THE WARRIOR BATTALON SITUATION REPORT

In This Issue:

Spring 2020 Commissioning Ranger Challenge Team SFU Swim Team Fritz Fromm Remembered

SPRING 2020



rgent Care Clinic

Above: Cadets throw grenades during the 2020 Arctic Challenge; Right: Members of the Warrior Battalion joined instructors from the SFU Physician Assistant Department in donating 4,000 gloves to the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center in Altoona, PA; Bottom Right: CDTs Crawford and Daigle preparing to rappel from the catwalk in the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex; Below: LTC Brian Pilch and MSG Samuel Alter are both leaving Warrior Battalion this summer for new assignments.





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On the Cover: Cadet Peter Flory engages pop-up targets at Camp Dawson, WV, in preparation for Individual Weapons Qualification at Advanced Camp this summer. Unfortunately, all Cadet Summer Training was canceled due to COVID-19.

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WARRIOR BATTALION ARMY ROTC

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August 2020

9-13 Agile Leader CFTX (Tentative)
17 Classes Begin (SFU)
19 Classes Begin (UPJ)
22 Freshman Welcome Event
24 Classes Begin (IUP/MAC)

January 2021

11 Classes Begin (SFU/UPJ)19 Classes Begin (IUP/MAC)

March 2021

25-28 CFTX (Tentative)

September 2020

12-13 Spring Commencement 25-27 Fall FTX (Tentative)

April 2021

10-11 Staff Ride (Tentative) 24 Military Ball (Tentative)

October 2020

10 Homecoming 16-18 Ranger Challenge 16 State of the ROTC

May 2021

 1 UPJ Commencement
 7 Commissioning/IUP Commencement
 9 SFU Commencement
 15 MAC Commencement



From the Professor of Military Science

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis W. Faulkner

Family, Friends, Allies, and members of the Warrior Battalion,

I hope that this year's edition of the newsletter finds you all well and hopeful as we collectively navigate the unique challenges that 2020 has brought us so far. For those that do not know, all schools within the Warrior Battalion went to remote instruction mid-way through the Spring semester. As you can well imagine, or have experienced in your own hometowns, this presented unique and unexpected hurdles to accomplishing both academic and ROTC instruction to standard. I am pleased to report that for all universities and the ROTC department we successfully ensured that 23 new Lieutenants remain on track for commissioning and all other Cadets completed their instruction for the semester. Also, unique this year is that there will be no summer training, to include Advanced Camp, Basic Camp, and all other Army sponsored courses/ internships. While we regret the opportunities missed, we are well postured to ensure that necessary training for both our rising senior class and all other classes will be achieved. Fall 2020 is going to also have unique challenges as we work to gain ground, but I would reassure all our partners that we will be successful as we always have been.

While we are sad for the very important events that were lost over the last few months, we celebrate in all that was still achieved. Thanks to the support of IUP and the amazing team of the Warrior Battalion we executed eighteen individual commissioning ceremonies for our newest LTs in the US Army here at Pierce Hall between 27 May and 7 June. These ceremonies ensured that the incredible accomplishment of achieving a 4-year degree and the act of commissioning was honored in the best way possible and was shared with the people most important to each new LT. We will be sharing more of these ceremonies in our social media posts and will have a full video version available that will highlight the key aspects of the ceremony as well as to combine them in a manner demonstrating the collective strength of this organization. We are still planning for our usual end of summer commissioning on 27 August which will include five more new LTs.

We wish a fond farewell to two key members of the team. LTC Brian Pilch and MSG Sam Alter will be departing this summer and will be sorely missed by everyone. Good luck, gents, wish you the best. In addition, we expect to add at least two new members in the Fall and are excited for what the future holds. I want to thank our newly commissioned seniors for an exceptional year and performance for the Battalion - well done! I look forward to another great year here at the Warrior Battalion.

Lastly, I want to thank again all those who have contributed to the ROTC program this year. We would not be able to accomplish what we do without your support. The funds raised this year for specific events will all transition to those same events in the next school year and we are well postured to enable amazing events for our Cadets—thank you!

> Warriors First! LTC Dennis Faulkner



From the Senior Military Science Instructor

Master Sergeant Samuel Alter

Warrior Battalion,

Congratulations to our newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants. It has been a great privilege to watch you grow during your junior and senior years, and develop into the newest leaders in our Army. You endured change within the program from leaders' responsibilities and embedding the NCO Corps within our ranks to holding BN level positions where you were not only responsible for yourself, but for every level of Military Science Cadets in leadership positions, as well as ensuring that morale and motivation were at a high level so that each cadet gave their best every day. You all did exceptionally well with adapting and paving the way for the future of the Warrior Battalion. I charge you to continue your professionalism and development as leaders in the future Army. Never forget: "Be present and leaders always lead from the front."

Juniors. I know that the Battalion is going to be in good hands. You worked extremely hard this year to develop yourselves in the next level of leadership and you have done very well. You have lived up to the Army Values as well as what it is to be a leader. You have excelled and performed well in your duty positions this year. With the pandemic, things have changed for your class but you have adapted and maintained your discipline, and continued to prepare for what may come for your summer training and evaluations. Good luck this summer no matter where the path may lead you. I know you are going to do great. Sophomores, you did well adjusting to your new leadership roles in the program as I knew you would from the dedication and motivation you demonstrated every day. During the absence of the MS3s you stepped up and lead from the front. Some of you came out of your shells and accomplished things you never thought you would. Next year is going to come quickly and your roles in higher leadership positions will challenge you mentally and physically so prepare now. Stay focused and get ready to "get after it." Freshmen, you worked hard and learned a lot from your peers this year. Stay fresh on the knowledge you were taught because you will build on it and develop it in the upcoming year. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to teach and mentor you throughout your Freshman year.

The time has come for me to move on in my career as the Army has selected me to attend the US Army Sergeants Major Academy at Ft Bliss, TX. It has been a very rewarding and humbling experience helping to train and develop the future leaders of our great Army. I am happy to announce that the Battalion will have a great new Master Sergeant in the fall. MSG Dean Pfirman will be replacing me this summer. He is currently serving as the 1SG for Blackhawk Troop, 1 -7 CAV out of Ft. Hood, TX.

Thank you to all the current and former cadre. It has been a pleasure to work with you, as well as the university faculty and staff who support our program, and the community that supports our training events and allows us to be part of this county.

> Warriors First! Warrior 7



Cadet Battalion Commander Ethan Blackie

This year the Warrior Battalion operated at a newfound level of excellence. Coming into the semester we had several Distinguished Military Graduates identified. The MSIVs demonstrated our ability to work well together during the Fall FTX, which was an improvement over previous years and will be the new model for FTXs. Planning and executing events and labs for the rest of the semester came easily, and the Battalion continued a high level of operations into the Spring semester.

Cancelling the Spring events was disappointing as Cadets spent several months developing outstanding events. Most disappointing was cancelling the CFTX and the Military Ball, which had over 300 reservations.

The Cadets' hard work will benefit future events, though, through detailed continuity books. Each book will lay out how to plan and run the event successfully. The MSIVs have addressed every realm of operations to set the underclassmen up for success as well as looking to future Cadets, with the Pathways to Service program the Battalion sponsors at Indiana High School, which exposes students to emergency services, law enforcement, and military careers.

For myself, I was excited to work with CDT Crawford to oversee the Cadet staff and provide help when needed. I was confident in our staff so I focused on training and worked with CDT Kinter to create an ideal lab outline. I believe this change provided Cadets the most learning in the two hour labs. I also worked with the TACs to ensure that after labs met SFC Collins' intent.

While the Cadets ran the program with guidance from Cadre, it was easy for me to fulfill this position, understand my responsibilities, and plug myself in where I felt I could be most valuable. Overall, we would not have been as successful without the teamwork of the MSIV class. Every MSIV knew their role and executed. The underclassmen's eagerness to learn and the hard work only increased productivity. Personally, this has been a very rewarding experience for me.



Cadet Command Sergeant Major Eric Hicks

Out of my four years in the program, I think the IUP Warrior Battalion saw the most success during the 2019-2020 school year. Even though the academic year was cut short due to the COVID-19 virus, we still accomplished a lot within the Battalion. The Battalion staff worked very well together and put countless hours into planning several events. The BC, XO, S3, and myself ensured that everyone within the program was able to play their part in planning and developing success. I strongly believe the Class of 2020 set the newfound standard for the Warrior Battalion for years to come. Throughout our time here at Indiana University of Pennsylvania I feel that we were more recognized university-wide due to

our involvement with the academic institution. I am proud of what the Warrior Battalion has accomplished.

I knew it was going to be a challenge when I was promoted to the c/CSM. The CSM position in Cadet Command is significantly different than a CSM in today's army. In the real Army, the CSM is usually the most senior enlisted NCO with years of experience. In exchange for my lack of years of practical experience, I provided my best input for every event that was held within the Battalion. I was also the OIC for many events, but those would not have been successful without the other staff members. Additionally, I played the role of TAC for the MSIII class and held weekly tutoring sessions. The main goal I strived for as the CSM was for people to look up to me as a leader and trust my decision making. I hope the underclassman have learned a lot from me and think of me as a mentor. I honestly enjoyed my role as the c/CSM, and it helped build strong relationships with my peers.

COMMISSIONING

This year's Commissioning was unlike anything we have experienced previously or ever expected to experience. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to host our usual gathering of family, friends, and the Warrior Battalion at Fisher Hall to celebrate this Spring's commissionees. As the semester unfolded, we feared having to hold individual ceremonies via video conferencing. In the end we were able to hold individual in-person Commissioning ceremonies for all eighteen of our Spring 2020 graduates. While most of the speakers were presented by way of prerecorded greetings, the commissionees came to Pierce Hall, joined by family and friends, to be pinned and receive their first salute.

The program began with the National Anthem and an invocation from our Chaplain, Scott Weigner. Following this, MG John R. Evans, Jr., Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, greeted the commissionees with a few short remarks. Michael A.



Driscoll, President of IUP, graciously recorded some comments for the graduates as well. LTC Faulkner's remarks were very succinct. He was followed by our keynote speaker, COL Donald W. Stoner, III, IUP '91, who offered the new Lieutenants some sage advice from his nearly thirty years of military service. The highlight of each ceremony and the long awaited moment for each Cadet finally arrived as they were pinned by family members, and then received their first salute as an Officer in the U.S. Army. LTC Faulkner administered the Oath of Office as the last step of the ceremony. Unfortunately, we could not host refreshments for the families and friends who gathered, but they were all grateful for the opportunity to conclude their academic career and begin their military career with appropriate celebration.





Top: 2LT Ethan Blackie takes his Oath of Office; Above: 2LT Ryan Redilla receives his first salute from classmate SFC Joseph Guerra; Left: 2LT Cherish Smith with her grandmother, Edeth Freeman

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Congratulations to our newest Second Lieutenants:

Ethan Blackie (Infantry, Active Duty) Cole Crumpler (Transportation Corps, Active Duty) Ryan Daigle (Infantry, Active Duty) Audra Everitt (Nurse Corps, Active Duty) Jordan Fisher (Nurse Corps, Active Duty) Amanda Goodwin (Nurse Corps, Active Duty) Ian Greiner (Quartermaster Corps, National Guard) Devin Jeffries (Chemical Corps, National Guard) Eric Kinderman (Corps of Engineers, Active Duty) Kyle Kinter (Corps of Engineers, Active Duty) Brendan Myers (Corps of Engineers, National Guard) Eli Norman (Infantry, Active Duty) Michael Ondik (Military Police Corps, National Guard) Ryan Redilla (Quartermaster Corps, National Guard) Landon Reed (Military Police Corps, Army Reserve) Nicole Sarnovsky (Armor, National Guard) Cherish Smith (Adjutant General Corps, Active Duty) Brittany Thatcher (Military Intelligence, National Guard).



Above: 2LT Nicole Sarnovsky hugs her father, retired SSG Martin Sarnovsky, after he rendered her first salute; Below Right: 2LT Audra Everitt is pinned by her parents, Cara & Todd Everitt; Below Left: 2LT Brittany Thatcher signs the Historic Ledger; Bottom: 2LT Eric Kinderman waits to be pinned, with his girlfriend, Delany Gillman





Additional congratulations to our Distinguished Military Graduates:

Ethan Blackie Ryan Daigle Audra Everitt Eric Kinderman Kyle Kinter

Advice for New Cadets From Last Year's New Cadets



Use your time wisely and do not take anything for granted, including advice. - CDT Alicia Dent Don't give up the first time something gets tough.

-CDT Gabriel Saez



Sometimes you just need to take the leap and push yourself even when its uncomfortable.

- CDT Ashley Thompson



Make a routine/schedule to follow so that you will not become overloaded with school work and you can maintain a decent sleep schedule.

- CDT Benjamin Baggott

Embrace the suck.

- CDT Carrie Stahlman



Start training your endurance so you have a head start.

- CDT Sean Vashie

Form friendships with everyone you meet in the battalion. Have your priorities straight and be good at time management. Always have and believe in your "why".

- CDT Stone Shugarts



Be ready and able to make all aspects of ROTC a priority. Be okay with being outside in any weather and to get a little dirty.

- CDT Maeghan Sentz

Get all the gear you can. Wet weathers are lifesavers. Do not forget a towel. Get gloves, preferably two pairs. Do not forget hat and gloves, or winters.

- CDT Marija Linde

Do not fall into the trap of taking the easy way out. - CDT *Olivia Mosier*





Do not compare yourselves to others. Compare yourself to your own progress and work on getting better each time.

- CDT Theodore Reinhard

Stick by upper classmen or even the MS2s and ask them every question you think twice on.

- CDT Tyler Mulhollen

Operations under COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic set in during the early part of the Spring 2020 semester. As it grew and states began to take action in an effort to combat its spread, it could not help but affect ROTC operations at all levels. While these changes have affected all Cadets, it has had the greatest impact on the graduating MS IVs.

With the state deciding to take action during Spring Break, all of Warrior Battalion's universities extended their Spring Break for a week to give themselves – and students – time to adjust. When students returned, they returned to clear their dorms and move home, with a very few staying on campus who had nowhere else to go.

Classes resumed but not in the traditional manner – all classes were now virtual. Many professors and instructors turned to Zoom or similar platforms to continue face to face instruction, while others resorted to Blackboard or other static media just to communicate and give assignments, trusting students to manage their own time to devote to class. Some professors went minimal. Others assigned more material in order to convey information the students were missing from classroom time, resulting in many students struggling to keep up the pace.

From our perspective, these changes completely overturned the standard practices of ROTC operations. It was easy enough for the ROTC instructors to adjust to the Zoom classrooms. However, even without the edict on social distancing, students had returned home so we could no longer hold labs. The Cadet leadership rallied and produced physical training plans that the Cadets could accomplish at home with no equipment, even providing and posting videos of proper technique on the Battalion's Facebook page.

All of our functions had to be cancelled for the remainder of the school year. The intent of Staff Ride was met through a virtual program, with students "touring" the battlefield at Gettysburg and answering questions about each stop to indicate their learning progress. The Military Ball was cancelled, with refunds still in progress due to being managed by the Foundation. The Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) was cancelled, so MS IIIs would not get their last practice before Advanced Camp, which was also cancelled. In fact, all Cadet Summer Training was cancelled and we will hold a CFTX in August to evaluate the rising MS IVs.

For the graduating MS IVs, commencement will be delayed until September. Individual commissioning ceremonies were held for the graduating Cadets and their families. At this time, a couple of the new 2LTs have already reported to their Basic Officer Leader Course.

On the other hand, Cadets have been



encouraged to participate in any community service projects they feel prepared to assist in. The National Guard Simultaneous Membership Program Cadets have not been activated, but some have considered volunteering if needed for the summer after the

end of the semes-

CDT Lauren Shission makes ear savers for health care professionals

ter. In general, the Cadets have been advised to use this time wisely to prepare for their futures.

While the official responses to COVID-19 effectively put operations on hold, we are planning to be back to normal operations with the Fall 2020 semester. Due to the strength of the Warrior Battalion, we will meet all requirements and we fully expect to make up the difference in the coming Fall.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Located in Indiana, PA; Established in 1875
- Public, coed university
- 10,500+ students
- Over 140 undergraduate majors
 - Known for Business, Sciences and Nursing
- 122 Cadets currently
- \$12,215 per semester, special incentives for ROTC Cadets
- 19 teams competing at NCAA Division II and additional club teams
 - Noted for Football, Men's Basketball, Rugby, and LaCrosse among others
- 350 acres in a rural/small town setting

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

- Located in Loretto, PA; established in 1847
- Private, coed university (Franciscan)
- About 2,200 students
- 25 undergraduate majors
 - Known for Nursing, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy and other medical fields
- 21 Cadets currently
- \$26,545 per semester, special incentives for ROTC Cadets
- 23 teams competing at the NCAA Division I and additional club teams
- 600 acres in a rural setting

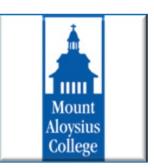




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MOUNT ALOYSIUS COLLEGE

- Located in Cresson, PA; established in 1853
- Private, coed university (Sisters of Mercy)
- 2,900 students
- 34 undergraduate majors
 - Known for Nursing
- 4 Cadets currently
- \$17,110 per semester
- 15 teams competing at the NCAA Division III level
- 193 acres in a rural/small town setting



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT JOHNSTOWN

- Located in Johnstown, PA; established 1927
- Satellite of the University of Pittsburgh, a public research university
- About 3,000 students
- 44 undergraduate majors
 - Known for Engineering, Sciences and Nursing
- 3 Cadets currently
- \$12,403 per semester
- 15 teams competing at the NCAA Division II
 - Noted for Wresting and Men's and Women's Basketball
- 655 wooded acres in a small city setting



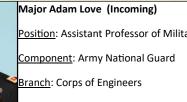
Meet Our Faculty & Staff



	<u>Position</u> : Professor of Military Science (Commander) <u>Component</u> : Active Duty <u>Branch</u> : Infantry	
	Master Sergeant Dean Pfirman (Incoming) <u>Position</u> : Senior Military Science Instructor <u>Component</u> : Active Duty <u>Military Specialty</u> : Cavalry	
	Major Adam Love (Incoming) <u>Position</u> : Assistant Professor of Military Science <u>Component</u> : Army National Guard <u>Branch</u> : Corps of Engineers	
1155 -21 P	Captain Adam Becker <u>Position</u> : Assistant Professor of Military Science; Executive Officer <u>Component</u> : Active Duty <u>Branch</u> : Logistics	LEADERSH
	Mr. Meryl Rutz (Master Sergeant) <u>Position</u> : Military Science Instructor <u>Component</u> : Army National Guard <u>Military Specialty</u> : Military Intelligence/Medical	
	Sergeant First Class Aaron Stockwell Position: Army National Guard Recruiter <u>Component</u> : Army National Guard <u>Military Specialty</u> : Military Intelligence/Armor	







Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Faulkner







Mr. Chris Chavira (Sergeant First Class, Retired) Position: Recruiting Operations Officer Component: Active Duty Military Specialty: Combat Engineer/Recruiter



Mr. Sonny Brilhart

Position: Pierce Hall Building Custodian





Component: Active Duty



Branch: Field Artillery Sergeant First Class Shaun Collins

Master Sergeant Samuel Alter (Outgoing) Position: Senior Military Science Instructor

Position: Assistant Professor of Military Science

Component: Active Duty Military Specialty: Cavalry

Component: Active Duty Branch: Military Police

Position: Military Science Instructor

Component: Active Duty

<u>Branch</u>: Infantry

Mr. J.D. Walker (Sergeant First Class, Retired)

Position: Military Science Instructor

Component: Active Duty

Military Specialty: Special Forces/Civil Affairs

Mr. Michael Zabrzeski (Major, Retired) Position: Human Resource Assistant Component: Active Duty Branch: Infantry



BN AWARDS

Colonel & Mrs. Zang Scholarship Awarded to a Cadet for outstanding performance CDT Jeremiah Wilt





Colonel Willard L. Robinson Leadership Award Awarded to the Cadet selected as the Warrior Battalion Commander

2LT Ethan Blackie

George C. Marshall Award Awarded to an MS IV for outstanding performance CDT Jordan Crawford



<u>MS I</u>

Janell Brinser (Fall, Spring) Christopher Chavira (Spring) Noah Figgins (Fall), Spring) Matthew Julier (Fall) Theodore Reinhard (Spring) Julia Springer (Fall, Spring)

<u>MS II</u>

Kasey Chobany (Fall, Spring) Annabelle McCullough (Fall, Spring) Esau Olson (Spring)

MS III

Brady Dalton (Fall) Joseph Guerra (Fall, Spring) Frances Hermoso (Spring) Jeremiah Wilt (Fall, Spring)

<u>MS IV</u>

Ethan Blackie (Fall, Spring) Ryan Daigle (Fall, Spring) Ryan Redilla (Fall)

Awarded for excelling in all three critical areas : Academics, Fitness, and Leadership.

RANGER CHALLENGE

Ranger Challenge is a brigade-wide competition that takes place every October and includes such events as the APFT, obstacle course, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, one-rope bridge, the grenade course, weapons assembly, a ruck march, and more. This past fall, the Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge team placed 10th out of the 46 battalions that participated in the competition. "This was the first time in nine years our competition team earned a top 10 in the brigade," CDT Jack Painter, the team's Platoon Sergeant, proudly pointed out.



Each of the cadets interviewed felt it had been an honor to participate on the team, and felt rewarded for all the hard work that they had collectively and individually put in to make the team successful. CDT Ryan Daigle, the team's Platoon Leader, said

that "training began early in the semester focusing on physical fitness and tactical skill proficiency. Training took place every morning and afternoon, six days per week." Although seven seniors dominated the team of thirteen, CDT Erik Hicks explained the benefits, saying that all of the seniors had prior Ranger Challenge experience and because of that, "We used our experience and skills to strategize each event [and] having seven seniors made it easier to mentor the underclassmen as well."



CDT Janell Brinser, one of three freshmen on the team, reflected, "The biggest lesson I learned throughout the Ranger Challenge season was teamwork. Without your teammates you cannot accomplish anything. Each member brings a different talent to the team and all of the talents are needed to accomplish the mission." Proud of the team for their efforts and the results, CDT Daigle looked forward to the future: "T'm excited to see the results the outstanding younger cadets will produce in the future."

Congratulations to CDTs Ryan Daigle, Erik Hicks, Kyle Kinter, Ethan Blackie, Jordan Crawford, Eric Kinderman, Christian Labash, Jack Painter, Alexa Andrick, Frances Hermoso, Janell Brinser, Ted Reinhard, and Matthew Julier. Outstanding job and keep up the good work!





CDT Annabelle McCullough

The Warrior Battalion values the many student-athletes in the ROTC program for bringing their athleticism, dedication, and focus to the battalion. This year, there is the unusual occurrence of having four cadets all on the same team—the Saint Francis Women's Swim Team. Freshmen Shauna Abair, Bryanna Barr, and Julia Springer along with sophomore Annabelle McCullough compete at the Division I level while being involved in the program.

CDT Abair is a Criminal Justice major from West Palm Beach, FL. She joined ROTC to experience both the civilian and military life. She favors the 1650 Freestyle and the 500 Freestyle. CDT Barr is a Biology major with a concentration in Pre-Medicine from Port Clinton, OH. She joined because she "liked the idea of being part of something bigger than myself and it is how I think I can have the most reach to help others." She prefers the 50 and 100 Freestyle, and the 100 Backstroke. CDT Springer is a Physical Therapy major from Richmond, VA. She wanted the opportunity to be in college while being a part of the military. She goes for distance with the 1000 and 1650 Freestyle. CDT McCullough is a General Engineering major with a Computational concentration from Mercersburg, PA. She is in ROTC to "serve my country and to have the chance to be part of a team with the same mission." She does well at the 50 Freestyle and 100 Butterfly.

All of the Cadets are successful in their sport while being involved in the battalion. At the Northeast Conference Championships, both CDT Abair and CDT McCullough scored points, with CDT McCullough placing third in the 50 Freestyle and being on the 400 Medley Relay that placed third with a new school record. This contributed to Saint Francis placing fourth overall at the meet. CDTs Abair, Barr, and Springer are all on the SFU Color Guard. CDT McCullough is a team leader and the Treasurer for the SFU Student Veterans of America chapter. All of the Cadets plan to commission upon graduation and have found their ROTC experience to be rewarding.

A Look Back: Remembering Fritz Fromm

CDT Michael Ondik

Since its inception in 1950, IUP's Army ROTC program, the Warrior Battalion, has turned college students into some of the brightest young minds in the Army. The Warrior Battalion has the alumni to prove it, with many high-ranking officers who began their careers at IUP. Out of the over two thousand cadets commissioned into the Army through the Warrior Battalion there is one truly exceptional cadet who never got to realize his potential. Friedrich "Fritz" Fromm had his life tragically cut short by a freak training accident just months after commissioning and before ever reporting to his first duty assignment.

Fritz's accomplishments as a cadet alone were more impressive than many have in their entire Army career. Being battalion and commando detachment commander, attending airborne school, leading the original Ranger Challenge team to two state championships, and receiving the George C. Marshall Award were some of his most notable accomplishments. He also received the ROTC Medal for Heroism, which is awarded to cadets who distinguish themselves through acts of heroism performed on or off campus. He was awarded the medal for his part in saving two elderly people from a house fire. On top of all of this, Fritz graduated summa cum laude and was a distinguished military graduate.

Fritz's exceptional resume certainly paints a picture of his commitment and dedication not only to his education but to the Warrior Battalion as well. These accomplishments, while impressive, do not fully capture the type of person, leader and friend that Fritz was. The story of Fritz as a man was best conveyed to me by a few of his college roommates and best friends, Colonel Mike Pappal, Colonel Pat Polatto, and Colonel Tom Andrejcak. These men remember Fritz not only for his list of accomplishments, but for the person he was and the effect he had on the lives of everyone around him, including their own.

Colonel Pappal described Fritz as

someone who was extremely loval. He was charismatic yet introverted and he brought out the best in the people around him. He was the programs "top guy." Colonel Pappal described him as the person who would take care of everyone else before he took care of himself, a quality that takes a long time to develop, but is present in all great leaders. An example of this quality came at the national ranger challenge competition at Fort Bragg, NC. Their team was on a ruck march during the competition and Colonel Pappal was struggling. He said Fritz, without hesitation, took his ruck and carried it for the rest of the march. He picked up a struggling teammate without thought to how it would affect himself. This is just one example of what made Fritz the leader he was.

Colonel Polatto had more of the same to say about Fritz. He described Fritz as a natural leader who made everyone around him better. This trait is part of what made him such an exceptional leader. He performed at a high level, and he motivated the people around him to perform at his level, as well. Colonel Polatto said he was a straight shooter who knew what he wanted and would intelligent. One of Fritz's closest friends, he never forgot Fritz throughout his lengthy career. He described Fritz as the driving force behind who he became in the Army. Andrejcak went to ranger school not long after Fritz's death. He felt that Fritz was with him the whole way through and that he had "gone to ranger school for two." This is a testament to the effect that Fritz had on people. Even after his death he still got the best out of the people closest to him.

Fritz Fromm had a profound impact on the people who knew him during his time in the Warrior Battalion. He not only held himself to a high standard, but inspired others to hold themselves to the same standard. As a near perfect example of what a cadet should strive to be, every cadet who comes through the Warrior Battalion should know the story of Fritz Fromm. Fritz has been memorialized in Pierce Hall with the cadet gym being named "Fromm Gym" so that every cadet who passes through gets a small glimpse of the person he was. Fritz will always be remembered as a man of the highest quality. and for the effect he had on those around him.

stop at nothing to get there. He described Fritz as extremely trustworthy. He never let anyone down. He also described Fritz as ethically and morally excellent.

Colonel Andrejcak described Fritz as extremely focused and disciplined as well as incredibly





ROTC for **NURSES**

CDT Jordan Fisher

The Warrior Battalion ROTC program truly is a great place for nurses to find their place. I am a senior Nursing cadet commissioning this Spring 2020, and I like to think back on how much the ROTC program has helped me. I joined ROTC after already being in the Army National Guard since 2014 and I received a four-year Minute Man Scholarship my freshman year. I was also able to apply for nursing assistance funds through ROTC, which helped pay for clinical supplies and the thousands of dollars we pay in textbooks.

Being a nurse, there is a lot more coursework and time devoted to the curricu-

lum than most other disciplines. This tends to be the main focus for many Nursing students and many think extracurriculars are not even an option. ROTC truly puts academics first and has an advanced program for Nurses in which Cadets are able to attend

Advanced Camp their MSII year, rather than their MSIII year. This is beneficial to many because the third-year nursing curriculum is very clinical heavy and focuses on the toughest material needed in order to pass the comprehensive NCLEX-



RN exam. Cadets are able to focus on one thing at a time, and can perform well at Advanced Camp by focusing strictly on training their MSII year.

Cadet Melanie Hammond, an up-andcoming senior Nursing Cadet swears by the advanced program and stated, "It really made me step up to the game and grow a lot faster. Being with people who had a whole extra year of training made me focus more so I could be respected when I finally went to camp. It made me work harder and it gave me an extra year to focus on Nursing." Cadet Hammond completed Advanced Camp this past summer and will be commissioning in Spring 2021.

Cadet Amanda Goodwin, a senior nursing cadet and president of the ROTC Nursing Club stated, "I'm grateful I was able to go to Advanced Camp early. I felt like this gave me the opportunity to give 100% at everything I was trying to accomplish. Nursing school and ROTC together can be overwhelming; this allowed me to focus on one thing at a time and be to successful." After successful completion of Advanced Camp during our MSII summer, we could focus on our clinicals and advanced courses. We would then have



the last two years of the program to complete the MSIV tasks and truly strive to improve our leadership skills as a part of the battalion staff.

The advanced program works. If you are a nursing student thinking about joining the ROTC program, this is the right route for you. I truly believe my performance at camp was directly related to the devotion I gave my MSII year. If I would have followed the traditional path I would not have been able to give my full attention to training, and I believe my performance would have been negatively affected. I am forever grateful for the experiences and opportunities this program has given me.



National Scholarship



Janell Brinser

CDT Janell Brinser grew up in Mount Joy, PA, and attended Donegal High School where the earned a 4.7 GPA. She participated in

varsity soccer and track and field, and served as the captain of both teams. She also obtained leadership experience as a freshman mentor, treasurer of student council and president of the National Art Honor Society. She even created her own club—the Mini-thon.

CDT Brinser chose IUP because she felt it would provide a quality education in Nursing. She also thought Indiana felt like a Hallmark movie, and she loves Hallmark movies, so it felt like the right place for her. She actively participates in several clubs, including Warrior Battalion's high performing Ranger Challenge team.

She joined Army ROTC after seeing a classmate a grade ahead of her receive an Army ROTC National Scholarship. She applied for the National Scholarship herself, and was selected for it. She knew this would give her the opportunity to fulfill two of her goals: To serve her country and to obtain an education. She credits her GPA along with her sports and extracurricular activities for her success in obtaining the scholarship.

Through ROTC, she said, she has learned what leadership means and how it can be applied to all aspects of life. She has learned what it means to have a battle buddy, and how important it is to have someone's back in and out of the classroom—and for them to have yours.

CDT Brinser is looking forward to giving back to her country, using the skills she is learning in ROTC and her Nursing program. She said, "To serve my country is one of the biggest honors in my opinion. Having the opportunity to serve is one of the ways I can give back to a country that has given me so much. She will be commissioning Active Duty and is willing to serve wherever she is needed.

National Scholarship



Yesenia Roman

CDT Yesenia Roman hails from Reston, VA, where she attended South Lakes High School, earning a 3.8 GPA. She

participated in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and played varsity soccer, competing with the Reston Renegades Travel Soccer Team. She was also a member of Junior ROTC for four years, serving as the JROTC Battalion Commander.

She chose IUP because it was among the best programs for both her major, Nursing, and ROTC. One of her mentors/high school teachers graduated from IUP and recommended that she look into the school. She pursued Army ROTC because of the respect she had for the leaders in her JROTC program. When she looked into it, she was drawn to how motivated and driven the Cadets were, how everyone seemed to have a goal, and the structure ROTC gave to their lives.

CDT Roman received a 4-Year National Scholarship. She applied for the scholarship knowing she wanted to be an Army officer and develop her leadership skills. Receiving the scholarship meant she could continue her education and developing her skills after high school. She believes that her GPA, JROTC participation, involvement in sports, and taking advanced courses all helped her to obtain the scholarship.

She appreciates the fact that ROTC has allowed her to meet many people with many different backgrounds, but with the common goal of graduating and commissioning to be an officer. She has learned a lot from the MSIVs who willingly share their experience and give advice based on their own growth. For herself, she's found that the most growth has come from labs, where Cadets are placed in positions they are not comfortable with.

Although it is still 3 years away, she is excited to commission. "Being a nurse in the United States Army is a huge privilege that I am willing to work hard for." She hopes to be stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, in San Antonio, TX.

Christopher Chavira, IUP MS I



CDT Christopher Chavira grew up in Kittanning, PA, where he attended Armstrong Junior/Senior High School, earning a 3.0 and participating in cross country, wrestling, and track and field. His first leadership opportunity came as captain of the wrestling team.

CDT Chavira chose IUP because of the quality of the Criminology department, which is his major, and the history and tradition of the ROTC program here. He joined ROTC because of the physical and mental challenges it offered, as well as the

opportunity to become an officer. He was influenced by his parents, both of whom served in the Army.

Although he came into the program physically fit, PT challenged him and he saw himself grow stronger through the year. He learned to work through stressful situations and balance schoolwork with his ROTC activities. He competed with the Ranger Challenge Club last Fall. He is already excited for his service commitment to begin. CDT Chavira said he frequently hears, "Serving your country is something bigger than yourself," and he also refers to John F. Kennedy's famous quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." "It is a high honor to serve this beautiful country and only one percent of us can say we serve," he said. He intends to serve in the National Guard to balance a civilian career with his military job.

Meet the Cadets

Julia Springer, SFU MS I



CDT Julia Springer grew up in Richmond, VA, where she attended James River High School. A dedicated student, she earned a 4.42 GPA while participating in swimming. She is continuing her swimming career at Saint Francis University, which she chose for the advanced 3+3 Physical Therapy program as well as their swim team.

CDT Springer always knew she was going to college, but joining the military interested her as well. When she saw that Saint Francis offered Army ROTC, she decided to join because it afforded her the opportunity to join the Army, get a college de-

gree, and serve her community. Although she will not have to make a formal decision for a couple of years, she would like to serve in the National Guard.

As a freshman, Army ROTC is already benefitting her. "I have learned the importance of leadership. ROTC has helped me work on these skills and use them in my everyday life." This is important to her, because for her, "Serving my country is a chance to give back for the freedoms that I have been able to take advantage of in my lifetime, and it is a chance to develop my personal character and become the best version of myself."

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Kasey Chobany, IUP MS II



CDT Kasey Chobany is a local student, having grown up in Portage, PA, and attended Portage Area High School where she earned a 4.0 while participating in the math competition team, as well as basketball, track and field and cross country. She also got her first taste of leadership there as class president, science club president, and team captain in all of her sports.

Originally attending UPJ, CDT Chobany transferred to IUP for the ROTC program and academic opportunities. Her major is Pre-Medicine Biology. ROTC gave her the chance to explore the potential for a military career and decide whether the Army

was right for her. With her experience in ROTC, she chose to enlist in the National Guard as that was the path that benefitted her the most. This, along with her high school experience, helped her to earn a Dedicated National Guard Scholarship.

She has learned a lot about herself and her abilities through ROTC, as well as how important it is to trust battle buddies and be reliable yourself. She values the teamwork and companionship she has experienced. "Being able to rely on, motivate, and work with one another is essential in accomplishing any goal and I'm glad I get to practice that skill in ROTC." CDT Chobany is excited to begin her military service, and one day serving Soldiers as an orthopedic doctor.

Just a few of the outstanding Cadets you'll work with in Warrior Battalion

Alexis Wolfe, UPJ MS III



CDT Alexis Wolfe is also local, growing up in Johnstown, PA, where she attended Bishop McCort High School and Cambria County Christian School. She earned a 4.0 and participated in the Math Olympics, basketball and soccer. Her high school leadership opportunities came as captain of her sports teams.

CDT Wolfe chose UPJ because it was cost efficient and close to home. She is a Mathematics and Accounting major there, and takes advantage of leadership opportunities as a resident assistant, and in Phi Eta Sigma and the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society. After her sophomore year, she enlisted in the Army Reserve,

and went through training and a deployment before returning to find that ROTC was now being offered. Inspired by her best friend, also a Soldier and an ROTC Cadet, she joined ROTC as a good way to further her Army career while finishing her degree.

In just a year in the program, Army ROTC has challenged her to move out of her comfort zone and she has found her peers and cadre to be helpful and welcoming. She looks forward to commissioning and making the most of her service. "Serving your country means taking pride in the work you do and representing your country with integrity. It means putting the needs of others before yourself and making selfless decisions without hesitation." She plans to stay in the Adjutant General Corps and hopes to serve at Ft. Bliss, TX, or Ft. Jackson, SC.

A Note to the Cadet Version of Myself

CPT Alex Deets, '12

I commissioned from the Warrior Battalion in May 2012 as a Quartermaster Officer. Shortly following my commissioning, I attended the Quartermaster Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Lee, Virginia before following on to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. At Fort Campbell, I served as a Distribution Platoon Leader, Forward Support Company Executive Officer, Assistant Battalion S3, and Battalion S4 within 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). I deployed twice to Afghanistan in support of OPERA-TION ENDURING FREEDOM 12-13 and OP-**ERATION RESOLUTE SUPPORT 15. I subse**quently attended Logistics Captains Career Course and Ranger School in 2016 before reporting to 3d Cavalry Regiment where I served as a Regimental S4 and Stryker Forward Support Company Commander. Following company command, I was assessed for and selected to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment where I currently serve as an Assistant Regimental S4 and have deployed once in support of a Special Operations Task Force.

I greatly enjoyed and benefited from my time at IUP ROTC. I owe continued success to my friends, peers, and mentors that invest time, resources, and energy into my development, as well as the unconditional support I receive from my family. My Army journey has certainly not been without challenges and painful lessons. Rather through serendipitous luck or the hard work of those around me, I have been blessed with fantastic opportunities. If I could leave a note to the former Cadet version of myself, I would offer the following advice:

Traverse every challenge, no matter



CPT Alex Deets with his wife, Bridget, at Logistics Captain's Career Course graduation, July 2016

the significance, with professionalism and a desire to succeed. Before you know it, how you handle problems, communicate, and treat others will quickly shape how those around you do the same. Not only is personal success and reputation built on a foundation of consistency and dependability, but instilling discipline and fostering a winning spirit requires you do the same.

Prioritize your time, resources, and energy; both personally and professionally. You will never have enough time to accomplish everything you want to do. The Army reliably gives leaders more than they can handle, makes everything the #1 priority, and directs leaders to assume the risk. Therefore, success requires you prioritize your time and where you focus your attention. As a Company Commander, my First Sergeant and I habitually communicated my priorities so that our Platoon Leaders and Non-commissioned Officers could freely make the dozens of daily little decisions that mean success. As a cadet, your time is no different. Set your priorities, stick to them, and don't lose focus on your end state. As I depended on my First Sergeant and leadership team to assist in setting priorities and staying informed, you too can seek the advice of Cadre and senior Cadets to establish your priorities.

Just because you are ready today, does not mean you will be ready tomorrow. Train, learn, and rest with this in mind. As a Cadet, I traveled to then Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), now Cadet Summer Training (CST), in 2011 between my MSIII and MSIV year. I was eager to ace a series of physical, leadership, and light infantry patrolling tasks that would decide my future. I showed up and fell flat on my face. I failed night land navigation, demonstrated weak leadership, and did not produce a notable physical performance. I was personally and professionally embarrassed. In retrospect, my immaturity prevented me from immediately learning a valuable lesson. I performed well my MS III year, however, after the taste of immediate success, I stopped challenging myself. I did not focus on my weaknesses or broaden my skills. I reflect on this lesson frequently and it aided greatly in success at Ranger School, company command, and selection for service in 75th Ranger Regiment. Continued success requires that you vigorously train intellectually, professionally, and physically. Do not allow complacency to distract you from taking on uncomfortable situations in which to grow. Just as importantly, physically and mentally rest when you need it. Injured and exhausted leaders struggle to carry their organizational weight.

Master the basics. Proficiency in the basics, like physical fitness, communication,



CPT Alex Deets and his wife, Bridget, at Ranger School graduation, November 2016

and discipline, transcend branch and make us Soldiers. It also builds leader credibility; particularly in combined arms environments. This was why completing Ranger School was so important to me. A Ranger tab simply demonstrates that you can execute basic Soldier and leader tasks under stress. Ensure you're investing time in maintaining the basics. Practice where you're weak and protect your time for physical fitness, study, and rest.

Work on effective communication skills. Your ability to communicate well, both verbally and written, matters greatly. Take the time to practice often. Capitalize on your current immersion in the education system. Your communication will soon not only represent you, but your organization and the Army amongst combined, joint, and interagency partners.

Relationships matter. Success in our profession is deeply rooted in our reputation and relationships. The relationships you grow and maintain will shape your career in and out of the military; especially as your cohort shrinks with each year. Professionalism, work ethic, and teamwork are at the core of relationship building in the Army. Practice these skills now and understand that the reputation you build as a Cadet will follow you into service. The reputation you earn could potentially ease friction between units in challenging situations or open future career opportunities.

Be comfortable making disciplined decisions within the Commander's Intent. The Army's learning institutions, like ROTC and the Basic Officer Leader Course, persistently stress commander's intent, key tasks, and end state because it's important. As a junior officer, you will quickly have responsibility thrust upon you. A huge part of success is understanding your unit's mission and your commander's intent. This understanding allows you to skillfully make decisions that achieve your commander's end state as the situation and mission undoubtedly evolve. Take time to ensure your subordinates also understand what must happen and why it is important.

Make your boss's priorities your priorities. Simply put, your rater and senior rater define your success one evaluation at a

(Continued on next page)

time. This is certainly not the only motivation for dedication and hard work, but it's realistic; the Army promotes officers based on their evaluations. Work diligently to make your boss and organization successful. The success of your boss and organization equates to your success. Focus on preserving your boss's time so that they may focus on what matters; taking care of Soldiers and training. Similarly, in your current environment, focus on being a good subordinate just as much as you focus on being a good leader. Work diligently to support your peers and focus on the success of the team. The longer you are in the military, the more success is defined by what the team achieves.

Have fun. Service within the Army is not always exciting and sometimes it is miserable. It is up to you to make the most of the military; both professionally and personally. Not much can compare to being a young, fit officer with stable employment and the opportunity to travel around the world. Seek unique experiences in your area, get to know your peers outside of work, and create fun memories with your family. Within work, get to know your Soldiers. Build the team and maintain a healthy sense of humor. It is worth noting that fun ought to be had responsibly. Many young leaders have self-selected for departure from service or non-advancement due to their failure to think critically and act sensibly.

As a cadet, you are setting the foundation for your future. Whether you serve four or 20 years, diligently invest in the opportunity to grow and balance your priorities. You can certainly learn from your mistakes, but you do not get to do this again. I welcome any communication or questions regarding professional development, leadership within in logistics formations, or service in the 75th Ranger Regiment. I may be reached at alexander.j.deets.mil@mail.mil.

AFNorth Battalion Spouse Earns AG Corps Recognition

Reprinted from https://www.army.mil/article/235790/afnorth_battalion_spouse_earns_ag_corps_recognition

By U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs May 20, 2020

BRUSSELS -- The husband of the commander of Allied Forces North (AFNorth) Battalion at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe at Casteau, Belgium recently became the Adjutant General's Corps Spouse of the Year.

Eric Gardner, who is married to Lt. Col. Gretchen Gardner, AFNorth commander, distinguished himself through his volunteerism, commitment to his home communities, and his philanthropic efforts, according to his award endorsement packet.

He volunteers in the schools his children have attended, he works in the AFNorth Battalion Soldier and Family Readiness Group, he volunteers with the Girl Scouts, writes a blog about being a military spouse from the male perspective, and he is also the author of the XIII Legion, a supernatural fiction series. His latest writing project, Origins of Honor, is a collaboration with 15 other authors to support a veteran charity.

Gardner is also a veteran who transitioned out of service to be a stay-at-home father to his two daughters.

"I think I'm fairly normal as a military spouse, in that I wear many hats," he said.

He and his future wife were both part of the Reserve Officer Training Program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Both of their Families lived in northern Virginia, so they carpooled home together and began dating during Eric's senior year.

Lt. Col. Gardner, who submitted the initial letter of endorsement, outlined some of her husband's achievements for the Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association, the military nonprofit organization that serves as the



Courtesy photo of Eric Gardner, husband of Lt. Col. Gretchen Gardner, commander of Allied Forces North (AFNorth) Battalion at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe at Casteau, Belgium. Eric Gardner recently became the Adjutant General's Corps spouse of the year.

AG Corps' professional association.

"I'm so proud of him!" she said.

The Gardner Family moves often, Lt. Col. Gardner counting 11 permanent changes of station during her more than 20 years of active-duty service. Their previous duty station was Fort Meade, Maryland, which they were at for only 10 months. Their Family has been at SHAPE now for one of two scheduled years.

"It can be hard to make a really meaningful impact when you are stationed at places for such a short period of time," Lt. Col. Gardner said.

She believes, however, that her and her husband have become adept at "getting a household set up and jumping right into whatever unit, challenge or adventure the Army throws us into."

"It is always difficult to stay connected with the friends you make along the way," said Eric of the many changes of station their Family has made. "Social media has helped, but this lifestyle moves very fast. It's not an exaggeration to say that as soon as you begin to catch your breath from finishing a PCS, it's time to move again. There's always an adventure right around the corner."

Nevertheless, he has found meeting so many people and experiencing so much travel an enormous advantage of Army life.

"Each of our assignments has allowed us to meet so many Soldiers and Families who have a common ideology: They all feel as though they are part of something larger than themselves," he said. "We've met service members and Families who joined the service from all walks of life. It's fascinating to hear all the life stories and see how everyone embraces the concept of this collective military Family that stretches across the globe.

"Enjoy the experiences," continued Gardner, on what he could offer other military spouses. "Life is hectic, and there are terrific demands placed on each of us. That doesn't mean that we should only focus on the challenges ahead. Planning on what's to come is great, but not if you need to sacrifice smelling the flowers around you. Oftentimes we forget to pause and take in the moment."

LTC (Retired) Eric W. Gardner, '98, and LTC Gretchen J. (Schranz) Gardner, '99.

LTC ANTHONY LENZI, '54 A legacy of service

Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Lenzi had a long and varied career. He graduated with a degree in Art Education in the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's first ROTC class in 1954. He later obtained a Masters in Educational Administration.

He served in the Army for 25 years, retiring in 1979. He served in Germany, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. In Vietnam, he oversaw the ammunition division with a budget of \$2 billion, and later was Chief of Staff of the Army Ordnance School. He returned to IUP in 1975 as the Professor of Military Science and grew the program from 300 cadets to over a thousand, making it the third largest program in the country.

Following his retirement, he worked as director of management and administration for the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, then again came home to IUP as the first executive director of the Foundation for IUP in 1983. He carried out a very successful fundraising campaign which has benefited many facets of IUP student life since. After retiring from IUP in



Above: LTC Anthony F. Lenzi, '54 while serving as Warrior BN PMS; Above Right: CPT Anthony, L Lenzi, '82, as a Cad

Anthony J. Lenzi, '82, as a Cadet at Airborne School, Ft. Benning, GA, 1981; Right: CDT Mia Lenzi, '22



1993, he served as executive director of the Jimmy Stewart Museum. He served in the Rotary Club, the Indiana Arts Council, the Military Order of World Wars, and the Indiana VFW Post 1989. He also lead fundraising efforts for other worthy organizations.

A local militaria collector brought this cannon into Pierce Hall to share a piece of LTC Lenzi's legacy. Presented by his workers in the ammunition division when he left the post, the plaque is inscribed in both English and Vietnamese, and says, "With the compliments of Arsenal people presented to Major Lenzi, Anthony F., July 1968."

LTC Lenzi's son, Anthony, also graduated from the program ('82). He served for 16 years, rising to Captain in the USAR as an



Engineer Officer. LTC Lenzi's granddaughter, Mia, is currently a Cadet here at IUP, class of '22.

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