

WARRIOR BATTALION

2022 - 2023 Newsletter



ARMY ROTC

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A Word from the Professor of Military Science

LTC Erich Steffens

Family, friends, supporters, and members of the Warrior Battalion, I am pleased to release another edition of the Warrior Battalion Newsletter highlighting the 2022–23 School Year. It has been an honor to serve as the Professor of Military Science over the past year and see the growth and accomplishments of the Warrior Battalion Cadets.

In FY 2023 we commissioned 19 new LTs into the Army including 4 into the Army Nurse Corps. We had three cadets selected as Distinguished Military Graduates (those who rank in the top 20 percent of Army ROTC graduates nationwide) with one in the top percent of the National Order of Merit List.

As this newsletter will show, the class of 2023 seniors truly did an outstanding job taking the reins of leadership and preparing the next class for Advanced Camp. This is evident in the Class of 2024's camp scores which were in the top 15% of all programs nationwide. Camp graduates receive an overall evaluation putting them into one of four possible categories: Outstanding (top 15%), Excellent (15th to 50th percentile), Proficient (85th to 50th percentile), and Capable (bottom 15%). Of the Warrior Battalion's 19 Advanced Camp graduates, 6 (32%) earned an overall Outstanding rating, 11 (58%) Excellent, 1 (5%) Proficient, and only 1 (5%) Capable. Additionally, 3 cadets were awarded the coveted RECONDO badge based on the Reconnaissance Commando concept (est. 1958) that trains Soldiers in the tactical skills necessary to decisively engage a larger enemy force as small unit. To earn the RECONDO Badge cadets must be a first time GO at every training event and earn top scores in the Army Combat Fitness Test, Land Navigation, and Rifle Marksmanship.

On April 26th we will be honoring the Class of 2024. All alumni, parents, and supporters are welcome to attend. I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events and thank you for all you do to support the program and your cadets.

Warriors First!

Warrior 6



A Word from the Senior Military Science Instructors

MSG Ricardo Cortez

Team,

It is truly an honor to be a part of the Warrior Battalion. Since arriving in March of 2023, I have been impressed by the dedication and commitment of the Cadets and Cadre. As the new Warrior 7, I would like to tell you a little about myself. I am an Abrams Crewmember by trade but have been serving as a senior enlisted advisor to the commanders for the past four years. I have served for 19 years in numerous positions that include Dismount, Squad Leader, Tank Gunner, Tank Commander, Senior Drill Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, and First Sergeant. I am married with 4 wonderful children, and we are very excited to be part of this prestigious organization.

The tenacity and commitment I have observed from the cadets is remarkable. From preparing and executing Labs, CFTX, Land Navigation courses, dining-out, Staff Ride, Commencement, and CST 23, the Cadets and Cadre did not miss a beat and ensured that the Warrior Battalion was successful in all its endeavors. Although cadets are spread across four different schools (Saint Francis University, Mount Aloysius, UPJ, and IUP) these Cadets communicated effectively to coordinate all moving pieces and execute each mission with ease.

In today's modern battlefield there are constant changes in our Operational Environment and technological challenges that our future leaders will need to adapt and overcome. I have no doubt that the Warrior Battalion will continue to build a more cohesive, lethal and adaptive team that is dedicated to winning!

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the program and our nation. I look forward to seeing you all at our future events. Warriors First!

Warrior 7

Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2022

Camp Dawson, WV

The Warrior Battalion conducted its annual Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) in September 2022 at Camp Dawson, West Virginia. This training event included all MS level Cadets, with MSI and MSII combined into one training audience and the MSIII Cadets combined with the TAC Cadets in a separate training audience.



LTC Steffens pins the RECONDO Badge onto Cadet Hauden Sheader, the only IUP Cadet to earn the coveted accolade for his performance at Advanced Camp during the Summer of 2022.

On Friday, we hit the ground running upon arrival, with MSI and MSII Cadets conducting round robin training. The MSIII Cadets, along with the MSIV TAC Cadets and the MSIII instructors, conducted movement to the Pringle Training Area to immediately dive into squad tactics and squad training exercise (STX) lanes. Saturday involved day land navigation training for the MSI and MSII Cadets in the morning, later joining the MSIII Cadets to complete a couple iterations of Platoon level training exercises. MSIII Cadets then completed night land navigation training.

Sunday morning culminated with a friendly competition between all the MS classes and the cadre on the FLRC, with each MS level and the cadre fielding a team to see who could complete the FLRC in the fastest time; the cadre team won! The PMS also recognized several MSIV Cadets who achieved excellence at Advanced Camp.



Left and Right: Cadets navigate an obstacle on the FLRC during the Sunday morning competition. Center: MSIV Cadet Yesnia Roman-Longoria mentors MSIII Cadets during a Squal level tactics lane.

Winter Commissioning 2022 – IUP



2LT Jacob Maddigan and his parents pose for a picture following the pinning of his gold bars.



2LT Hailey Cook has her gold bars pinned on by her mother and her sister.

On December 10th, 2022, the Warrior Battalion commissioned two new
Second
Lieutenants from IUP!

The commissioned are as follows:

2LT Hailey Cook - Adjutant General Corps - Active Duty
2LT Jacob Maddigan - Ordnance Corps - PA National Guard

FREEZEX 2023

Guard Farm, PA



MSIII Cadet Mackenzie Johnston and MSIV Cadet Benjamin Baggott pull security during a security halt

This past February, the Warrior Battalion conducted its annual FREEZEX Field Training Exercise at Guard Farm in Indiana, PA. This exercise focuses on squad level tactics for the MSIII cadets, honing basic Soldier skills such as individual movement techniques and reports as well as squad level tactics. This annual exercise serves as an internal validation of the MSIII cadets' skills prior to attending Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY, during the summer.



MSIII Cadet Olivia Frierson enjoys a snack from her MRE during a scheduled break



MSIII Cadets utilize noise and light discipline while plotting their objective on the map

Spring CFTX 2023

Camp Ravenna, OH



MSIV Cadet Benjamin Baggott pulls security during a STX lane.

The Warrior Battalion conducted its annual Combined Field Training Exercise at Camp Garfield in Ravenna, OH, in conjunction with other Western Pennsylvania ROTC programs. Our MSIII cadets received opportunities to serve in platoon leadership positions while being evaluated by cadre from other ROTC programs. This annual exercise provides an external evaluation for the MSIII cadets prior to attending Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY, during the summer.



UPJ MSIII Cadets Michael Powell, Robert Nesky, and Alexander Barch enjoy a silly moment in between iterations of squad lanes.



Exhausted MSIII Cadets and MSII Cadets serving as OPFOR enjoy a well-earned rest on the way back to Pierce Hall.

Battle of Bull Run Staff Ride

Manassas, VA



Both Cadre and MSIV Cadets discuss various key points during the Battle

This past April, the MSIV cohort, along with cadre, travelled to the Manassas National Battlefield in Manassas, VA, for the annual staff ride. Despite getting rained out half way through the staff ride, the MSIV cadets had a blast and were able to relate the principles of Mission Command and the Warfighting Functions back to the events that took place during the battle. Part of being an Army professional means learning from the past and implementing those lessons learned into our modern-day tactics.



Soaking wet MSIV Cadets and Cadre pack into the GSA vans to escape the deluge that occurred about mid-way through the Staff Ride.

Staff Rides are a time-honored tradition within the U. S. Army that allows both junior and senior leaders to understand how decisions made by leaders during the battle, along with many other variables, impacted the outcome of that battle.

Spring Commissioning 2023

IUP



2LT Yesenia Roman-Longoria conducted her Silver Dollar Salute with SFC Shaun Collins.



2LT Janell Brinser and her family pose for a picture following the pinning of her 2LT Shoulder Insignias.

On May 6th, 2023, the Warrior Battalion commissioned six new Second Lieutenants from IUP!

The battalion was honored to have MG(R) Larry Gottardi, distinguished IUP alumni and class of 1971, as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

The commissioned are as follows:

- 2LT Jessica Borghise - Adjutant General Corps – Active Duty Army
- 2LT Janell Brinser* - Nursing Corps – Active Duty Army
- 2LT Christopher Chavira - Transportation Corps - PA National Guard
- 2LT Jessica Ramos - Adjutant General Corps - Army Reserves
- 2LT Theodore Reinhard* - Finance Corps – Active Duty Army
- 2LT Yesenia Roman-Longoria* - Nursing Corps – Active Duty Army

*Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG) are commissioning cadets who finish in the top 20% of Army graduates on the national Order of Merit List by achieving superior grade-point averages, strong performance in the Army Combat Fitness Test, and proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training.

Spring Commissioning 2023 – SFU



On May 13th, 2023, the Warrior Battalion commissioned six new Second Lieutenants from SFU!

The battalion was honored to have CW5(R) Richard Lewis Ford, uncle to Cadet Erika Ellison, as the guest speaker for the ceremony.

The commissioned are as follows:

- 2LT Shauna Abair - Field Artillery - PA National Guard
- 2LT Erika Ellison - Medical Service Corps - PA National Guard
- 2LT Noah Figgins - Medical Service Corps - PA National Guard
- 2LT Quinten Fultz - Adjutant General Corps - PA National Guard
- 2LT Jason Geary - Field Artillery - Active Duty Army

- 2LT Stephano Petruccelli - Chemical Corps – Active Duty Army

Cadet Summer Training (CST)

Fort Knox, KY



CDT Ebona McRavion was chosen by her cadre at Cadet Summer Training to be color guard commander for the 4th Regiment graduation.

Cadet Summer Training (CST) is a culmination of what cadets have learned in their MS I and II years and apply it to tactical scenarios and events. Every summer, cadets from across America converge to Fort Knox, Kentucky (it serves other purposes than just storing and protecting our Nation's gold) to complete their 35-day training- bringing them one step closer to commissioning as an Army officer. The primary purpose of CST is to train cadets to standard, test, and develop their leadership skills, and evaluate and assess their potential as an officer in the United States Army. CST training events test cadets' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, as well as shape them into flexible leaders who can flourish in abstruse and complicated circumstances.

Training consists of the Army Combat Fitness Test, Marksmanship, Day and Night Land Navigation, Ruck marches, and three stages of Field Training Exercises. The Field Training Exercises are when cadets (get poured on, stung by bees, attacked by raccoons at night, and eat many, many MREs) are evaluated on their leadership within a Squad or at the Platoon level. Training aside, CST is also a time when you develop a companionship with the other cadets that will last a lifetime.

Air Assault Graduates

West Point (USMA), NY



Cadet Matthew Bowser, UPJ Class of 2025

“Attending Air Assault School was a unique and challenging experience that allowed me to learn more about helicopters, sling load operations, and rappelling. I made some life-long friends during the course. I enjoyed hearing from the USMA cadets about their unique experiences at the Academy and they enjoyed hearing about my experiences as an ROTC cadet. I am grateful I had the opportunity to attend Air Assault School.”

“It has always been a goal of mine to attend Air Assault and I was thrilled to learn that I had been selected amongst my peers to attend this past summer. I’m glad I got to challenge myself throughout the course and learn new skills that I’ll take with me throughout the rest of my Army career. I’m grateful that I got to go to Air Assault.”



Cadet Matthew Powell, UPJ Class of 2024

Cadet Field Training

West Point (USMA), NY



CDT Matthew Kessler, IUP Class of 2025

This past summer, Matthew Kessler, IUP Class of 2025, attended Cadet Field Training (CFT) at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. The mission of CFT is to develop, train, test, and validate foundational military competencies. ROTC Cadets who attend CFT depart with confidence in their individual talents and an increased appreciation for USMA and the military overall.

“During CFT I learned a lot. We did many things including land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship and the Army Combat Fitness Test. We learned about all branches of the army including Armor, Infantry, Field Artillery, Aviation, Air Defense Artillery, Engineers, etc. My favorite thing we did was flying in the Chinooks helicopters and doing the obstacle courses as it prepped me for Air Assault Course this summer.

I learned a lot about teamwork and leadership during this detail. I learned that you need to have a voice and you need to know what’s going on to accomplish the mission. Another important thing is knowing the mission and achieving the mission and never did I experience that until this summer. CFT also broadened my horizons on what I want to do in the army.” - Cadet Matthew Kessler ‘25

IUP's Rifle Club



Rifle Club is open to all students at IUP. Left: Cadets receive training to further their knowledge and skills. Right: cadets instruct incoming members

Thomas Campisano first developed the Rifle Club in the 1970s at Indiana High School as a single-shot firearm competition. Mr. Campisano later expanded his club at the indoor range of Pierce Hall to Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) students until 2017. The club (which originally had roughly forty members) has expanded to over one hundred members in the years since. The club continues to teach cadets, students, and incoming members about firearm safety in conditions which aid in overcoming new-shooter apprehension. Additionally, the Rifle Club facilitates special holiday range hours such as Halloween in October, Christmas in December, and St. Patrick's Day in March.

Nurse Summer Training Program

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA



Cadet Carly Fordham, IUP Class of 2024 and a Nursing major, completed the Nursing Summer Training Program (NSTP) at Joint Base Lewis-Mc-Chord, WA.

“This past summer I was able to go to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) in Washington State to work at Madigan Army Medical Center. I worked on four different floors and gained over 150 clinical hours. I started out on a Medical Surgical Floor where I was able to perform clinical skills and become more confident in my competencies with patient care. The other floors included Labor & Delivery and Pediatrics; I also shadowed a certified nurse anesthetologist in the operating room. This experience allowed me to interact with different types of patients and perform skills that are not available through school clinical.

I shadowed a Medical Surgical Nurse for six days and it allowed me to experience what three 12-hour shifts were like. During my time with my preceptor, she took the time to explain a lot of details and challenged me to think critically when a situation would occur that did not have a textbook answer.

I got hands on experience to perform skills on patients. With the guidance from my preceptor, I completed all the medicine passes throughout the day. I learned many methods for administering medications and really got familiarized with the IV pump, something that seemed daunting at school. I was very excited that I was given the opportunity to successfully learn how to place IV's. It is because of NSTP that I have become confident with various skill sets that will help me grow as a future nurse.

“While there were opportunities to work, we also had days off which allowed us time to explore the base and the area. Washington State has a lot to offer and JBLM is in a perfect location. We hiked Mount Rainier, visited Seattle, went to a baseball game and the beach. NSTP allowed me the opportunity to see how a large Army base functions from day to day and what life could look like as a 2LT in the Nursing Corps. NSTP also provided the chance to talk to newly commissioned 2LTs and learn the timeline of what happens after graduating and commissioning. I really appreciate the opportunity I was given to travel across the country and learn so many different things. This is a great chance for people to learn and see what being an Army Nurse is truly like.” - Cadet Carly Fordham '24

Alumni Highlight – 2LT Mia Lenzi, IUP Class of 2022



2LT Mia Lenzi graduated from IUP with the Class of 2022 and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army component, branching Armor. She attended Armor Basic Officer Leader's Course (ABOLC) at Fort Moore (formerly known as Fort Benning), GA; she has also attended the Scout Leaders Course, Maintenance Leaders Maneuver Course, Bradley Commander's Course, and Dismounted Counter IED Course.



2LT Lenzi currently serves as the Assistant S-3 Officer in 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, KS. Her future plans include taking a Platoon Leader position in the Fall of 2023 within her unit and to eventually serve as a Company Executive Officer.

The Annual Military Ball – 2024

We would like to extend an invitation to all Warrior Battalion Cadets, Cadre, Alumni, Family and Friends to attend the unit's upcoming annual Military Ball.

The Military Ball is a special tradition for the Warrior Battalion, allowing for members of the unit both past and present to come together for a night of celebrating our cadets' many accomplishments and hear words of wisdom from our PMS and our guest speaker. We truly hope that you will join us for this year's Military Ball!

Location: Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex

Date: April 26th, 2024

Tickets can be purchased at:

alumni.iup.edu/controls/email_marketing/view_in_browser.aspx?sid=894&gid=1&sendId=5094563&ecatid=5&puid=216d8980-5d5b-4d38-9a38-1b2e53a6e6d7

Military Veterans Affinity Group Brunch

This year there is also a Military Veterans Affinity Group Brunch that is open to all Warrior Battalion Alumni!

The Save the date for the brunch is available through the Military Ball link above.

All guests must purchase a ticket and register for the event. Guests will have an opportunity to make additional donations when purchasing a ticket. Thank you!