



Fall, 2018



# The Warrior Battalion SITREP

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps

Volume 2, Issue 1

## FALL FTX New Faces, New Experiences



From September 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>, Warrior Battalion held their Fall FTX at Camp Dawson, WV, which all Cadets attend. The MSIIIs split off and focused on patrolling and other tactical skills which will strengthen their performance at Cadet Summer Training (CST) between their junior and senior years. The MSIVs spent the weekend training the MSIs and IIs in basic soldier skills.

Some of the training that Cadets underwent included individual movement techniques, applying camouflage, radio usage and the phonetic alphabet, first aid, and disassembly/reassembly of M4, M249 and M240B, as well as proper firing position for the M4. In addition to this training, the Cadets participated in both individual and team obstacle courses, and completed the 4-story rappel tower. They also completed a familiarization fire with the M4. It was a very successful weekend. The

MSIIIs specifically participated in patrol base operations, movement to occupy key terrain and land navigation.

The weekend was full of firsts, at least for some MSIs. CDT Erin Burkhart related, "Prior to going to FTX, I was a little skeptical because I was aware that I wasn't going to shower for a few days and I was going to sleep on the ground, outdoors. However, my perception changed and I really enjoyed my time in the field. . . . We sat down and pulled out the MREs we were given. I tried my first MRE, and it wasn't all that bad." Following that, "We marched to our first activity where we learned how to position yourself when holding and shooting the M4 carbine. Then we did a simulation of what it's like to shoot it and see how we scored.

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### Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

- Over 150 cadets in the Battalion, with over 50 freshman continuing into the Spring semester
- 8 Returning Cadets at the newly opened UPJ Program
- 2 new 2nd Lieutenants commissioned in December
- 100% Of graduating seniors received component of choice
- 95% of graduating seniors received their 1st or 2nd branch choice
- Year group 2020 is expected to commission 28 officers
- Year group 2021 is expected to commission 29 officers
- Year group 2022 has the potential to commission 30+ officers including 8 nurses

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### Connect with us!

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### Keep us up to date!

We would like to know your current rank and we would love to receive highlights from your career. Submit a class note at:

[www.alumni.iup.edu](http://www.alumni.iup.edu)

## From the Desk of the Professor of Military Science (PMS)

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

It has been an exceptional Fall semester and looks like we have set the conditions to continue through into the Spring. The current seniors have done an outstanding job of taking the reins of leadership for the Warrior Battalion and across the board are performing great. Currently we project commissioning 23 new LTs into the Army this year. We have just received the branch notifications for our seniors as well so feel free to congratulate your seniors on getting their branch assignment; once again all seniors received their component of choice and nearly all received one of their top two choices for branch. Additionally, we had five Cadets selected as Distinguished Military Graduates (CDTs Davis, DeMarco, Leary, Drosnock, and Strenski), two of whom were selected in the top 10% nation-wide (CDTs Leary and Strenski), well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the progress we have made on several new initiatives this year.

**Rifle Club:** We have re-established the IUP Rifle Club with a new constitution, leadership and focus. The result has been amazing. We currently have over 20 cadets in the club with several additional rifle club members who are

students at IUP but not cadets. The training has been great and is turning into a real high-light club and weekly event here at Pierce.

**New Clubs:** In addition to the Rifle Club we have established two new clubs this year: Ranger Challenge and the Sabre Squad. Although we had historically supported Ranger Challenge and color guard events, we had not formalized the training and comradery that comes from being part of an organized year-round club, and it provides new leadership opportunities for our junior/seniors to execute.

**New PT schedule:** This year we decided to try going to a Monday-Thursday schedule as opposed to a Mon-Wed-Fri physical fitness schedule. So far it seems to be well received and looks to be a positive effect on fitness scores and more consistent schedules. Also having Fridays as an option for off days now is a plus.

We are holding steady right now with over 150 cadets in the BN and over 50 freshmen heading into the spring, we continue to grow and to maintain the exceptional tradition of quality training here in the Warrior BN.

In April at the Military Ball we will be honoring the Class of 1999 Alumni as well as the Class of 2019 Commissionees. All alum-



ni, 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

## From the Desk of the Senior Military Science Instructor (SMSI)

Warrior Battalion,

The days are shorter, and the weather is getting colder, but our Cadets continue to train and develop themselves as leaders. They have done an outstanding job during this fall semester and have begun to plan out a great upcoming Spring semester.

This being my first semester as the SMSI with the ROTC Program, I have to say I am truly impressed with all our Cadets. Our Seniors have developed a great training cycle for the Freshman and Sophomores. They have had the opportunity to be placed in the woods and find multiple locations using the skills and tactics they were taught during class. The Cadets have great interest in the basic Soldiering skills and have continued to do very well utilizing them daily. The Juniors led by Major Pilch and SFC Collins have really geared down and put a lot of hours and work into the preparation for Cadet Summer Training Camp this coming summer and I know they are going to do extremely well. They have had the opportunity to shoot their M4 rifles consistently, move through heavy terrain as teams and squads, and communicate with each other to develop orders and plan

tactical missions. Best of all, everyone has put in hard work during our vigorous physical training four days a week, with all the Cadets improving their PT scores on the most recent Army Physical Fitness Test and some raising their scores over 100 or more points.

The Ranger Challenge Team competed in the recent Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition held at Fort Dix, NJ, and did very well. All the cadre are very proud of their accomplishments. The Sabre Squad has done extremely well participating in major events throughout the university and the community, displaying our nation's colors and honoring the military services.

Thank you to all faculty and staff that continue to support our program and to the community that supports our training events and allows us to be part of this great county. Warriors First!

-Warrior 7





## View from the Trenches: C/BN CO



As the Fall 2018 semester comes to a close, I have been honored to hold the position as Cadet Battalion Commander for the Warrior Battalion. As a student from one of the smaller schools in the program I did not have the best knowledge of all of the behind the scenes work that is put in. This year I have been fully exposed to all of the hard work the seniors must put forth and am proud of everybody's effort so far this year. The Cadet Battalion Staff is comprised of all of the senior Cadets who have attended and passed Advanced Camp. The semester began as we learned about the Military Decision Making Process and planned out the first month of our school year. All of the staff was split into working groups to ensure all events and training were planned thoroughly.

This year our program grew from two to four schools, and I am pleased with the effort to make all three sister schools feel at home when they come to IUP. I expect the three schools will grow and have enough Cadets to each have a full Platoon in the near future. The program has begun rebranding to be recognized and known as the Warrior Battalion, rather than just IUP ROTC. This has been a huge leap in helping all of the other schools feel welcome and part of the family.

The MSIVs plan and execute training each week for the rest of the battalion in order to teach and prepare the Cadets for their future Army careers. The Warrior Battalion also executed our largest event, Fall FTX, at Camp Dawson, WV, for three days. This is where all Cadets were introduced to what Army life is all about. Cadets were able to do an obstacle course, shoot on the range, attempt the rappel tower, and many Cadets slept outside for the first time. The underclassmen were taught basic knowledge like radio use, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, and how to apply face camouflage, while the MSIIIs were given advanced training. The Cadets built squad and platoon comradery through tug-of-war competitions and trust on the leadership course.

I believe this semester has been incredibly successful with the effort and focus on teaching new Cadets and ensuring they are enjoying their time with the program. The Cadet Battalion Staff has been doing a tremendous job at following LTC Faulkner's guidance of aiming to recruit, train, and retain other Cadets. The Spring semester is expected to continue to train all Cadets and prepare the MSIIIs for Advanced Camp. I am sure the Warrior Battalion will continue to produce excellent Cadets.

- CDT Leary

## The PMS Standard of Excellence

Cadets are evaluated their first 3 years of ROTC in three categories: academics, leadership, and fitness. High performance in all three categories is a strong indicator that a cadet will be ranked high against all cadets commissioning with them upon graduation. It is also a strong indicator that a cadet will have a successful career as an officer if the performance continues. The following cadets are recognized by the Professor of Military Science for their performance for Fall 2018:

### Seniors

CDT Jonah Strenski

CDT Colin Everett

### Juniors

CDT Ethan Blackie

CDT Ryan Daigle

### Sophomores

CDT Aaron Piccolo

CDT Zachary Taylor

### Freshman

CDT Alexa Andrick

CDT Shaylee Caulkins

CDT Annabell McCullough

CDT Kaitlyn Repos

## View from the Trenches: C/CSM



Throughout the course of the Fall 2018 semester, Warrior Battalion cadets have conducted developmental training to commission as quality Second Lieutenants. This year our program has grown from just Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Saint Francis University through the addition of two more colleges, Mount Aloysius College and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Every Thursday at lab, our battalion can train as an undivided unit. With the addition of our new cadet store, the Warrior Battalion emblem has been the focus on all the gear. The new symbol includes all four schools, streaming from the intent of unifying the program. The emblem has been increasing the esprit de corps by giving each individual cadet the ability to identify with the logo. Cadets are now authorized to wear PT shirts and sweatshirts with our emblem located on the back. We wish to see the Warrior Battalion continue to grow by inspiring and recruiting new Cadets to join our program.

As we continue to develop and train, each Cadet in Apache Company will have the opportunity to do a Reveille and Retreat for a week, learning

the proper etiquette with a MSIII level cadet as the OIC. CDT Everett has a main goal of educating Warrior Battalion Cadets on drill and ceremony. Ran differently from past years before, the C/Ops SGM has created the Saber Squad, which gives warriors the opportunity to participate in a color guard event. The program has been coordinating with organizations in the community and the IUP Athletic Department. The club currently has 22 active members and we hope to see it expand throughout the course of the year

PT has moved from a three-days-per-week training cycle (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) to a straight four-days-per-week, starting on Monday. I believe that this is giving the platoon-level leadership a greater ability to help their platoons achieve stronger results and have a better defined training goal. As we continue into the next semester I hope to see increased scores for the record PT test. The Warrior battalion has a lot of great things happening and will continue to happen through the rest of the year.

- CDT Newlen

# FTX

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That was the first time any sort of actual weapon was in my hand so it was pretty awesome. I tried many new and demanding things during FTX, like rappelling off a huge tower, which was scary but also rewarding.”

Cadet Kasey Chobany found the weekend rewarding as well. “My first FTX was one that I will never forget. From the challenges I faced to the knowledge I gained, to the friendships I made, I can honestly say it was an experience like no other. Seeing first-hand what it’s like to be an ROTC Cadet made me realize how much I appreciate the military atmosphere and the program in general. Most importantly, it showed me what I was capable of, and what I was capable of becoming.”



The two MSIs expressed that FTX had a powerful impact on them. CDT Chobany said, “I was pretty skeptical of how the weekend would go, but in the end, I knew ROTC was the right choice for me. I have never been involved in anything so invested in teamwork, leadership, and above all, positivity.” CDT Burkhardt agreed: “When we marched, it felt so unified and powerful. I felt like I was part of something big-

ger than myself when we sang cadence.” CDT Chobany also observed the unifying effect of FTX, noting that FTX has brought me closer to my own squad at UPJ, as well as those of IUP and SFU. Taking on challenges together, especially like the team obstacle course, has forced us to work as one cohesive unit, but also led us to recognize everyone’s different capabilities and skills. It also allowed me to cultivate new friendships with people I never would have had the chance to meet otherwise.”

For CDT Chobany, “a big part of what made FTX so special were the lessons and values demonstrated by the upperclassmen. No matter if it was the obstacle course, rope rappel, or safety brief, they were always encouraging, patient, and inclusive of everyone. Having people like that to lead you is something you should not only be grateful for, but also aspire to become. Their attitudes and actions have definitely made an impact on me and shown me what kind of leader I hope to become someday.”



CDT Melanie Hammond also commented on leadership for the weekend. Recognizing the leap she took from MSI to MS III as an accelerated nurse, she “was intimidated and I wasn’t too confident in my leadership abilities. However, coming out of FTX I am more confident than ever that I am in the right line of work, and my leadership abilities are on track for where they need to be. I learned through my experiences and watching others lead how to efficiently communicate and lead a group of people. I primarily saw this through the PLs

and PSGs, those whom the cadre chose to lead.”

CDT Hammond went on with this theme. “Leading by example was a big theme I noticed at FTX through the cadre and the MSIII class. They showed us the proper way to behave as a leader, and guided us as to how to effectively teach and lead the Freshman and Sophomore Cadets. Having my MSI and II peers look up to me and my fellow MSIIIs as role models made me realize how everyone else views people in uniform.” Following this concept, she “saw myself grow as a mentor and leader. I also saw how this FTX developed the MSI class as well, through giving them some leadership roles and seeing how they stepped up to the task. I also saw how to be an effective follower when my leadership skills were not needed for that specific task. In the beginning everyone wanted to share their opinions on how they thought something should be done. By the end, we figured out that to accomplish the task more efficiently one person should be in charge and make the final decisions. In theory, this is how the Army works through the chain of command.”



CDT Walt Lober recognized the growth in the MSI and II classes over the weekend, as well. “It was amazing to see the progress of a group of college freshmen, who were all only civilians a few weeks

prior, because of what you taught them. This young and diverse group of individuals not only learned a decent amount about basic soldiering, but they learned a lot about themselves and each other. Putting myself in their shoes, I can see how daunting a four-story rappel wall, an Army-style obstacle course, and, for some, handling weapons for the first time can be,” he explained.

While those experiences helped the MSIs and IIs grow, “Their confidence and belief in their capabilities only grew the next day when they received a taste of Army training,” CDT Lober continued. “It was easy to see when things clicked for them, they understood what was being asked of them, and then continued to execute.”

CDT Zachary Rowe was one of a small handful of MSIVs selected to observe and assess the MSIIIs in their preparation for CST. “Our primary objective during this was to test the juniors on their basic knowledge of platoon operations and movement, and to test their basic land navigation skills. Because the FTX was only three weeks into the school year, we did not expect the juniors to have an in-depth knowledge, but the weekend was to



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## Branching

One of the highlights of the Fall semester is the excitement of the graduating seniors receiving their component and branch assignments. The seniors submit a request listing their preferred component and top five branch choices in order. Normally, Cadets receive their component and either first or second branch pick, but not always, as the number of Cadets requesting each branch has to match the needs of the Army and they are competing against Cadets nation-wide.

Cadets are ranked nationally on an Order of Merit List, or OML, and their component and branch are assigned based on their ranking on the OML. Their OML rank comes from Academic Outcomes, primarily GPA at the end of their junior year, Leadership Outcomes, mainly the PMS ranking and rating, and Cadet Summer Training (CST) rating, and Physical Outcomes, which is based on their Army Physical Fitness Test scores from CST and their previous two semesters.

This Fall, all of our Cadets received their component of choice, and most received one of their top two branch assignments, as follows:

CDT Tristian Collins – NG, Military Intelligence  
CDT Sarah Davis – AD, Nurse Corps  
CDT Stephen DeMarco – AD, Infantry  
CDT Meredith Drosnock – NG, Infantry  
CDT Colin Everett – AD, Signal Corps, with Infantry Branch Detail  
CDT Daniel Gray – NG, Field Artillery  
CDT Ali Ippoliti – NG, Ordnance  
CDT William Kliefoth – AD, Armor  
CDT Kathleen Leary – AD, Ordnance/EOD  
CDT Walter Lober – NG, Engineer  
CDT Kristi Newlen – AD, Field Artillery  
CDT Joshua Piatt – AD, Armor  
CDT Tristan Pilch – AD, Ordnance  
CDT Zachary Raible – AD, Military Intelligence  
CDT Ronald Reighard – AD, Infantry  
CDT Zachary Rowe – AD, Ordnance/EOD  
CDT Jonah Strenski – AD, Military Intelligence, with Armor Branch Detail  
CDT Mary Wadding – NG, Medical Services

## Fall Commissioning



Congratulations to 2LT Jeffrey Eichelman and 2LT Alyssa Sanchez, who commissioned on 14 December as the two newest lieutenants in the United States Army.

## Ranger Challenge 2018

Over the weekend of 19 to 21 October, 2018, Warrior Battalion's Ranger Challenge Team competed in 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade's Ranger Challenge Event at Fort Dix, NJ. As CDT Ethan Blackie explained, nine events comprised this year's competition: the APFT, land navigation, tactical combat casualty care, hand grenade assault course, weapons assembly and functions check, one-rope bridge, obstacle course, tug-of-war, and a 6-mile ruck march. CDT Eric Kinderman added that 42 teams, each consisting of twelve cadets competed for the top position. To CDT Kinderman, "The competition is designed to see how cadets can come together as a team and overcome adversity to complete the mission. Ranger Challenge is not just a competition among peers, it is also a test of character and a test of an individual's ability to live the Warrior Ethos." CDT Blackie echoed this sentiment, "Ranger Challenge is much more than just a competition. Ranger Challenge is a personal challenge of will, character and intelligence. Most importantly, Ranger Challenge allows team members to learn the true meaning of team work."

The Cadets in Ranger Challenge spend a lot of time and effort preparing for the competition. For three years, CDT Ryan Daigle has pushed himself "to participate in Ranger Challenge as a way to push myself mentally and physically," however, this year was different.



"This year I finally made the Ranger Challenge competition team. It was an absolute honor for me to be chosen to represent IUP against every other school in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. I would now have to push myself both mentally and physically harder than ever before." Prior to the competition, "the Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge team trained day in and day out. As a team, Monday through Thursday we completed and endured challenging physical training. In addition to PT, we practiced Monday through Saturday and trained repetition upon repetition of competition-based events," per CDT Blackie.

Even though the team did not place in the top ten, CDT Blackie said that "we performed very well as a team at the Ranger Challenge Competition, although a few of us, including myself, made some mistakes and had some mishaps. As a team, we were unfazed by these shortcomings." He added, "I truly believe that the Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge team had the best drive, enthusiasm, and morale of all of the teams at the competition" and he was truly pleased with their performance. CDT Kinderman felt that "Although our team faced adversity, and we had moments where we wanted to quit, we pushed through our mental barriers, came together as a team, and proved to

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## Heroes Memorial Scholarship & State of the ROTC

On 21 September, Warrior Battalion cadre and Cadets gathered alongside members and alumni of the Theta Chi (OX) Fraternity and distinguished guests to celebrate the award of the 2018 Heroes Memorial Scholarship and to hear the State of the ROTC. The Theta Chi Heroes Memorial Scholarship grew out of a 2012 memorial when OX alumni



Brothers met in Pierce Hall to honor 1LT James Flannery, '69, and CPT Robert Young, '67, and dedicate portraits of the them. These men were IUP graduates who died on active duty during the Vietnam War. They served together in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment. 1LT Flannery was killed in action when the bulk of his unit was ambushed and he selflessly continued to fire on the enemy allowing members of his team to escape the ambush. CPT Young died in captivity after the helicopter he was riding in was shot down in enemy-occupied territory, and Viet Cong guerillas captured all but one of the passengers and crew. The following year, in 2013, another memorial was held to dedicate the portrait of OX alumnus FBI Special Agent

Gregory Spinelli, '70, in the Criminology Department. Special Agent Spinelli was shot and killed in the line of duty in Charlotte, NC, in 1973 while pursuing a suspected bank robber.

Between these two events the Brothers of OX wanted to give something back to IUP and decided to establish a permanent tribute to their friends who had given their lives in service to their country. This tribute took the form of an endowed scholarship through the Foundation for IUP and the Heroes Memorial Scholarship was born. As many of the alumni had been ROTC Cadets, they further determined that the scholarship should benefit an outstanding ROTC Cadet.

This year, OX alumni Carl Amenhauser and MG(R) Gottardi presented the 2018 Heroes Memorial Scholarship to CDT Stephen DeMarco. CDT DeMarco joined IUP ROTC because he always wanted to be an



Army Officer and this gave him the opportunity to make that happen. Through ROTC, CDT DeMarco has had great opportunities such as spending a month in Senegal through CULP and attending airborne school. At Advance Camp, CDT DeMarco placed in the top 15% of his platoon. He said that IUP ROTC has been one of the best experiences of his life.

LTC Dennis Faulkner was to conclude the evening with the State of the ROTC address. However, because the program ran long LTC Faulkner cut his remarks short. In the few words that he offered, LTC Faulkner emphasized the quality of the training provided by the Warrior Battalion and the quality of the Cadets that the program produces.

Distinguished guests included Ms. Sharon Young, CPT Robert Young's widow; Dr. Michael Driscoll, President of Indiana University of Pennsylvania;

Dr. John Mills, President of Mount Aloysius College; Dr. Jeanet Grady, Provost at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; and officials from Saint Francis University. Additionally, Distinguished Alumni MG(R) Rodney Ruddock, COL(R) Stephen Abel attended, as well as MG(R) Larry Gottardi, who gave a memorable speech on heroism.



## Improving Our Fighting Position

There are big changes in the works here at IUP. With our dedication to growing the program and our commitment to commissioning thirty new second lieutenants per year by 2021 and 35 by 2022, we have now partnered with Mount Aloysius College and University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown starting in the Fall 2018 semester.

We have made a number of physical changes as well. The cadet lounge has been revamped with a new paint job in IUP colors, new computers and a printer, a new lunch area (refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker), and a new R & R area (smart tv and couches). The Recruiting Office has received a new paint job in IUP colors, a new sitting area for meeting with prospective cadets, and now features the Warrior Battalion Store. Classroom F5 and Fromm Gym have also received a new paint job in IUP colors and Warrior Battalion Branding. Each of the classrooms have new desks, projectors and computers, as well as video telephone conference ability in order to fully integrate SFU, MAC and UPJ more smoothly. Finally, We have mounted speakers that automatically play Reveille and Retreat every day.

We are reinventing the former Rifle Team and expanding it to become the IUP Rifle Club. In order to upgrade the club as well as make it an integral part of Army ROTC, introduced six new Colt M4 .22 caliber rifles and are focusing on military marksmanship. Club participation has exploded with current cadets as well as university students. See more about the Rifle Club on page 8.

## Call for Fire!

The Warrior Battalion is actively looking for Alumni to update us with their current rank or the rank they separated/retired with. We are also seeking donations of photos, stories, and artifacts to help us showcase our legacy and help to inspire the next generation of future Army leaders. If you have any materials that you would like to share or potentially have displayed throughout Pierce Hall, please contact our Executive Officer, Captain Daniel Beckers.

CPT Daniel Beckers (724) 357-7682 E-mail: [dbeckers@iup.edu](mailto:dbeckers@iup.edu)



## Ranger Challenge

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ourselves that as a team we could accomplish more than any individual could.” This was not a bad thing for the Cadets. As CDT Blackie reflected, “I have learned that adversity is a given in anything that you do and how you deal with that adversity can be crucial to the success of accomplishing a mission or a goal.”

All three Cadets agreed on the benefits of participating in Ranger Challenge. CDT Daigle said, “the training . . . definitely improved my soldiering skills specifically in the areas of land navigation, weapon disassembly/reassembly and first aid. I believe the practice I received performing those tasks will not only help me at advanced leadership camp, but will help me be able to teach my fellow Cadets how to be more proficient at performing them.” They also felt they developed both mental and physical toughness through the process. CDT Daigle expressed that “mental toughness . . . is one of the most valuable things that I acquired during the competition. It developed from all nine members of our team struggling as one.” Through the events, “the rest of the team and I continued to perform our best despite the cramps and other pain we endured.” CDT Blackie believes that “after competing two years in Ranger Challenge . . . I have gained a substantial amount of physical and mental confidence that I need to become the best leader and Army Officer I can be.” CDT Kinderman “firmly believe[s] that Ranger Challenge helps develop Cadets into strong soldiers and leaders and I recommend that all ROTC Cadets



should try out for the Ranger Challenge team because it is such a unique experience.

In addition to CDT Blackie, CDT Daigle and CDT Kinderman, CDT Jeremy Adamson, CDT Brady Dalton, CDT Meredith Drosnock, CDT Audra Everitt, CDT William Gongaware, CDT Christian Labash, CDT Kyle Kinter, and CDT Zachary Rowe represented the Warrior Battalion in the Ranger Challenge.

## FTX

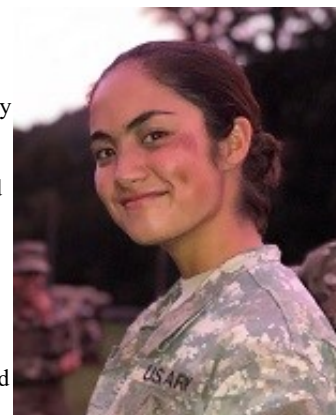
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assess them to provide a baseline for where we, the seniors, need to begin their training to prepare them for advanced cap this upcoming summer.” He felt that “Overall, the weekend proved to be very useful not only for us as trainers to gauge where the juniors are, but also to give the juniors themselves an insight into how much they really know and how much more they need to prepare to be ready for camp.”

CDT Rowe was not the only one who thought the weekend was a success. CDT Burkhart “could have never imagined doing this a year ago, but I am so glad I did because I truly had an incredibly thrilling time there,” and CDT Hammond concluded that “I gained valuable knowledge that I will take with me through the rest of my military and civilian career. I look forward to my next two FTX experiences to gain more knowledge on how to grow personally and professionally even more.”



enthusiasm and excitement. “Overall, I’m thankful for the opportunity of not only testing my own limits, but also the limits of my team. FTX has shown me that the Army is something I would like to pursue, and I couldn’t have learned that without the support and assistance of everyone involved. I now look forward to the next FTX and working hard to become the best leader I can be. There is truly no other feeling like being a part of something bigger than yourself, and I think that’s what I felt in West Virginia as part of the Warrior Battalion.”



## Future Operations (FUOPS)

Arctic Ranger Challenge: 15-17 FEB 2019

Staff Ride (Antietam): 13-14 APR 2019

2019 Military Ball: 26 APR 2019 (Honoring the Class of 1999 and the commissioning class of 2019). All Alumni, parents, and supporters are welcome!

Spring 2019 Commissioning: 10:00am Friday 10 MAY 2019 at Fisher Auditorium. Reception will follow at Pierce Hall at 11:30am.

## Highlight on the Warrior Battalion Clubs:

### IUP Rifle Club

By CDT Brady Reitz

This semester the IUP Rifle Club was proud to open its doors once more to students of the university. Having undergone major changes during the spring 2018 semester, the club is happy to announce our new advisor and coach Sergeant First Class Shaun Collins of the Military Science Department. With this change in coaching staff the club is also excited to announce a new direction with a focus on training for modern sporting rifle competitions, as well as training and instruction in army marksmanship techniques.

For individuals interested in joining the club, practice times are on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays from six to seven o'clock in the evening in Pierce Hall. Membership in the club is not restricted and we encourage all students across the university to come out and learn the fundamentals of safe weapons handling.

In the upcoming semesters the club plans on competing in various military and non-military associated sporting events, and the club also provides the opportunity for university ROTC Cadets to earn the rifle team tab for wear on their uniforms. For more information about joining the club or club activities please feel free to contact any of the club officers on our IUP Crimson Connect page.

### Sabre Squad

By CDT Sean Stirling

The Sabre Squad that we have organized in Warrior Battalion is dedicated to improving the performance and overall discipline of our Cadets. We do this by focusing heavily on working to perfection in the art of drill and ceremony. As the Senior Cadet Advisor in this squad I personally help to see that our members, as well as myself, improve in the art of drill and ceremonies.



We participate in the IUP football games as the color guard and cannon crew, and present the colors at basketball games as well. We will support community events when invited to present the nation's colors provided we have the time and resources to do so. The squad is open to all cadets in ROTC and we welcome all levels of drill proficiency. We need hard workers who are interested in bettering themselves as this is a commitment. I personally have benefited greatly from the squad in my level of discipline as well as my skills in leadership and accounta-

bility. I see this growing exceptionally in the next few years and am excited to see where it will take me and my fellow teammates.

### Ranger Challenge Club

By CDT Ethan Blackie

In previous years, the Ranger Challenge team of the Warrior Battalion would train and practice five days a week during the fall semester until competition. After the competition the Ranger Challenge team would then stop practicing and training until the next fall semester. Now the Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge Team is year-round club. This club will be training and practicing all year and more cadets in the Warrior Battalion will have the opportunity to experience Ranger Challenge.

Starting in the spring semester of 2019, Ranger Challenge Club will be involved in multiple competitions year-round. These competitions will include Spartan Races, Tough Mudders, 5Ks, marathons, power lifting competitions, and many more. Additionally, at the beginning of the Spring Semester of 2019 the Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge Team will be competing in the first ever 2BDE Artic Ranger Challenge.

Ranger Challenge Club is a very rewarding and fulfilling club to be a part of. Cadets who decide to involve themselves in the club will not only develop themselves physically but mentally, as well. Even though the annual 2BDE Ranger Challenge competition and the 2BDE Artic Ranger Challenge are very physically demanding competitions, military intellect is required as well. The Ranger Challenge Club of the Warrior Battalion trains on how to properly communicate and operate a radio, how to provide tactical combat casualty care, land navigation, marksmanship, and many more basic soldier skills. The Warrior Battalion Ranger Challenge Club prepares cadets physically and mentally for competitions, advanced camp, and most importantly their future as an Officer of the United States Army.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

We would like to build our program in the following areas and we are looking for support:

Rifle Club: We would like to turn this club into a marksmanship-centric club using military-style weapons. We are seeking six new 9mm Sig Sauer pistols as well as ammunition and equipment.

Color Guard Club: We would like to outfit our brand new club with everything they need to provide a list of services upon request. This team will raise and lower the flag daily to the sound of Reveille and Retreat, fire the historic cannon, conduct color guard drills, and all with a renewed discipline that gives chills to spectators.

Ranger Challenge Team: We would like to purchase equipment, uniforms, and training aids to make our Ranger Challenge Team truly a top contender.

Squad Competition Incentives: We would like to provide squads with incentives to be the best in the battalion. We would like to purchase rifleman kits to award to the top squad each semester as demonstrated through consistent attendance, academic excellence, and performance.

Scholarship Incentives: We have been truly honored by our current scholarship sponsors. We would like to provide additional scholarships to give Cadets with more incentive to excel. Scholarships will traditionally be presented at the Spring Military Ball.

For more information, or to sponsor a club or scholarship, please contact our Executive Officer, CPT Daniel Beckers at 724-357-7682, or [dbeckers@iup.edu](mailto:dbeckers@iup.edu), or see Support IUP ROTC Students at [www.iup.edu/rotc](http://www.iup.edu/rotc).



# Former IUP Academic Vice President and Provost Remembers His Time at IUP

By CDT Eric Kinderman

A recent visit with Dr. Bernard Gillis, former Academic Vice President and Provost of IUP (1970-1980), brought forward a lot of interesting information regarding IUP's ROTC program during that decade. Dr. Gillis arrived at IUP after having served as the Dean of the Graduate School at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. When Dr. Gillis arrived at IUP, he was impressed with the excellent ROTC program and facilities. He quickly recognized how those resources would benefit the cadets, allowing them to become highly qualified, outstanding Army Officers.

During Dr. Gillis' time at IUP, he fostered a strong friendship with IUP's Army ROTC program where he made his support known. Dr. Gillis traveled to Fort Knox, KY, during the summers in order to observe and encourage the rising senior cadets as they went through their advanced camp. Dr. Gillis fondly recalled seeing the cadets being tested on their military skills and knowledge during camp and was impressed with how realistic and rigorous their exercises were.



In addition to showing his support for the cadets attending camp, Dr. Gillis also attended the ROTC Dining-In banquets where he participated in the festivities and enjoyed camaraderie with both the cadre and cadets. He also recalled the fun times that were had by the participants as they poured the many libations into the grog bowl. As the formalities came to an end, the "smoking lamp" was lit and cigar smoke filled the room.

During the 1970s, Dr. Gillis recalled COL Burke providing many learning opportunities for cadets. One of these was bringing a military

helicopter to campus for the Warrior Battalion to experience. Following COL Burke, LTC Lenzi contributed greatly to IUP's already large program, growing it to become the third largest in the nation, increasing enrollment from approximately three hundred to over one thousand Cadets.

It is interesting to note that Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp declared a week in late November/early December as "ROTC Week" to honor all of the ROTC programs in the state. Additionally, females were permitted to enroll in ROTC and become cadets beginning in 1973.

In recognition of Dr. Gillis' contributions to the IUP Army ROTC program, he was awarded the "Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service" in 1973 by LTG Huchin. The certificate reads as follows: "In recognition of his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Instructor Group Program. He unselfishly devoted his time in support of the entire ROTC program ensuring that the 'total student' emerged from the university. He helped make Indiana University of Pennsylvania a most favorable and pleasant environment for Army ROTC. He expanded the Admissions Committee and Council of Deans to include ROTC and granted it a larger voice, which included ROTC ranking on par with other university schools directly under the Vice President. His espousal of the cadets' role as citizen-soldiers has been a source of pride and motivation within the ranks of the cadets. His visits to their summer Army ROTC encampment in 1971 were inspirational; here he actively pursued the knowledge of leadership development among the cadets. Doctor Gillis' outstanding achievements, loyalty, dedication, and patriotism do honor to his profession as an educator, and reflect great credit upon himself and Indiana University of Pennsylvania".

Currently, Dr. Gillis' grandson, Eric Kinderman (Class of 2020), is a cadet in the Warrior Battalion. CDT Kinderman is actively involved in the program and continues to carry on his grandfather's enthusiastic and patriotic support of the United States military.

## IUP ROTC Alumni Passes Away



IUP's Army ROTC lost one of our own on December 3, 2018. LTG Joseph S. Laposata, U.S. Army (Ret), a distinguished military graduate, class of 1960, had numerous accomplishments in his life and military career. His career began as an Active Duty Infantry officer, later transferring into Logistics. He saw combat with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. His career brought him many experiences, including working in D.C. at the Pentagon as the Chief of Logistics Plans and Operations. LTG Laposata was the first IUP Army ROTC graduate to reach flag or general officer rank. His many achievements have reflected honor on himself, his family, and this university. We could like to extend our condolences to both friends and family alike as we honor his legacy. Warriors first!

# WARRIOR BATTALION STORE

Available online at the IUP Co-op  
Store as Warrior Battalion Products



Proud Parent of a  
**WARRIOR BATTALION**  
Army ROTC Cadet





# NEW ARRIVALS!



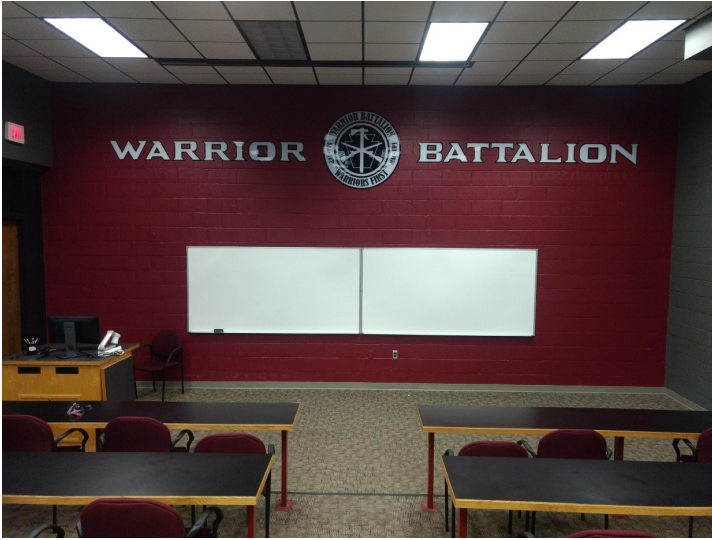
# COMING SOON!





# Pierce Hall Improvements

## Classroom F5



## Cadet Lounge



Faculty Editor: Mr. Meryl Rutz, MSI  
Photographs courtesy of: CDT Gottardi  
and Mrs. Lori Faulkner  
"Warriors First!"