

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. If interested in purchasing any of these items, fill out an order form at the following website: https://stores.inksoft.com/army_rotc/shop/home. You will pay and 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 (see page 31). If you have questions about any of these items, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu.

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MS-III cadets pose for a picture after a successful lab!



The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion
Forging Strong Leaders Since 1868
 Army ROTC: (217) 244-1407 arotc@illinois.edu Armory, Room 113



ARMY ROTC

Message from the Professor of Military Science

by LTC Randall Smith

This is my final time to address you as the Professor of Military Science for the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion. These past three years flew by in the blink of an eye. Trying to keep up with our motivated cadets, much less lead them, makes moments of reflection a fleeting thing.

Our cadets had another great semester. We conducted a team staff ride to the Tippecanoe Battlefield and team Field Training Exercise (FTX) with the cadets from Eastern Illinois University. Watching our senior cadets plan and execute a highly successful four-day FTX for over 100 cadets confirmed the level of excellence we are providing the Army in regard to future leaders. They executed day and night land navigation, weapon's qualification, road marches, and platoon tactical operations training our cadets to succeed at Advanced Camp this summer. I hope you enjoy reading about these and all the other great training events in this edition of the MILLINI.



Our semester culminated with a Dining-In building esprit de corps and instilling Army traditions. Alumnus Colonel Mark Alessia provided motivating words to the cadets. We also celebrated cadet excellence at the Tri-Service Honors Day ceremony where alumnus Colonel (retired) Scott McBride spoke to the cadets and midshipmen. Most importantly, we continued our mission here by commissioning eleven new lieutenants. Congratulations to 2LT Jonathan Becker, 2LT Benjamin Guo, 2LT Michael Hill, 2LT Jordan Holm, 2LT Dylon Hopp, 2LT Madison Jolley, 2LT Jarrett Kapusta, 2LT Daniel LaSota, 2LT Andrew Lee, 2LT Alex Rachesky and 2LT Patrick Reynolds. We know they will do great things for our country and leading Soldiers.

Unfortunately, we have to say farewell to a lot of our team this year. Newly promoted Master Sergeant Leon heads to Fort Bliss to become a First Sergeant. Captain Nathan Elkins is heading to Fort Leavenworth after the Army selected him for promotion to Major and attendance at the resident Command and General Staff College program. Lieutenant Colonel J.J. Willis departed and took command of a battalion in May and is currently deployed to Korea. Their achievements speak to the quality of cadre we have in ROTC. Master Sergeant Bruce Hutcherson retires this summer after a highly successful 26+ year career. I want to thank him for his years of service leading Soldiers in garrison and combat as well as his three years here mentoring cadre and cadets.

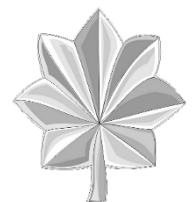
I would like to close by thanking you all for your support to our battalion. Our friends and alumni are a critical reason this organization continues to get better every day. The numerous contributions you make in various forms make real impacts on the quality of leaders we produce here. Major Daniel Johnson will be taking the reins this summer. I know with your continued support he will ensure our great tradition of "Forging Leaders Since 1868 and Beyond" is maintained!

ILLINI!



LTC Randall Smith retires this Summer from the US Army after 26 years of service as a Soldier, NCO, and Officer. Best wishes, Sir!

Front Cover: UIUC cadets react to contact during Spring FTX at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.



Message from the Senior Military Instructor

by MSG Bruce Hutcherson

As the outgoing SMSI (Senior Military Science Instructor), I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the cadets for their hard work and dedication to the program over the past three years. I feel fortunate that I've been part of The Fighting Illini Battalion. The Battalion has set a blistering pace not only academically, but with tough, new, realistic training developed by both cadre and cadets. The standards have been set high in the Illini Battalion and I know without a doubt that our outstanding cadets will push those standards to a higher level next semester.

There have been dozens of different events that have taken place during my tenure here in the Battalion, and I do want to highlight some of them. Physical Fitness training is a vital part of being a total Army Soldier. There will be times in your Army career where how much you know won't outweigh how much you can do. Without the stamina, physicality, and mental conditioning to execute a task, you may not be able to fulfill your duties as a leader in our Army. Many cadets volunteered their own time and energy to participate in Color Guard, Rifle Team, Ranger Challenge, Ruck and other clubs to superbly represent the Battalion and the United States.

Before the start of our spring semester, our Battalion was recognized with several awards. The one that I'll remember the most was being the "Most Improved Program" in 3rd Brigade. This is in large part due to the hard work, dedication, a sense of pride, team work, and a strong desire to be a learning organization that gets better ever day. Let's keep the trend going for another 150 years!

Congratulations to the newest lieutenants in the Army. To our seniors coming back in the fall, you're about to embark on a journey that will take you closer to graduation and commissioning that will be challenging and rewarding, but that is just the beginning. You are about to be entrusted with this nation's sons and daughters, so remember, never be afraid to make a tough decision. The Platoon Sergeant/NCOIC and other senior NCOs will be there to help guide you in the right direction. Juniors, continue to prepare for Advanced Camp and stay focused on the task at hand. Learn all you can about all the different areas of the Army experience. Sophomores, continue to train and work hard, because you will be the next leaders which will define the standards of the Battalion. I encourage you to continue to learn all the tasks that will make you successful and develop your leadership skills. Remember you always have the 21st Century Soldier Competencies as a guide. So, farewell, and as I used to say in my Air Assault units, "I'll see you on the ground, one way or another."

MSG Bruce Hutcherson Jr. – signing out off the net.



ARMY ROTC

MSG Hutcherson retires from the US Army after 26 years of dedicated and honorable service to the country. We wish him well and thank him for his time in the Fighting Illini Battalion!



Message from the Incoming Professor of Military Science

by MAJ Daniel Johnson

Greetings to the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion and its Alumni. It is a privilege to serve as the next Professor of Military Science in one of the most historic and esteemed ROTC programs in the Nation.

I arrived on the University of Illinois campus in mid-June. My last duty assignment was with the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division on Fort Stewart. I would like to give a special thanks to LTC Randall Smith and the ROTC cadre whose professionalism made the transition flawless.

The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion is having an eventful and demanding summer. Several Cadets are participating in Cadet Basic Camp, Cadet Advanced Camp, internships, and Air Assault School. I cannot wait to hear the interesting and unique Cadet stories from this summer.

To the alumni, all the cadets, and cadre of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion, thank you for your continued support. It is evident that this program would not be as successful as it is today without remarkable alumni. I look forward to meeting many of you during some of our Battalion events, including the Dining-Out and the ROTC Hall of Fame Induction. For those looking at their long range calendars, our Fall Dining-Out and the next Hall of Fame induction ceremony are scheduled for December 6, 2019. We are also in the beginning stages of coordinating a “Tailgate Social” at the Salute to Veterans Football Game on November 2, 2019. I hope you would consider coming to these events as the cadets gain from interacting from you. Of course, if you are ever on campus, I encourage you to stop by the Armory and see how things have changed since you walked these halls.

I can't say how excited I am to start the fall semester and hear of all the great training opportunities our cadets have participated over the summer. It is truly an honor to join the ranks of this prestigious ROTC program. With pride in its legacy and fervor for the mission, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion will continue to develop extraordinary leaders at this prodigious University.



The Fighting Illini Battalion after Spring FTX at Camp Atterbury, Indiana



MS-I Class Update

Another Great Year!

By MAJ (Ret.) Gene Richards, MS-I Instructor

First, let me say that I continue to be extremely proud to be a member of the Fighting Illini Battalion cadre, as an Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS) and MS-I Instructor here at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Since coming on board in September of 2017, there hasn't been a dull moment and our cadets continue to impress year-after-year with the 2018-19 school year being no exception.

This year's freshman MS-I class ended with thirty-seven cadets and I'm sure that the experiences they've gained will not soon be forgotten. Beginning with the Cadet Orientation Program (COP) that starts a week prior to the first class of the fall semester, to the physical training sessions, weekly labs, field training exercises (FTXs) at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, to the two class sessions we had each week, and the Dining-In and Dining-Out we've held, all are filled with potentially great memories. Regardless of whether these cadets continue on to military service, many of the relationships they've built here this year will become life-long friends.

One thing unique to the MS-I class here at UIUC is the Hazelton Award. This annual competition has occurred within the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Army ROTC Department since June 1889. It was created by Mr. W. G. Hazelton, a former Captain in the 8th United States Cavalry and was originally awarded to the cadet who was judged the best "... while in full military uniform, be erect in carriage, neat and of good military appearance." Throughout the years, the criteria for this award have evolved from the best drilled to the best overall knowledge of a first-year cadet. It is certainly my pleasure to recognize this year's Hazelton Award winner, CDT Jacob Jung. With his outstanding performance this year and his absolutely unlimited potential, I expect great things from Cadet Jung in the years to come.

We had an excellent cohort of senior MS-IV cadets this year, who led the battalion throughout the year. Congratulations to the 11 new Second Lieutenants we commissioned this spring...well deserved! It is always a great honor to be asked to give the oath of office to someone and this year I commissioned 2LT Michael Hill, who was one of my MS-IV mentees this year. Our commissioned lieutenants give me confidence that the future of the U.S. Army is in good hands!



Cadet Jacob Jung poses with the Cadet Battalion Commander, Jonathan Becker, after earning the Hazelton Award at the Dining-In!



MS-I cadets work together during a practical exercise in Military Science Class 101.



MAJ (ret.) Gene Richards proudly congratulates 2LT Michael Hill on commissioning as an Armor officer!

MS-II Class Update

Invigorated by the Illini!

By MAJ Jennifer Soderlind, MS-II Instructor

When I applied for the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) assignment at the University of Illinois, I had a feeling I would like the job. It saved me from my three hours of commuting to Camp Lincoln in Springfield each day, I would get to be in a classroom again (I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Finance Basic Officer Leaders' Course instructor at Ft. Jackson back in 2011), and I loved the thought of being involved with ROTC. I went to a military academy for my undergraduate degree, and was always curious about ROTC – what college life was like for these “student/cadets,” and how their experience was different from mine. In the short eight months I have been with the Illini ROTC Battalion, I have learned so much more than I have taught, and it has been incredible.

I may be a bit biased, but I think the MS-II year is the most crucial in the cadet's timeline. This is where tough decisions are made – to continue as part of the ROTC Battalion and sign the contract to obligate you after graduation to the U.S. Army or not, to stand out among your peers and choose to lead subordinates or not, and to pursue a career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army...or not. Being a sounding board as these young men and women explore their options, learn about leadership and the importance of Army doctrine, grow and sharpen their military presence, and ultimately choose their journey, has been such a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

My first MS-II class offered a perfect introduction into the lives and challenges of our ROTC cadets, and I am so grateful to each of them! They taught each other by sharing experiences, being vulnerable and willing participants in class, laughed with one another and at me when I explored some new teaching techniques, and never turned down a competition! Highlights from the year included: our Army Task Easter Egg hunt, where they had to sing the Army Song for Colonel (ret) Ashworth, discuss the Principles of the Offense with Major (ret) Richards, and disassemble/assemble an M4 for MSG Jaime Leon; our Spring FTX where I began to see many of the students come out of their shells; and our courtroom debate exercise to discuss the Laws of Land Warfare! I truly enjoyed each lesson and event, and feel so appreciative for this first group.



Cadet Mabbett disassembles M4 rifle to earn an egg



Cadets Munoz and Eberly serenade Mr. Ashworth



MSII cadets working hard to prepare a “courtroom” debate on Laws of War

MS-II Class Update

Invigorated by the Illini! (Continued)

By MAJ Jennifer Soderlind, MS-II Instructor

Another group of people I was fortunate to spend a lot of time with this academic year were the fighting Illini female cadets. They are a force to be reckoned with, and I am inspired by each of them! 2LT Madison Jolley stood strong as the only female MS-IV, and commissioned this spring as a Distinguished Military Graduate. Gender does not define any of us, but it was great to offer a female Officer perspective that has not previously existed within the UIUC Battalion. We went to a show called “That’s What She Said” offered here on campus, where prominent women within the community shared stories of struggle, triumph, grief, and success. I think they truly enjoyed this experience: discussing the stories, crying, laughing, and getting to know each other outside of the ROTC setting. When I was asked to be featured on the website for my West Point classmates’ jewelry line, StellaValle, I knew I wanted to showcase a group of women who embodied the “warrior” spirit. The photoshoot ended up being a day of true empowerment; it allowed the women to see how beautiful they are as individuals and as a team, and I reminded them that they will always have a fierce group of supporters to navigate through challenges they face in ROTC, the Army, college, and life in general.

I have been so fortunate in my Army journey. I have had incredible assignments and roles, but I can confidently say that this one right here with the Fighting Illini cadets, is my favorite. I am beyond excited for what lies ahead, and cannot wait to welcome the newest MS-II class into Room 300 this fall.



Female cadets share a laugh during the Woman Warrior photoshoot for the StellaValle jewelry line



An outing to That’s What She Said show at the Virginia Theater

MS-III Class Update

MS-III Prepare for Advanced Camp ***By Captain Nathan Elkins, MS-III Instructor***

The greatest part of being the MS-III instructor for the past three years is that I have had the opportunity to modify and change how I prepare the MS-III cadets for advance camp. Last year's cadets gave me outstanding feedback based upon their personal preparedness and experiences at camp and combined with my experiences as a Platoon Tactics Officer and LTC Smith's observations as a Company Tactical Officer, we have really developed a curriculum that not only focuses on preparing the MS-III cadets for success at advance camp, but to be successful second lieutenants.

The biggest event for all cadets is advance camp! This year, the U.S. Army Cadet Command has increased advanced camp from 30 days to 37 days in order to incorporate more range time. They are adding additional days for marksmanship, grenade throwing, and live-fire buddy rushes. If that didn't stress out the MS-III cadets enough, camp is now worth 22 accessions points; 15 points for the overall rating, 6 points for the Army Physicals Fitness Test, and 1 additional point if they meet the RECONDO standards. A max score is still 100 points, so their rating at advance camp is a big chunk of their overall accessions score. The accessions process determines the cadet's component and branch that they will serve in.

Last semester we focused primarily on land navigation, small unit tactics, and marksmanship. For land navigation, we cover map reading, navigation skills, and route planning while conducting two land navigation labs and spending three Saturdays at Farmdale's land navigation course. With the small unit tactics we focus on learning the basics of how teams and squads operate in order to be prepared to learn platoon tactics. Marksmanship training is done locally in the Fall with the cadets attending the University of Illinois Police Training Institute's range. Here they learned what their battle sight zeroes was and they even practiced shooting a qualification range.



Cadet Jacob Beckmann shows off his groupings!



An Illini cadet takes aim on the rifle range at Camp Atterbury

MS-III Class Update

MS-III Cadets Prepare for Advanced Camp

By Captain Nathan Elkins, MS-III Instructor

This semester we primarily focused on platoon tactics, operations order (OPORD) briefings, and developing leadership skills with the field training exercise (FTX) at Camp Atterbury as the culminating event. The practical experience during labs allowed them to get a solid base on conducting platoon operations and tactics. This semester I set aside eight class periods for OPORD briefs. The cadets built sand tables and every Tuesday in class for eight weeks they would give an mission brief covering reconnaissance, raid, attack, ambush, and defense operations from scenarios similar to what they would see at Fort Knox.



Cadet Eddie Thomas man an M240B machine gun to defend his patrol base.

Prior to attending the Spring FTX we conducted a “super lab” at the Fire Mark Paintball facility in Dewey, Illinois. The MS-III cadets practiced receiving, planning, and executing missions. The Spring FTX focused on both day and night land navigation, group/zero and qualification on pop-up target ranges, and two days of tactics where they received, planned, and executed platoon missions.

Along with this increased focus on small unit tactics and battle skills, the MS-III cadets also grew a lot this year through their leadership positions within the Cadet Battalion. This year the PMS brought the First Sergeant position back as a MS-III cadet position. The responsibility of this position aided two previous MS-III cadets be successful at camp. We also reintroduced drill and ceremony as a Lab with the MS-III cadets performing all of the standard movement drills that are expected to control basic military formations.

This year’s MS-III cadets are highly motivated to learn. There will be 13 of them participating in the Cultural Understanding and Language Program (CULP) where they will travel to nine different countries to learn about foreign cultures. Two more are attending the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), and two others will participate in Army Internships. They are developing the foundation to become outstanding officers for our Army.

It has truly been a privilege to have been a part of the Fighting Illini Battalion as the MS-III Instructor. While it is hard to leave I am excited to be attending resident CGSC at Fort Leavenworth. I want to thank all of the Alumni who consistently provide the support the Cadets need to attend these training opportunities. Our success couldn’t happen without you.

MS-IV Class Update

Hard Work and Lessons Learned

By Second Lieutenant Jonathan Becker, Gold Bar Recruiter

MS-IV year can be argued as the most difficult year of ROTC. Looking at it from the perspective of a younger cadet, it may seem the opposite. However, its difficulty lies not in learning new things or memorizing the Troop Leading Procedures, but from the application of leadership lessons you've learned during the prior three years of ROTC.

Last year's MS-IV class worked hard to put out the best products, organize the best training, and perform at our best in order to set the example for the cadets we were responsible for developing. Time was put in after-hours by everyone in the Battalion staff. The result of the team's drive forward produced several new and successful events like our Veteran's Suicide Awareness Hockey Game/Fundraiser, Paintball Superlab, more rifle shooting at the FTX, as well as numerous labs tailored to prepare our MS-III cadets for Advanced Camp.

This ambitious semester would not have been possible without a motivated and dedicated team. MS-IV cadets went the extra mile to make training as realistic as possible. 2LT Alex Rachesky volunteered to stand in the pouring rain in order to maintain the CO2 resupply station at Superlab while everyone else had fun shooting paintballs, in addition to taking time out of his day a week prior to recon the site. 2LT Madison Jolley planned an excellent FTX while coordinating every event with Eastern Illinois University. 2LT Michael Hill developed realistic and engaging tactics scenario while controlling the OPFOR force during the spring FTX.

These MS-IV cadets used their advance camp experience to develop training that provided variety, added appropriate levels of stress to the MS-III cadet leadership, and practiced soldier skills. We did our best to always do the right thing. Once you complete the accessions process, it is easy to relax in ROTC but the MS-IV cadets put in the effort to ensure the reputation and the levels of soldier and leadership skills our advance camp candidates possessed was the highest possible. From my foxhole as the Battalion Commander, the MS-IV observer-trainers tackled the challenges head on and did everything they could to develop the cadets reliant on the training we provide.



Cadet Mike Alexander acts as a lane-walker during Spring FTX.



2LT Jonathan Becker and cadet Tom Jackson dressed as OPFOR.

All of this would not be possible without the support of the cadre. LTC Randall Smith and others provided guidance and recommendations that tested our abilities while also giving us unparalleled freedom to try new things. I like to think we pushed the boundaries of what type of training we could do in ROTC. At times, we were allowed to fail, learn from that failure, and in turn try new ideas to succeed. The solutions were often in ways that we would not have believed would have been possible. These became great learning experiences. Developing leadership takes a village and the last year as MS-IV cadets will pay dividends for us as we head to our first duty stations as new 2LTs!

Alumni Update

Where Are They Now?

By Mr. Eric Ashworth

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. Every now and then we receive updates from our alumni and we gladly notify our readers of the accomplishment of our past members. In this edition, we highlight Captain Taylor Carmichael, class of 2014.

As a cadet, Captain Carmichael majored in Global Studies and minored in the Arabic Language. He earned the University Gold Medal as the top cadet of the Fighting Illini in 2014. Although the gold medal is no longer presented to the cadet, a military saber is presented in its place at the Honor's Day Awards Ceremony. Captain Carmichael was commissioned as a Military Intelligence officer branch detailed Armor. For those not familiar with branch detail, this option allows an officer to serve as a company-grade officer in one branch (usually a combat arms branch) and then transfer to his or her primary branch roughly at the third or fourth year of service.

Captain Carmichael's initial assignments was the 1-32 Cavalry Squadron, 1st Brigade Combat Team (Bastogne), 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY in 2015. He served as a headquarters platoon leader for a year, then a scout platoon leader for a year, and a squadron adjutant (S-1) for three months. Over the past year, he served as the assistant S-2 (intelligence officer) and then the Executive Officer for the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop. In this position he deployed to

Baghdad, Iraq for a year to support the training mission to the Iraqi Army. His primary duty location was the Baghdad Operations Center. After the year deployment, he was reassigned to the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course at Fort Huachuca, AZ.



CPT Taylor Carmichael deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve at the Swords of Qādisīyah in Baghdad, Iraq

Captain Carmichael has remained engaged with the current Fighting Illini cadets. He has served the past two years as a mentor to cadets that are considering or have been selected to serve in the Armor Branch. This mentorship program is a big success with the cadets and provides them with experiences of former cadets. With officers like Captain Carmichael, the cadets receive perspectives of officers currently serving in today's operations.

The photo of Captain Carmichael is one of him while he was deployed in Baghdad, Iraq. He sent this photo with the words, "I remember periodically getting motivating pictures of alumni on deployment with U of I flags and that helped put a little pep in my step. So I wanted to continue the tradition in hope that it will inspire current cadets as similar photos did for me."

Thanks Captain Carmichael for keeping in touch. We salute your patriotism and professionalism in the defense of the country. For all our other alumni, if you would like us to update the alumni on where you are now, please send us your comments and photos. Thanks for your continued support to the Fighting Illini Battalion.

Cadet Spotlights

Ranger Club: Leadership Forged by Fire

By Cadet Steven Irace

Near the end of the Spring semester of 2019, I had the honor and privilege to be nominated as one of the next captains of Ranger Club alongside Cadet Wyatt Martens. Ranger Club trains a select group of cadets for two major competitions, the Ranger Challenge competition in the Fall semester and the Ranger Buddy competition in the Spring semester. Ranger Club is one of the most physically and time demanding clubs in the Fighting Illini Army ROTC program. Its members boast an extreme sense of accomplishment through their nearly every day training throughout the semester. Training for and competing in both competitions through Ranger Club not only taught me very valuable skills that will help me as a future Army officer but, brought me closer with many other cadets that share a similar dedication and drive for success.

The Ranger Challenge competition is a 2-day competition that is completed with a squad of 11 cadets. It requires rucking over 12 miles while completing complex tasks that stressed our physical capabilities and tested our basic Army knowledge. Due to many motivated cadets in the club, we established two squads. I volunteered to be the squad leader for Bravo squad. This leadership position was an invaluable experience to explore and find my own leadership style. It also taught me the importance of having confidence in one's own abilities and the value of leadership by example. My tasks included leading my squad in physical training (PT), teaching them how to tie Swiss seats and construct a one-rope bridge, operate an ASIP radio, and other Soldier skills. The most enjoyable part of this experience was watching as my squad operated successfully under immense pressure and remained motivated throughout the entire competition.



Cadet Roy Kim and Cadet Steven Irace Pose with the Ranger Club Guidons after a successful day at the Task Force Marseilles Ranger Challenge Competition



A cadet in full battle rattle pulls himself across the one rope bridge!

Cadet Spotlights

Ranger Club: Leadership Forged by Fire (continued)

By Cadet Steven Irace

In the Spring, I also had the privilege to compete alongside some of the most dedicated and driven cadets in the program at the 25th annual Ranger Buddy competition, hosted by the University of Kansas Army ROTC Jayhawk Battalion. The competition is broken into three parts: a timed 15km ruck-run, 12 lanes of expert infantryman badge (EIB) inspired tasks, and a 5km run to finish the competition. The competition has worthwhile rewards as well, with the top performers in each of the male, co-ed, and female groups each being awarded an airborne specialty school slot. Due to the limited availability of teams we were able to send to the competition, there were multiple cuts throughout the semester. I forged relationships with some of the most purpose driven and hardworking cadets in the program while we trained to make the cut every few weeks. During our training, I was exposed to the highest level of physical fitness and discipline. After completing the necessary ruck runs and stress tests, I was proud and humbled to have been selected to participate in the competition alongside Ranger club captain, Cadet Cullen O'Connor. While we trained for months in preparation for the Ranger Buddy competition, I was constantly inspired by the commitment and dedication expressed by my fellow cadets, even when it was certain that not all of us would have the opportunity to go and compete. The Fighting Illini teams did well in this year's competition. [see page 25 for the posted results]

During my time in Ranger Club, my training and preparation along with the execution of each of the competitions provided me with many different, yet invaluable experiences. These experiences not only helped to develop my military and professional bearing, but taught me very important skills and attributes that are necessary to know as a cadet and as a future officer in the United States Army. I am proud and honored to be leading this prestigious club next year, and am excited to help foster an environment of continuous learning in the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion!



Cadet Steven Irace with the Ranger Club Captains, Roy Kim, Cullen O'Connor, and Tim Easton, after completing the Ranger Buddy Competition!



Ranger Club cadets get a casualty on a military litter over an obstacle!

Cadet Spotlights

Tactics Club: Humble Beginnings

By Cadet Steven Irace

One of the greatest parts of the Army ROTC program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is the many clubs and teams available to the cadets. These clubs and teams not only provide MS-II and MS-III cadets in the program an opportunity to improve their leadership abilities, but they also provide an opportunity for cadets to learn new and unique skills and knowledge that will assist them as future officers in the U. S. Army. This past Spring semester, the Army ROTC program introduced Tactics Club to provide cadets with a chance to understand basic Army tactics and weapon systems on a more in-depth level.

This club was created from what started as a group of cadets meeting every Tuesday night to discuss our weekly labs. Cadet Munoz and I began with our own squads and other MS-I cadets that were new to the program, hosting classes roughly an hour long in order to prepare the MS-I cadets with knowledge of what the lab timeline would be like and going in-depth on the tactics that were going to be utilized during the labs and how they would be performed. Some of the tactics that we would go over included tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), specialty teams, battle drills, patrol base operations, etc. In order to share more of the leadership potential, we encouraged other MS-II cadets to join us so they could also teach portions of the class and to bring the MS-I cadets in their squads as well. Before we knew it, we had a significant class of motivated cadets showing up for this training every Tuesday night!

With help from cadets in the MS-IV class, Cadet Munoz and I were able to introduce and formally create Tactics Club for the Army ROTC program. Later on, throughout the rest of the semester, Tactics Club was able to work with cadre to secure important weapon systems and equipment in order for cadets to get much-needed hands-on training before and during our Spring field training exercise (FTX). We went over how to clear, disassemble, reassemble, and perform function checks on many weapon systems this past semester including the M9 service pistols, M4 carbines, the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) light machine gun, the M240B machine gun, and the M320 grenade launcher module. Tactics Club was also able to teach MS-I cadets how to assemble the major components of an ASIP radio, how to set it to the correct settings, how to input and store frequencies, and how to call up a nine-line medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) report using the phonetic alphabet. Tactics Club is proud to be one of the newest club additions to the Fighting Illini Army ROTC program and to provide a unique experience of both hands-on training and detailed explanations of basic Army tactics in order to prepare future generations of Army officers!



Cadet Munoz leads cadets in a wedge formation.

Cadet Spotlights

The Best of the Battalion

By Cadet Wyatt Martens

It is a great honor of mine to have been selected to co-lead the Ranger Club and Ranger Challenge Team for this upcoming fall semester. Ever since I joined Ranger Club and made a Ranger Challenge team my freshman year, I have always wanted to someday lead this club. Since the very beginning of my ROTC career, the Ranger Club captains have done a great job of helping those who seek to better themselves and work hard. Cadet Irace and I now have the opportunity to do the same: to help develop other cadets by sharing what we have learned over the past two years. We take our responsibilities as Ranger Club captains for the year seriously and seek to do our best for the other cadets.

Over the past years we have learned a lot about fielding a competitive team. Using the lessons learned, we are striving to make our Ranger Challenge teams the best they have ever been. Training for the Ranger Challenge for returning cadets started the week after finals. Every week during the summer, Ranger Club cadets are sent an email with three workouts in it to complete that will help prepare them better for the fall. These workouts are optional, but it helps us in two ways. First, it is a reminder to all to stay on course and maintaining good physical fitness is key to making the team. However, it also lets us know who is willing to put in the extra work to field the best team possible. In addition, the cadets were sent a study guide with information on everything that has been in the Ranger Challenge competition the past two years. All of this is being done to help give us a bit of a head start so that the returning cadets can hit the ground running once we return in the fall.

We plan on having our annual club tryouts in the fall, and then jumping straight back into training. Once we are back on campus, we prepare for Ranger Challenge six to seven days a week to be prepared both physically and mentally. Competition will be tight for earning a position on the final team. The goal is to win the competition, and only the best male and female cadets will be chosen to compete. We look forward to another successful year of Ranger Club and the two competitions. We encourage any cadets who want to work harder and push themselves further to join the Ranger Club.



The Ranger Challenge teams take a group photo in Fall 2018 at the end of the TF Marseilles Ranger Challenge Competition.



Spring Cadet Orientation Program

In order to welcome incoming new cadets and catch them up with the Army ROTC cadets that arrived at the start of the fall semester, a four-day Cadet Orientation Program (COP) is held during the first four days of the semester. During these days, new cadets are issued their equipment, instructed on equipment usage and functionality, conduct Physical Training (PT) sessions and are taught the standards and expectations of being a Fighting Illini Army ROTC cadet. Upon completion, these students earn the title of Cadet!



Cadets take notes while receiving instruction from MS-III cadets



New MS-I cadets do prep drills with their MS-III leadership



Drill and Ceremony

Army Soldiers are expected to be disciplined and respond to given commands. Part of that is being able to properly stand and march in formation, as well as being able to execute proper marching commands. In an effort educate cadets on Drill and Ceremony (D&C) skills they will need at summer camp and when they commission, the entire lab on 24JAN2019 was dedicated to D&C. MS-III cadets practiced leading soldiers in formation by calling out commands while MS-I/MS-II cadets learned how properly march in formation.



Cadets Ginny Fulk, Jacob Beckman, and Maritza Palafox get proper spacing while in formation.



The Battalion forms up into platoons prior to marching.



TC3 & 9-Line Report

All soldiers are expected to be able to provide Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3) to those wounded in action. In an effort to educate cadets and equip them with the knowledge to do so, the Fighting Illini conducted a TC3 practice on 24JAN2019. During this lab, they also received a practical exercise on communicating a 9-Line Medical Evacuation Report. It is crucial that in an increasingly complex battlefield, all soldiers are prepared to take the matter of life and death into their own hands to aid their fellow Soldiers.



Cadet Holm leads instruction on tactical casualty combat care



Army ROTC cadets practice tactical combat casualty care scenarios



Terrain Model Kit Practical Exercise

As future platoon leaders, cadets are required to learn how to lead troops in a variety of missions in unexpected or unknown environments. One of their key tasks is being able to effectively communicate mission orders to their Soldiers. By using a terrain model kit, or TMK, cadets learn a field expedient visual aid that can assist in their mission briefs. These TMKs are employed out in the field with available materials and the exercise gives cadets an opportunity to practice creating a terrain model for a tactical briefing.



Cadet Tim Easton sets up his TMK to be graded by Captain Elkins.



A TMK outlines the grid squares of the operations as well as the movement routes to the objective.



Tippecanoe Battlefield Staff Ride

On 22FEB2019, the MS-IV cadets from Eastern Illinois University and the UIUC participated in the annual staff ride to the Tippecanoe Battlefield. This assignment requires the cadets to conduct research, present a military style briefing and conduct battlefield analysis using the information they found while researching one of the key leaders of the battle. Mr. Ashworth and LTC Smith facilitated the discussion of two groups of cadets to provide a greater understanding of the campaign and how the principles of war affected the actions of leaders in 1811 similarly (or differently) to potential decisions junior leaders may have to make on the modern battlefield.



Cadets from UIUC and EIU show their colors at the Circle of Stones, located at Prophetstown State Park.



MS-IV cadets at the William Henry Harrison monument at the Tippecanoe Battlefield Park



Squad Mission TEWT

On 31JAN2019, MS-III cadets from the Fighting Illini Battalion executed a Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). They were challenged during this lab with squad-level tactics and military operations order briefing. This lab was designed to enhance and assess the MS-III cadet's abilities to build a terrain model kit (TMK), plan, and brief squad-level missions and to identify areas of additional instruction at future labs. These skills are vital for the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX), and Advanced Camp.



MS-III cadet Maritza Palafox receives FRAGO for her squad mission



MS-III cadet Roy Kim prepares his TMK for briefing



Call For Fire/Special Teams

On 07FEB2019, MS-I and MS-II cadets conducted training to Call For (Indirect) Fire and activities to perform as a member of a Special Team. Instruction on special teams provided cadets with proper techniques to secure EPWs (Enemy Prisoner of War), requirements of the Aid and Litter team, and steps executed by the Demolition/Breach Team. Call for Fire is used by troops to order artillery barrages on enemy positions. Cadets will use both of these techniques at Basic/Advance Camp during their summer training.



MS-IV cadet Leaders instruct MS-I and MS-II cadets on EPW team drills.



Cadet Keegan O'Donnell provides security for the special teams!



MSG Hutcherson instructs MS-I and MS-II cadets on Call for Fire.



MS3 Squad Mission Practical

On 07FEB2019, the MS-III class conducted a set of squad missions at the UIUC Arboretum. Despite cold winds, three cadets led their squads through the Ambush, Attack, and a Recon missions. This lab was one of the first exposures to leading peers through a tactical mission in preparation for summer training. Advanced Camp is a key component to the Accessions Process and executing these tactical missions well greatly improves the cadet's chance of branch selection. Upon completion of these missions, cadets gain confidence in the utilization of the Troop Leading Procedures when planning, briefing, and executing an OPORD.



Cadet Terrell Baker leads his squad on a recon mission



Cadet Roy Kim looks on at his objective



Platoon Tactical Missions

This upcoming summer, MS-III cadets will be going to Advanced Camp where they will be evaluated on their basic soldiering tasks as well as their overall leadership capabilities. A key trait of any good Army Officer is the ability to lead his/her soldiers. On 14MAR2019, the Fighting Illini Battalion conducted its Platoon Mission Lab with the entire battalion at the UIUC Arboretum. MS-III cadets had 80 minutes to utilize a terrain model kit (TMK), brief their Platoons and execute their given mission. Missions varied from a reconnaissance, reacting to an ambush, a deliberate attack, and conducting a raid.



Cadets Blake Link and Wyatt Martens escort a live enemy prisoner of war back to the Objective Rally Point



Cadet Joy Kim briefs her Platoon one squad at a time on the mission and scheme of maneuver using a TMK.



Superlab

With Advanced Camp less than two months away, the MS-III cadets received the chance to assess their basic soldiering tasks and their abilities to control other Soldiers in a simulated combat environment. As a culmination of all the labs and training conducted prior, Superlab tested everything that the cadets of the Fighting Illini Battalion learned the past year at the Firemark Paintball range. Each cadet was provided a paintball weapon and ammunition and after presenting their mission order briefings, they executed their plans against an enemy armed with paintball weapons as well. Conducted on Saturday 30MAR2019, the cadets were given 2 missions with 5 hours to complete. The simulated fire increased the stress level and gave the MS-III cadets a better understanding of the difficulties of command and control during combat.



Cadet Tim Easton briefs his platoon on their mission.



Cadets are forced to seek viable cover when paintballs are involved.



Bataan Death March

On 17MAR2019, 26 cadets and cadre participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March held at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The event is held every year to commemorate and honor the American and Filipino prisoners that were forced to ensure the prisoner transfer by the Imperial Japanese Army following the Battle of Bataan. The infamous Bataan Death March occurred in April 1942 and required the prisoners to walk 69 miles, many in poor health, with each of them hoping they would not be killed by Japanese soldiers. Today, participants who attended this event trekked 26.2 miles with a 35-pound rucksack over desert terrain. All Fighting Illini participants completed the course and the majority of cadets gained a greater respect of the sacrifices of our World War II veterans.



Cadet Cross sets down his rucksack to drink water.



Cadets pause long enough for a picture. Only 15 more miles to go!



CHAARG/Army ROTC Workout

The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted its annual workout with the Changing Health, Attitudes and Actions to Recreate Girls (CHAARG) organization. CHAARG members stress to their members they are a team in improving each members health and fitness. Members of CHAARG look for interesting variety in their physical workout routines and the cadets have happily provided a typical “Army PT Workout” session for them. This year, the cadets led a Zachary Tellier workout, in honor of Sergeant Zachary Tellier, which is a CrossFit routine that stresses running and push-ups. The CHAARG members definitely experienced a typical Army ROTC workout.



Cadets and CHAARG members warm up before their PT session.



Cadet Kapusta encourages extra pushups from a CHAARG member during part of the PT routine.



Honors Day

06APR2019 is one of the best days of the year as we get the chance to recognize the outstanding performance of many of the cadets in the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion. This tri-service Honors Day Ceremony is held at the Foellinger Auditorium and is supported by over 50 local and national organizations. The ceremony honored cadets for their academic and military accomplishments throughout the school year and featured medals, certificates, scholarships and other awards from these organizations. The cadets wish to thank them from their continued support to their leadership development.



Colonel (Ret) Scott McBride spoke to the three ROTC programs about his career as an infantry officer and the challenges of being a military leader.



Cadet Jonathan Becker, the current Cadet Battalion Commander, receives a saber as a recipient of the UIUC Gold Medal Award.



Army Vs. Air Force Hockey Game

On 05APR2019, cadets from the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion participated in a hockey game against the cadets of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 190 in order to raise money for Veterans Suicide Awareness. The fast-paced game demonstrated the physical fitness levels of the skaters and brought plenty of cheers from the crowd. The talent on both sides was comparable but in the end the Army Cadets won with a score of 4-2. The event raised \$1400 and both sides look forward to playing again in the future.



Army cadets score their first of many goals against the Air Force team.



Both Army and Air Force ROTC teams pay their respects to the Flag before the game.



Ranger Buddy

Outside of ROTC, many cadets in the Fighting Illini Army ROTC battalion are involved in extracurriculars such as clubs. One of the more demanding clubs that occurs in the spring semester is the Ranger Buddy club that trains for the annual Ranger Buddy competition, which is held annually at Kansas University. Cadets form buddy team pairs and compete with his/her partner for the entire duration of the event. Cadets are tested on proficiency on various weapons and equipment such as the AT4 and the ASIP radio. They also participate in various physical challenges such as a ruck run and obstacle course. The Fighting Illini Cadet teams did well this year with the team of Cadets Roy Kim and Thomas Easton earning 11th place out of 84 male teams and Cadets Baylie Mabbett and Molly Hein earning 5th place out of 20 female teams. Congratulations to all cadets that trained for this tough competition.



Cadets are evaluated on their ability to assemble and program frequencies into an ASIP radio.



Cadet Joy Kim provides instruction on the AT4 weapon.



Spring FTX (Day 1)

In order to prepare the MS-III cadets for Advanced Camp, the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX) is designed to test their leadership skills, tactical knowledge and proficiency in Basic Soldiering tasks while in a field environment. Over the course of three days at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, cadets trained on events such as Land Navigation, qualifying on a rifle range, and conducting tactical missions in platoons. This Spring FTX was conducted with the Panther Battalion from Eastern Illinois University (EIU). Key events that occurred on Day 1 of the FTX included arriving from their respective universities, separating into their designated platoons, and completing the land navigation course. The standard was to find 5 points within four hours using only a map, protractor and compass. MS-III cadets were required to find their points individually where MS-I and MS-II cadets went in buddy teams.



Cadets pause to examine their route plan

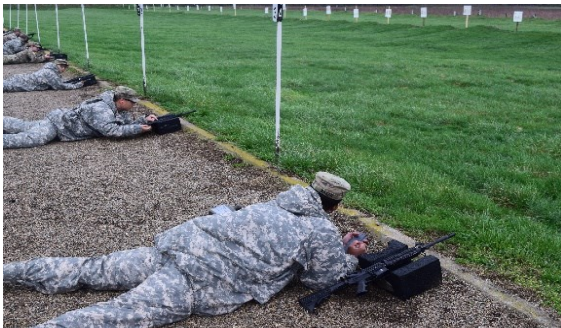


Cadets make it to their first point of the course



Spring FTX (Day 2)

Day 2: After spending the night in the billets, cadets from EIU and UIUC headed to the rifle range and conducted group/zeroing and M4 rifle qualification. This is one of the tougher requirements for earning the Recondo Badge at Advanced Camp so both ROTC Departments allocated significant training to this Soldier skill. After qualifying, The cadets were rewarded by rucking two miles to the tactical missions site and settled into their respective patrol bases.



Cadets on the firing line waiting to be given the command to fire



An MS-IV cadet instructs a new cadet on how to adjust his rifle sights



Spring FTX (Day 3)

Day 3: MS-III cadets led their platoons in tactical patrols to practice all the tactical missions they will be required to execute at the Advance Camp this summer. Each of these cadets were evaluated by MS-IV Observer Trainer Mentors (OTM)s and ROTC cadre. To replicate camp, each cadet was expected to operate with no outside intervention or assistance. Missions included platoon-size attack, react to an ambush, conduct reconnaissance, execute movement to contact, and conduct a raid. Other MS-IV cadets acted as enemy Opposing Forces (OPFOR). Cadets were given blank ammunition and artillery simulators to simulate the noise of combat.



Cadet Nathan Ruxlow assembles the leaders in his platoon to brief his mission order.



Cadets react to incoming fire from the enemy hiding in the tree line.



Hazelton Medal Competition

On 18APR2019, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted its annual Hazelton Competition to determine the most proficient MS-I (first-year) cadet on military skills they learned over the past year. This competition has occurred at the University of Illinois since 1891. MS-I cadets were tested on Drill & Ceremony, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3), Individual Movement Techniques (IMT), and a written examination on classroom topics. This year's winner of Hazelton Medal was Cadet Jacob Jung. For more information on this award, see the MS-I Class Update on page 7.



Cadets bound forward in buddy teams during the IMT portion of the competition.



CDT Carla Leclerque drags a casualty to cover during the TC3 lane



Dining-In 2019

The last big event prior to commissioning was the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion annual Dining-In event which was held on 26APR2019 at the Round Barn Centre. Cadets learned some of the Army traditions with posting and retiring the colors, some of the protocols to follow at a military dinner, experiencing the famous Grog ceremony, and performing skits that highlighted some of the eventful training they executed during the past semester. Awards for Best Cadet of each class and the Hazelton Medal winner were also presented. Part of this event included remarks from one of our alumni, Colonel Mark Alessia, the current Commander of the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who spoke to the cadets about being an Army leader and the responsibility of leaders to make hard decisions.



SFC Ramiro Silva partakes in the grog ceremony.



MS-IV cadets use the Dining-In as an excuse to take one last photo before commissioning.



Cadet Daniel McCrane ponders life as he prepares to drink the grog

Illini Legacy

Remembering the Past

By Cadet Cordelia Grob

My grandfather was a member of the Cadet Corps from 1940 until his graduation in the fall of 1943. To graduate in three years, he attended summer school and carried a course load of 18 hours or more each semester. While reviewing his college transcript, I noticed many similarities between his classes and mine. He took speech, rhetoric, statistics, algebra, foreign language, history, and various economics classes. Every semester, he enrolled in Military Science Drill and Theory. While at Illinois, my grandfather was a member of the Cadet Coastal Artillery unit. The other cadet units were Infantry, Cavalry, Field Artillery, Engineers, and Signal Corps. His transcript included physical education classes such as swimming, golfing, and wrestling. Besides taking classes, my grandfather joined Pershing Rifles and Scabbard and Blade.

After graduating from UIUC, he went to Officer Candidate School (OCS) and then on to The Infantry School at Fort Benning. On April 17, 1944, my grandfather wrote to his parents to let them know he was in the Infantry. He was in Class Number 12, Ninth Company, First Student Training Regiment, The Infantry School, Fort Benning. At the Infantry School, he wrote how students were being taught how to be officers. He mentioned learning the details of the M-1 Garand rifle, watching fighter planes strafing targets, and live fire drills. He made several remarks about The Infantry School. He said, “You know here at TIS [The Infantry School] it seems that the enemy is the Germans. The Pacific war is hardly ever mentioned. The instructors surely do respect the Germans as clever soldiers. I guess they’re teaching us not to underestimate the enemy.” While at TIS, D-Day occurred. A student said, “I see Ike [General Eisenhower] didn’t wait for Class 12.”



Cadet Cordelia Grob’s grandfather in his ROTC uniform at the University of Illinois



The 250-foot Tower at Fort Benning

Several days later, he graduated from The Infantry School and went to Fort McClellan to wait for the start of Parachute School. In mid-July, he started Parachute School pre-A stage training with “muscular coordination” which was somersaulting, judo falls and rope climbing (The Jump school consisted of four stages, A, B, C, and D). He mentioned that there were many hours of daily exercise – chin-ups, pushups, running, and hiking. He did not write much about ‘A’ stage except that he had to do a lot of running.

Illini Legacy

Remembering the Past (continued)

By Cadet Cordelia Grob

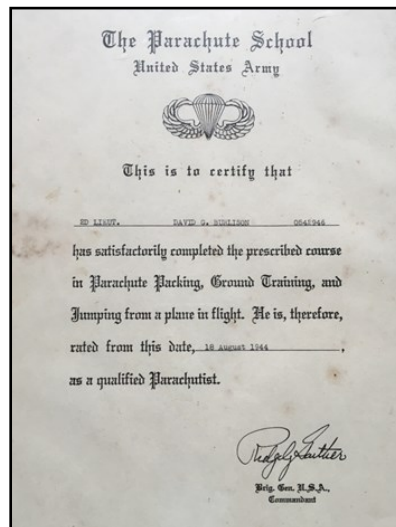
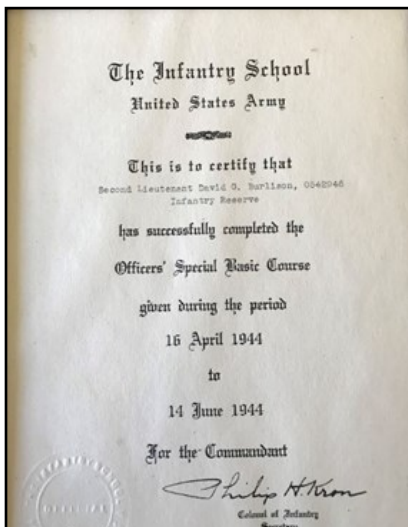


34-foot Jump Tower at Fort Benning

My grandpa was excited about B and C stage, including jumping from the towers. He explained that the purpose of tower jumping was to learn how to exit an airplane properly. He wrote, "... people are stopped by this week more than any other week, they say. The thought of jumping off a tower as high as our house just can't be swallowed by many ...". During C stage, he jumped from 250-foot towers and floated to the ground using a parachute (see page 28).

The 14th of August 1944 began D stage. It was a proud moment for my grandfather, since he made his first parachute jump. He made his final jump on the evening of the 17th. He wrote, "I made my qualifying jump after dark yesterday. It's possible to see the parachutes nearby, but I could hardly see those in the air while I was on the ground. For the first time, the enlisted men in the plane were calm enough to move a muscle. You could have heard the feeble attempt at Notre Dame's 'We sober up on wood alcohol'. [He was referring to a parody of Notre Dame's fight song.] To make things more exciting, the left engine of the plane caught fire just before we took off. It was put out easily."

My grandfather's next assignment was with the 541st Parachute Infantry Regiment. The highlights of his time with the 541st was preparing for an inspection by Lieutenant General Lear, visits from Major General Landrum and Major General Walker and attending a "Prop Blast" ceremony. In early October, my grandfather was able to return to Urbana to see his family. After his furlough, he was assigned to the Ground Forces Replacement Depot at Fort Meade in preparation of going overseas.



Certificates from the US Army Infantry school and Parachute School (now Airborne school).

A certificate from the University of Illinois chapter of the Scabbard and Blade honor society.

Hall of Fame: The Cadet Battalion is developing the plans for the next Hall of Fame induction ceremony during the Fall of 2019. The induction ceremony will be December 6, 2019. We currently have three nominations but time is still available to submit additional nominations. We will establish the nomination review board in September-October 2019 and the inductees will be notified by the end of October. If you are interested in submitting a nomination, we must have your application by 31 August 2019. 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

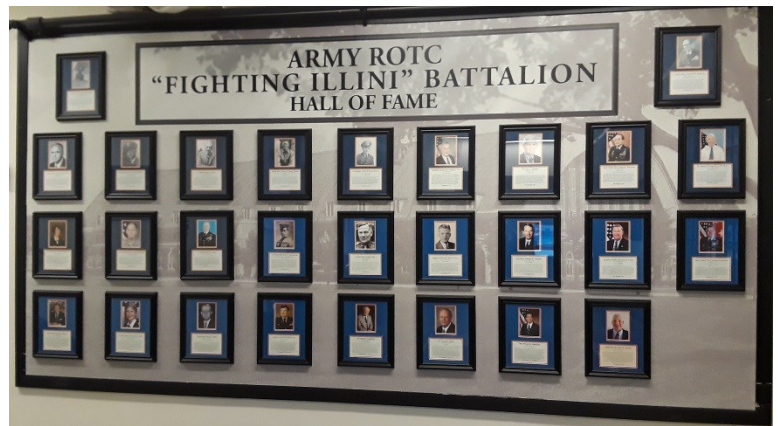
If no, do you have contact info for Nominee (Address, City, Zip and/or email/phone):

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.



Fighting Illini Army ROTC
Hall of Fame Medal

Return this form with a nomination biography to arotc@illinois.edu.



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, a guest speaker provides initial remarks to the cadets.
- **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 planning to expand this celebration to include a pre-game tailgate party with the UIUC Veterans’ Center. If this is something you would be interested in joining with us, this year’s game will be held on November 2nd against Rutgers University.
- **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.
- **Donations to the Army ROTC Operations or Endowment Fund.** If you are not able to make it back to campus, we also appreciate those who donate to the **Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund** (11774561) or the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund** (11330418). These help fund current cadets with the costs associated in participating in events not covered by the U.S. Army funding. Our ability to attend Ranger Buddy, the Bataan Memorial Ruck March, the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society, and the Norwegian Ruck March are possible thanks to the donations we receive each year.

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THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC

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