

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA POINTS OF PRIDE



Service to Those Who Have Served Our Country

MILITARY RESOURCE CENTER

Opened in January 2014, the Military Resource Center (MRC) provides both a physical space and a system that coordinates services, information, and guidance for military-affiliated students. It is funded through the IUP President's Strategic Initiatives program.

The Veteran's Affairs Office, which assists veterans with the GI Bill, became part of the MRC in fall 2015.

Dr. Cory Shay, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, is the center's director. The MRC is staffed by student workers who are veterans or military-affiliated. The center offers a lounge area, computer lab with no-cost printing, a private study area, and a space for tutoring and mentoring services. In its first two years, services at the MRC have been utilized more than 3,000 times, including helping 500 IUP students to use their GI Bill benefits. The center has welcomed almost 2,500 visitors since its opening.

ADDITIONAL MRC RESOURCES:

- Emergency scholarship fund for veterans.
- Resume writing and training workshops in collaboration with IUP's Career and Professional Development Center and the Veterans Service Providers of Indiana County.
- Tutoring services through IUP's Academic Support Center.
- Special Veteran's Day programming, including a dinner to honor veterans and military-affiliated students.
- Campus-wide programming to bring awareness to issues related to veterans and military-affiliated students.

IUP SUPPORT TO VETERANS AND MILITARY-AFFILIATED STUDENTS

- Veterans Outreach Committee, which includes students and employees, meeting regularly to improve university services to students who are veterans.
- Veterans Support Group, offered through the IUP Counseling Center, for students who are current or former members of the military.
- Student Veterans Organization, a recognized student organization hosting events of special interest to students who are veterans — or current service members — and offering support services at its dedicated space in Pratt Hall.
- Yellow Ribbon program institution since 2009, funding tuition expenses that exceed in-state undergraduate tuition rates.
- Liberal studies requirement exceptions for health and wellness courses for veterans and military-affiliated students.
- Support for enrolled students called to active military service, including seamless readmission to IUP.
- Course scheduling preference for veterans and military-affiliated students.
- Special red, white, and blue graduation honor cords to be worn at commencement for graduating active duty military, veterans, Reserve, National Guard, and dependents.



PROUD TO HONOR OUR OWN

IUP's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) established a Hall of Fame in 2013 to honor outstanding IUP ROTC graduates. There are two categories for recognition: a Leadership Division and an Excellence Division. All ROTC graduates who achieve the rank of general are automatically named to the Leadership Division. Current members of the ROTC Hall of Fame Excellence Division are:

- **Lt. Col. Barry Gasdek** (U.S. Army, Retired). A 1964 graduate of IUP and a 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Gasdek is a Vietnam War veteran and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, two Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, and five Bronze Stars.
- **Col. Stephen G. Abel** (U.S. Army, Retired). A 1973 graduate, Col. Abel earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, six awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star. Col. Abel provided guidance in the creation of the Military Resource Center.
- **Col. Denise L. Hopkins-Chadwick** (U.S. Army Nurse Corps). A 1987 graduate of IUP and a 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Col. Hopkins-Chadwick was the first nurse to hold the position of Dean for all of Army Medicine, the largest medical school in the world. She was deployed as the Deputy Commander of the Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team, Institute of Surgical Research, in Baghdad, Iraq.

IUP ACCOLADES FOR SERVICE TO MILITARY-AFFILIATED STUDENTS AND VETERANS

- Best for Vets Business Schools, *Military Times*
- Best for Vets universities, *Military Times*
- Military Friendly School, *GI Jobs Magazine*
- Best Colleges for Veterans (top 50 universities), *U.S. News and World Report*
- Top Military-Friendly School, Military Advanced Education
- Military Advanced Education "Top School"

ROTC – 65 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

- One of the **largest ROTC programs** in Pennsylvania.
- Nearly one in 100 students enrolls in a military science course.
- **ROTC Cadet Leadership Fund** offers financial support to qualifying students.
- IUP's ROTC facility is one of the largest on the east coast, offering an indoor pistol and rifle range and fully stocked library with technical and field manuals.
- **IUP ROTC commissioned its 2,000th cadet** in May 2015.
- An average of 20 cadets are commissioned each year.
- IUP's ROTC program has **produced a total of 12 generals**, two of which are female. Gen. Leslie Purser, a 1980 graduate, will be part of the May ROTC commissioning ceremony.



- Cadet Samuel Dunning, a criminology major, has been recognized as **one of the top 20 cadets in the nation**, out of a field of 5,500, by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. He has a perfect 4.0 grade point average, a four-year member of the IUP Ranger Challenge Team, and has served as the Cadet Battalion Operations Officer. In May, he will commission into active duty in the Medical Service branch.
- IUP's program was one of only eight in the nation selected for the **MacArthur Award**, given to the top programs in the country, for the 2013-2014 academic year. The award is based on a combination of the achievement of the school's commissioning mission, performance by its cadets, the program ranking on Cadet Command's national Order of Merit List, and its cadet retention rate.
- Thirty percent of cadets graduating from IUP are **Distinguished Military Graduates**. The national average is 20 percent.
- Sixty-four percent of IUP graduating cadets are selected for active duty. The national average is 55 percent.
- ROTC has an **active service fraternity, Rho Tau Chi**, that supports Tomorrow's Hope (for homeless veterans), the Wounded Warrior Program and Team Red, White, and Blue.
- IUP's ROTC program hosts groups from the journalism and public relations department to "embed" during training exercises, offering hands-on experience to both the cadets and the students.
- IUP cadet Erik Lloyd, was honored as the **top ROTC cadet in the nation** in 2009. He was commissioned into the Medical Service Corps.
- IUP's Warrior Battalion won **first place in the ROTC Ranger Challenge**, among schools in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey in 2008.
- IUP ROTC Cadet Derek Lyons was recognized in 2010 by Indiana Borough Police for performing lifesaving efforts on an Indiana man who collapsed prior to the Veteran's Day parade.
- IUP ROTC is a three-time recipient of the **Governor's Trophy**, presented to the most outstanding military science program at a Pennsylvania college or university.