



The MILLINI



A publication from
THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Military Science

THE STORE

Fighting Illini Battalion Hoodie: \$37



Battalion Polo Unisex/Ladies Cut: \$35



Ranger Buddy Hoodie: \$35



The Fighting Illini Battalion store has been updated with some of the Cadet designs from the past year. However, some of our readers have found the internet site to order has not worked. If interested in purchasing any of the above items, fill out an order form at the following website: https://stores.inksoft.com/army_rotc/shop/home. If you have difficulty in placing an order, please forward your request to arotc@illinois.edu and we will place the order for you. You will still receive your order straight from the vendor. Also, we often have alumni that see in the MILLINI 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. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Fighting Illini Battalion Store | 2 |
| Message from the Professor of Military Science | 4 |
| Message from the Senior Military instructor | 5 |
| MS-I Class Update | 6 |
| MS-II Class Update | 7 |
| MS-III Class Update | 8 |
| MS-IV Class Update | 9 |
| Cadet Spotlights - Commissioning | 10 |
| Cadet Spotlights - Club Updates | 11 - 13 |
| Battalion Training Events | 14 - 24 |
| Alumni Update | 25 |
| Fighting Illini Hall of Fame Update | 26 |
| Keeping in Touch with the Fighting Illini Battalion | 27 |



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

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ARMY ROTC

Message from the Professor of Military Science

by MAJ Daniel Johnson

The Fall semester was an incredible four months for the Fighting Illini Battalion (FIB). In this edition of The Millini, you will have the opportunity to read all about the outstanding accomplishments and efforts of our remarkable Cadets. The US Army will remain the finest force in world because talented Cadets continue to unselfishly step forward and serve as leaders to our Nation.

Our semester started with welcoming almost 50 new Cadets to the Fighting Illini team. I remain impressed by the high level of enthusiasm displayed by all Cadets during the Cadet Orientation Program and throughout the entire semester. During the Fall semester, the MS-IIIs worked tirelessly to prepare themselves for the upcoming Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox, KY. The MS-IVs, responsible for the MS-IIIs' training, diligently planned, prepared, executed, and assessed all MS-III training, which was no small feat. The MS-IIIs are better prepared for camp due to their own hard work and because of the MS-IVs' ownership of their ROTC program.

The FIB's Cadets did an outstanding job training hard and flawlessly executed all ROTC events (labs, PT sessions, Ranger Challenge, FTX, etc.), but I want to single out a few areas worth highlighting. First, the Cadets took ownership of the FIB's Social Media efforts and did an awesome job revamping the FIB's Social Media footprint. The S-5 team, which consisted of CDT Cullen O'Connor, CDT Nathan Ruxlow, and led by CDT Joy Kim, did a remarkable job establishing and maintaining the program's Instagram profile and YouTube Channel. Secondly, I would like to give a thank you to the families and friends who participated in the FIB's first-ever "Branch Night" for the MS-IVs. The event would not have been as memorable for the MS-IVs without their family and friends participating in the special occasion. Finally, each day in this position I continue to be more enthralled in the history and traditions that make up this esteemed Fighting Illini Battalion.

This past semester, there was one event (of many) that further reinforced my admiration for this program's history of developing the Nation's finest leaders. That event was the Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. It was an honor to be part of such an extraordinary event steeped in the rich history of this Army ROTC program. I want to congratulate Brigadier General Charles Kemper IV, Colonel Mark Alessia, and Mr. Charles Finn (posthumously inducted) as the newest members of the Fighting Illini Battalion Hall of Fame. Your remarkable leadership achievements will forever serve as inspiration to the generations of future leaders who set foot inside the historic University of Illinois Armory.



ILLINI!



Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by *MSG Timothy Collier*



The Fall 2019 Semester at the Fighting Illini Battalion, as is the case every fall semester, was characterized by transition. The incoming Military Science (MS) classes experienced for the first time what it is like to fill the shoes of their leaders from the previous year. For the 20 Cadets in the current MS-III class, this involved increased leadership responsibilities as well as a more rigorous academic curriculum. I am happy to report they have aggressively attacked these challenges and are well on their way to representing this Battalion proudly at Advanced Camp.

Classroom instruction this semester focused on, among other things, the warfighting functions, the operations process, operational and mission variables, platoon and squad tactical movement techniques, map reading and land navigation and leadership characteristics. Leadership labs focused on a wide range of topics including land navigation, patrol base operations, tactical combat casualty care, and room clearing procedures. The classroom instruction combined with the practical application of learned concepts was invaluable to the development of the Cadets.

Ultimately, all classroom instruction and leadership labs served to support the overarching goal for the semester: learning to be leaders through building cohesive teams at the squad, platoon, and company levels. The MS-III class embraced the challenges inherent to being thrust into leadership positions. Cadet Gabriel Cross had this to say; “My first position in the Battalion was as a Platoon Sergeant. Being thrown in charge of around 20 Cadets forced me to become more comfortable under stress and being in front of other Cadets. The Fall FTX especially allowed me to grow as a leader since I was responsible for the platoon for the entirety of the weekend.” Many Cadets felt overwhelmed and challenged at times. This was to be expected. How they handled that stress speaks volumes about the quality people who have chosen to be here.

In addition, the MS-III Cadets were afforded the opportunity to participate in voluntary events such as the Ranger Challenge competition and had the opportunity to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB). Cadet Steven Irace had this to say about the Range Challenge competition, “My favorite event I attended was the Ranger Challenge competition because it was a great bonding opportunity from MS-Is to MS-IVs after training for it all semester. To place 2nd overall for both teams was an amazing experience.” Cadet Donald Argueta commented on the GAFPB stating, “This three day event pushed me physically and mentally, testing my military knowledge and skills. This will stay with me throughout my military career.”

The entire semester’s worth of learning and experience cannot be adequately captured in this article. I have presented but a small cross-section of their breadth of experiences. I can only say that this year’s class of MS-IIIs have accepted all challenges willingly, and have excelled as a result. They are looking forward to next semester when squad and platoon tactics take center stage in preparation for Advanced Camp, and to filling new leadership positions yet again as they continue to learn and grow as leaders.



ARMY ROTC

FIGHTING ILLINI!



MS-I Class Update

A Great Beginning!

By Cadet Annika Koester, MS-I Student

Following my first exciting semester as a student here at the University of Illinois (UIUC) and a Cadet in the Army ROTC program, I have learned and experienced so much more than I thought previously possible in such a short time. I always had my sights set on attending UIUC for college, but I never planned on being a part of ROTC. I began to research more about military careers during my senior year of high school. The more I learned about the opportunities available to the Fighting Illini Cadets, the more curious I became.

I arrived on campus in August and participated the Cadet Orientation Program (COP) with the other first-year Cadets. I immediately fell in love with the program and all the like-minded and dedicated people I met. Not only did we learn more about the Army, but we also competed against the other first-year Cadets in our respective squads. Some of our competitions included a scavenger hunt throughout campus, a Drill and Ceremony competition, a timed HMMWV pull, among other events. By the end of COP, we were bruised and tired but also highly motivated. COP was the first time that many of us would experience such a fantastic sense of camaraderie and teamwork.

I was also fortunate enough to have a fellow first-year Cadet as my college roommate. We motivated each other to wake up for Physical Readiness Training (PRT) in the mornings, and if it weren't for us joining the program, I would have never met one of my closest friends to this day. As I met new Cadets in the program, I felt a great sense of community and closeness with everyone in the battalion. The older, more experienced Cadets provide me with fantastic mentorship and inspiration. In contrast, my fellow first-year peers help motivate me to become a better battle buddy for them each time we are together.

Later in the semester, I was fortunate enough to compete in the annual Ranger Challenge competition against other Illinois ROTC programs. We trained together most mornings and this club gave me the invaluable opportunity to become closer with the people in the classes above me. Our training consisted of rucking, weapons training and, at the end of the competition, we earned second place out of nine teams!

This semester has consisted of many ups and downs, but through it all, I always looked forward to the time I spent with my fellow Cadets. I never expected to meet so many people that I look up to as an inspiration for the type of Soldier I want to one day become. I was hesitant and slightly nervous before beginning this semester since the only military "experience" I had was watching my brother play Call-of-Duty in the basement. But I realized that this is only the beginning of a hopefully long career in the military. I wouldn't trade these months in the Fighting Illini Battalion for anything, and I look forward to many more. I was pushed outside of my comfort zone in multiple ways these past couple months, and I am better off for it. We are all in this program to one day become commendable leaders in the armed forces, but I learned that to become a successful leader, you must first know how to be an effective follower. I look back now on my first college semester, and I am proud of what I was able to accomplish. None of it would have been possible if it were not for the fantastic cadre and fellow Cadets that make up the Fighting Illini Battalion.



Cadet Annika Koester with Cadets Wyatt Martens, Jonbenet Gonzaga and Sophia Soltwedel at the FTX Rappel Tower.

MS-II Class Update

The Golden Door of Opportunity

By Cadet Brian Yeom, MS-II Student

“What’s your future like?” “Did you choose a major yet?” “What are you doing in life?” . . . During my senior year of high school, my response to these questions was “I don’t know- I’ll see where life takes me.” Then, my father said to me: “Son, you’re doing ROTC.” I had never heard of ROTC before, yet I discovered he had directed me to my golden door in life. The next 10 months of my freshman year was an exciting start to college life, but this was not without a cost. Being an MS-I Cadet was difficult, mentally draining and stressful, especially when I have never done anything like this before. As the months went on, I began to build a tolerance and started to embrace the adversity. As my first year concluded, I had grown into a different person- someone I have always dreamed of becoming. I became confident, a leader, and a model to my younger brothers. I started to respond back to some of the questions I had left unanswered: “What’s your future like?” Either a military officer or a veterinarian. “Did you choose a major yet?” Yes I did, Animal Science heading into pre-vet. “What are you doing in life?” Doing what I can do to the best of my ability, and if I fail, I’ll just stand right back up and continue moving forward. As a MS-I Cadet, I began to feel the impact of my decision and this was what I wanted.

Coming back from break, I didn’t feel like a MS-II yet, but I have already made my plan of attack for this year. I wanted to join Ranger Challenge this year along with becoming a leader figure for the incoming MS-Is. I was also assigned as section leader for my 10am ROTC class, which I was very grateful for yet scared at the same time. I didn’t let anyone down during my time as a section leader. Waking up early for physical training again became routine. Taking care of the MS-Is in our squad and actually doing some work for the squad leader also became part of my job. After about a month into the school year, the other MS-II Cadets & I started to get the hang of taking charge and understanding what role we had in the battalion. I found myself conducting wake-up checks for my squad in order to make sure everyone was awake and aware of the PT plan. I started to assist the squad leader with anything they needed & helped answer questions that the MS-Is had. During our Fall FTX, I was able to show my capability as a leader to my squad members in the confidence course & taking on leadership positions when the opportunity called.

As my first semester as a MS-II is coming to a close, I loved the time I had taken in leadership positions. Activities like Ranger Challenge definitely improved what I was lacking, and the club was an experience that I believe everyone should try out in order to understand why you are a part of this program. Being a section leader gave me a glimpse of what my MS-III year would look like, teaching me how to manage school work, ROTC & my personal life. Not only do Cadets get to experience incredible things, but we are absolutely groomed as leaders with direction & confidence. It leads to doors opening at the right time. A quote I live by is, “Life gives you these doors that you can choose from, each leading to a different future. But, if you see the golden door, either ahead of you or right next to you, life is giving you the opportunity to choose that door and change the fate of your life forever. You only get five golden doors throughout your life, don’t lose that chance to open one.” As I continue my life, as I walk into my golden door, I know that I have changed for the better. “When will you find your golden door?” I assure you that ROTC & the future it builds for us is one of them.



Cadet Brian Yeom learns the steps to remedial action on a M4A1 rifle as Cadet Samantha Lopez looks on.

MS-III Class Update

MS-III Cadets Further Developing Leadership Skills

By Cadet Jazmin House, MS-III Student

After graduating from Basic Camp this summer, I became more confident in leading and working alongside my peers. As my MS-III year began, I realized I had more responsibility to manage. During your MS-III year, you receive more leadership positions: I had the opportunity of being a Squad Leader and a Platoon Leader. In these leadership positions, accountability is important. I knew that I needed to keep an accurate record of personnel and equipment but I've also learned the importance of communication with subordinates & higher leadership, developing both your subordinates & yourselves & maintaining integrity always. I've watched myself develop & grow, and am proud of the leader I am becoming.

Being a lateral-entry Cadet, I sometimes felt at a disadvantage. The other Cadets in my class, however, have always made themselves available to help; with our strong comradery, we've helped each other grow. They have exercised with me on off days, run alongside me during PT tests, have gone over tactical knowledge outside of class, and share knowledge that they've learned from their experiences at Basic Camp, Basic Training and/or specialty schools such as Airborne or Air Assault School. Having this support from my peers allows me to continue to develop myself into a better leader.

Moving into the spring semester, there will be new training to prepare the MS-III class for Advanced Camp this summer. I look forward to improving my marksmanship, land navigation skills, tactical knowledge and physical fitness. During the spring FTX, we will be going to Fort Knox with several other Illinois universities to familiarize us with tactics and operating with new Cadets. Having these opportunities will give myself and my MS-III classmates more confidence and increase our skill set so that we can perform our best at Advanced Camp.

I look forward to continuing my MS-III year as a Cadet in the Fighting Illini Battalion!



Cadet Jazmin House learns how to treat a casualty during the Tactical Combat Casualty Lab.



Cadet Jazmin House practices her land navigation skills during lab.

MS-IV Class Update

Adapting to Change ***By Cadet Joy Kim, MS-IV Student***

This past semester I have had the pleasure of being the Fighting Illini Battalion's S5 (Public Affairs Officer). As an MS-III who was rather eager to be done with the "hard work" and finally become an MS-IV, the responsibilities and scope of my new role did honestly intimidate me a little bit. Additionally, the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) is currently being implemented into the Army, replacing the current Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). I wanted to embrace my role and help prepare Cadets for this new change, as the ACFT is significantly harder and more complicated.



Cadet Joy Kim performs a front squat for an ACFT instructional YouTube video.

With the help of my assistants, Cadets Cullen O'Connor and Nathan Ruxlow, the S-5 shop was able to capture moments of the various events that the Fighting Illini Battalion participated in and use our creativity to ensure that the excellence in our training would be viewed to not just the Cadets and Cadre in the Battalion, but also to the Alumni, University students, and people all over the world. One task that the S-5 shop took seriously was creating and uploading videos of the Battalion to *YouTube*. As someone who has captured moments through the camera lens and has learned how to use social media to display the Battalion's training, I am incredibly proud of what the Cadets have done and am always happy to show off their accomplishments to whoever can see them. Our goal was not only to show off our accomplishments of past events, but also to prepare Cadets for future events.

With the ACFT currently in the middle of being implemented, we developed a series of videos that demonstrates different exercises that can be practiced in order to improve Cadets' strength, endurance, and overall fitness in preparation for different events of the test. Over the past 4 years of being in ROTC, I have expanded my knowledge on fitness, and with my assistants' and peers' help, created these videos to share to those who are want more practice. I believe that no matter what kind of changes come our way, it is important to be flexible, adaptable, and to be prepared far in advance. Here are a few of our ACFT training videos:



Cadet Cullen O'Connor & Cadet Joy Kim introduce exercises to improve Cadets' performance in the ACFT's deadlift event.

2-mile run— <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DKq2U6R5jmA>

The Leg Tuck— https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_WZixZL1N3E

Sprint-Drag-Carry— <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=YrGITMpBzEE>

Standing Power Throw— <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tNxWoG5oAhI>

Cadet Spotlights

Congratulations to Our Newest Lieutenants

By Mr. Eric Ashworth

On December 20, 2019, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Program proudly commissioned four UIUC Cadets into the U.S. Army. In a joint ceremony led by Captain Anthony Corapi and included the Navy and Air Force ROTC Departments, the following UIUC Cadets joined our officer corps:

2LT Michael Alexander earned a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Consumer Economics and commissioned onto active duty in the United States Army's Infantry Branch. His Dad was present to administer the oath and welcome him into the Army. 2LT Alexander's first assignment will be to attend the Basic Officer's Leadership Course (BOLC) at Fort Benning, GA.



LTC Miles Alexander administers the Loyalty Oath to his son, newly commissioned 2LT Michael Alexander.



Major Daniel Johnson hands 2LT Tyler Igunbor a copy of his commissioning orders.

2LT Tyler Igunbor was also commissioned onto active duty in the United States Army's Infantry Branch. He earned a bachelor's degree in Political science. He had served while attending college in the Illinois Army National Guard. Like 2LT Alexander, his first assignment is to attend BOLC at Fort Benning, GA.



2LT Daniel Lee proudly displays his Armor Branch insignia during the Commissioning Ceremony

2LT Daniel Lee was another Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet serving in the Illinois Army National Guard prior to his commission onto active duty. He earned a bachelor's degree in Bioengineering and will serve as an Armor officer. 2LT Lee will attend the Armor BOLC prior to his first operational duty assignment.

Our fourth commissioned Second Lieutenant was William M. Potts, who earned a bachelor's degree in Operations Management. He served in



2LT William Potts receives his first salute as an Army Officer from CPL Jonathan Munoz

the SMP and will serve in the Field Artillery Branch of the Illinois Army National Guard after graduation. He is expecting to attend Field Artillery BOLC at Fort Sill, OK later in the fall.

The Commissioning Ceremony included the attachment of officer shoulder boards, receiving a first salute as an Army Officer and the administering of the Oath of Office. Congratulations 2LT Alexander, 2LT Igunbor, 2LT Lee and 2LT Potts. You join a long line of Fighting Illini commissioned officers and we know you will do well.

Cadet Spotlights

Ranger Club: Leading Ranger Challenge

By Cadet Wyatt Martens

This past fall semester, I had the honor of leading Ranger Club. For Ranger Club, we have two main competitions each year, which are Ranger Challenge and Ranger Buddy. This past fall, we participated in the Ranger Challenge competition. The training that we held in preparing for this competition was challenging and took a certain type of Cadet to be willing to wake up early six days a week and train, even with all the regular ROTC and school obligations that they have. Being the captain of Ranger Club has its own challenges, but the motivated Cadets who are always ready to work hard and contribute to the team make it even more enjoyable.

We sent two teams to the Ranger Challenge competition in Marseilles, Illinois; One team competing as a nine-person team and the other a five-person team, and both teams did very well. We arrived on a Friday where we prepared for the competition and were briefed on the next day's events. Additionally, on Friday night, we took a written test that evening. The next day's events included a weapons assembly and disassembly, an obstacle course, radio, tactics, tactical combat casualty care, one-rope bridge, and a functional fitness lane. As we rucked between lanes, there were land navigation points that we could find for extra points. Both teams finished the lanes in good standing and in good time. The third day and final event consisted of a four-mile ruck with a few check points, where we were quizzed on certain pieces of Army knowledge. If a team gave a wrong answer, they were given extra weight to carry with them until the next check point. At the turn around point, there was a fitness event. Both teams made good time on their rucks.

A few hours after the final event, we had the awards ceremony; both the nine-person and five-person teams earned second place in their respective categories. This is the best that we have done in several years and I am very proud of our teams. None of this would have been possible without the support of the cadre, MS-IV Cadets, my co-captain Cadet Steven Irace, and the individual team members who gave the training and the competition all they had. I have done Ranger Challenge for three years now, and each year we make improvements from what we learned before in order to get better. It has been an incredible opportunity and honor of mine to lead these amazing Cadets this past semester, and I look forward to Ranger Buddy and Ranger Challenge next year.



Our Ranger Challenge Cadets pushing each other to finish strong in the 5-person team.



The 9-person team help Cadet Ryan Kim mount onto the one-rope bridge.

Cadet Spotlights

The Fighting Illini Color Guard: Blinded by the Colors ***By Cadet Allison Duncan***

This semester, the Color Guard team was led by Cadet Henry Feldhaus & myself, both juniors in the MS-III class. Together, we have led Color Guard teams through basketball and football games, swimming meets, the ROTC Hall of Fame induction ceremony and many other events around the community. The Color Guard has also been involved in tri-service events for football games and veteran's day ceremonies. Over the semester, the club has had the privilege and honor of representing the Army ROTC program to the public. MSG Collier, the cadre sponsor for the Color Guard, has provided guidance and assisted with every event ensuring that the team performs to standard and doctrine.

Serving on the Color Guard team means a great deal to me as the flag represents so much for our nation. When we carry the colors, it is amazing to see the response that we get from the public. During parades, people will take off their hats, put their hands over their hearts, or in some cases, clap and cheer as the colors go by. Seeing the response the crowd gave to the colors was very inspiring.

When walking with the colors, the American flag occasionally falls in front of my eyes, as was true for the tri-service football game. As I stood on the football field looking out across the crowd, the band playing the National Anthem, and the crowd singing along, I felt a great sense of American pride. Through one eye I was seeing the people of the nation that I love so much, and the only thing that I could see through my other eye was the bright red and the pure white of the stripes of the American Flag. It filled me with a deep feeling of nostalgia, as I remember why Memorial Stadium was built, to honor those who served in World War I to preserve our freedom.

To carry the colors in a Color Guard event is a great honor and I am very grateful for every event we participated in. That moment on the football field, the 2nd of November, will forever be etched in my mind as I think about why I want to serve my country and what the flag means to me. The Color Guard is looking forward to a great semester next year as we finish a wonderful fall semester.



The Color Guard leading the Marching Illini to Memorial Stadium on game day.



The Tri-Service Color Guard marches at the Salute to Veterans football game.

Cadet Spotlights

Push-up Crew: The Fighting Illini Push to Victory!

By Cadet Baylie Mabbett

Throughout the fall semester, I had the privilege of being captain of our Battalion's Push-Up Crew. The Push-Up Crew is responsible for attending every home football game and doing push-ups every time the University of Illinois' Football Team scores, doing as many push-ups as there are UIUC points on the scoreboard. Due to the successful season of the Fighting Illini this fall, we had a very fulfilling and exciting time as members of the Push-up Crew. Many of the events that added to the experience included T-shirt Crew, Dad's Weekend, and the Oath Ceremony.

T-shirt Crew was a new addition to Push-up Crew this year. Our recruiting team graciously donated ROTC shirts from the "swag room" on a weekly basis for us to throw out at the games. We acquired two sling shots in order to launch the shirts farther into the crowd and to encourage fans to cheer louder. Major Daniel Johnson and Major Jennifer Soderlind were also a big help regarding the T-shirt launching. We held a practice before the first football game in order to see how far we could launch the shirts. Major Johnson and Major Soderlind stood in the stands while we practiced our precision and accuracy. We had a lot of fun with it and got many videos for the Instagram page. The fans ended up loving the t-shirts and always went crazy when they saw us run out to launch shirts, especially when the Fighting Illini were winning and doing well.

Dad's Weekend is always a fun event for Push-up Crew. A lot of the dads love football, so standing on the field with us while watching the game is always a great experience for them. I know my dad loves the Bears, so the fact that he got to see Lovie Smith in action meant a lot to him as well! Fortunately for the dads, Dad's Weekend coincided with our oath ceremony. The oath ceremony is our annual tradition of swearing into the Army on the football field. The Push-up Crew, including myself, got to swear in on the field with their dads watching from the end zone. Events like these carry immense significance to our Cadets and their families. I am excited to see the future success of Push-up Crew as well as our beloved Fighting Illini Football Team!



The Push-up Crew waiting for the game to begin!



The Cadets executing push-ups after the Fighting Illini Football team scores.



Our team launches T-Shirts into the crowd of fans!



Fighting Illini Battalion

Cadet Orientation Program



From August 21-24, 2019, the incoming Cadets to the Fighting Illini Battalion participated in the Cadet Orientation Program (COP), a 4-day event that welcomes them into the Battalion. On Day 1, these Cadets moved into their dorms with the help of upperclassmen Cadets, completed administrative paperwork, and bonded with their peers. Day 2 consisted of learning the prep drills for physical training and a series of classes to include rank structure and the Army Values. On Day 3, the Cadets took an assessment physical fitness test. To conclude COP, the new Cadets conducted a series of exercises like air rifle shooting, Humvee pulls, moving across a one-rope bridge, and learned basic drill and ceremony.



The upperclassmen Fighting Illini Cadets are ready to meet the new members of the Battalion!



The new Cadets are taught how to properly conduct preparatory drills



Cadets Samuel Roh, Maddy Szamocki, and Annika Koester aim their air rifles down range



Fighting Illini Battalion

Town Hall Lab



On August 29, 2019, The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted their annual town-hall lab at Gregory Hall to welcome Cadets back to campus. Cadets learned their Cadet chain of command and were introduced to the planned training for the semester. Additionally, newly contracted cadets were recognized for taking the oath to serve their country by receiving their new Fighting Illini Battalion unit patch. This served as the starting point for the semester in the continued development of the Fighting Illini Battalion team. It brought Cadets together to meet their peers and align their personal goals with their fellow Cadets that they will be working with throughout the semester.



Cadets listen diligently to the upperclassmen during the Town Hall lab



As the Cadet Battalion Commander, CDT Timothy Wallace summarizes his vision to the Battalion



Newly contracted Cadets wear with pride their Illini patch on their right shoulder



Fighting Illini Battalion



Land Navigation Lab 1

On September 5, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted the first part of the land navigation lab. MS-I and MS-II Cadets were taught basic skills, such as reading a military map, shooting azimuths using a compass, and how to plot points. The MS-III Cadets assessed their own navigation skills by finding 3 points in 80 minutes at the University of Illinois Arboretum. This is a critical skill for them at next summer’s Advanced Camp. Both portions of the lab were designed to lay the foundation of basic Soldiering skills that all future Army Officers must master prior to commissioning.



Cadet Jazmin House reverifies her azimuth using her compass at the land navigation lab



Cadets Steven Irace and Donald Argueta plot their points on their map



Cadets Sean Palmer, Steve Skeels, and Billy Dremel watch Cadet Austin Kim demonstrate using a compass



Fighting Illini Battalion

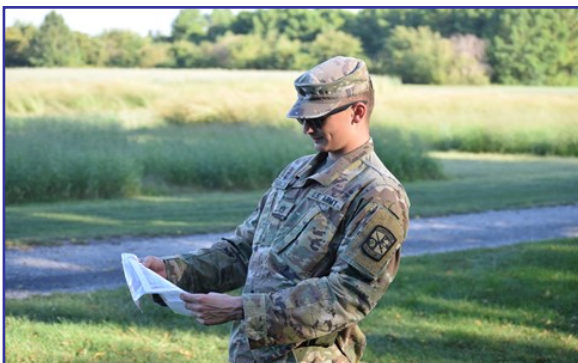


Land Navigation Lab 2

On September 9, 2019, the Cadet Battalion conducted the second part of the land navigation lab at the Arboretum. The objective for all Cadets was to find as many of their given points as possible using only a map, compass, and protractor. The MS-I and MS-II Cadets conducted a practical exercise for the first time and were paired together in groups to find three points. The MS-III Cadets worked individually to find five points in an hour or less in order to prepare themselves for Advanced Camp this coming summer. All Cadets successfully found at least one point.



Cadets Joseph Lim and Sophia Soltwedel work together to find their next point



Cadet David Pabianczyk pauses and double checks to make sure he is walking in the right direction



Cadets Jacob Fuss, Michael Nelson, and Kyle Kallberg have found one of their points



Fighting Illini Battalion



Tactical Combat Casualty Care

On September 19, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted an introductory course on Tactical Combat Casualty Care. The Cadets were educated on the three phases of this critical care at the University of Illinois Armory. The three phases are care under fire, tactical field care, and tactical evacuation care. The Cadets learned the importance of knowing these basic soldier tasks to help lead their soldiers and excel in this skill at next summer's Advanced Camp. Knowing these key tasks may in the future save a soldier's life and provide each Cadet more confidence should he or she face a casualty situation.



Cadet Molly Hein teaches the MS-I and MS-II Cadets a class on Care Under Fire



Cadet Lindsay Graham wraps the pressure bandage around Cadet JonBenet Gonzaga's arm



Cadet Tim Wallace gives Cadet Eric Lee useful tips on how to correctly treat a casualty



Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise Day 1

The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted the three day Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) from September 27-29, 2019 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. During Day 1, Cadets went through a series of obstacles in the Confidence Course as well as the Leader's Reaction Course (LRC). The focus of the LRC was allowing Cadets to practice working under pressure, experience stress in a leadership position, as well as creating an environment where they had to rely on teamwork and motivation to accomplish the tasks. The Confidence Course physically and mentally challenged Cadets, and this training helped the Ranger Challenge teams prepare for their upcoming competition.



Cadet Joy Kim maneuvers herself throughout the "Weaver," one of the most challenging obstacles



Cadet Gabriel Frausto briefs his initial plan to his squad after receiving his mission from the evaluator



Cadet Andres Ocon and his team work together to get across one of the LRC obstacles



Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise Day 2

September 28, 2019, was the second day of the Fighting Illini Battalion's Fall Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury. Cadets conducted land navigation with MS-I Cadets working in groups to learn the basic skills with an MS-IV supervisor. MS-II Cadet's worked in pairs or individually, and MSIII Cadet's working alone. Afterwards, Cadets went through a series of classes to introduce the individual movement techniques (IMTs), tactical movement formations and techniques, and duties of specialty teams. The skills they learn in these classes will become useful when they conduct tactical labs in the future.



Cadets practice searching an enemy prisoner of war



Cadets practice performing a high crawl during their IMT class



Cadet Cullen O'Connor supervises a group of MS-I Cadets as they work to find their point during land navigation

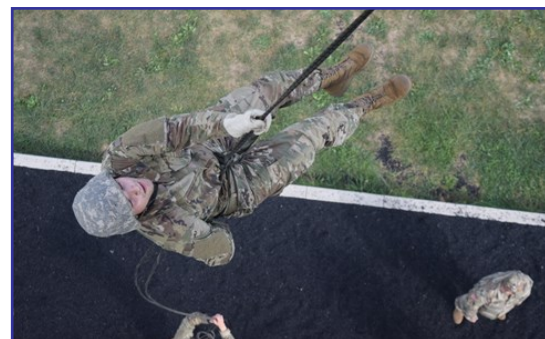


Fighting Illini Battalion



Fall Field Training Exercise Day 3

On September 29, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion concluded the Fall Field Training Exercise at Camp Atterbury. Cadets first learned how to tie swiss seats from the Soldiers from the 4th BN, 399th Regiment (ROTC). They then rappelled off the slanted wall to gain confidence before moving to the vertical wall. Eventually all Cadets worked their way up to the free ropes. At the conclusion, prior to departing back to campus, an award ceremony was held where several Cadets were recognized for their outstanding efforts in executing the Fall FTX. The Battalion received excellent training this weekend.



Cadet Jacob Fuss rappels down the free ropes off the tower



Cadet Steve Skeels has his swiss seat checked by a fellow Cadet, ensuring it was tied correctly



Major Daniel Johnson congratulates Cadet Sophia Soltwedel for excellence throughout the FTX



Fighting Illini Battalion



Primary Marksmanship Instruction Lab

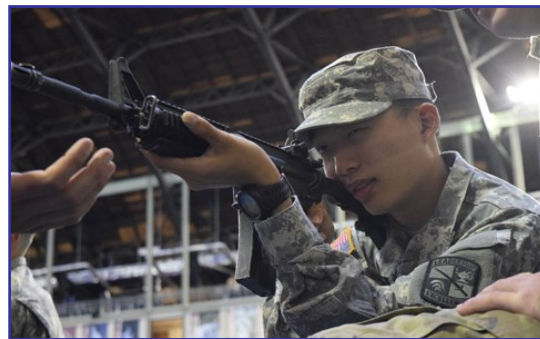
On October 3, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted the Primary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) lab in order to better understand the basic utilization of the M4 Carbine Rifle. The MS-III Cadets taught the MS-I and MS-II Cadets various fundamentals such as weapons safety, weapons familiarization, remedial action, and breathing/trigger squeeze fundamentals. This was an important lab to prepare Cadets for shooting at ranges in the future, especially the MS-III Cadets as they prepare for their upcoming Advanced Camp in the coming summer.



Cadet Brian Yeom practices weapons safety by learning how to clear a rifle



Cadet Ben Kofman shows underclassman Cadets the importance of having good sight picture



Cadet Joseph Lee works on his shooting fundamentals by balancing a penny on the muzzle of the rifle



Fighting Illini Battalion



Intro to Terrain Models/Basic Lanes

Often during the semester, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducts a split lab. On October 10, 2019, the MS-I and MS-II Cadets conducted an assessment at the Arboretum on their capabilities to execute individual movement techniques (IMTs), provide tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), participate on specialty teams, and understand basic land navigation. At the Armory, the MS-III Cadets learned how to brief tactical missions using the troop leading procedures (TLPs) and terrain model kits (TMKs). This was an important lab to prepare Cadets for future labs, prepare them for Advanced Camp and enhance their basic soldiering skills.



After receiving the mission, Cadet Jacob Jung briefs his Squad Leaders his initial plan



Cadet Eugene Ro teaches the MS-III class how to use a TMK when briefing a tactical mission.



The MS-I and MS-II Cadets in Bravo Company carry casualties on medical litters



Fighting Illini Battalion

Drill and Ceremony Lab



The Fighting Illini Battalion Cadets conducted the Drill and Ceremony (D&C) lab on October 17, 2019. The MS-I and MS-II Cadets were first instructed on the fundamentals of marching in formation by their MS-III platoon-level leadership. This allowed the MS-III class to practice their command presence and teaching style. They were then required to execute fundamental commands and their platoons were evaluated by MS-IV observer-controllers. Finally, all the Cadets conducted a run-through of marching in a battalion formation for the homecoming parade they would participate in the next day.



Cadet Ezequiel Barraza teaches his Platoon the basics of military marching



Cadet Ben Kofman practices his commands to order his Platoon right before marching



Cadet Keegan O'Donnell practices calling cadences to the Company



Fighting Illini Battalion

Open House



Each semester the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted an Open House event. This semester's Open House was held on October 24, 2019. This hands-on event occurs on the University Main Quad that provides university students the opportunity to learn about the many opportunities available through Army ROTC and the U.S. Army. Cadets engaged in communicating with students on their way to class and invited them to try one or more of our challenging events like the Inflatable Obstacle Course, crossing the One Rope Bridge, attempting the Physical Fitness Challenge, learning how to throw a grenade or get a photo taken in military gear. This event gives us an opportunity to increase our presence on campus.



SGT Joshua Smith answers questions about the Illinois Army National Guard



Cadets Donovan Spann and Ryan Kim help people traverse the one-rope bridge



Cadet Baylie Mabbett poses with a potential future Cadet on an Army HMMWV



Fighting Illini Battalion

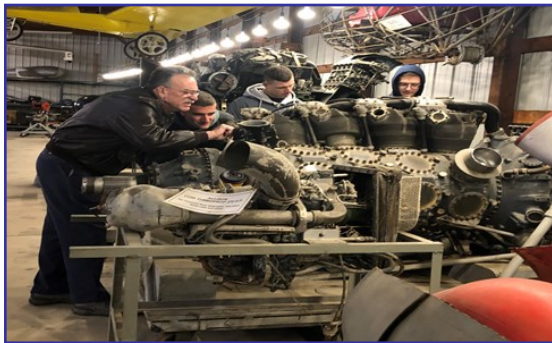


Frasca Air Museum

On October 31, 2019, several Cadets of the Fighting Illini Battalion visited the Frasca Air Museum in Urbana, IL. They had the opportunity of touring the museum and learning about the aircraft that was utilized in World War I and II. Throughout the tour, Cadets were able to freely look at the aircraft and ask questions in order to expand their knowledge on how each airplane was used. Tom Frasca led the tour and discussed the mechanics behind key features in all the planes. The Cadets gained a greater understanding of their past and the machines that helped to make our country what it is today.



Tom Frasca shows the Cadets key features of each specific aircraft during the tour



Cadets Nathan Ruxlow, Cullen O'Connor, and Tim Wallace look at an Allison C250 Engine



The curious MS-IV Cadets learn about the mechanical function behind an early jet engine



Fighting Illini Battalion



Salute to Veterans

November 2, 2019, was a special day for the Fighting Illini Cadet Battalion as the UIUC Football Team hosted their annual Military Appreciation Day during the game against Rutgers University at Memorial Stadium. The Cadets tailgated with the Chez Veteran's Center, the U.S. Army Reserves and the Illinois Army National Guard prior to the game. Once the game started, the recently contracted Cadets took their Loyalty Oath during one of the game's timeout in front of over 50,000 people. They received a standing ovation for their service to the country. The majority of Cadets were heavily involved throughout the day by supporting the Push-Up Crew, Color Guard, guarding the chair honoring our POWs/MIAs, and running a concession stand.



The Tri-Service Color Guard march off the field after presenting the colors during the National Anthem



SGT Joshua Smith joins Cadets Neel Khattri and Jacob Swiney for a game of Cornhole (Bags)



MAJ Johnson administers the Oath to the recently contracted Cadets at Memorial Stadium



Fighting Illini Battalion



OPORD Briefing/Battle Drills

On November 7, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted a split lab between the underclassmen and upperclassmen Cadets. The MS-I and MS-II Cadets were given a series of introductory classes on battle drills like Squad Attack, React to Contact, Break Contact, and React to Ambush. This establishes the foundation of tactics they need to know for future labs. The MS-III Cadets conducted their first Operations Order (OPORD) briefing, utilizing their own terrain model kits (TMKs) to construct a terrain model. They will continue practice briefing missions throughout the year in order to prepare them for Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Cadet Baylie Mabbet carefully inspects her terrain model, ensuring she is not missing any details



Cadet Cullen O'Connor teaches the MS-I and MS-II class the fundamentals of a React to Contact



Cadets Maritza Palafox, Tim Easton, and Tucker Petersen demonstrate assaulting through an objective



Fighting Illini Battalion



Patrol Base Lab

The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted the Patrol Base Lab on November 14, 2019 in order to improve the MS-III Cadets' tactical and leadership skills in employing patrol bases. The MS-III Cadets reviewed the key requirements in establishing a patrol base before executing lanes. Each Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant formulated a plan to execute their mission. After two iterations that included changes in leadership, the Cadets had a better understanding of what is expected at Summer Training according to doctrine and Ranger Handbook standards. While this training occurred, the MS-I and MS-II Cadets received introductory classroom instruction on Patrol Bases at the Army.



Cadet Tim Easton gives the MS-III class a quick refresher class prior to the practical exercise



The headquarters element gathers in the middle of the objective rally point



Cadet Henry Feldhaus pulls security while the patrol base is being set up



Fighting Illini Battalion



Senior Branch Night

On November 13, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion held a Branch Night for the first time ever, where the MS-IV Cadets who are commissioning this school year found out the branches they would serve in during their Army careers. Each MS-IV Cadet received an envelope containing their branch insignia and were able to open their envelopes after a long 20-second countdown. All the Seniors earned one of their top two branch choices. The Cadets celebrated this milestone with their peers, family, and friends, making this day very memorable. All the Cadets worked incredibly hard the past few years and are motivated to serve as junior officers in the Army after graduation.



Cadets Cullen O'Connor, Maritza Palafox, and Molly Hein react ecstatically as they find out their branches



The Senior Cadets share their excitement with each other



The MS-IV class gets together for a group photo, proudly showing off the Army branch they received



Fighting Illini Battalion



Army – Air Force Basketball Game

On November 15, 2019, the Cadets of the Army and Air Force ROTC came together and competed against each other in a game of basketball at the University Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) to determine which program had better athletes. Although it was a close game, the Fighting Illini Cadets prevailed against the Air Force Cadets 42-36. The players had a great time being on the court, and the supporters brought a lot of spirit and energy to the game. UIUC is unique in the fact that all military branches are offered and this game helped demonstrate the pride all Cadets had in their respective programs while bringing the two ROTC programs closer through friendly competition.



The Army and Air Force basketball players get together for a group photo after the game



Cadet Austin Kim quickly drives toward the basket, keeping the ball away from an Air Force Cadet



When the game ended, it was obvious that the defense of the Fighting Illini Army Cadets sealed the victory



Fighting Illini Battalion

Room Clearing/Platoon Sergeant Role



The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted a split lab on November 21, 2019 between the MS-I/MS-II class and the MS-III class. The younger Cadets conducted exercises on room clearing in order to introduce them to more advanced battle drills and expand their small-unit tactical knowledge. Concurrently, the MS-III Cadets were taught the duties and responsibilities of a Platoon Sergeant. Being successful at future labs, field training exercises (FTXs), and Advanced Camp will require them to understand the garrison and tactical duties and roles of an outstanding Platoon Sergeant.



Cadet Maritza Palafox instructs the MS-III Cadets on the Platoon Sergeant's duties in a patrol base



Cadets Jacob Swiney, Jacob Fuss, and Noah Chon practice clearing a room



Cadets Noah Hayward, Mary Pelzer, Maddy Szamocki, and Ali Buriemek are ready to clear a room



Fighting Illini Battalion

End of Semester Award Ceremony



The Illini Cadets are well-rounded students, making achievements both inside and outside of ROTC. On December 5, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion hosted an award ceremony to recognize Cadets for their accomplishments this semester. They were awarded for excelling in their ROTC and academic classes, doing well on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), as well as contributing to the Battalion by volunteering for events like supporting concessions stands at the home football games. These Cadets earned ribbons that they can wear on their Army Service Uniforms (ASUs) for the remainder of their time in ROTC and received certificates recognizing their outstanding performance.



These Cadets are recognized for their outstanding Army Physical Fitness Test scores



Cadet Tim Wallace awards Cadet Baylie Mabbet for her academic achievement in her ROTC class



Cadets line up to be awarded for their dedication and commitment to the Battalion through volunteering



Fighting Illini Battalion



German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

On November 22, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion sent ten Cadets to Western Illinois University to compete for a chance to earn the prestigious German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB). This has become an annual pilgrimage of sorts that the Cadets look forward to. This two-day competition presented a challenge for all Cadets as the GAFPB is only awarded to those candidates that can complete all eight events to standard. The events the Cadets had to navigate were a timed 100-meter swim in uniform, First Aid Test, NBC MOPP Test, Pistol Qualification, Road March, and the Basic Fitness Test consisting of a 11x10-meter sprint test, chin-up test, and 1000-meter run. We are proud to say that all ten Cadets earned the GAFPB with five Golds, three Silvers, and two Bronze. It was an intense but rewarding two days for the Cadets that competed!



Cadet Terrell Baker receives his GAFPB Certificate and Badge at the end of the competition



Cadets Joseph Lim and Donald Argueta proudly display their Gold GAFPB Badges



The UIUC GAFPB Team: Cadets Wyatt Martens, Joseph Lim, Donald Argueta, Ryan Kim, Steve Irace, Eugene Ro, Donovan Spann, Gabe Cross, Terrell Baker, and Neel Khattri



Fighting Illini Battalion



Joint Dining Out

On December 6, 2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion and Air Force ROTC Detachment 190 hosted the third annual Joint Dining Out. This event allows the Cadets the opportunity to experience some of the military protocols and formal traditions. The sequence of events included a receiving line with the honored guests, a toasting ceremony, highlight videos of both the Army and Air Force ROTC events this semester, remarks from Colonel (Retired) Mark Race, a delicious dinner, and a cake-cutting ceremony. Cadets, Cadre, and all the guests were able to join together to foster esprit de corps and build camaraderie while celebrating their semester achievements.



Cadet Macy Nanda with her date, Josh Blyskal, and Cadet Andersen Lewellyan pose for a photo together



Cadet Terrell Baker and his date, Olivia Draminski, participate in the toast ceremony



MS-1 Instructor, MAJ(Ret.) Gene Richards, Cadet Cole Thompson and Cadet Brian Ziech converse during Social Time

Alumni Update

New Scholarship Available to Fighting Illini Cadets

By Mr. Eric Ashworth

The former Cadets from the Class of 1970 are celebrating their 50th reunion this summer and thanks to the fund raising efforts of Steve Schrenzel, they have created an endowment through the University of Illinois Foundation that funds a scholarship to support the education of a current Fighting Illini Cadet. This scholarship will be awarded annually during the Military Education Council's Honor's Day Ceremony and will provide funding starting the following semester. The recipient must be a member of the current Cadet Battalion who has not been awarded a four-year scholarship already.

Long-time readers of the MILLINI know how grateful the current cadre is of our alumni who support the Cadets financially with funding. This is the only way our Cadets continue to participate in any of the events that are not supported by U.S. Army funding. So your donations are appreciated and many of the achievements the Cadets earned this semester and you read about in this publication can be contributed to your generosity. The Class of 1970 Scholarship is the newest means to support our Cadets.

Since this scholarship has been created as an endowment, this perpetual scholarship can continue to grow. If you wish to assist in increasing the award amount of the Class of 1970 Army ROTC Scholarship, you may do so through the University of Illinois Foundation. It is listed on their website as the **Army ROTC Scholarship Fund** (11776233). Of course our other two endowments, the **Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund** (11774561) or the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund** (11330418) are supporting the Cadets as well. We wish to thank all of you that have supported these endowments as well!



Newly promoted LTC Scott Preusker and Major Jake Hughes proudly display the Fighting Illini Colors in front of the Washington Monument

In other alumni news, we are always proud of members of the Fighting Illini Cadet Battalion that have commissioned and serve our country through their military or civilian professions. In this edition, we want to recognize the promotion of Scott Preusker to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was commissioned from the UIUC Army ROTC Program in December 2002 after earning his master's degree here. LTC Preusker has served in numerous positions and locations throughout his career. He is currently assigned and supporting the Army Staff in Washington, DC. During his promotion, he had fellow Illini, Major Jake Hughes, serve as emcee for his promotion. Now sure it can get better than that. Congratulations Scott and thanks Jake for the assist!

If you are aware of fellow alumni that have accomplished a major milestone, we would like to recognize it in a future MILLINI edition. Please send a brief description of the event and a photo (if possible) to Mr. Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu & CPT Mike Drabowicz at md34@illinois.edu. Thank you.

Hall of Fame Update

The Fighting Illini Welcomes the Newest Members of the Hall of Fame

By Mr. Eric Ashworth

The Cadet Battalion would like to introduce our three newest members to the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Hall of Fame. On December 6, 2019, three of five candidates nominated were inducted in a two-part ceremony. It was an exciting day for the Cadets as they heard first-hand accounts on what the Cadet Battalion was like in earlier times and they heard the accomplishments of a few key leaders that started their careers as University of Illinois ROTC Cadets.

The Fifth Induction Ceremony included **Brigadier General Charles G. Kemper IV** who commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1995 after graduation from the University of Illinois. His distinguished career included numerous command and staff assignments in the Minnesota Army National Guard. BG Kemper is currently the Deputy Commanding General for Support to the 34th Infantry Division Forward, supporting Operation SPARTAN SHIELD in Kuwait. His career includes four deployments to Kosovo (Operation JOINT GUARDIAN) and Kuwait (Operation NEW DAWN). In the civilian sector, he has served in several engineering roles since he left active duty. These positions include Program Manager and a Director of Design Assurance for Boston Scientific and a Director of Post Market Quality Assurance for Global Complaint Investigation Sites. BG Kemper is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Mark Alessia was the second inductee and he commissioned as an Infantry Officer into the Illinois Army National Guard in 1996 after graduation from the University of Illinois. He has served with distinction for over 27 years in numerous command and staff assignments in the Infantry, Chemical and Adjutant General branches. His latest command was the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and he currently serves as the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard. He has deployed to support Operation DESERT SPRING (Kuwait) in 2000, Operation SANTA FE (Germany) in 2002, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan) in 2009. COL Alessia also taught middle school history and mathematics until he entered the Active Guard and Reserve Program in 2003. Colonel Alessia earned a Master's Degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University and is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Sadly our third inductee, **Mr. Charles E. Finn** passed away a year prior to our ceremony and was not present to receive his award. However, a good family friend, Mr. Lou Liay was present and spoke of many of Mr. Finn's accomplishments. Mr. Finn commissioned in 1955 and served at Fort Bliss, TX in an Advanced Antiaircraft Battalion. He left active duty in 1958 and returned to Illinois where served in a reserve Combat Support Company until he ended his military career in 1963. Afterwards, Charles Finn enjoyed a long career in the furniture industry starting in the family business of Finn Furniture and Kroehler Furniture Company. In 1982, Mr. Finn accepted the Vice President position at Flexsteel Industries before becoming a partner of the Professional Furniture Marketing Corporation until he retired in 2009. Mr. Finn was a strong supporter of the University of Illinois, being members of the President's Council of the U of I Foundation, the Business Activity Council and the Chairman of the College of Business. He was the historian and later playwright of "The Galloping Ghost," a life story of Red Grange.

As you read, we had some great candidates for this year's induction ceremony. We will start to accept new nominations if you wish to sponsor an alumnus of our program. The next nomination review board will occur in September-October 2021. Due to space considerations we have not included an application form in this edition but please contact us at arotc@illinois.edu and we can send you an application.

On another note, as you can see from the photo to the right, our Hall of Fame wall in the Armory Building has run out of space. Obtaining additional wall space is looking less likely so we are in the process of collecting donations for a touch-screen display that visitors can read the biographies of all of our awardees, not just the ones currently hanging on the wall. This purchase is more expensive than our budget allows so if this is something you wish to assist us with, please consider donating to the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund** (11330418). Thanks for your support. Please address question on any of these topics to arotc@illinois.edu.



New members, BG Charles Kemper and COL Mark Alessia join existing members LTC (R) Christine Wolfram and COL (R) Deborah Read in front of the Armory Hall of Fame wall



Staying in Touch with The Fighting Illini Battalion

University of Illinois
Foundation
Recruiting, Donations
Visits, Expertise

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 17-22 August 2020, we will welcome the newest members in the Fighting Illini Battalion as new cadets attend the Cadet Orientation Program. This three day orientation provides our new Cadets with a better understanding of what occurs in their Army ROTC classes and labs. During this same time, MS-IV cadets will learn how to operate as a battalion staff and the MS-III cadets will receive instruction on leadership at the platoon and squad levels of command. Each year, guest speakers assist by providing personal experiences to the cadets.
- Alumni Mentor. All of our MS-IV Cadets have received their component and branch choices by now and there is now the opportunity to connect with and mentor a current Fighting Illini Cadet as they prepare for their transition into the Army. Alumni are an incredible resource as your experience can assist them understand what to expect.
- 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 and the time you are available so that we can coordinate for you to be a guest speaker in one or more of our classes.
- Career Highlights. Alumni sharing their career highlights has a powerful impact on our Cadets as they see the phenomenal opportunities and experiences a career in our Army may lead to.

For more information on any of these support opportunities, please contact CPT Mike Drabowicz or Mr. Eric Ashworth (contact info below).

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THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



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