



**THE**  
**WARRIOR**  
**BATTALION**  
**SITUATION REPORT**

**In This Issue:**

**Commissioning and  
Contracting  
Operation Agile Leader  
Freshman Move-In/  
Welcome  
Fall FTX**

**FALL 2020**

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On the Cover: *MS II Cadet Theodore Reinhart proudly holds his bars and US insignia after the Contracting Ceremony on 8 OCT. See page 7 for more information on the Contracting Ceremony.*

*Top: We were able to bring in a piper to play Amazing Grace at the 9/11 Memorial Service; Middle: Warrior Battalion formed for the 9/11 Memorial Service; Bottom: MS IVs distribute clothing and equipment at the Fall semester's first lab.*



Top: The Warrior Battalion parades at Camp Dawson, WV; Middle: MS III's prepare for operations at Pringle Training Area, Camp Dawson, WV; Right: Warrior Battalion participates in the 8th annual Walk for a Wonderful Life Suicide Awareness and Prevention Campaign.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## WARRIOR BATTALION ARMY ROTC

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### January 2021

18 Classes Begin (SFU)

19 Classes Begin (IUP/UPJ/  
MAC)

### March 2021

26-28 Ranger Challenge

### April 2021

8-11 CFTX

17-18 Staff Ride (Tentative)

24 Military Ball (Tentative)

### 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

From all the Warrior Battalion Cadets and Cadre, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the selfless donations and gifts that supported the quality training opportunities over the past Fall 2020 semester. Over the past several months, the Cadets have experienced professional growth and lasting memories. Warrior Battalion welcomed the new Freshmen by organizing various competitions and lunch at Camp Seph Mack park on 22AUG20 ([story on Instagram](#)). We once again showed our full support by attending the 9/11 memorial ceremony held on campus ([story on Instagram](#)). On 25-27SEP20 the Warrior Battalion conducted our Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Dawson, WV. Our FTX introduced the physical and mental challenges of Army training participating in events such as: rappel from a 64' tower, engage targets using the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST), weapons familiarization live fire training, round robin Skill Level 1 tasks training, and multiple team building competitions ([story on Instagram](#)). Warrior Cadet Leadership, planned and resourced the Veteran's Day ceremony inviting all the local Veterans to show their respect and gratitude for their service. The ceremony consisted of select Cadets attending the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Indiana Court House with members of the American Legion, and a small contingent presenting a video and signed cards to veterans of our local retirement homes. The remainder of the Battalion showed their appreciation by rendering a salute and "eyes right" to participating local Veterans, followed by a loud and thunderous three round volley from our 75mm pack howitzer. Following comments from myself and the Cadet Battalion Commander c/LTC Guerra, we enjoyed food and fellowship with our local veterans ([story on Instagram](#)). The annual Warrior Battalion Dining In will be the capstone event of this semester on 20NOV20.

Next semester, Spring 2021, promises more challenging and exciting training for the Warrior Battalion Cadets. 26-28MAR21 our Ranger Challenge team will compete against 40+ teams within 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE for the Top Ranger Challenge Team banner. On 8-11APR21, Warrior Battalion will conduct a combined Field Training Exercise with four neighboring programs to evaluate our Juniors on their leadership attributes and competencies in a tactical field environment. We are currently planning to conduct our annual Military Ball on 24APR20 and to close out the Spring semester, on 07MAY20 we will execute our Spring commissioning ceremony.

Yes, it has been a challenging and busy semester thus far and looks to stay that way into the Spring. As always the Warrior Battalion will continue to ensure we train, mentor, and commission the very best new leaders to our Army. We remain committed to ensuring that even under the most challenging circumstances that we accomplish our mission, while maintaining a safe and productive environment for Cadets and Cadre alike. I cannot compliment enough the amazing work and commitment shown by the Warrior Battalion Seniors and Cadre over the course of the last 6 months, great work by all. Finally, I am pleased to report that the Army and University leadership have agreed to extend my tenure as the PMS here at IUP until June of 2022. I am humbled and excited for the opportunity to continue to promote the incredible legacy of the Warrior Battalion.

Warriors First!  
LTC Dennis W. Faulkner



# From the Senior Military Science Instructor

Master Sergeant Dean Pfirman

Warrior Battalion,

I would like to start off with a quick introduction as incoming Warrior 7 as Master Sergeant Alter departs the Battalion to attend the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy at Ft Bliss, Texas. My name is Master Sergeant Pfirman and my family and I came from Fort Hood, Texas, where I served at the 1SG of Blackhawk Troop, 1-7 CAV. We are truly excited to be part of this organization and can't wait to see what the Warrior Battalion brings to the battle.

Since my arrival it has been fast paced with the completion of OAL (Operation Agile Leader) and the completion of the Fall FTX. It is truly an inspiration to see all the young men and women of the Warrior Battalion putting the tactics and training to good use during these events.

The Warrior Battalion completed the Fall Field Training Exercise to the highest expectations with over 115 Cadets completing the confidence course, the rappel wall, leader's reaction course, and receiving instruction via EST on the M4 and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. Using the instruction gained from the PMI labs in conjunction with the EST marksmanship trainer, Cadets then put their skills to the test at the range. It takes teamwork and cooperation to make an FTX success-

ful and this event was resourced, manned and executed flawlessly. I expect nothing less in the future training events that the Warrior Battalion conducts.

September was SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) awareness month and the Battalion was eager to participate in completing a minimum of 7825 miles collectively. Through the month Cadets kept track and logged every mile they walked or ran throughout the day. The Warrior Battalion finished with an impressive 11,093 miles. Way to represent the Warrior Battalion.

Training has not stopped, and will only intensify in the Spring. Thank you to all the staff and the faculty that made this Fall semester a successful one. Thank you to the community for supporting the training and allowing us to continue with our mission to commission officers of character for the Total Army. Thank you to the amazing Cadre that strive to complete that mission, and lastly thank you Cadets for putting forth your best efforts day in and day out. I look forward to many more training events.

Warriors First!

Warrior 7

# CONTRACTING



On Thursday, 8 October, Warrior Battalion held its Fall Contracting Ceremony in the Practice Field. Ten Cadets contracted, joining the ranks of more than two thousand who had preceded them through the Warrior Battalion's training and commissioning. These Cadets will now have to meet a higher level of expectations and higher standards of physical fitness and academic success. In the brief ceremony, the Cadets held a small, closed box containing their gold second lieutenant bars and US insignia. LTC Faulkner delivered a short address exhorting them to complete their path. He then administered the Oath and the Cadets opened the box, reflecting that they are on the path to commissioning. Congratulations to the newest contracted Cadets – CDT Michael Beondy, CDT Caitlin Borelli, CDT Christopher Chavira, CDT Nathan Fulton, CDT Jackson Heasley, CDT Matthew Hunkele, CDT Dimitri Marcus, CDT Theodore Reinhard, CDT Jenna Rhue, and CDT Ashley Thompson.



# COMMISSIONING



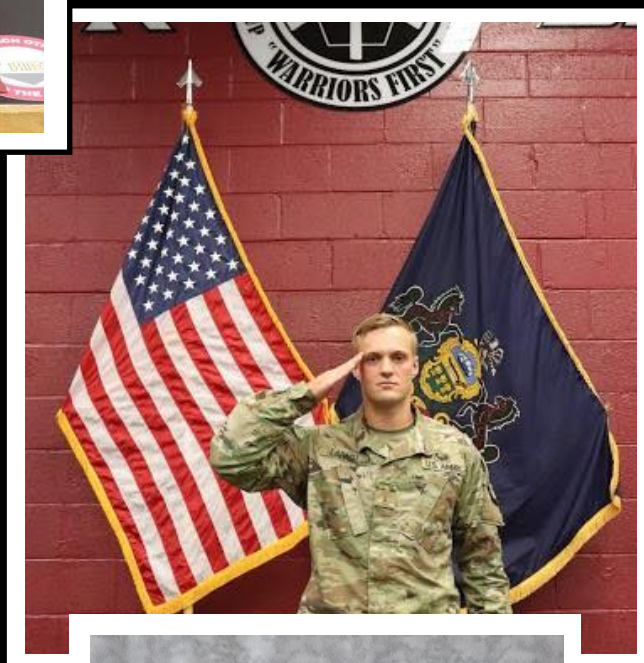
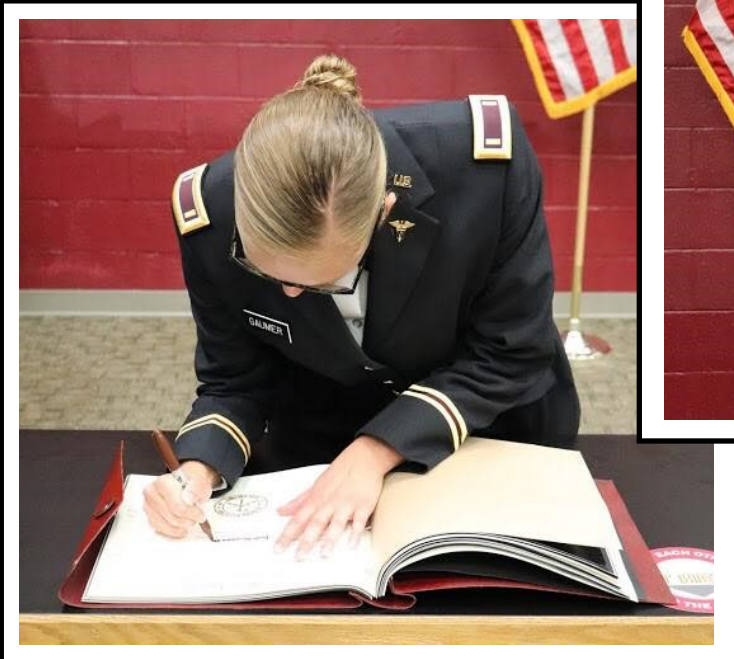
Our Summer and Winter Commissionings continued on the same model we used successfully for Spring Commissioning due to continuing COVID restrictions. We held individual ceremonies at Pierce Hall for the five Summer and two Winter graduates, with their families and friends in attendance. Most of the speakers were presented via prerecorded greetings. 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. Dr. Michael A. Driscoll, President of IUP, graciously recorded some comments for the graduates as well. LTC Faulkner's remarks were very succinct and 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 careers and begin their military careers.

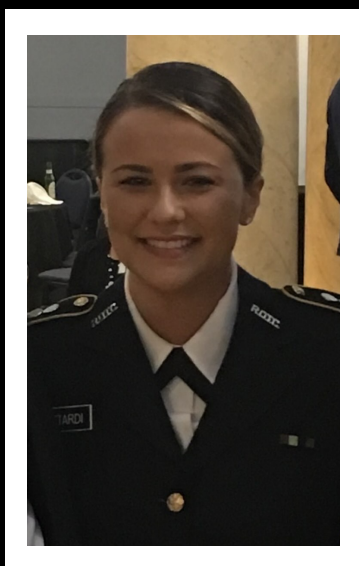


Congratulations to 2LT Charis Biancuzzo, 2LT Jordan Crawford, 2LT Brooke Gaumer, 2LT Sarah Gottardi, 2LT Erik Hicks, 2LT Christian Labash, and 2LT Jonathan Murphy.



Opposite Page, Top Left: 2LT Brooke Gaumer is pinned by her parents; Top Right: 2LT Jordan Crawford takes the Oath of Office; Bottom: 2LT Erik Hicks receives his First Salute from ROTC Military Science Instructor SFC(R) J.D. Walker

This Page Top Left: 2LT Brooke Gaumer signs the Historic Ledger; Top Right: 2LT Jonathan Murphy with his grandparents after the ceremony; Right: 2LT Christian Labash renders a salute after being commissioned; Bottom Left: Winter commissionee 2LT Sarah Gottardi; Bottom Right: Winter commissionee 2LT Charis Biancuzzo





# OPERATION: AGILE LEADER

With the cancellation of Cadet Summer Training this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, Operation Agile Leader (OAL) was born. Held at Custaloga Town Scout Reservation in Carlton, PA, OAL served as a mini-Advance Camp for the rising seniors to demonstrate their leadership and receive the evaluations they were missing from Advance Camp. Although Cadet Command decided not to count the OAL evaluations towards this year's Order of Merit List Model, they did dictate that evaluations needed to be completed in order for Cadets to know where they stand.

OAL consisted of a round robin of training on the first day, which covered the Road to War, the Land Navigation written test, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear activities, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, and Call for Fire, followed by three days of patrolling activities. In the model familiar to every Army officer, Cadets took turns serving in various positions within the platoon in carrying out one of a handful of actions – establishing a patrol base, conducting a raid, conducting or defending against an ambush, and others. After each action, the platoon stood down so Cadre could conduct an After Action Report with the Cadets, and appoint Cadets to new positions within the platoon for the next action.

Just as at Advance Camp, Cadets could not be evaluated by their own Cadre. As such, Warrior Battalion partnered with the University of Pittsburgh, Slippery Rock University, Edinboro University and Gannon University to complete the exercise. As always, some Cadets were clearly better prepared than others. And just like Advance Camp, there were some surprises in Cadets' performance; some did better than expected, while others performed at a lower level of competence. Confidence has a lot to do with it also. A confident Cadet will appear more competent, even while making basic mistakes. Not that this gets by the Cadre doing the evaluations, but confidence goes a long way towards getting the job done without hesitation and keeping fellow Cadets on track, as well as to correcting mistakes when they are realized or pointed out.



Above: Cadet Brian Loftus takes position at Agile Leader; Left: Cadet Mackenzie Reed scans her sector; Below: Cadet Hollie Williams, well covered in the underbrush at Agile Leader; Opposite: Cadets Mackenzie Reed (Center) and Brian Loftus (Far Left) attend a leader's meeting in which the platoon leader (back to camera)

# FRESHMAN MOVE-IN and WELCOME





On 15-16 AUG, Cadets from the Warrior Battalion support IUP's annual Freshman Move-In day by checking in students, directing traffic, answering questions and handing out safety information packets. Due to COVID restrictions, the Cadets were unable to perform their traditional role of helping to move Freshmen into their dorm rooms. Additionally, Mr. Chavira, the Battalion's Recruiting Officer, held information sessions with anyone interested in ROTC.

On Saturday, 22 AUG, Warrior Battalion temporarily took over Camp Seph Mack, in Yellow Creek State Park, to host our annual Freshman Welcome. Events included canoe races, tug-of-war, ultimate frisbee, cornhole, egg toss, the National Guard rock wall and more!





Above: CDT Abigail Knapp negotiates the Weaver; Above Left: Cadets learn to apply a dressing and tourniquet in Tactical Combat Casualty Care; Center Left: Cadets tighten the One-Rope Bridge under the eye of CDT Trinity Miller; Bottom Left and Below: Cadets negotiate obstacles on the Leaders Reaction Course



# FALL FTX



Top: CDT Peter Flory teaches Cadets to dismantle, reassemble and perform a functions check on the M240B and M249 machineguns; Middle: a Cadet descends the cargo net after completing the Tough One; Bottom: CDT Marija Linde prepares to dismount the Rope Swing

On the weekend of 25 through 27 September, Warrior Battalion conducted another successful Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) for the Cadets at Camp Dawson, WV. Although by this point in time the events of the FTX are pretty well set, Cadet leadership and Cadre continue to tinker with timing and organization. This year was no exception with small changes being made here and there.

This year's FTX saw three events on Friday after arrival at CDWV: the Engagement Skills Trainer, where Cadets were introduced to the M4 and M249B, the Firing Range, where Cadets actually fired the M4 carbine in both semi and full-automatic, and the M249B, and the Rappelling Tower. Friday afternoon, the MS IIIs split off to conduct patrolling exercises at the Pringle Training Area, across the Cheat River from the main Camp Dawson compound. Friday evening, Cadets had the opportunity to watch the movie 1917 and share in popcorn cooked over an open fire.

Saturday encompassed round-robin training. Stations included the Obstacle Course, Camouflage application, One-Rope Bridge, Communications, the M4, the M240 and the M249B, and First Aid. Afterwards, the annual Tug-of-War Championship was held, with Brave Company (SFU/MAC) coming out on top. As part of the Tug-of-War Championship, Cadre beat the MS IVs in the recurring grudge match. Following Tug-of-War, the Cadets had free-time to enjoy their evening. The program provided marshmallows to roast and the other ingredients to make s'mores over a bonfire.

Sunday morning started with the MS IIIs returning from Pringle to join the main body of the Battalion. Following this, the PMS sponsored a special Challenge—four selected Cadets had to race to the top of The Weaver and obtain one of the two 20 lb. kettle bells placed atop it, then race back to the PMS's location for the win. After this, Cadets carried out the Leadership Reaction Course before collecting together for the Battalion photo and returning home. All-in-all, the FTX was well-conducted and well-received.

# HEROES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Unfortunately, the State of the ROTC was cancelled this year due to COVID restrictions. This is always a highlight of the semester in which we host distinguished guests from the four universities as well as local high schools for dinner in the Blue Room and to hear the Warrior Battalion's accomplishments and future plans. The evening culminated with the awarding of the Theta Chi (OX) Heroes Memorial Scholarship.

The Scholarship grew out of memorials which honored IUP OX alumni 1LT James Flannery, '69, CPT Robert Young, '67, and FBI Special Agent Gregory Spinelli, '70. The two officers served together in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment during the Vietnam War. 1LT Flannery was killed in action when the bulk of his unit was ambushed. 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 him along with all but one of the passengers and crew. Special Agent Spinelli was shot and killed in the line of duty in Charlotte, NC, in 1973 while pursuing a suspected bank robber.

The Brothers of OX wanted to give something back to IUP so established a permanent tribute to their friends who had given their lives in service to their country. This tribute became 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 determined that the scholarship should benefit a top performing Cadet.

Traditionally, the scholarship has gone to the MS IV who ranked the highest at Advance Camp. This year, that top-rank is held by CDT Adriana Wilt, who scored the highest marks at Operation Agile Leader since Advance Camp was cancelled. CDT Wilt has the additional honor of being the first female Cadet to receive the



scholarship.

CDT Wilt is from Clarks Summit, PA and attended Abington Heights High School. She chose IUP because both of her parents are alumni. She studies cellular and molecular biology while serving as the Battalion S1.

She and her husband, CDT Jeremiah Wilt, both spent several years enlisted, but it was always her dream to become an officer. She joined ROTC just two months after giving birth to their son. She wants to be able to say she did not give up and accomplished her dream. She was influenced by her father, who was an Army officer, and her brother, who serves in the National Guard.

ROTC has taught her that although Cadets work as a group, each individual still has to have their own motivation to become the best Soldier and leader they can be. It is up to the individual to put in the time and work needed to excel. CDT Wilt has had to push herself mentally and physically while learning time management.

She and her husband will commission next year, and they are both excited to begin their careers. They understand the commitment and the roles they are stepping into, but are still looking forward to the new experiences and knowledge their assignments will bring. CDT Wilt plans to become a Medical Service Corps Officer as she had served as a medic. This means she will be helping to save our brothers and sisters making sacrifices everyday. For her, there is no greater job than protecting our country and those who serve it. She hopes to be stationed in Germany or Italy in order to be able to travel easily. Congratulations, CDT Wilt, and best wishes for you and your family.



# University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown



## Growing the Program

After a couple of false starts, the ROTC program at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown appears to be off to a flying start. In the third year since it restarted, the program has attracted a solid core of Cadets who look to the future as Army officers after attaining their professional degrees.

In the 2018-2019 school year, the program reopened at UPJ with fifteen Cadets. Of those fifteen, two transferred to Slippery Rock University, one transferred to Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the rest left the program for a variety of reasons leaving no experienced Cadets at the University. In the Fall of 2019, six Cadets started as MS Is, five of whom ended up leaving the program over the course of the year while one has continued to work towards his goal, CDT Alex Cruz. At the same time, two Cadets joined as MS IIIs—CDT David Ozeck came out of nowhere and attended Basic Camp to cover his I and II years, while CDT Alexis Wolfe is an enlisted Army Reservist with deployment experience. Now Seniors, Cadets Ozeck and Wolfe are the Company Command-

er and First Sergeant, respectively.

Things looked bleak with only three Cadets moving forward into the 2020-2021 school year, but over the summer, nine Cadets joined the program, four of them with scholarships. CDT Alexander Barch, CDT Benjamin DeLallo, CDT Menoua Haghverdian, CDT Abigail Knapp, CDT Robert Nesky, CDT Thomas Paglio, CDT Matthew Powell, CDT Zachary Ressler, and CDT Kaigan Stroop make up this MS I class. One of the new Cadets is an enlisted Army Reservist and another attended Basic Training as a Cadet. Most of the UPJ MS Is are in Engineering or another STEM field, so they have several classes together and many share dorms. They quickly bonded between common classes and ROTC, and tend to hang out together outside of ROTC as well. The new Cadets are proving themselves to be intelligent, involved and motivated in terms of ROTC. Full of questions, they often stay after class to ask questions of the instructors, and many are quickly working towards contracting and/or attaining Simultaneous Membership Program status.

# SALUTE TO STUDENT ATHLETES

Warrior Battalion has been privileged to include a number of student athletes within its ranks. In addition to four members of the Saint Francis Swim Team, featured in the Spring 2020 issue of The Warrior Battalion Situation Report, we have seven other athletes between IUP, SFU and UPJ in the program.



**CDT Jordan Washington, '21:** I grew up in Monroeville, PA. I chose IUP because it is not too far from home, but not too close either. Life on Philadelphia St had me sold, but the top-notch football program and ROTC facilities were two of the biggest reasons to come here. I major in Management Information Systems, and on the football team I am a kicker/punter. I have wanted to serve in the military for as long as I can remember and ROTC provided me with the opportunity to pursue my degree and commission as an officer. I earned a 3-year scholarship, which is helping to pay for school as well as helping me achieve my goal to become an Army officer. I believe that I received the scholarship through being a well-rounded individual—academically and physically, but also through being involved in the community along with clubs and sports. Through ROTC, I have learned to multitask, have accountability, work with others and take the initiative. I am excited about what the future will bring. I wanted to give back because I know the United States has given me many opportunities

that are not available elsewhere. This is one way I can do my part as a citizen. I can influence others, do good for my country, and make a difference in the world. I hope to commission in Aviation and fly Blackhawks, and I would like to be stationed in Hawaii.

**CDT Jackson Heasley, '22:** CDT Heasley played football for IUP his freshman and sophomore years.

**CDT Jenna Rhue, '22:** CDT Rhue plays softball for IUP.

**CDT Erika Ellison, '23:** I grew up in Everett WA.

I chose Saint Francis because of the smaller campus size and the university's genuine dedication to students. The faith, values and mission of the university are also significant to me. I major in Accounting and minor in Biology, and play defense on the lacrosse team. I am a student senator as well as a student athletic mentor. I was not planning to join ROTC, but did plan to join the military after college. However, upon learning about the opportunities of being an Army officer, I realized ROTC would be a great path for me. Several family members were career military—both of my grandfathers were Army aviators, one great-uncle was a paratrooper, another was a CW5, and another influence on me was an Army Ranger. My experiences in ROTC have developed my perseverance, leadership and analytical thinking, as well as forming great friendships. Serving my country means that I am part of something greater than myself. I would like to commission in Aviation or Finance, and be stationed at Fort Richardson, AK, or Fort Carson, CO.





**CDT Jason Geary, '23:** I grew up in Derry, PA. I chose SFU because the small campus size was more comfortable, since I grew up in a small town and went to a small high school. I also liked the volleyball team, on which I play opposite. I major in Criminal Justice. I joined

ROTC after talking to Mr. Walker (former Warrior Battalion contract MSI). The program seemed like something I would be interested in. I have a lot of family members who have served in the military, and I believe the program opens doors to career-potential given my major. I am excited to see where the road will take me. I have wanted to serve since I was a child. I hope to commission in Armor or Infantry. I would prefer to serve CONUS, but I would not mind being stationed in Germany.

**CDT Stone Shugarts,**

**'23:** I grew up in Augusta, GA. IUP was a great fit for me, both on and off the field. It has an outstanding football program, great academics, and an awesome ROTC program. I major in Pre-med Biology, and play offensive line and center on the football



team. I am part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Cook Honors College, and the National Leadership Honors Society. I wanted to give back to the country that has given so much to me. I always thought of serving in the military, and ROTC gave me the opportunity. I've been in sports all my life and you quickly learn it is not about you, but the team. Many of the doctors in my hometown along with my coaches were former or current military and all gave me insight into the military. I received a 3-year scholarship at least partly because I had a high GPA in high school and I was involved in sports and other extra curricular activities. I have learned that the Army provides opportunities to people of all walks of life. I am ready for the commitment because I owe it to my country and the Army. I will be blessed with the privilege of

being an Army officer. Serving my country means doing everything I can to preserve the way of life I was able to lead because of those who served before me. I would like to serve in Medical Service as I plan to become a doctor and want to provide services for those who can make that possible. I just want to be stationed somewhere where I can build and provide for my future family.

**CDT Carly Fordham, '24:** I grew up in Lumberton, NJ and chose IUP because it has great programs for Nursing, Army ROTC, and field hockey, in which I play midfield. There is an opportunity to grow my leadership skills in all the programs I am involved in. I wanted to join ROTC because of the great opportunities it provides. My older brother encouraged me to join the program. I have a 4-year National Scholarship and I credit community service, leadership, and athletics for helping me to obtain it. ROTC has been challenging and rewarding. I am excited to commission and serve in the Army Nurse Corps. Serving my country allows me to be involved in something bigger than myself. I am willing to go where the Army needs me.



**CDT Thomas Paglio, '24:** CDT Paglio is a thrower on UPJ's Track & Field team.



# LEADERSHIP: APPLIED ARMY VALUES

MAJ Stephen Cargill, '06

Success at the junior officer level starts with accepting that everything you encounter will likely be new and that braving the unknown is not impossible. One need not look any further than the Army Values for impactful leadership guidance to start off on the right foot. Honesty, the etymology of which lies with honor, one of the Army Values, should be a quality of focus for young and aspiring Army leaders. Bolstered with skills you already possess like conducting research and disciplined practice, a young officer should be willing to speak up by providing honest assessment and input rather than being mute to begin molding their confidence. The more you do, the better you become, and confidence follows. Confidence is infectious, in fact, the attitude of one's leadership is always infectious, good or bad, so work towards confidence and competence with those research and practice skills.

From the beginning of one's career, a young officer will need to muster their personal courage to confidently engage astute veteran Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and senior officers with briefs for myriad issues. When assuming a new position, one certainly needs to take ownership, though looking to make significant changes within a unit early in one's tenure can be a risky venture. Given sufficient time, observation, and subsequent analysis, one can proceed with broaching adjustments to systems and processes through objective and honest discourse with those established NCOs. This milestone does not happen, however, without first being on the same page as your enlisted counterpart.

Synchronicity first requires effective counseling, initial and at least quarterly for a consistent official dialogue. Do not fear this initial encounter; providing honest and thoughtful guidance based on one's initial observations, understanding of the commander's training guidance, and unit requirements will be welcomed and respected. Be humble during counseling with your enlisted counterpart and come to view the encounter as a reflection of you, as well, allowing your enlisted counterpart to provide feedback on your performance. Once in sync, the leadership unit can then focus on leader issues and operations.



Apply the above skills to a third yet more vital skill, communication, and one will be well on the way to developing influence and thereby leading. By refining written correspondence and verbal communication through precise vocabulary, grammar, and demonstrating commander's intent understanding (knowing one's audience), one can afford themselves operating space to focus on effectively leading one's unit rather than being ran by higher due to lack of confidence.

Ultimately, one should seek to avoid discrediting the oft highlighted Army Values or the various other bullet pointed leadership principles as simply indoctrination literature that you must survive in the schoolhouse. Should one lose sight of basic skills and fundamental guidance and allow them to be taken for granted, one would waste some of the most effective cognitive tools available. These and other imperatives are usually simplified for ease of memorization, but they have deeper meaning and applicability. So actively seek out a mentor early

on to help decipher the best definition to unlock your potential.



Left: B/3/20th SFG (A) conducts static line airborne operations in Emporia, VA, in February, 2020; Above: Green Berets dragging weighted sleds while conducting the ACFT's "Sprint-Drag-Carry"; Below: MAJ Steve Cargill (left) with B/3/20th SFG (A) Company Operations Warrant Officer conducting aerial reconnaissance during Hurricane Florence Search and Rescue operations, September, 2018.





# Class of 2018 Update

*82nd Airborne mass jump during All American Week*

After commissioning, I attended flight school and along with BOLC, SERE, primary, and qualification on the UH-60M Blackhawk it lasted about 18 months. I received orders to Korea, but the Army changed its mind and sent me to Fort Campbell, KY, home of the 101st. As soon as I got to Fort Campbell, I went through Air Assault School (alongside a few IUP Cadets!) and I have been the Flight Operations OIC since. Unlike the rest of you, I have not yet had the opportunity to lead a platoon as I am only eight months out of flight school.

I just got to Europe ISO Operation Atlantic Resolve, serving as the battle captain. It is busy, but fun. COVID has not really affected us other than the fact that it took a long time to get here due to national quarantines, etc. We are doing a lot of work with NATO partners and allies over here and it's a great experience.

Christian McClure  
1LT, AV  
Flight Ops OIC  
TF Eagle Assault

I recently was assigned to the 47th Combat Support Hospital in Fort Lewis, WA as MTOE personnel with duty at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. After completing the Clinical Nurse Transition Program here at BAMC I spent a year working as a staff nurse before moving into a charge nurse role. I currently serve in the capacity of a charge nurse on a 28 bed medical/telemetry unit. Working at the DOD's only Level 1 Trauma Center has been a challenge and a blessing all at once. I have gained a great deal of both nursing and leadership experience. Unfortunately, COVID has hit Texas pretty hard in recent weeks, stretching our staff and resources to great lengths as we continue to support the San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas region.

In May I will be attending the Army's 16-week Perioperative Nursing Course and will continue progress in my career working in the operating room. Fingers crossed I get to join my pal Ambrose in Hawaii.

Madison Kauffman  
1LT, AN  
Brooke Army Medical Center  
6E, Clinical Staff Nurse

My Army career thus far has remained at Fort Bragg at Womack Army Medical Center. I worked as a med-surg nurse on a telemetry floor (cardiac monitoring) for about a year. In March, I transitioned to the Mother Baby Unit here in WAMC, so I am currently taking care of post-partum mothers and newborn babies, which I really love. I submitted a packet to attend the 66G (Labor and Delivery) Course and will be going to Fort Hood to do that in October – Feb 2021. My follow-on assignment is Hawaii! I'll be working at Tripler Army Medical Center as a 66G for the next 3 years. It's exciting to finally be moving towards my career goals.

Payton Ambrose  
1LT, AN

I began my Army career last May at Fort Campbell, KY with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team "RAKKASANS". My first position was Executive Officer (XO) for a headquarters company within a Brigade Support Battalion. I hit the ground running with one week to prep for a BN FTX and it has been mission after mission since. COVID has really slowed down our tempo giving us a breather as I am sure it has done for most of you. Two weeks ago, I transitioned into a new position as a Maintenance Control Officer/Platoon Leader for a forward support company in the 1-187 Infantry Regiment. Although faced with a new job within the realm of Logistics, I had previous experience in my XO position with an understanding of

GCSS-Army and the process of maintenance. Currently, we are conducting individual training before our forward elements return. Upon their return, we will initiate training for an upcoming JRTC rotation in Spring 2020.

Anyssa J. Sanchez  
1LT, OD  
Maintenance Control Officer/ Platoon Leader  
Golf FSC, 1-187 IN  
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)



*Jumping from a Chinook in Kuwait*

After commissioning, I went right to Fort Knox, KY as a Company XO for Advanced Camp before attending BOLC at Fort Sill, OK. I arrived at Fort Bragg, NC in December of 2018 and immediately fell into the role of Fire Support Officer for Alpha Company, 1-504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st IBCT, "Devils in Baggy Pants." For the next 12 months, I had the opportunity to plan and coordinate indirect fires and air assets in a rifle company through their whole training progression; starting with individual tasks to platoon air assault raids and company LFX's through a BDE Joint Forcible Entry exercise, finally culminating in JRTC rotation 19-08. It was a unique experience to see first-hand how a battalion plans, resources, and manages a collective training cycle.

As 2019 was coming to a close, I was slated to take a new position as a Platoon Fire Direction Officer in Bravo Battery, 3-319 AFAR at the start of 2020. Instead, our brigade was alerted and activated on New Year's Eve as the division's IRF to respond to the embassy crisis in Iraq. It was a crazy experience to get called back from holiday leave and deploy on the division's first, real IRF activation ISO a combat operation in over 30 years almost to the exact day. Although we were only supposed to be there for 30-45 days, COVID kept us in Kuwait for 5 months where we acted as CENTCOM's IRF. While we were in Kuwait, I transitioned into my new job as the Platoon FDO for Bravo Battery and our efforts in country got our battery nominated for the Knox Award, although we still await the results.

Currently, I am still holding my position as Platoon FDO doing all the math for artillery, but I am supposed to take over as Platoon Leader for the same platoon at the end of the year before another JRTC rotation in Spring 2021. I also plan to go to Jumpmaster School before the end of the year.

Brandon Hewitt  
1LT, FA  
Fire Direction Officer  
Bravo Battery, 3-319th AFAR  
1st IBCT, 82nd ABN DIV

I am the assistant S-2 with the 1-18th IN Regiment, 2 ABCT, 1ID. I am currently on a rotation in Korea until late this year. I have had as much success as can be expected out of the Assistant S-2 position so far. I have been to one NTC rotation, one JRTC rotation, multiple BDE and BN exercises, and now I am in Korea. During my time here, I have served as the S-2 actual on multiple occasions, culminating in my creation of a new Korea-specific Document and Media Exploitation (DOMEX) SOP for the battalion, which is now being used to formulate 2ID's and our combined Republic of Korea counterparts' SOP. It landed me recognition as a distinguished member of the 18th Infantry Regiment, which I am eternally humbled to hang on my wall. I hope to obtain an XO position sometime soon after redeployment and TDY training at Fort Huachuca.

Logan McChesney  
1LT, MI  
1-18IN A S-2

I have been the XO at 515th TC for a little over a year now. So far, Germany has been a very rewarding and humbling experience. Our mission set here has not stopped as we support fuel missions all over the European Theater. I have had the opportunity to work with the Czech, German, British, Slovenian, Hungarian, and Austrian militaries since I have been here. When I am not on mission, I enjoy traveling Europe. So far, I have been to 12 different countries and hope to see more of Europe as the borders begin to open back up. I am currently waiting on a RASP2 date for Ranger Regiment. I have been in contact with 3/75 and hope to hear back from them soon with a school date.

Matthew Sukenik  
1LT, TC  
Executive Officer  
515th Transportation Company (POL)  
18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

I am currently in 2-377 PFAR in 4-25 ID in Alaska jumping out of planes, which has been an unbelievable experience. We are trying to get as many hikes and camping trips in as possible before summer comes to an end next month. Since I have been here, I was a Fire Support Officer attached to 1-40 CAV for about 10 months through 'Arctic Anvil' and JRTC, and now I am the XO for Bravo Battery. I recently completed the UMO course as well as SHARP School to be my Battery's Victim Advo-

cate. I am hoping to attend Jumpmaster School in November. Like Liz, we were planning on going to Malaysia for Pacific Defender this summer, but because of COVID, we will be sitting on the IRF instead. I plan on dropping a Civil Affairs packet within the next few months and see where that will take me, but chances are I will be at Fort Bragg either way when I leave here.

Victoria Leland  
1LT, FA

XO, Bravo Battery  
2-377 PPAR

I have been at 1-36 IN, 1-1 AD, Fort Bliss, TX since October, 2018. Prior to my arrival at the unit, the entire BDE was notified at NTC Rotation 19-01 that they would be converting from an SBCT to an ABCT. Three weeks after in-processing to the unit I was given the privilege to lead my first platoon down at Chosen Company. I was able to witness the conversion mission first-hand as the Battalion as a whole focused on turning in Strykers, focusing on Individual Training Tasks, and prepping to receive Abrams MBTs and BFVs for OPNET training in 1QTRY20 and 2QTRFY20. After my first company fully converted to Armor, I lead another platoon in Able Company which remained as rifle company. I was able to plan and lead some collective training for the company, but only at the squad level. After 13 months of platoon time between two companies, I was moved up to S4 to become the BN UMO. The conversion mission was not the most glorious, but it was an important one for the Army.

After I became the BN UMO, my main goal shifted towards trying out for Psychological Operations Assessment and Selection. After going in June, I succeeded and was selected. Since I was moved to YG18, Infantry Branch selected me to do a Basic Combat Training position at Fort Benning. I will be there as an XO and will try to get as many schools as I can prior to my Q-Course in August of next year since that is when I will be promotable to Captain. My report date is 26 August 2020. After getting Airborne and the Q-Course next year, I will be at Fort Bragg for the foreseeable future, as the entirety of Psychological Operations is located there.

Michael A. Driscoll  
1LT, IN  
HHC, 1-36 IN

Since commissioning, I have spent my time with the 103D EN BN, 56th Stryker BDE out of Horsham, PA. I spent the summer at NTC rotation 18-006 where I received some intel experience prior to BOLC. Since then, I have been a Platoon Leader with the COIST PLT and will soon become the collection manager for the BN. Meanwhile, I have been supporting mission with the NSA in Maryland working alongside our fellow branches.

Logan Brandis  
2LT, MI, PAARNG

I have been stationed at JBLM as a Medical Service Officer since December of 2018. I spent a year as a Medevac Platoon Leader in 2nd BDE, 2BSB where I went to NTC and learned how to operate a Role 2 field hospital. I am now in 2-1 Infantry Battalion where I am still a platoon leader, doubling as the battalion medical officer running the Role 1 field hospital. We are projected to go on a Pacific Pathways mission in the near future (barring COVID restrictions), in which we would go to Guam and work with their military. For now, I will continue to track the never-ending COVID cases and hope to improve how we are dealing with it.

Elizabeth Coppella  
1LT, MS  
BN Medical Officer  
HHC, 2-1 IN



*1LT Hewitt with A Co,  
1-504 PIR*





*ILT Leland participating in the Gold Star Memorial Hike*



*ILT Sukenik with some of his Soldiers during the Nijmegen March, a 4-day, 100-mile event wearing rucks*

# Program Sponsorship

There are many ways to support the Warrior Battalion. For those who are looking to create a lasting impression that provides annual support to a specified area, the following are the areas that currently have the greatest need:

## **Ranger Challenge Club**

The Ranger Challenge Club selects 12 of its members to compete in the annual Ranger Challenge Competition. During the off-season, the larger club (Approx. 40-50 members) participates in several named half or full marathons, ruck marches, Tough Mudders, white water rafting, etc.

## **Rifle Club**

The reinvigorated rifle club has more than 50 members and they aim to build a strong foundation in marksmanship. They hope to begin competing in events like the President's Hundred and the Governor's Twenty in the next several years.

## **Warrior Battalion Honor Guard**

The Warrior Battalion Honor Guard is responsible for all flag ceremonies, firing our historic 75mm pack howitzer at parades, football games and other events, and other duties involving precise drill & ceremony.

## **Staff Ride**

Each Spring, the graduating seniors visit a nearby battlefield like Gettysburg or Antietam. This event is commonly a 2-day, 2-night event. Senior Cadets research and brief their peers at stops throughout the battlefield.

## **Social Events**

In November, the battalion lets loose and participates in the traditional Dining In and in April, the Military Ball is the highlight of the year. These events are typically held at a local venue and open to all Cadets in the battalion.

For more information on how to set up an endowment, please call the Office of University Advancement at 724-357-2324. Donations can also be made directly to the IUP Foundation here:

[DONATE!](#)

# VETERANS DAY



Marching in Indiana's Veterans Day parade is a time-honored tradition in the Warrior Battalion. This year, however, due to COVID restrictions, the city cancelled its Veterans Day celebrations, leaving a hole for honoring those who walked the path before us. The Cadet leadership planned an event to replace the city's normal celebration. While some Cadets attended an event sponsored by the American Legion and strongly supported by Sheriff Robert Fyock at the Indiana County Courthouse, the bulk of the battalion marched in the rain to perform Eyes Right in front of Pierce Hall, saluting the veterans in attendance. This was followed by a three round cannon volley at 11:10 and a minute of silence at 11:11. The ceremony then moved into Pierce Hall where Cadet Battalion Commander Joseph Guerra and PMS LTC Dennis Faulkner delivered brief remarks honoring veterans everywhere. Afterwards, Cadets served the veterans lunch.



Above: Warrior Battalion performs Eyes Right as they march past Pierce Hall, honoring veterans attending IUP ROTC's Veterans Day celebration; Top left: The Gun Captain and crew assume their positions following the three-round volley; Middle left: LTC Faulkner with some of the veterans in attendance, including Indiana County Sheriff Robert Fyock and MG (R) Rodney Ruddock; Bottom left: Cadets serve lunch in F3.



# BATTALION STORE

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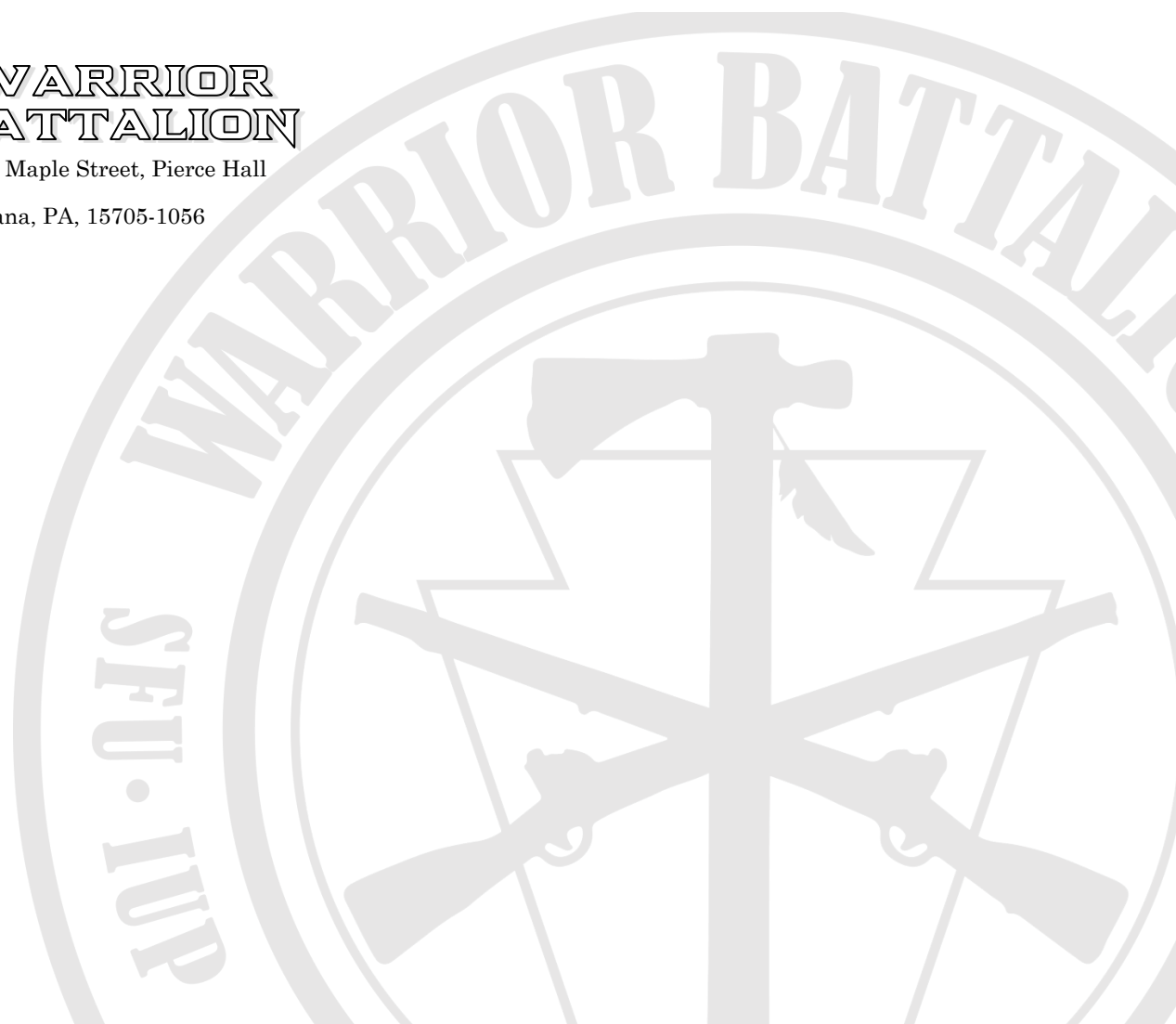




# WARRIOR BATTALION

1140 Maple Street, Pierce Hall

Indiana, PA, 15705-1056



# You're Always Invited

## RANGER CHALLENGE

\* 26-28 MARCH

## MILITARY BALL

\* 24 APRIL

\* TIME AND LOCATION TBD

## COMMISSIONING

\* 7 MAY @ 1000

\* FISHER AUDITORIUM

\* LOCATION TENTATIVE