

The MILLINI



A publication from

THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Military Science



Message from the Professor of Military Science

by LTC Randall Smith

Happy New Year to all readers from the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion! Our Cadets closed out 2018 with an extraordinary semester's worth of training and we are excited for the start of the New Year. Our year ended with commissioning two brand new Second Lieutenants (See Article on page 10). Congratulations 2LT Gamino and 2LT Nava! We look forward to watching your careers progress as the newest members of the U.S. Army Officer Corps.

The Fall Semester began with the new Cadet Orientation Program. NCOs from the battalion and Illinois Army National Guard spent four days working with new Cadets instructing them on basic military tasks. The Juniors started off with a Small Unit Leader's Course to prepare them for taking on the Cadet NCO roles they will hold during the year and at Advanced Camp. Our Senior Cadets started with our Staff School in preparation to lead the Cadet battalion for the year.

We made some significant changes to our training model this year. We split many of our Leadership Labs into two different groups, the MS-I/II cadets and the MS-III cadets. This allowed our labs to better focus on the training objectives for each group respectively. The Cadets seemed to respond to these new objectives more attentively. The underclassmen were significantly more engaged during their labs, and the juniors able to gain greater depth in their focused training.

Our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) proved to be a great success this year. We conducted our Basic Rifle Marksmanship at a local range, which allowed us to perform other training at our FTX. The Cadets really responded to the "HOOAH" training and especially enjoyed rappelling. If you have not seen the videos of the FTX on our Facebook page, I highly encourage you to go watch them. Our Cadet S5, Dylan Hopp, did a great job capturing the experience. Our Facebook page is located at www.facebook.com/FightingIlliniArmyROTC.com.

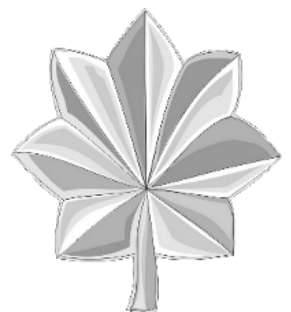
Our semester wrapped up with the Second Annual Joint Army-Air Force ROTC Dining-Out. About 300 Cadets, alumni, guests, and family attended the event. The Cadets did a great job fundraising for and planning the event. It was an excellent way to honor our joint traditions and celebrate the achievements earned by our Cadets over the semester.

Thank you again for all that you do to support the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion and the Cadets. Next Semester will prove even more intensive as we prepare for Cadet Summer Training, the Bataan Memorial Death March, and Spring Commissioning.

GO ILLINI!



On the Front Cover: Cadet Gabriel Cross rappels off the Camp Atterbury Rappel Tower during the Fall FTX. On the Bottom, Cadet Cordelia Grob and other cadets complete one of the obstacles during the Field Leaders Reaction Course at Camp Atterbury.



Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by MSG Bruce Hutcherson

At the start of the semester, many events were planned and coordinated to create challenging leadership experiences that would enable Cadets with the opportunity to either sink or swim. Some would say that the journey is as important as the finish line. Well, we're not at the finish line yet, but the Cadets who are still swimming have proven that they're capable of stepping up to the challenge.

To start off the fall semester, the Cadet battalion had been reorganized into two companies to create more leadership roles due to the large amount of MS-III cadets we have. This also created an environment where the two companies are able to compete against each other. It has allowed us to instill traditions and pride in the organization, which improved the Battalion's esprit de corps and comradery. The Cadets participated in a streamer ceremony, recognizing excellence to each company for superb performance for marksmanship and physical fitness. To be able to "shoot, move, and communicate" a person must be proficient in their warrior tasks and drills to effectively accomplish their mission. Emphasizing the basic skills that every Soldier is expected to master will certainly necessitate the need for growth in other essential tasks as they proceed in their careers.



Our Basic Rifle Marksmanship training was scheduled locally at the Police Training Institute to free up time for rappelling operations at Camp Atterbury. We conducted two separate M16 rifle training sessions this semester in which all the Cadets were able to either sharpen their individual marksmanship skills, or for the senior Cadets, to gain addition confidence and experience in running range operations. Muscle memory paves the way to survivability. I would like to thank all the Cadets who volunteered their time to assist SFC Jaime Leon and myself with the acquisition of weapons and ammunition needed for these training events.

Our Color Guard supported every home football game as well as many different events on and off campus. We participated in several Veterans Day ceremonies, Tri-service events, volleyball and basketball games, and an Illinois National Guard Change of Command event, to name a few. The reputation of our Color Guard for precision is spreading as we have had more requests this semester than we've had in the past two and a half years. I am honored to be the cadre supervisor of this program. The quality and professionalism that our Cadets provided has been noted by the athletic department and university. These events are a great way to show the support of our program on campus and in the surrounding community.

During the second semester we'll welcome several new members to our formation. Very similar to the start of the fall semester, the new students will start off with our spring Cadet Orientation Program. This will help ease them into the battalion and better prepare them for the high expectations of being a member of the program. Stewardship of the Army profession is an important ingredient for unit success, and I am proud of all the Cadets that support our newest cadets.



ARMY ROTC



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Soldier Skills like Land Navigation are being stressed more in Army ROTC Labs.



New Cadets become a part of Army ROTC during the welcoming ceremony.



The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion
Forging Strong Leaders Since 1868

Army ROTC: (217) 244-1407 arotc@illinois.edu Armory, Room 113



MS-I Class Update

Earning the Federal Army ROTC Scholarship And Contracting

By Cadet Joseph Lim

Entering my senior year of high school, I knew I wanted to join the United States military and possibly become an officer. I decided to find out more about the military by reaching out to the Army Recruiting office in Naperville, Illinois. Impressed by the many opportunities and benefits available, I was sure that the Army would be where I start my career. The recruiters told me about the different opportunities to attend college with financial support from Federal, Minuteman, and Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarships. After being admitted to the College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, I decided to reach out to the Army ROTC program and find out more about it.

After making the two and a half hour drive down to Champaign, I immediately felt welcomed by Mr. Eric Ashworth, the Scholarships and Enrollment Officer, and Mrs. Brown, the Enrollment Eligibility Secretary. We discussed the details about what being a Cadet in the program entails, contracting, and potentially receiving a scholarship. However, there was one key requirement that was hindering me from being a contracted, scholarship ready cadet: Citizenship. Born in Seoul, South Korea, I came to the United States at the age of two and held permanent resident status. I needed to find a way to become a naturalized American citizen quickly as a Federal ROTC Scholarship would greatly benefit me financially. To start this process, I turned in my N-400 Application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Chicago Office and as it is usually a very lengthy process, I reached out to Senator Tammy Duckworth to help expedite my case.



Cadet Lim with the Fighting Illini Ruck Club following the Norwegian Ruck March.



Cadet Lim and his squad following the Cadet Orientation Program.



LTC Smith congratulates Cadet Lim on earning his Army ROTC Scholarship.

Fortunately, Senator Duckworth supported my request and her office assisted me through the multi-step process of naturalization. As I was proactive with the entire process, I was able to get a lot of the preparatory documents done so when the opportunity arrived, I would just have to submit the application. This waiting period allowed me to participate in the program and confirm my interest in becoming an officer in the United States Army. In just one short semester, I have experienced so many new adventures including rappelling, long ruck marches, and completing a confidence course. After missing the deadline for the High School 4-year scholarship, I waited until a 3.5-year Federal Scholarship opportunity arose and applied right before winter break. I was notified a couple weeks later that my hard work paid off. I also received the Illinois State Tuition Waiver during my first semester which allowed me to receive free tuition for my first year in Army ROTC. Once I was notified that I was awarded the Scholarship I had to make an official decision to contract. Being a freshman, contracting was a very big deal for me. The year 2022 seems so far away and I just started college. However,

being in the Army as an officer is a life goal and milestone for me. Receiving the scholarship was one of the highlights of my life because it takes me one step closer to reaching my goal and gives me the financial benefits throughout college. When I got back onto campus from break, I signed the paperwork with Lieutenant Colonel Smith which made my goal official!

MS-II Class Update

Preparing For The MS-III Year

By MS-II Cadet Allison Duncan

The MS-II year of Army ROTC, typically a cadet's sophomore year, can be an exciting time. This is the year in which the cadets first begin to experience leadership positions. The MS-II class are team leaders within a squad. The team leader works just beneath the squad leader and, therefore, begins to take on some of the responsibility of the squad. The team leader has a few MS-I cadets under their supervision, and it is their job to help the younger cadets learn the basic skills and prepare them for their own MS-II year. This is the foundation for developing leadership. The team leader position is a good opportunity for the MS-II cadets to recognize and refine their leadership style. Once the cadet knows how he or she leads a small group of cadets, then he or she can build on these techniques when required to lead a larger group. Using the leadership skills that are covered in the MS-II class, they can practice on their team members on what it is like to lead others. Part of growing as a leader is perfecting the traits that you are good at and learning to minimize the traits that are bad. With the support of the upper classmen and the cadre, the MS-II cadets learn what it takes to be strong transformational leaders.

Most students have been in the program long enough to understand the basics of leading a squad, leading physical training (PT) prep-drills and after workout stretching (recovery drills). It is common for the MS-III class to pass the torch to the MS-IIs to lead these regular tasks to help grow their leadership skills. At the beginning of PT a MS-II cadet can expect to be called to the front of a platoon for the prep drills, and at the end, a different MS-II cadet will lead the cool down stretches. This gives that cadet practice operating in front of his or her peers as they will be required to demonstrate this capability at the Advanced Camp that is attended during the summer between their junior and senior years of college.

For many people, public speaking is not easy. This time practicing in front of the younger cadets is an excellent way to gain confidence in the art of command presence and the delivery of standard military commands. Most cadets know the script of the commands they are required to say, so they can focus more on the delivery of each command. This allows them to become more comfortable being in charge of large groups. This is also the first opportunity for most MS-II cadets to prepare for taking the squad leader, platoon sergeant and platoon leader positions they will have during their junior (MS-III) year.



MS-II Cadets smile for a class picture after an uplifting evening during the Dining Out ceremony.

MS-II Class Update

Preparing For The MS-III Year (Continued)

Aside from learning and practicing leadership skills, the MS-II class also perfects the tactical skills required for a successful career in the Army. During the MS-II year, the material that the cadets practice in lab is familiar (tasks for Aid and Litter teams, Enemy Prisoner of War teams and other battle drills). However, the MS-II cadets are now challenged by needing to educate and lead their teams in these skills. After teaching these skills to their cadets, they must lead them during rehearsals and at lab. These skills are then combined with the others we learned over the past couple of semesters during the weekend long field training exercise (FTX). This exercise requires us to lead because the MS-III squad leaders are planning missions and practicing their own tasks they must complete at Advanced Camp.



MS-II Cadet Henry Feldhaus directs blindfolded MS-II Cadets across a mock mine field as they carry him on a stretcher.

This “teaching” part of leadership can also be seen outside of lab and the semester FTX. The MS-II class usually assist the MS-III leaders in all the clubs which prepares them to take over next semester. For example, Cadets Jonathan Munoz and Steven Irace instruct a class on Tuesday nights to review the skills necessary for that week’s lab. This extra time allows new cadets the chance to catch up with some of the cadets that have been in the program longer. Cadets Wyatt Martens and Steven Irace are also preparing to lead Ranger Challenge next fall. Cadets Henry Feldhaus and Allison Duncan work to prepare for color guard command positions.



MS-II cadets perform tactical combat casualty care on MS-I Cadet Jacob Jung

The MS-II year is exciting as it is changing and starts the process of developing your leadership skills you will need to commission into the Army. It is also a time where we may say a sad farewell to some students that decide not to remain in the program, but we also get to welcome new cadets that just start ROTC classes. MS-II Cadets look forward to progressing further in the MS-III year. Right now, we believe we have a close, tight group with over two years to still learn and develop our skills in becoming future leaders in the U.S. Army.

MS-III Class Update

Leading By Example

By Captain Nathan Elkins, MS-III Instructor

As a learning organization, the MS-III curriculum is constantly changing as we match expectations for evaluation at Advanced camp with how and what we utilize precious classroom and lab time to teach. This semester we have focused on Land Navigation and Tactics while accomplishing some marksmanship during lab. The Cadets have also had the opportunity to compete for the German Army Proficiency Badge, The Ranger Challenge, earn the Norwegian Ruck Badge, and participate in air rifle competitions to qualify for a national competition at Fort Benning. We have also created two companies within the battalion in order to accommodate the large number of MS-III cadets this year and to also add some competition with the Cadet Companies.

The fall semester is the greatest challenge for leadership among the MS-III Cadets as they assume leadership positions (First Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Leader, Squad Leader) with little or no experience. Cadet Mason Potts said this about leadership, "I learned what it took to lead and how to motivate others when times are hard. In my initial position as a platoon sergeant, I embraced my position and accept responsibility for around twenty cadets. This opportunity tested what I knew about leading and gave me great experiences such as during our FTX." Leadership is not just about the position, its about learning how to motivate and serve your subordinates. Cadet Molly Hein had this to say about her interactions, "I learned a lot about how my interactions with subordinate Cadets affected the efficiency and productivity of the Battalion. Communication is very important, and it is easy to see when that wasn't being executed well."



Cadet Terrell Baker directs his squad throughout a treacherous FLRC lane.



MS-III Cullen O'Connor instructs MS-II Ben Kofman on tying a Swiss seat.

The field training exercise (FTX) is really the first opportunity for most of the MS-III Cadets to really focus and leadership attributes and competencies. Cadet Jesse Park said this about his FTX experience, "An extremely beneficial part of last semester's training came in the form of the FTX. Three training events stood out: the confidence course, the Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC), and the rappel tower. The confidence course showcased a part of Advanced camp that is required but often glossed over. Cadets were able to understand each event and learn their strengths and weaknesses while developing confidence. The FLRC helped develop leadership skills and attributes such as presence, critical thinking, and teamwork. By having a wider variety of FLRC obstacles it prepares MS-IIIs to handle the unexpected and think creatively. The rappel tower was a new experience for most cadets, but was fun, exhilarating, and provided another event to prepare for Advanced Camp.

MS-III Class Update

Leading By Example (Continued)



Cadet Jack Hamman receives instruction while going down the rappel training ramp.

To improve our Land Navigation skills, we utilize class time to teach the basics of map reading, terrain features, and route planning and then conduct the practical application of land navigation during ROTC labs. We utilized the Arboretum this semester to improve basic compass skills using dead reckoning and the Farmdale Reservoir for terrain association and route planning. Cadet Jack Hamman had this to say about the new Land Navigation course, “I enjoyed the training opportunity to visit the Farmdale Reservoir Land Navigation course. The course was extremely challenging with lots of terrain features and a lot of ground to cover. I got lost often and really had to use the features around me to understand where I was in relation to the points I was trying to find. Though difficult, the training really helped me improve my understanding of map reading and land navigation.”

For tactics, we focused on learning the basics; movement to contact, raid, attack, ambush, reconnaissance, and defense. However, it became clear that the MS-III Cadets needed to learn movement techniques, battle drills, and how to set up a patrol base as well. These topics were doctrinally covered with the classroom environment and then reinforced through labs and the FTX. This semester we took the MS-III Cadets to a paintball course to improve their understanding of reacting to battle drill scenarios. Cadet Thomas said this about the battle drill lab, “My favorite training this semester was the react to contact/paintball lab. It gave us a chance to work on individual movement techniques and leading squads and platoons in a somewhat more realistic manner than our usual training with rubber ducks. The addition of paintballs made it much easier to see how well you were moving under fire and how important the react to contact battle drill is. Plus, it was a lot of fun to shoot each other up with paintballs in the mud.”

During the spring semester we will focus on utilizing the troop leading procedures to plan and execute missions with a focus on briefing the missions effectively. Thank you to all our alumni for your continued support through the endowment and other contributions that you make. The training would not be as successful without you.



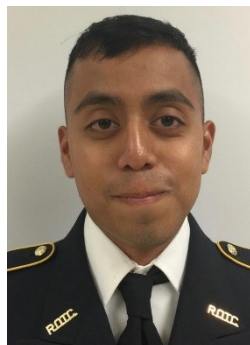
Cadet Eddie Thomas attempts the rappel tower as a battle buddy performs safety duties below.

MS-IV Class Update

Commissioning of Cadet Nava and Cadet Gamino

By Mr. Eric Ashworth

On December 21, 2018, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Program commissioned two of our cadets into the U.S. Army. In a joint ceremony with the Naval and Air Force ROTC Departments, we commissioned Second Lieutenant Alejandro Nava into the United States Army and Second Lieutenant Edgar Gamino into the Illinois Army National Guard.



The ceremony was led by Captain Anthony Corapi, the commanding officer of the UIUC Navy ROTC Program and included the attachment of officer shoulder boards to their Army Service Uniforms, a first salute ceremony, and the Oath of Office administered by a more senior commissioned officer of their choosing. Both new second lieutenants included parents and guests into their portion of the ceremony.

Second Lieutenant Gamino earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics and will serve as an Engineer in the Army National Guard. While here at UIUC, he served in the Illinois Army National Guard as a Cadet in the Simultaneous Membership Program and filled the positions of Platoon Sergeant and the Battalion S-4 (Logistics Officer) for the Cadet Battalion. He departs shortly for the Engineer Basic Officer Leaders Course.

Second Lieutenant Nava earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Health Administration and will serve as an Active Duty Medical Service Corps Officer. He was also a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet in the Army National Guard and served as a Platoon Sergeant, a First Sergeant, and as an Assistant Battalion S-4 before commissioning. His first duty station will be Fort Sam Houston where he will attend the Medical Service Corps Basic Officer Leaders Course.

Congratulations 2LT Gamino and 2LT Nava. You join a long line of commissioned officers from the University of Illinois and we know you will do well in your Army careers. For those readers who wish to attend, another 14 Cadets are progressing towards their commission at the end of the 2019 spring semester. That ceremony is currently scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019 and all are welcome to attend.



Cadet Nava conducts safety duties at an M16 range.



Cadet Gamino receives a challenge coin from LTC McPhillips for outstanding work during FTX.

THE STORE

Thanks to all the alumni that support the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadet Battalion through your purchases at “The Store.” As of the summer of 2018, all purchases have the new look to them. Across the university, the Column “I” design is leaving. The university wants to maintain the Block “I” so we needed to change to keep up with the times. Therefore, the Army ROTC department now includes the new Block I Shield (our new ROTC Patch) on all our polo shirts and sweatshirts. The new design is shown on the right:



“The Store” will continue to provide an opportunity to fulfill requests of alumni, assist in marketing our program through our supporters, and providing the Cadets a small fundraising resource. A portion of the price (\$3-5) of each item will be allocated to supporting Cadet training, development, and related activities. All funding will be used for cadet activities.



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.

Also, we often have alumni that see in the Millini one of the shirts the Cadets are wearing for training and ask to purchase one of these shirts. Some of these are available for a “donation” to the program. Contact Eric Ashworth as well for these requests.

Cadet Spotlights

A Legacy of Leadership

By: Cadet Cordelia Grob

In June of 2018, I joined the Army ROTC battalion at the University of Illinois. 75 years earlier, my grandfather, David George Burlison graduated from Illinois and UIUC's Army ROTC. His ROTC cadet career spanned from 1940 to 1943, and he was member of the Pershing Rifles, Scabbard and Blade, part of the Second Lieutenant University Brigade, and a member of the Coastal Artillery Battalion, Varsity Wrestling Squad, Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and the Daily Illini.

My grandfather passed away before I was born, but he left a legacy by writing letters during WW II to his parents and siblings. His letters spanned from October 1943 through March 1946. He wrote about his adventures at Officer Candidate School (OCS), The Parachute School and Jump Master Course at Fort Benning, the troop ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean, his time serving with the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Special Allied Airborne Reconnaissance Force (SAARF), leading the regimental newspaper and his time with the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. (SAARF training occurred in England under the auspices of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) and the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS). SAARF was task to train 3-man teams to parachute near Prison of War camps and attempt the surrender of the camp without incident.)

Before going to Basic Camp, I read my grandfather's letters pertaining to OCS. At first, I was astonished by the description his daily activities and his determination to graduate as an officer. His experiences gave me an idea of what I could expect during Basic Camp. There were similarities between his experiences and mine. We were both told that we did not yell loud enough, we both did a lot of marching, had to do cleaning chores, and had fellow Illini in our platoons. As for differences, my grandfather marched for 22 miles, fired the .30 caliber and .50 caliber machine guns at targets towed by a plane, attended academic classes, had a daily "hour of arm" (infantry drills), threw hand grenades, and was allowed off base. One difference was when he was assigned to teach a class on dirty fighting. Fortunately, at Illinois, he had taken PEM 56, Personal Defense Activities and was prepared to teach.

My grandfather managed to keep his sense of humor throughout the experience. He wrote home about firing a machine gun at towed targets. "One man went to the extreme. The pilot of the tow plane said she saw three tracers in front of her tow plane!" He talked about his misfortune on a training exercise. "After we got to the bivouac area, we immediately went over the obstacle course - with packs on back and all. One of the obstacles was to run across a ditch on a log - and wouldn't you know it - I fell in! Waist deep water at that temperature was not a thrill. After falling in the obstacle, we pitched tents. Needless to say, I was mad as a wet hen!"

In a future issue of MILLINI, I will share more of my grandfather's letters that pertain to the Officer's Special Basic Course and the Parachute School at Fort Benning.



*US Army Officer David Burlison,
Spring 1946*



*Cadet David Burlison's
Graduation, Spring 1943*



October 1944, Cadet Grob's grandfather and great grandfather at the Morrow Plots. This picture was featured the 1945 Winter Edition of the Illinois Alumni News.

Cadet Spotlights

Fighting Illini Cadets Learn from Experiences of Veterans

By: Cadet Sean Palmer

Being a cadet comes with the privilege of representing the Army ROTC program and the future of the Army while still being a college student. As I am preparing to become an Army officer, I have a strong desire to hear the stories of those who have come before us and have paved the way for the military and the United States. Not all veterans were officers but they all have experience dealing with officers so interacting with these former Soldiers is a great way to learn to lead.

Recently, Cadet Donald Argueta and I had the honor of speaking with veterans currently living in the Champaign, Illinois area. We spoke to four veterans with military experience spanning from the Korean War of the early 1950s through the Vietnam War. These visits gave us a better understanding of the roles and the lives of our veterans. Sadly all too often, their service to our country is overlooked all year unless the calendar says it is Memorial day or Veterans day.

Cadet Argueta and I decided the only way to understand more about our veterans was to listen to their stories and dialogue with them. After meeting with the Life Enrichment Coordinator at the Carriage Crossing Senior Living Center, we received permission to meet with a few of the veterans living there. We talked about what each veteran did during active service. One veteran was a Green Beret during Vietnam, another a Master Sergeant military advisor to South Korea during the Korean War.

These conversations had a profound impact on me that is hard to describe through writing. To hear the stories of war, the laughs and the pains, all bundled into one conversation was more than I expected. The impacts of the military will never leave these men, they carry it every day, and it is important for us to hear what they have to offer. At a separate meeting, I spoke with Mr. Clyde Hudson, a World War II veteran who served in the Navy. He served in both the Atlantic and Pacific as a Petty Officer which I found unimaginable. Stationed on a patrol craft, PC 493, he was tasked with protecting merchant ships travelling from the United States to various ports all over the world, stretching from the Soviet Union to Africa. He is just one of many unsung heroes that ensured that our allies had the supplies they needed to remain in the war against the Axis powers.

Speaking to these heroes during our visits struck a chord. Whether we want to admit it or not, these veterans will not be around forever. There is a very real and permanent expiration date on some of these experiences. It is nice to say that you support veterans, but if you have some time, visit them and make good on that saying. By meeting your local veterans, you make their day when they have someone to converse with, you gain a better understanding on what it means to be an American, and you just might learn a thing or two.



Cadet Sean Palmer visits Clyde Hudson, WWII Veteran.

**FORGING STRONG LEADERS SINCE 1868 ...
AND INTO THE 21st CENTURY**

Cadet Spotlights

World Championship Experience

By Cadet Kellyn Euhus

As a transferring Junior, the 2018-19 year has been my first at the University of Illinois and in the Army ROTC program. In addition to being a first-year cadet and full-time Illini student, I am also a dedicated athlete who was selected to represent Team USA at the World Championship Competition for a form of gymnastics called double-mini trampoline event.

At first, I was unsure about joining the Army ROTC program with all these other commitments that I faced. The idea of joining such a potentially life changing program was intimidating, but the idea of serving a cause greater than myself inspired me to continue to look into Army ROTC. I had no knowledge of the military and I was not sure I would be able to handle another commitment. My gymnastics schedule takes up most of my free time but joining the ROTC program has been one of the best experiences I have had. Leading up to the World Championships, the stress of the competition became overwhelming. The ROTC faculty not only worked with me, but they insured my other instructors did so as well. On top of that, thanks to the physical training, when it came time for the competition, I was in better shape than ever when I arrived at the World Championships. The ROTC program gave me an edge over my competition because I had not only been able to enhance my own personal self-discipline through the program, but I had the support of the entire Cadet Battalion filled with extraordinary individuals.

In November, I participated in the Trampoline and Tumbling World Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. The event where I represented the USA is known as the Double Mini-Trampoline. My hard work paid off as I won the Silver Medal for the 17-21 year old division. It was a great trip to see part of the world



CDT Euhus smiles for the camera holding her silver medal following the competition.



CDT Euhus stands proudly on the winners podium during the National Anthem.

I had not seen before and to represent the United States in something I enjoy was very exciting. What is next for me is unsure as I have several paths that my future may follow. However, I am thankful to Army ROTC being a part of my college experience. If anyone who is reading this is unsure if ROTC would benefit you personally, I would like to talk to you as I believe it can help you too.

Army ROTC Climbing Club

Climbing Club's Successful First Semester

By Cadet Edward Thomas

The newest club in the Fighting Illini Battalion is the Climb Club, which formed in the 2018 fall semester. The Climb Club was started to utilize the rock wall in the Armory range and introduce the Cadets to an alternative and fun functional fitness activity. A typical meeting will have us using the Armory or ARC rock wall for a few hours on Friday nights.

Some of the training the club has completed in its first semester include belay familiarization, earning certification and lead rock-climbing training. Belaying is a process used to control a climber's rope and protect them if they slip. It is an important step for all climbers to learn before they can safely attempt to climb. Every



CDT Molly Hein belays for Cadets Nathan Ruxlow (Left) and Eddie Thomas (Right) as they scale the climbing wall in the Armory Army ROTC range.



Cadet Wallace steadily makes his way towards the top of the ARC climbing wall.



Cadets Henry Feldhaus and Keegan O'Donnell secure their Swiss seats before scaling the ARC rock climbing wall.

Cadet that comes to club meetings learns the basics behind belaying to ensure everyone's safety. Another, more advanced method of climbing, called lead climbing has the climber placing and clipping into protection points as they ascend the route. Cadets Tim Wallace and Molly Hein challenged themselves at the end of the semester to learn this challenging technique and improve their knowledge of the sport.

This upcoming semester we plan on having even more Cadets become involved with the club. We have planned several workouts to focus on improving Cadet's upper body strength and prepare for the new Army Combat Fitness Test. We even give pointers on learning to climb a rope. A culminating trip to an outdoor rock face is planned for the end of the 2019 spring semester.

Army ROTC Rifle Club

Kickstarting The Army ROTC Rifle Club

By Rifle Club Coach Kassidy Weaver

It has been a wonderful year for the advancement of the Army ROTC Rifle Club and our competitive team. As a coach, I have had the privilege of watching scores jump by the hundreds in a few weeks time. Together we were able to learn the three positions of competitive precision shooting and jump into our first rifle competitions in quite sometime during the Fall of 2018. With our very first match being the local Fall Classic, we placed Second as the UIUC Blue team, and MS1 Cadet Donovan Spann snagged third place in the three position Junior Class. “It was really cool to be able to join a club that could teach us cadets more about shooting since it will be very important skill for our futures.” Stated Spann, “I also took a lot of pride in being able to represent rifle club and Army ROTC here at UIUC by competing and helping promote rifle club to other Cadets and Cadre.”

It really seemed like a whirlwind, for students who had only a few practices under their belt, to have the opportunity to compete and travel for the club. Not only had it been the first competition the club has had in several years, everyone did better competing than in practices at home. It was a great success and took the largest step into the competitive shooting world. We will finish our season in February with Collegiate Sectionals, an all-standing match against collegiate athletes across the nation competing for the chance to enter the Fort Benning Club Nationals competition. Now, after several months, every single one of them has improved greatly and will lead into an exciting start to the season Fall of 2019.

In many leadership roles you are asked to make decisions under pressure and this sport captures that incredibly well. Once you decide to fire that rifle, your decision is recorded in paper and cannot be undone. Each shooting position has provided an additional challenge to the individual as you must learn to balance and relax your entire body for hours while under pressure. It would not be an Olympic sport without this complexity, and I believe many Cadets have shown a natural talent here. As most athletes experience, the sport remains unforgiving. If you are distracted or exhausted, there is no way to fake through it or muscle your way into first place. Making the lazy decision can move you from first place to last almost immediately, and this metaphor holds true for many decisions a leader may face within the military. There is a great sense of accomplishment in watching the future leaders take these challenges with confidence and succeed in them.

The skills developed here also create universal habits. Trigger control, safety protocol, and how to maintain a sight picture, carry through to other firearms and other forms of shooting. Starting with using air rifle is a great introduction to improving hunting skills, maximizing scores and creating a foundation to rely on in emergency situations. From the initial practices, we are able to move into high power rifles, movement, and outdoor conditions, without any confusion. Rifle Club captain Cadet Joy Kim has seen the benefits of practicing on air rifles. “Before Rifle Club, I either did not qualify or barely scored above the qualifying minimum. Though it required much time and patience, it paid off because I am now able to shoot 36 out of 40s and above. I don’t even shoot high power military rifles aside from our FTX, and seeing that improvement showed me the effects of air rifle practice. Being able to shoot a high qualifying score is something that can definitely boost one’s confidence, especially since it’s something that an officer will want if he/she wants to be respected by peers and subordinates.”

It has been a privilege to work with everyone I have met through Rifle Club so far, and allows me to have high expectations for the upcoming seasons. I encourage more Cadets to give it a try, as it is easy to start and very rewarding.



The Rifle Club, overseen by MSG Jamie Leon.



The Fighting Illini Rifle Club takes aim during a competition.

Army ROTC Push-Up Crew

Representing The Fighting Illini Battalion

By Cadet Ginny Fulk

This semester, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Push-Up Crew represented the battalion in front of thousands of fans at every home football game. Cadet Jacob Beckman and I had the fortune to lead “The Crew” as co-captains of the Push-Up Crew. This was so much fun representing the university, the Army ROTC Department and getting to know our fellow Cadets as we supported the football team throughout the season. No matter the weather, the Army ROTC Push-Up Crew is always there to support the team! This season, we experienced some of the coldest games yet, but the Push-Up Crew was still there ready to cheer on the Fighting Illini.



Cadets and Dads smile for the camera following the Illini win of 55-31 against Minnesota.

For those that have not had the chance to attend a home game in a while, the Push-Up Crew runs out onto the sidelines every time the Fighting Illini is on offense (has the football). We stand at parade rest behind the goal post at the south end of Memorial Stadium. Talk about a great spot to observe the game! Then, when the Illini score, the Crew does Push-Ups for every point scored. Our 55-31 victory over the University of Minnesota this year required a lot of push-ups! So not only is Push-Up Crew fun for the Cadets and the fans, but we get a good workout in!



Cadet Ginny Fulk commands the Push-Up Crew with dads after the Illini score a touchdown.

One big event that the Push-Up crew was involved in was Illini Dad’s Weekend. For the football game, the Cadets could bring their dads onto the field to do push-ups with the crew! It was a great time for all to meet each other’s families and for fathers to get to experience a little of what we do here in Army ROTC. I brought my father to the Dad’s Weekend game and he had a fantastic time being on the football field and doing push-ups with the other Army ROTC dads!

All in all, the Army ROTC Push-Up Crew is one of the best clubs of the program! It doesn’t get much better than supporting your school, representing Fighting Illini Army ROTC, and having a front-row seat to every home football game!



Cadets Steven Irace, Wyatt Martens, and Joy Kim are already in the front leaning rest position.



Cadets and Dads wait for the Illini to score while standing at Parade Rest.



Fighting Illini Battalion cadets gather for a photo after the first football game of the season.

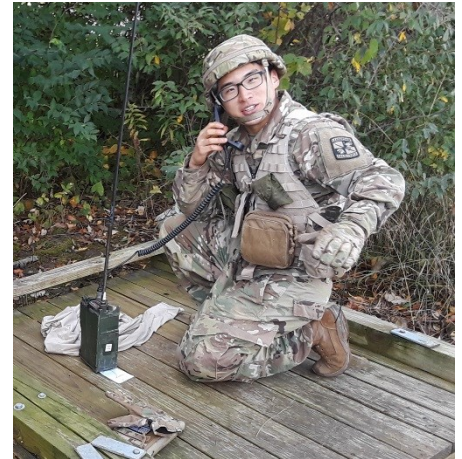
Army ROTC Ranger Club

Ranger Challenge: Leading Dedicated Cadets

By Cadet Roy Kim

In the Fall semester of 2018, I had the honor and privilege of serving as the Fighting Illini Ranger Club captain. Ranger club trains for two culminating events, Ranger Challenge in the Fall and Ranger Buddy in the Spring Semester. However more than this, what defines a Ranger Club member is a drive to better themselves everyday to become the best Cadet and the best Officer that he/she can be. As their Captain I oversaw training the Cadets for a 2-day competition that would test not only their physical capabilities, but their mental fortitude as well. From rucking more than 12 miles to solving complex problems that require quick thinking on our feet, Ranger Challenge, as the name implied, was meant to push these Cadets to their limits.

To field the best teams possible, I asked a lot from the Cadets. A standard week was seven individual training sessions, six of them beginning at 0600. Many of these Cadets were freshmen, brand new to the program and college. But rather than be cowed and using their youth as an excuse, they would come everyday with a desire to learn and prove themselves a key member of the team. Physical Training (PT) typically had us running several miles, performing endless amounts of push-ups and plenty of sit-ups to strengthen our body so that we could perform under times of stress. Teaching Cadets key soldier skills like how to create a bridge using nothing but a rope and three carabiners, training them to assault a fortified bunker, and practicing how to assess and treat a patient, were paramount to our success at the competition.



Ranger Challenge Captain Cadet Roy Kim enthusiastically radios in a 9-line Medevac.



Cadets tie a one rope bridge to cross a river during the competition.



Bravo squad observes Cadet Ginny Fulk as she disassembles an M4 Carbine as fast as possible.

Army ROTC Ranger Club

Ranger Challenge: Leading Dedicated Cadets (Continued)

We continued to drill until we were confident in completing each task and each other. At the competition, it was extremely rewarding to see how the club came together and performed. Everyone gave it everything they had and pushed themselves for the whole team. Seeing the great teamwork exhibited and witnessing every single task being successfully completed was an amazing experience and one I look forward to repeating next year.

This spring, several members of ROTC Ranger club will participate in the Ranger Buddy competition. Once again, the efforts of the Cadets are very impressive and I am confident they will do well. You can look forward to their experiences in the Spring 2019 edition of our MILLINI.

In the end leadership is never about yourself. Every single day, regardless of how tired I personally was, seeing the effort put out by my team, their rapid development and the never-ending cheerful attitude pushed me to want to become better myself. It was a highly rewarding experience watching my fellow Cadets come to me and place their trust in me to lead them. The lessons I learned, the relationships forged, and the memories I have, made being a part of the Fighting Illini Ranger Club such a joy and it will always have my eternal gratitude and respect.



The team conducts an after action report (AAR) after completing a lane.



Cadet Ryan Kim leads the charge while carrying two dumbbells.



The Fall 2018 Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team, led by Cadets Roy Kim and Cullen O'Connor, smile for a team photo after a successful weekend at Camp Marseilles.



Cadet Cullen O'Connor, Ranger Club Platoon Sergeant, awards Cadet Donovan Spann with his Ranger Challenge tab.



Cadet Orientation Program

From 22-25 August 2018, new Cadets to the Fighting Illini Battalion arrived at the university early to participate in the Cadet Orientation Program (COP). This program is a three-day event designed to welcome new freshman into the program in a positive way, while also teaching them some fundamental military knowledge. On Day 1 the more senior Cadets help them move in, they meet their squad leaders, and receive background information on being an Army ROTC Cadet. Day 2 introduces the new Cadets to marching and falling into a military formation. They also get the opportunity to scale the Army rock wall for the first time. On Day 3, they learn how to throw a hand grenade, set up a claymore mine, cross a one-rope bridge, shoot air rifles and even participate in a tug-of-war against a HMMWV (hummer). These new Cadets are definitely part of the team upon graduating from COP.



Cadets work together to pull a Humvee during a competition.



A Cadet aims a dummy Claymore mine.



Cadet Jacob Jung aims down an air rifle in the AROTC Range



Land Navigation I

On 6 September 2018, Cadets conducted basic land navigation training in order to develop fundamental navigation skills; a key task for Army Soldiers. Junior Cadets arrived at the UIUC Arboretum and immediately set out on a pre-designated course that they had two hours to complete. Sophomore and Freshman Cadets had an alternate course to practice reading a military map, using a lensatic compass, and orienting themselves to terrain features around the UIUC campus. The final exercise for the underclassmen Cadets was to navigate to several points around the Armory. Building these skills early and being proficient in them is critical for success at the Army ROTC Basic and Advance Camps.



Cadets Jesse Park and Terrell Baker prepare their land navigation route.



Cadet JonBenet Gonzaga leads her squad towards their next point of their planned route.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Land Navigation II

On 13 September 2018, Cadets from the Fighting Illini AROTC Battalion conducted their first land navigation practical exercise at the UIUC Arboretum. The purpose of this lab was to assess the MS-III class on their individual land navigation skills according to the Advanced Camp standards. The MS-I/MS-II classes were given brief refresher courses on basic land navigation skills and principles. They were then divided into groups from which they conducted their first compass course practical exercise of the year. This split lab method allowed all MS level Cadets to practice the specific skills compared to their current experience. Success during this lab enabled cadets to progress at their pace and maintain momentum into the Fall Field Training Exercise later in the month.



Cadet Joy Kim checks her azimuth on the way to her point.



Cadet Jonathan Muñoz briefs his squad on their planned course of action.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Basic Rifle Marksmanship

On 20 September 2018, the UIUC Fighting Illini Battalion conducted a M-16/M-4 rifle range in order to familiarize the Cadets with the standard Army rifle and train marksmanship on firing the weapon. Shooting is considered to be an essential skill, regardless of military occupational specialty. Many Cadets have never had the opportunity to fire a weapon before so this is an important training opportunity. By conducting this training locally, the Cadet Battalion was able to focus on other key tasks during the fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). At the Advanced Camp, rifle qualification is a key event for all Cadets attempting to earn the coveted RECONDO Badge,



Cadet Timothy Wallace prepares to engage his target.



Cadet Roy Kim prepares to fire from the kneeling position..



Fighting Illini Battalion



German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

On the weekend of 21-23 September, several Cadets from the Fighting Illini Battalion visited Western Illinois University to compete in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition and the chance to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. To earn this award, Cadets have to meet the standard in the pistol shoot, a timed road march, a shuttle run, a flexed arm hang, and swimming events.



Left: CDT Patrick Reynolds completes the flexed arm hang. Middle: Cadets Alex Rachesky, Andrew Lee, and Daniel Lasota show off their gold badges. Right: CDT Alex Rachesky finishes the swim portion of the GAFPB.

Paint



Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise Day 1

The UIUC Fighting Illini Army ROTC conducted a Field Training Exercise (FTX) from 27 to 30 September 2018 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The first day of the FTX was comprised of an Field Leaders Reaction Course (FLRC) and an obstacle course. These events are designed to build confidence in every Cadet's ability to solve problems with other team members and complete tasks they might not have believed they could master. Both the FLRC and the obstacle course allow the Cadets to practice leadership and push themselves beyond their normal physical strength comfort levels. All team members gained experience in the Troop Leading Procedures and having the chance to lead other Cadets.



Cadets work together to complete an Obstacle.



Bravo Company poses for a picture after a successful day of training.

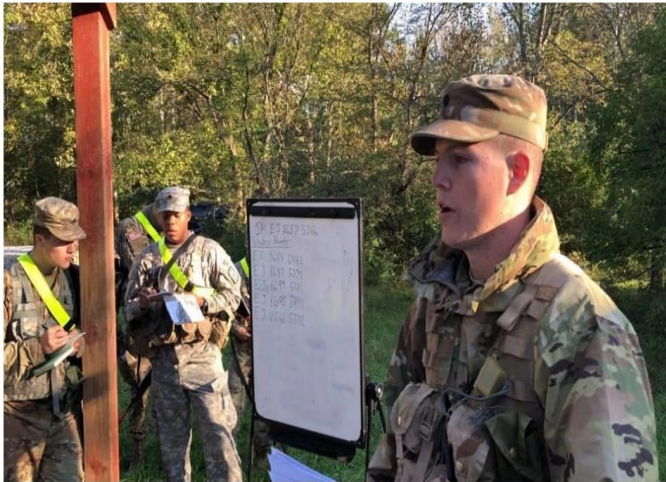


Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise Day 2

The second day of FTX was oriented around a day-long land navigation exercise. After completing a two-mile road march to the land navigation site carrying all their gear with them, each Cadet had to complete the Camp Atterbury land navigation course. The MS-III (Juniors) Cadets conducted a day and night course individually while the MS-I and MS-II Cadets paired up and tackled a less difficult course as a two-member team. Practicing land navigation in an environment that is similar to the Fort Knox terrain is valuable to understanding camp expectations and developing confidence in a basic soldering skill.



Cadet Thomas Jackson gives instructions before the Cadets step off.



Cadets arrive at the Land Nav site from the road march.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise - Day 3

The final day of the Fall 2018 FTX consisted of a welcome ceremony for all the first semester Cadets followed by a learning to rappel off the rappel tower. NCOs from Task Force Wolf, the Army National Guard Rappel team, trained each Cadet on safely executing the rappel tower wall and the helicopter rappel (see front cover). For most Cadets this was the first opportunity they had to rappel during ROTC prior to their attendance to the Basic and Advance Camps. It also is another confidence builder as many Cadets questioned whether they would be able to complete the rappel.



Task Force Wolf poses for a picture following the completion of the rappel lane.



Cadet Henry Feldhaus rappelling down the Camp Atterbury tower.



The entirety of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion poses for a picture with the Senior at the top and the Freshman on the ground.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Open House

On 11 October 2018, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted their semi-annual Open House in order to provide the UIUC student body on the benefits and opportunities through Army ROTC. Open House, typically held on the Main Quad of campus, allows students to participate in some of the military training activities that occur within the ROTC program. These events included a grenade assault course, tire flipping, photos in a Humvee, rock climbing, and travelling across the one-rope bridge. This year's Open House was successful with over 90 students participating in some of the events and it continues to be one of the more useful recruiting tools for the Battalion.



Cadet Tucker Peterson proper demonstrates tire-flipping technique.



Cadets Jack Hamman, Lindsay Graham, and Ezequiel Barraza answer the questions of interested students.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Individual Movement Techniques I

On 18 October 2018, the MS-I and MS-II Cadets conducted a two-hour lab on individual movement techniques. The lab was designed to build a sense of urgency and confidence in moving under fire. The lab consisted instruction on the three-second rush, providing cover while moving in a buddy team, and the verbal commands that accompany these Soldier movements. Cadets made their way across open terrain lane with little cover while some of the more senior Cadets simulated suppressive fire using paintball guns. This exercise provides the basis that support future labs where the MS-III Cadets will direct the movements of their platoons and squads when engaging with the enemy.



Cadets stand up to conduct a buddy rush..



Cadet Nathan Ruxlow provides supporting fire.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Battle Drills

On 25 October 2018, the MS-III Cadets conducted a lab that assessed their battle drills and their Individual Movement Techniques (IMT). Battle drills and IMTs are essential military skills that any soldier should know. Each MS-III Cadet will be evaluated during the summer Advanced Camp on their proficiency of these tasks. Cadets are expected to be able to take charge and lead a squad or platoon of Soldiers in environments that are high stress and physical pressure. Being comfortable with these drills will provide them the ability to be successful at Advance Camp.



Cadet Eddie Thomas finds concealment in a bush.



Cadet Nathan Ruxlow directs his squad toward the enemy.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Halloween Fun Run

Though all the Cadets in Army ROTC take their job very seriously, occasionally they do like to lighten things up. One of those times is the Army ROTC Halloween Fun Run. This event helps build awareness of ROTC on the University of Illinois campus, while also allowing each cadet to display his/her creativity in finding a costume that expresses their personality while still being comfortable enough to run in. This annual event is enjoyed by the campus community and is a lot of fun for the Cadets. After all, you haven't lived until you see bottles of mustard and ketchup racing down the street to catch a penguin!



Cadets Timothy Wallace and Cullen O'Connor are ready to tussle



Cadets Gabriel Cross, Steven Irace, and Ryan Kim are everything you need at your next BBQ



Cadet Edgar Gamino brings his dog to complete his Scooby Doo themed costume.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Individual Movement Techniques II

On November 1, 2018, The MS-III Cadets conducted force on force battle drills training at the Saltfork Paintball Area in St. Joseph, Illinois. These Cadets were evaluated on squad level tactical leadership abilities when reacting to contact from MS-IV opposing forces (OPFOR). The Saltfork facility provided a more realistic Advanced Camp type environment for training as it provides structures and more cover than the university campus. Using paintball equipment provides realism, gives the Cadets the opportunity to practice leading others in combat situations as well as implement effective Individual Movement Techniques and support maneuver by covering with fire.



Cadet Jesse Park quickly takes cover behind a tree upon taking contact.



Cadets responding to an attack learn how important it is to maintain a low profile.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Weapons Familiarization

1 November 2018 was another split lab with the MS-I and MS-II Cadets visiting the Urbana National Guard Armory while the MS-III Cadets conducted their IMT lab at the Saltlick Paintball facility. At the Army National Guard Armory, the Cadets were introduced to some of the weapon systems most commonly used in the U.S. Army. Cadets received classes on the specifications, operation, assembly, disassembly and maintenance of the M4A1 assault rifle, M9 Beretta handgun, M302 grenade launcher, and the M249 light machine gun. For the majority of the Cadets, this was the first time they had the opportunity to handle these weapons.



Junior Cadets smile for a photo holding weapons.



Cadet Benjamin Guo demonstrates how to remove the barrel of an M249.



MS-IV Cadets Patrick Reynolds, Daniel Kim, Benjamin Guo, and Jarrett Kapusta teach a class on primary Army Weapon systems.



Cadet Joseph Lim holds an M4A1 equipped with an M302 grenade launcher.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Norwegian Foot March

One of the key events in the Ruck Club is being able to participate in the annual Norwegian Foot March and earning the Norwegian Foot March Badge. This is a foreign military award that tests the physical endurance of each Cadet that participates. On 3-4 November 2018, seven motivated Fighting Illini Cadets travelled to the University of Southern Indiana to complete a 18.6-mile foot march with 35 pounds on their backs. To add to the difficulty, participants have no more than 4 hours and 30 minutes to complete the course.



Cadets Patrick Reynolds and Michael Hill take a picture at the finish line with a Norwegian Military officer.



Fighting Illini Cadets pose for a picture after completing the march..



Fighting Illini Battalion



Oath Ceremony



19 Army ROTC Cadets that contracted over the past year visit the Memorial Stadium Columns



Cadets retake the Loyalty Oath at Memorial Stadium during the "Salute To Veterans: Football Game"

When a Cadet signs a contract to become an officer in the U.S. Army, they must take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution of the United States. This oath is very symbolic and significant to the strength and professionalism that is found in the military today. To recognize these Cadets each year, UIUC dedicates a Loyalty Oath Ceremony at the annual "Salute to Veterans" Football Game at Memorial Stadium. This year the game was held on 3 November and is usually held around Veterans Day. The Cadets were able to go onto the playing field and repeat their oath during one of the television timeouts. These Cadets received a standing ovation at the end of this short ceremony. Afterwards, all participating Cadets visited the columns at Memorial Stadium to honor the Illini alumni who gave their lives for our country.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Leaders Reaction Course/Troop Leading Procedures

On 8 November 2018, the MS-I and MS-II Cadets received instruction on Troop Leader Procedures (TLP) using various Leader's Reaction Course obstacles. While these obstacles present a fun team-building opportunity, they also serve as an opportunity for the MS-I and MS-II Cadets to practice planning and leading other Cadets. Later in the month (29 November), the MS-III Cadets held a similar lab to prepare them for Advanced Camp this summer. Each Cadets actions and leadership attributes were assessed by the MS-IV Cadets to better prepare them for future positions as leaders in the Fighting Illini Battalion.

Left: CDT Tucker Peterson attempts to position a board during a mock river crossing.

Right: CDT Allison Duncan guides her team as they move a water container.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Patrol Base Operations

On 8 November 2018, while the younger cadets were executing their LRC military science lab, the MS-III Cadets conducted classes on Patrol Base operations to prepare for Advanced Camp at Ft Knox, Kentucky this upcoming summer. The lab included classroom instruction, a discussion period on key tasks to perform during Advanced Camp and a walkthrough practical exercise on properly establishing a patrol base. Once the concept is learned, future labs will require these Cadets to train their squad members and then execute functional patrol bases at the UIUC Arboretum and during the Spring Semester FTX. Each Cadet left this lab more proficient in Patrol Base operations.



Senior Cadets Vinay Prabhakar, Michael Hill, and Dylon Hopp, offer advice from their experience at ROTC Advanced Camp to Junior Cadets preparing to go this summer.



Cadets Jacob Beckman and Steven Irace get ready to conduct a mission from their patrol base.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Army-Navy Flag Football Game

To match the excitement of the annual Army-Navy Football Game in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Cadets and Midshipmen of UIUC held their own version of this rivalry with the Army-Navy Flag Football Game at Memorial Stadium this year. On 5 December 2018, the two teams came together in Memorial Stadium to determine who had the better athletes on campus. The Army ROTC Cadets prevailed in a lopsided clash 42-14 and when the West Point Cadets were able to match this domination (17-10) on the following Saturday, the sweep was complete! The game was exciting and all Cadets that participated as either athletes or athletic supporters had fun. We wish to thank the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the UIUC Football Team for the use of Memorial Stadium for this game and we hope this will become an annual event. Go Illini!



Cadets take a break from football practice long enough for a team photo.



Cadets and Midshipmen on game day! Dilly ... Dilly!



Fighting Illini Battalion



Dining Out

The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadet Battalion and the Cadets from Air Force ROTC Detachment 190 held their second Joint Dining Out on 7 December 2018. Along with a great time to enjoy themselves, the Cadets celebrated their achievements during the past year. Along with the Cadets and their dates, several members of the Fighting Illini Hall of Fame and key supporters of both programs attended. Cadets that excelled academically, physically, or for their service to the university were recognized for their outstanding contributions.



Cadet Tyler Igunbor poses for a photo with his date.



Cadets Nathan Ruxlow, Eddie Thomas, Tim Wallace, their dates and some Air Force ROTC Cadets enjoy the festivities.



Field Artillery Second Lieutenants Alex Tkaczyk and Fidel Toto pose with the newest "Redleg" Cadet Benjamin Guo.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Tri-Service Competition

On 10 December 2018, the Army ROTC held its annual physical fitness competition with the Navy and Air Force ROTC Department's to build comradery between branches and create a level of healthy competition. This years Tri-Service Fitness Competition events consisted of a 4x400 relay race, a mile-long race, 2 minutes of burpees, 2 minutes of sit-ups, 2 minutes of hand release push ups, a bodyweight bench press, squat, and deadlift, pull-ups, tug of war, and a rope climb. Although the Army Cadets didn't win the overall competition, we did very well in several of the individual events.



Cadets from the Army and Navy complete the rope climb during the challenge competition.



Cadets Henry Feldhaus, Thomas Easton, Nathan Ruxlow, and Keegan O'Donnell participated in a relay race.



The Army and Air Force face off in the tug of war.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Color Guard

Each year the Fighting Illini Battalion is chosen to support University and other local events by providing a precision Color Guard. The Army ROTC's Color Guard plays an important role in maintaining the local presence of Illinois Army ROTC as well promote its image to the public. The Color Guard serves several of the UIUC athletic teams, all University Commencement Ceremonies, and local military events. In addition, the Army ROTC Color Guard members also participate in Tri-Service Color Guard events with Navy Midshipmen and Air Force Cadets.



The Fighting Illini Color Guard team leads the parade to Memorial Stadium before every home football game.



Cadets preparing to present the Colors during a recent Illini Basketball game.

Alumni Support Update

Ruck Club - Bataan Memorial Death March 2019

The Ruck Club is asking for donations to support the travel expenses of the team to travel to the White Sands Missile Range to participate in the annual Bataan Memorial Death March. It has become a tradition for the Fighting Illini Battalion Ruck Club to travel by vans over 2,000 miles to New Mexico over the students' spring break to ruck the 26.2 mile course that comprises the Bataan Memorial Death March. The event is a road march with 35 pounds through the arid mountains of White Sands Missile Range, honoring the POWs who were marched over 75 miles along the Bataan Peninsula at the beginning of America's involvement in the Second World War.



The Fighting Illini Ruck Club gathers for a photo after completing the Bataan Memorial Death March in 2018.

This year, 22 cadets will be making the trip along with the support of six of our cadre. The training to prepare for this event has already started and the trip to White Sands is cadet planned and financed. We receive no money from the U.S. Army or the University of Illinois to defray the costs. My fellow cadets and I have worked concession stands during football and basketball games to help cover the costs. However, any assistance to help offset any remaining costs would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to donate to our effort, please visit <http://www.giving.illinois.edu/> for the certified University link and be sure to indicate your contribution is directed towards the Army **ROTC**

Alumni Fund (11330418). All donations received this semester to this account will support the cadets' costs to attend the Bataan Memorial Death March or the upcoming Ranger Buddy competition in April 2019. Thank you for considering our cause, this is excellent training for the Advanced Camp and provides us experiences we will remember for our lifetime.



Alumni Update

My First Year in the Army and the Lessons I Learned

By 2LT Corey Maisch

My name is 2LT Corey Maisch and I am a Fighting Illini Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Battalion alumnus. I commissioned as an Engineer Officer on 22 December 2017 and graduated from the Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course (EBOLC) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO on 29 June 2018. I now serve in the 62nd Engineer Battalion out of Fort Hood, Texas, the history of which dates back to the construction of the ALCAN Highway during WW2 and land clearing during the Vietnam War.

After completing ROTC and EBOLC, I felt confident in my ability to lead an engineer platoon, but when I arrived at my first duty station, I was told that I would have to wait up to a year before getting an opportunity to take charge of a platoon. I would recommend for ROTC Cadets to set expectations for a similar situation; there are a myriad of additional duties that are typically assigned to young staff officers and NCOs in a battalion staff. Being a young staff officer, I was appointed as the Battalion Family Readiness Liaison (FRL), Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR), and Battalion Historian. Although these duties are not exactly engineer related, I have learned to use every task as a chance to practice using leadership and planning principles.



2LT Corey Maisch takes a picture upon arrival at his new unit with a historical, 62nd Engineer Battalion, Rome Plow used during the Vietnam War for land clearing missions.



2LT Corey Maisch presents a brick to the Mayor of Kempner, TX, to be added to their town's Veterans Memorial as part of Make a Difference Day.

In the short time I have been in the Army, I have found myself applying things I learned in college and ROTC to a variety of interesting Army circumstances. For example, performing Key Leader Engagement (KLE) training is applicable to more than just having tea with tribal leaders in the Middle East. As the FRL, I frequently organize family events with local community leaders to develop strong relationships and camaraderie. Another example comes from being in the Social Media and Membership Chairperson position for the American Society of Civil Engineers while at UIUC. I did not think I would use that skillset again, especially in the Army. Nonetheless, I have found myself as the admin for my Battalion's social media page and primary photographer as the UPAR. This is the job that I found myself doing most during my deployment to the southwest border.

On 26 October, my Engineer Battalion was given short notice of deployment to our nation's southwest border on 30 October. After quickly packing, getting some paperwork in order, and saying goodbye to my wife, I quickly found myself flying in a C-130 from Fort Hood, TX, to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, AZ.

Alumni Update

My First Year in the Army and the Lessons I Learned (Continued)

I was sad to be apart from my family for Thanksgiving and possibly Christmas, but I was also eagerly looking forward to my first deployment and the experience it would bring. Some of my responsibilities included capturing imagery of engineer construction and General Officer visits; uploading the imagery to the Defense Visual Information Distribution System (DVIDS) for release to the media; preparing Soldiers and leaders in my Battalion for interaction with the media; and administrating my unit Facebook page. Even though I may not have performed engineer related tasks, the deployment gave me the opportunity to observe an operational space through a unique lens. I spent half my time in the Engineer Battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and the other half at the ports of entry (POE) where Engineer Soldiers worked. While in the TOC, I learned to zoom out to see the big picture and witnessed all the moving pieces in a complex operation. In my travels to the different POEs, I was able to zoom in and focus on the individual Soldiers and the challenges they faced.



Engineer Soldiers place scaffolding on the US-Mexico border wall for later installation of concertina wire.

As a new Lieutenant, it was helpful to experience both perspectives and gain a greater understanding of what I will likely encounter as a leader in any future mission. Also, I learned about the importance of public affairs themes, messaging, and coordination between other government agencies. The deployment also boosted my Battalion's confidence because we were able to validate our ability to deploy at a moment's notice and integrate with other military units from across the United States. As U.S. Army Engineers, we are called upon to solve problems, whether that's in Iraq, Afghanistan, or at the US-Mexico border. The border support mission was an amazing opportunity for me to gather experience and develop professionally. I am glad to have been a part of it and know that the lessons learned at the border have better prepared me for all of my future roles as a U.S. Army Engineer Officer. Essays!



2LT Corey Maisch takes note of questions NBC News investigative journalists ask LTC Chad Caldwell, 62nd Engineer Battalion commander, about the Army's support of the Department of Homeland Security.



2LT Corey Maisch serves as the photographer for LTG Jeffrey Buchanan, ARNORTH Commanding General, as he visits ports of entry during DOD's mission to support Customs and Border Protection at the southwest border.

Hall of Fame Application

Hall of Fame: The Cadet Battalion is developing the plans for the next Hall of Fame induction ceremony during the spring of 2020. We expect the date to be on one of the weekends in March or April. We currently have three nominations but time is still available to submit additional nominations. We will establish the nomination review board in November 2019 and the inductees will be notified by the end of the year. If you are interested in submitting a nomination, we must have your application by 31 October 2018. Listed below is the application form.

Fighting Illini Battalion Army ROTC Hall of Fame

Nomination Form

1. Your Name: _____

2. Your Email: _____

3. Your Phone Number: _____ Best time to call: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Date Graduated UIUC (if alumnus): _____

Degree(s) Achieved at UIUC (or other University): _____

Will this award be Posthumously? _____ Yes _____ No

If no, do you have contact info for Nominee (Address, City, Zip and/or email/phone):

If yes, do you have contact info for Nominee’s Family: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please provide any info you may have (Family member’s name, address to include city and zip/email/phone number):

On a separate sheet of paper, please TYPE a brief military biography listing the awards the nominee received during service along with a summary on why the nominee should be considered for the Hall of Fame (e.g., contributions to the community where the nominee may have retired, significant contributions to the US Army and/or significant contributions to the University of Illinois).

If the nominee is selected, you may be contacted to provide a picture (recent or historical) of the nominee or for direction to where a picture may be found of the nominee.

Please return this form with the nomination biography to arotc@illinois.edu.



Fighting Illini Army ROTC
Hall of Fame Medal



Staying in Touch with The Fighting Illini Battalion

**University of
Illinois Foundation**
**Recruiting, Donations
Visits, Expertise**

Upcoming Calendar: Alumni continue to ask for ways to support the current Cadet Battalion. The best way is through your willingness to share your experience with them. Please consider supporting one of these upcoming events:

- **Guest Speaker for the Cadet Orientation Program.** During the week of 19-24 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. MS-IV Cadets will also conduct their staff school and the MS-III Cadets will complete their leadership academy during the same time. Each year, guest speakers provides insights on their experience in the Cadet Battalion and while serving in the military. Please consider supporting COP as a guest speaker.
- **Veterans Day Football Game.** Each year the Army ROTC Battalion conducts a “Loyalty Oath” Ceremony during the Salute to Veterans Football Game at U of I. This is a great retention event for the Cadets. This year we are looking to expand this celebration to include a pre-game tailgate party. If this is something you would be interested in and perhaps assist in the coordination of this event, please contact us. This year’s game occurs on 2 November against Rutgers University. This would be a great opportunities to meet and socialize with our current Cadets.
- **Attend the Annual Dining-Out.** Each year (usually in December), alumni attend the Joint Army-Air Force Dining-Out to meet some of the current Cadets. Although the Dining-Out is very formal, conversation with the Cadets is very relaxing and they typically enjoy hearing how things have changed in the Cadet Battalion over time. Please contact Mr. Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu if you are interested in receiving an invitation to attend this year’s Dining-Out.
- **Donations to the Army ROTC Operations or Endowment Fund.** Donations to the **Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund** (11774561) provide an annual budget for Cadet operations and the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund** (11330418) helps current Cadet operations with the costs associated in participating in events not covered by the Army funding. These funds support the Ranger Buddy Team, the Bataan Memorial Ruck March, the Scabbard & Blade Honor Society, and the Norwegian Ruck March.

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THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



**FORGING STRONG LEADERS SINCE 1868
... AND INTO THE 21ST CENTURY**