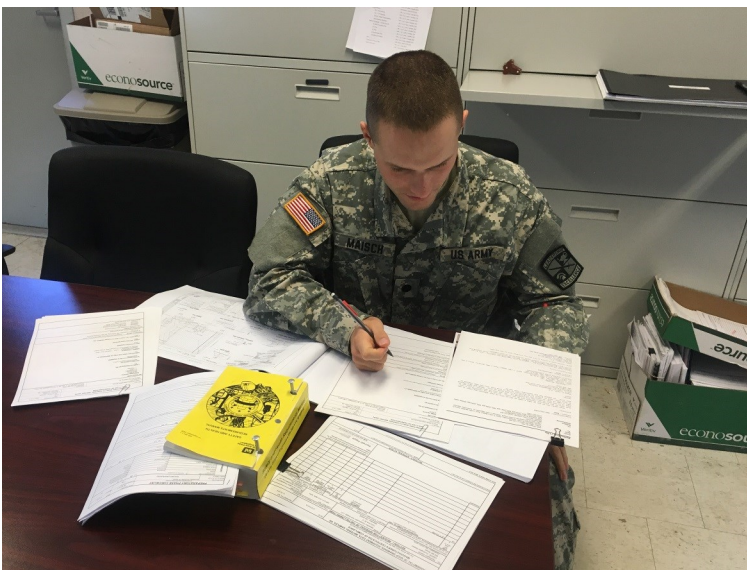
Cadets gather around the University of Illinois flag in the hallway of the Memorial Stadium. All these cadets executed their Loyalty Oath during the Salute to Veterans Football Game between U of I and Michigan State on 5 November 2016. Congratulations!

MS IV Class Update

Fall 2016: A Semester to be Proud of A Perspective From the Cadet Operations Officer *by Cadet Major Corey Maisch*

As last fall's battalion operations officer (Battalion S3), I had my work cut out for me. In the past, the S3 position was the most dreaded. This semester was much more manageable because I was lucky to have a strong staff section working for me. This section included a Future Operations Officer (Cadet Paul Genchanok), a Current Operations Officer (Cadet Clay Huston) and an Operations NCO (Cadet Samuel Eickstedt). With this team of dedicated Cadets, we were able to accomplish much and I learned a lot. However, there are always things we all can improve on. We were a learning organization with the desire to get better every day.

Over the past semester, I was responsible for the planning and operation of all leadership labs, the field training exercise, the Dining-In, and other battalion events. Although there were some aspects to a few of the operations that could have been better, I would consider all of the operations successful because they all accomplished the mission and the battalion reached the desired end state. These operations would not have been successful if the proper planning and preparation did not happen prior to the semester even beginning. The planning process itself had to be planned. As the overseer of operations, I set deadlines and created a battle rhythm for the operations process for our staff section. I did this over the summer in order to get a head start on the semester. I also was sure to follow up with my staff section on their tasks and orders production to ensure completion to my and the battalion commander's standards.



Cadet Major Corey Maisch diligently works on the task at hand.

I wanted the battalion to only get the best of the best product out of my staff section. I quickly realized that these operations were not meant for me or any of the MS-IV Cadets, but rather for all of the Cadets in the MS-I, MS-II, and MS-III classes of the Fighting Illini Battalion. Our operations gave the MS-Is and MS-IIs experience with the military and taught them necessary Army skills. Our operations gave the MS-III Cadets an opportunity to lead in order to better prepare them for their advanced camp this summer. US MS4s even benefited indirectly from our operations by gaining experience with the planning process and by practicing critical thinking and problem solving skills. It was an honor having an impact on all the Cadets in our battalion through our operations.

MS IV Class Update

Fall 2016: A Semester to be Proud of (Continued)

There is only one major change I would like to see made to ROTC in order to improve the program. I believe that it would benefit the younger Cadets greatly if squad leaders took more ownership of the success and failures of their squad members. An example of this would be to notice the need for a mandated physical fitness (PT) program outside of physical readiness training (PRT). Our battalion takes away a significant amount of PRT time to complete other necessary tasks. This is fine, however that time must be made up, especially if there are Cadets failing the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Everyone is capable of passing the APFT, but hard work needs to be done to obtain the scores you want. Some squad members might not exactly know what that looks like. Squad leaders must be that driving force to encourage their squad to exercise on their own and lead the squad to success. Squad leaders must see themselves as a guide. I would consider the squad leader the most critical role in developing MS-I and MS-II Cadets into “future warrior leaders of the United States Army.”

While leading by example starts at the top, I believe that development through direct leadership starts at the bottom; and the purpose of our organization is to develop leaders. This change to ROTC in our battalion would have innumerable positive influences as one class of MS-III squad leaders takes ownership and develops their Cadets, then the next year develops their squad of Cadets into even better leaders, and so on. Eventually these better developed leaders would commission and the effect would continue as officers. We must always remember that developing a caring culture in ROTC will allow us to practice the care of our soldiers as a Lieutenant in the Army.



The MS4 class photo taken after the dining in ceremony wearing their ASUs.



Cadet Orientation Program (Day 1)

Summary: On August 15th, 2016, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC welcomed incoming Cadets to the battalion. Cadets were briefed expectations and guidance from LTC Smith, while learning about opportunities offered. Next, Cadets met their squad leaders. During this time, incoming Cadets introduced themselves to one another. Afterwards, squads moved onto the drill floor to learn Drill and Ceremony. At this time, parents were given additional information about the program, and a guided tour around the Armory by cadre. Parents and Cadets reunited at the end of the day for a welcoming cookout.

Below: New Cadets meet with their squad leader and introduce themselves. **Right:** Cadet Kuzur instructs a Cadet on how to properly render a salute.



Cadet Orientation Program (Day 2)

Summary: On August 16th, 2016, the Cadet Orientation Program continued to familiarize new Cadets to basic soldiering skills. The morning began with an introduction course to Physical Readiness Training. Afterwards, Cadets accomplished a challenging Field Leader's Reaction Course. It hosted 4 events which taught Cadets the value of teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. Once completed, Cadets were issued their uniforms/equipment, took photos, and were introduced to clubs offered by the Battalion. After the club introduction, Cadets gained confidence by climbing the Battalion's indoor rock wall.



Left: Cadet Genchanok instructs a class in preparation for scaling the rock wall. **Below:** Cadets work as a team traveling through an obstacle during the FLRC.





Cadet Orientation Program (Day 3)

Summary: On August 17th, 2016, Cadets continued their final day of the Cadet Orientation Program. The morning started off strong with a squad competition PRT. After breakfast chow, Cadets participated in another squad competition event. The new competition featured a HUMVEE pull, grenade throws, and litter carry. It was designed to test Cadets' endurance, motivation, and promote teamwork. Next, squads moved inside the armory for a lesson on Rifle Drill and Ceremony. Once completed, Cadets performed a scavenger hunt around campus touring key locations of landmarks. Afterwards, the Battalion gathered for a celebratory cookout. It consisted of squad photos, a congratulatory speech from LTC Smith, and awards recognizing outstanding performance by squads during the Cadet Orientation Program.



Left: LTC Smith congratulates Cadets on a job well done. **Below:** Cadets push a HUMVEE to during the afternoon squad competition.



Quad Day

Summary: On August 21st, 2016, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC established a recruiting booth on the Main Quad for Quad Day. The purpose of this booth was to inform interested students about the ROTC program and help create awareness on campus.



Above: Cadet Freeze shares information.
Top Right: 2LT Blaha passes around a roster.
Right: Interested students receive flyers.





Town Hall Lab

Summary: On August 25th, 2016, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC conducted Lab 1: Town Hall. This lab was design to help introduce cadre and cadet leadership to the Battalion. During the presentation, Cadets gained insight of the training schedule for the semester, ROTC clubs/opportunities and expectations from LTC Smith. In addition, safety briefs covered multiple key topics including ACE, bullying, hazing, SHARP, campus resources, and Illini-Alert. Photos were taken afterwards to create profiles for Cadets.

Below: Cadets record notes during the briefs.

Right: Cadre present themselves to the Battalion at the start of lab.



Basic Rifle Marksmanship Lab

Summary: On September 1st, 2016, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC conducted lab teaching the fundamentals of Basic Rifle Marksmanship. Topics include: weapon safety, firing positions/techniques, washer drills, weapon assembly/reassembly, and rifle maintenance.

Below: Cadet Eickstedt and Cadet Rodriguez teach a class on different firing positions.

Right: Cadet Choi participates in the washer drill, practicing proper breathing and trigger squeeze.





Key Leader Engagement Lab

Summary: On 08SEP16, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted a leadership lab on cultural awareness and key leader engagements (KLE). The purpose of this lab was to teach KLE techniques and develop MS3 Cadets' negotiation skills. Cadets learned how to build rapport, interact with foreign leaders to gather information, and establish relationships. MS-III Cadets were able to put these lessons to use in a KLE practical exercise while MS-I and MS-II Cadets practiced fundamentals of security and gave valuable feedback to their MS-III leader.



Left: First Platoon First squad, lead by cadet Dylan Shearer as the Squad leader, prepares his team for a Key Leader Engagement. **Top Right:** Cadet Captain Chris Kerasotes takes on the role of a village elder for cadets to practice Key Leader Engagement techniques and practices. **Bottom Right:** Cadet Wright reviews procedures with her squad members



9/11 Memorial Run

Summary: On September 9th, 2016, Cadets from the University of Illinois participated in a Tri-Service commemorative run, honoring those who have lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. Each year, Cadets and Midshipmen embark on a 3-mile memorial run through the heart of campus led by local police and firemen. The memorial run finishes in the University's main quad where Cadets receive a speech from Naval Captain Moore, Professor of Naval Science, UIUC.



LTC Randall Smith and Cadet Battalion Commander, Tyler Cordry, lead the Fighting Illini Battalion through campus during the 9/11 Memorial Day Run. Cadet Larry Jones proudly runs with the Battalion's Colors.

The Fighting Illini Cadet Battalion runs through the Main Quad on campus during the 9/11 Memorial Day Run.



Land Navigation Lab

Summary: On September 15th, 2016 the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted land navigation training at the campus Arboretum to develop basic skills and expertise in route planning, compass use, and developing leadership in directing and coordinating teams through the course. Each Cadet was able to execute through the Compass Course and learned their individual pace counts.



Above: Cadets Kusinski and Shearer practice using a compass to determine locations they have plotted on a map. **Top Right:** Cadets bell and Muncaster shoot azimuths on their compass. **Middle Right:** Compass and assigned points for cadets navigating the land navigation course. **Bottom Right:** Cadet Saucedo receives instruction in using a military compass.



Tactical Combat Casualty Care

Summary: On October 6th, 2016 the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted first aid and medical training on the Armory Floor in order to increase Battalion knowledge on identifying common battle ailments/injuries that decrease warfighting effectiveness in garrison, training, and austere environments. Each cadet learned carrying techniques, priority of care of wounded personnel and practiced how to administer treatment to wounds using standard Army equipment.



Above Left: Cadets review and simulate casualty care procedures. **Above Right:** Cadet Katherine Kezon provides instruction on casualty care for chest wounds. **Top Right:** Cadet Angie Park instructs on the proper method for constructing and applying an impromptu tourniquet. **Middle Right:** Cadet Park instructs on tourniquet use. **Bottom Right:** Cadets practice techniques for moving a wounded Soldier.



Military Communications Lab

Summary: On October 20th, 2016 Cadets learned military communications skills required to operate a radio and submit standard Army reports. Each Cadet was required to complete the tactical tasks necessary to effectively communicate support to combat and combat support missions.



Above: Cadets practice military communications with each other. **Top Right:** Cadets Dziak and Silberman practice calling 9-Line Medevac requests over the radio. **Middle Right:** Cadet Captain Thompson runs through a practical exercise with Cadet Dziak in military communications etiquette. **Lower Right:** Cadets take notes during classroom instruction on military communications technique.



Individual Movement Techniques Lab

Summary: On October 27th, 2016 Cadets in the Fighting Illini Battalion executed their basic Individual Movement Techniques during the weekly lab. Each Cadet was required to demonstrate the ability to individually move tactically and then as a member of a squad, prepare/support the skills necessary to move tactically in squad and platoon formations.



Top Right: Cadets practice combat drags of simulated wounded cadets. **Middle Right:** Junior year cadets demonstrate form for low crawling movement techniques. **Bottom Right:** Cadet Muncaster oversees instruction on movement between obstacles. **Middle:** Cadet Cross prepares to use her paintball weapon to create movement under fire conditions. **Middle Left:** Cadet Becker runs from his current obstacle to his next obstacle.



Halloween Fun Run

Summary: On October 31st, 2016 the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted its annual Halloween Fun Run. Every cadet dresses up in an imaginative costume for a 2.5 mile run around campus, shouting cadences and sharing the Halloween Spirit with faculty and students alike. Special guest appearances from Power Rangers, the Land Shark and psycho hatchet-carrying lumberjacks filled the Cadet ranks. Of course, no one can claim they have lived if they haven't run along side a strip of bacon!



Top Right: Cadet Battalion Commander Tyler Cordry leads the Battalion on the Halloween Run. **Middle Right:** The Battalion poses for a photo post-run. **Bottom Right:** Cadet Ben Kusinski holds the Army ROTC Flag during formation. **Bottom Left:** Cadet Dylan Hopp, dressed as GI Joe combat photographer, poses for a picture. **Middle Left:** Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Randall Smith poses for a photo in his favorite kilt.



Army ROTC Meet and Greet

Summary: On November 3rd, 2016, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion hosted a Meet and Greet event in the Main Quad. Here, students had the opportunity to learn more about the ROTC Program and National Guard opportunities by meeting with Cadre and Cadets. In addition, displays, games and prizes were awarded to interested students.



Above: Cadet Kim and Cadet Kerasotes stand by at one of our booths prepared to answer questions. **Top Right:** A Tug-Of-War competition between Cadets and students. **Right:** HUMVEE display for those wanting to learn more about military equipment.



Concessions Stand

Summaries: Throughout the semester cadets operate a concessions stand at University of Illinois Memorial Stadium where we sell various snacks, treats, and drinks to raise funds for Army ROTC. The funds and proceeds enable cadets and ROTC Clubs to attend special events such as Bataan Memorial Death March, Ranger Challenge, and our dining in and out ceremonies.

Top Right: Cadet Pabianczyk **Bottom Right:** Cadets Muncaster, Pabianczyk, Rachesky, and Potts pose for a picture while working the concessions stand **Bottom Left:** Cadets Rachesky and Potts.



Ranger Challenge Competition

Summary: Over the weekend of October 15-16th, 2016 the Fighting Illini sent two teams to the Ranger Challenge Competition at Marseilles, IL. These teams competed against eight other ROTC units across the state. The nine-man team earned third place and came in second place in the APFT event. Cadets from both teams displayed the physical and mental endurance needed to excel as officers in the U.S. Army. The Fighting Illini Spirit is alive and well!



Above: Ranger Challenge team runs through a river while moving between events. **Top Right:** Cadet Becker low crawls through concertina wire as part of the confidence course. **Bottom Right:** Ranger Challenge cadets rope climb across a river.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Illini Alumni Continue to Support the Cadet Battalion

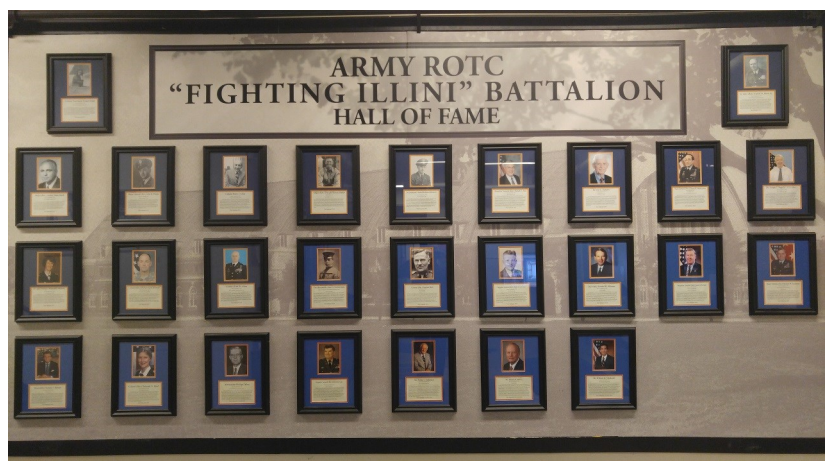
by Mr. Eric Ashworth, Cadre Sponsor for Alumni Outreach

This part of the *Millini* is always a joy to write, as it is a chance to thank all the Fighting Illini Battalion alumni who continue to support the program through contributions of time, war stories and financial support. The cadre is continually impressed by the support our Cadets receive when facing a desired training event which is not supported through standard Army sources. These events always improve our recruiting and retention, so our ability to execute the majority of these Cadet requests provides a significant advantage.

Army ROTC Funds: Thanks to generous alumni donor support, and in cooperation with the U of I Foundation, we have a new initiative to strengthen support of the operational needs and efforts of our Cadets through establishment of an endowment fund. Up to now, your donations to the university (or U of I Foundation) designated for support of Army ROTC went into a fund known as the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund**. This fund immediately supported Cadet day-to-day or special events. As training opportunities like Ranger Buddy, the Bataan Memorial Ruck March, or a new event, like the Tough Mudder approached, Cadets would request funding for items like registration and logistics support. In general, we usually have the funding to support such basic requests. Many Cadets focus their physical fitness routines throughout the semester to prepare for these challenges, and they are a force-multiplier for the battalion.

A difficulty with this system is the irregular timing of receiving these donations. Typically, the Cadets ask for support and Alumni deliver. However, this new initiative provides Alumni a second, more enduring option for their contributions, known as the **Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund**. To achieve endowment status through the U of I Foundation, this fund must reach \$25,000. As an endowment, the fund will then provide Army ROTC an annual income payment for use toward Cadet operations. The ability to count on and plan for known dollar amounts each year will be of great benefit. Both of these accounts are only used for Cadet costs not funded through other sources. We hope you continue to support our Cadets through one of these funds. Contributions should be made through the University of Illinois Foundation, which provides you a possible tax advantage, and just be sure to indicate to which fund your contribution directed—**Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund or Army ROTC Alumni Fund**. Your donations make an impact, and are greatly appreciated by all of us.

Hall of Fame: The Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame received no applications this year for new inductees this year. We will therefore not have an induction ceremony during the spring semester of 2017. We will continue to collect nominations Alumni forward to us with the goal of inducting new members in the spring of 2018. Due to construction from renovation of the first floor of the Armory Building that is scheduled to



The current Army ROTC "Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame found at the Southeast Entrance of the Armory Building.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting Illini Alumni Continue to Support the Cadet Battalion (continued)

start in March of this year, this is probably not a bad time to delay our next ceremony. Please continue to submit worthy Alumni names for consideration. I will gladly forward you an application form upon request.

For those who have yet to see the new Hall of Fame display, there are now 27 plaques honoring the accomplishments of former Illinois Army ROTC cadets on the east wall of the Army ROTC entrance into the Armory Building. Most of these members gained this honor thanks to alumni providing the required details to get these great Americans through the nomination process.

Other Means of Support: Looking ahead to the Spring 2017 semester and over the summer, here are some of the events where we could use your support:

- **Guest Speaker for the Cadet Orientation Program.** In August, we will welcome the newest members in the Fighting Illini Battalion as new Cadets attend the first of three days of ROTC classes to provide them a better understanding of what occurs in their Army ROTC classes and labs. Each year a guest speaker provides initial remarks to the Cadets and their parents.
- **Ranger Buddy Team:** Each April, the Army ROTC Department sends at least three two-person teams to Fort Riley, Kansas to participate in this annual Competition.
- **Scabbard and Blade:** This renewed Military Honor Society is going strong but Alumni guest speakers would support the development of these young officers. Each of your careers possess lessons learned that would better the development of our Cadets.
- **Alumni Weekend.** Alumni weekend this year will be April 7-8th. The Army ROTC Battalion will host a Dining-Out on Friday evening followed by the Honors Day Ceremony on Saturday. More details will be sent as the Cadets complete their planning, but the dates have been set. These events are great opportunities to socialize with our current Cadets and reconnect with other alumni.
- **Guest Speaker for any Military Science class.** Each year, alumni speak to specific military science classes on their experience. If you would like to speak to current Cadets, please let us know the topic so that we can coordinate for you to be a guest speaker in one or more of our classes.



We appreciate all you do. This personal and financial support does not go unnoticed. You play a significant role in the continued development of junior officers for our Army. For that, we cannot thank you enough. We want to stay in touch. Please forward us your questions or new ideas to (217)-244-1407 or arotc@illinois.edu.



Staying in Touch with The Fighting Illini Battalion

University of Illinois
Foundation

Recruiting, Donations
Visits, Expertise

Whether you are able to return to the University or support the department financially, we still want to hear from you. Our mission to develop our Cadets' leadership potential and Army knowledge is aided by our Cadets interacting with each of you. Part of the strong esprit de corps that the Battalion enjoys is based on knowing we come from a rich history of Cadets that paved the way. So thanks for what you have done and we look forward to remaining in contact with each of you.

Facebook: One of the easiest means to stay in contact is through Facebook. I receive many thank you messages for sending the *Millini* out once we publish the semester news. However, if you wish to see what the Cadets are doing each week, please visit and "Like" our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyRotc/>. Our Cadet Battalion has its own S5 section with one of their main missions to keep social media updated on their training. Also, feel free to let us know what you are doing by sending us photos or sending us articles on what you remember most about your experience with the Fighting Illini Battalion.



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