



The MILLINI



A Publication From
THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



A Message from the Professor of Military Science

By LTC Randall M. Smith

Happy New Year to the Cadets, Alumni and friends of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion. Our Cadets worked incredibly hard this semester and achieved amazing results. My Christmas gift is getting to come back in January and work with them for another semester.

I want to begin by thanking our alumni and friends who created the Army ROTC Endowment Fund. Your efforts and generosity got us to our initial goal within a year. You have created an enduring source of financial support that will assist our Cadets to train to be better citizens and leaders for our country. I, nor the Cadre that follows us, can thank you enough for your dedication to our mission and our Cadets.

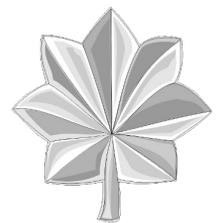
This Fall we made some changes to our training in order to better prepare our Cadets for Advanced Camp and to commission as lieutenants. This year our MS-III Cadets began a Small Unit Leadership program and our MS-IVs conducted Observer-Controller/Trainer and Staff Academy training prior to the start of the school year. Our Cadets successfully completed numerous training events to include a four-day Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The MS-IV Cadets planned and executed weapons qualification, land navigation, ruck marches and the Leader’s Reaction Course. All Cadets completed Basic Rifle Marksmanship training prior to and during the FTX which resulted in 39 of the 65 firers qualifying with the M-16 rifle on a pop-up range. An impressive result since this was the first time many had shot a rifle.

This year we again sent two teams to the Task Force Marseilles Ranger Challenge Competition. A change to this year was that all teams were required to have both genders on the team. The UIUC teams included three women and now Ranger Club has doubled that number of women participating. It is truly “One Team – One Fight” with our Fighting Illini Cadets. On top of their demanding academic and ROTC requirements, 15 Cadets completed the Norwegian Ruck March with 14 earning the coveted Norwegian Badge. Three Cadets earned their German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge this semester. Cadets also supported numerous Color Guard requests and participated in numerous other events to ensure our presence here on campus and in the community is known. As if that wasn’t enough, our Cadets coordinated two blood drives and volunteered countless hours to support fundraising events to earn funding for our annual Dining-In and several ROTC clubs.

Finally, I would like to congratulate **Cadet Lanise Branch, Cadet Christopher Kerasotes, and Cadet Corey Maisch** for earning their degrees and commissions this fall. They pinned on their second lieutenant bars on December 22, 2017. You will all be missed here at the Fighting Illini ROTC Battalion and we look forward to hearing great things from you as new leaders in our Army.



I’m truly excited about the training planned for Spring Semester. The Cadets are planning training and extracurricular events that meet our vision to: Be a Learning Organization; Get Better Every Day; and Never Quit. Thank you for your continued support. Together we will continue the Fighting Illini tradition of Forging Strong Leaders since 1868 and into the 21st Century.



On the Front Cover: The Army ROTC color guard leads the opening game ceremonies at a University of Illinois’ home football game. (Top) On the bottom: The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Ranger Team poses for a photo after competing in the Ranger Challenge Competition

A Message from the Senior Military Instructor

By MSG Bruce Hutcherson

I would first like to thank all the Cadets that have decided to not only to continue their education at the University of Illinois, but also continue on in the Army ROTC program. The United States Army is in good hands with the young men and women who have decided to answer the nation's call to serve one day in its military as officers. I fully understand that this is a decision that most do not make all on their own. I would be remiss not to thank the family and friends of our warriors who support them every step of the way of their journey.

During the Fall semester, we were able to send a few of our Cadets to Western Illinois University to partake in the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) event in which they earned the gold badge. We opened the invite to the Air Force ROTC cadets as well and all of their Cadets received a medal. There were several Cadets who participated in the Task Force Marseilles Ranger Challenge competition for bragging rights for the State of Illinois. In addition to competing well in the event, they were also able to connect with other Cadets from different schools across the Brigade.

The months of October and November provided the Cadets with the opportunity to practice the Troop Leading Procedures, squad movement, land navigation, and other different training techniques as they executed various missions at their military science labs. Throughout this period, as well as into December, our Illini Color Guard team performed admirably supporting a number of different events on and around campus.

The Spring Semester will continue where we left off at the end of the Fall semester. "To whom much is given, much will be required." The expectations will only increase as we prepare to commission new Lieutenants into the U.S. Army. We have a number of new Cadets who will be joining our fold. They will take part in the Cadet Orientation Program (COP) which provides them the basics on what Cadet life is all about prior to the start of the semester. Although they can't expect to learn everything that our new Cadets learned in the Fall semester, they will at least have a better understanding on what is expected at military formations and physical fitness sessions. This program was orchestrated and executed by our Senior Cadets serving as mentors. The COP was designed by our senior Cadets to ensure that incoming Cadets are able to perform at the level in which we'll be expecting to. Once COP is finished, it is up to their squad leader to have them ready for each week's lab and other training events. In closing, we're looking forward to the operation tempo preparing us for our Spring Field Training Exercise and for our MS-III Cadets to excel at Advance Camp this summer at Fort Knox. They will have an ample amount of opportunities to fine tune their skills sets this Spring before they depart. We conclude this Spring with the annual Dining-Out and of course, the May commissioning ceremony where we will proudly commission close to 20 new second lieutenants.



ARMY ROTC

Remember Cadets, that as a leader, you do not always have to tell someone that you are in charge. Lead by example, and they will follow. Keep your powder and your feet dry and Two Scoops of HOOAH!!!



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The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Pushup Crew poses for a photo during a University of Illinois home football game.



MS-II Cadets work together to overcome a Field Leader's Reaction Course obstacle during the Fall Field Training Exercise.



The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion
Forging Strong Leaders Since 1868
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MS-I Class Updates

The Next Chapter

By Mr. Gene Richards, MS-I Instructor

First, let me say that I am extremely excited to be the newest member of the Fighting Illini Battalion Cadre as an Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS) and MS-I Instructor here at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Since coming on board in September, after the Fall semester had already begun, I've had a great time assisting **MSG Hutcherson** and I am looking forward to taking the reins this Spring with the MS-I class.

Now, a little background on me and what brought me here. I retired from active duty after 26 years in the Army on January 31, 2016. I am an Aviation Branch officer and flew UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters. While in the Army, I had the opportunity in 2006-08 to teach ROTC as an APMS at Clemson University in South Carolina. It was here that I realized that working with the future leaders of our great Army was my calling. Nothing else comes close and there is nothing that I'd rather be doing! So, when it came time to retire, teaching ROTC was the only occupation I considered pursuing as the next chapter in my professional life. Last year I was fortunate enough to be hired on as a contract instructor, at Purdue University, only to be reassigned to the University of Illinois in September.

My intent is to inspire our young scholar—athlete—leaders and positively impact their lives with my experience in the military and in life. Serving in the military isn't for everyone but, for many of you, it just may be the future career you've been searching for. Army ROTC offers great opportunities and being in Illinois provides you advantages that other states don't offer. From the Illinois State Tuition Waiver for in-state students to multiple Federal, Army Reserve and Army National Guard scholarship options. Think of it like this: Army ROTC provides fun and exciting training opportunities here at school. It allows you to graduate with little to no education debt or student loans, while knowing exactly your salary is going to be after graduation. You also gain fantastic leadership skills as an Army Officer with responsibilities well beyond anything imaginable in the civilian sector as well as great opportunities to travel the world with outstanding benefits. This decision is in your hands as a freshman in college. Not many other college programs have this much certainty. You will then have the opportunity to make a career out of the military. Even if you decide to leave the military after your initial obligation is completed, you will have gained amazing skills and experience to put on your resume when looking to land that big job in the civilian sector. Regardless of whether military service is in your future or not, years from now when you reflect back on your time in college, I hope to be one of the people you remember that made a huge positive influence on your life.

Lastly, we've got a great group of underclassmen in our program and I'm anxious to get our new Cadets integrated. To the MS-I Cadets, ROTC should be a fun break from your regular academic rigor. A chance to learn valuable leadership skills, improve your physical fitness, get outdoors during lab, and be challenged to accomplish things you may not have thought possible. I hope to make our class the best class on campus. Remember...the only reason I am here is for you!



MAJ (Ret.) Gene Richards is the new MS-I instructor and sits in his Army Service Uniform

MS-I Class Updates

Adjusting to College and the Army ROTC Lifestyle

By Cadet Lindsey Graham

After only a few months as part of the Army ROTC program here at University of Illinois, I have learned so much more than I ever thought I would. After deciding to leave Furman University in South Carolina, I came home unsure regarding what I was going to do with my time in college or where I was going to go. I set my sights on the University of Illinois (UIUC) and decided I wanted to participate in Army ROTC to learn more about Army career opportunities and to give my life good direction and purpose.

I came onto campus in late August and soon after arriving, I began the Cadet Orientation Program (COP) with other first-year cadets. Throughout the program, our days consisted of learning customs and courtesies, the basics of weaponry, reviewing rank structure, and participating in drill and ceremony techniques. At the end, we completed a weapons assault course that left our legs cut up, but our spirits motivated. The most eventful part of the program was completing our first session of Physical Readiness Training (PRT), which took many of the Cadets by surprise. Soon after COP was completed, classes began for the semester and we started our day to day lives as both Cadets and students.

As a first year, or MS-I Cadet, my responsibilities are as follows: attend PRT for three days a week from 0600–0720, take a military science class, go to a battle tactics field lab once a week, and attend the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). In addition to this, there were a variety of clubs offered. I participated in the pushup crew club that supports the football team here by matching the score with pushups near the end zone. I've even taken the Army Physical Fitness Test three times this semester. Throughout the semester I improved my overall score by over 15 points, a modest improvement compared to some of the other cadets.

Waking up for PRT in the mornings is not an easy task, especially as the semester moves on and the amount of school work increases. Nonetheless, I found myself looking forward to spending time with my fellow Cadets and getting in a good workout with other people around me. The workouts vary but are based on improving strength and endurance. The labs take place on Thursday afternoons following a day of wearing our Army Combat Uniforms. The battle tactics we learned throughout the semester included land navigation, individual and squad-level battle drills, patrol base operations, troop leading procedures, and more.

One of the most valuable lessons I learned from ROTC is the importance of being an effective leader and follower. Both of these play a vital role in the execution of any task, and are extremely valuable whether you continue on into your military career or just take what you have learned into civilian life. Each member of ROTC learns the fundamental rules involved in managing people to get things done, understands what it takes to be part of a complex operation, and gains the knowledge regarding not only what it takes to be in charge but also how to work well with other team members. Although the purpose of ROTC is to prepare people for military service, a byproduct of that is being better prepared to handle life's challenges. Yes, Army ROTC was the right choice for me.



Cadet Lindsey Graham stands with **Cadet Terrell Baker** for a photo during Open House.

MS-II Class Updates

Enjoying ROTC Opportunities

By Cadet Jack Hamman



Cadet Jack Hamman and other Cadets pay attention to the instructor during a fall semester field lab.

Throughout the Fall semester I have learned a lot as a MS-II Cadet in the Fighting Illini Battalion. I was a late entry into the program, starting in the Spring of my freshman year. My first semester in the program was spent playing catch up as I worked to try and pick up the day to day life of a Cadet and working to balance life as a Cadet and a college student. My family has a limited military history so I had to learn very quickly the demands of being a successful Cadet in the program.

Despite my late start, and unfamiliarity with what the program, I felt welcomed and encouraged through my first semester of training. Following a trip to Cadet Basic Camp this past summer at Fort Knox, Kentucky, I returned to campus feeling more confident and ready to begin my MS-II year. The year began with excitement as we had a new Assistant Professor of Military

Science, **MAJ Jeremiah Willis**, who would take over the instruction of our MS-II class. **MAJ Willis** has brought a new level of enthusiasm and intellect to each lesson this year. In our class of Individual Leadership studies, he has challenged ourselves to think critically and creatively about the art of leadership, and how it is best performed. During Physical Training (PT) and leadership labs as MS-II cadets, we have taken on greater leadership roles serving as team leaders within our squads. These opportunities to lead small groups of three to four individuals allows us a chance to apply the theories, principles, and concepts we learn in our Individual Leadership studies class, so we can learn not only the methodology of leadership, but also its practical application. Beyond class, PT, and Military Science Lab, there are numerous ways our MS-II class has become involved in the Army ROTC program.

Many of the members of our class are serving as club captains or helping run and organize clubs within the battalion. I had the opportunity this semester as a member of the Ruck Club to participate in the Norwegian Foot March by rucking 30 Kilometers on one damp Saturday morning. This was an amazing experience as we pushed our physical prowess to its maximum potential.

Through all this training, I truly believe we have developed ourselves, not only as leaders, but as people. ROTC training helps to prepare us for the opportunity to reach our goal to serve one day as Army Officers. Until then we will continue to enjoy our leadership development training while making memories and building friendships that will last a life time.



Cadet Jack Hamman stands with his fellow MS-II Cadets for a photo during the 2017 Fall semester Dining In.

MS-III Class Updates

Preparing For Advanced Camp By Captain Nathan Elkins, MS-III Instructor

This semester has been an exciting time to be a MS-III Cadet in the Fighting Illini Battalion. We have made changes to the entire Battalion to improve the assessment of the MS-IIIs based upon the combined experiences of the military cadre from advance camp over the summer. No one really likes change, especially Cadets who are also struggling college students. **Cadet Vinay Prabhakar** had this to say about this semester, “When I think about this semester, a single word comes to mind: stress. I came into this semester knowing I would be pushed to my limits: a full course load, ROTC, and extracurricular activities are just some of the many things that have been on my mind.”

We have instituted a Mentorship Program led by the MS-IV Cadets in order to improve the leadership attributes and competencies of the MS-IIIs. Every MS-III has an Advance Camp graduate assigned to them who evaluates their behavior throughout the week and provides them feedback on their strengths, weaknesses and helps them develop a plan of action to improve each weakness and maintain their strengths. The MS-IIIs are also evaluated by other MS-IVs at Thursday’s Leadership Labs and also at the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). This system provided additional feedback to the MS-IV mentors and myself to refine the individual Cadet’s plan and further develop them. This evaluation and assessment matrix is the same one used by Cadet Command during Advance Camp and will hopefully give our Cadets some insight into what their summer Cadre will be looking at. **Cadet Daniel Lasota** had this to say about what he has worked on to improve this semester, “One of the primary new talents I have acquired is the ability to effectively establish personable, working relationships with my peers and subordinates while maintaining constant communication. This aspect is particularly different for me because prior to ROTC I never had much experience leading/managing multiple people *constantly*. I emphasize



Cadet Madison Jolley practices map reading in preparation for a land navigation lab.



Cadet Daniel Lee briefs and instructs his squad before going out to execute a mission at Lab

constantly because in the past my leadership roles were only necessary during the work day or on a drill weekend. While in ROTC I have had to drop what I am doing during the day to address issues with those I supervised. Ultimately this has given me an appreciation for what reality will be like throughout the rest of my life. I am going to have relationships, personal and professional, that I must maintain at all times. This will require me to always have a 'command presence' with my subordinates so that I will have the ability to always be there for those that count on me.”

Another change that we have made this semester is focusing on map reading/land navigation, squad tactics, and battle drills in order to build a base line understanding for conducting platoon tactics in the spring. At Advance Camp, Cadets execute these tactics during the FTXs as the means for evaluating their leadership attributes and

MS-III Class Updates

Preparing For Advanced Camp (Continued)



Cadet Iraklis Analitis instructs his squad the proper function and use of the M4 Carbine.

competencies. **Cadet Jordan Holm** had this to say about this training, “These skills are the bread and butter of Army Leadership in an operational environment. We spent frustrating hours out in various Land Navigation courses, struggling to find all of the coordinates tasked to us and make it back before the time limit. This experience is crucial to our success as an officer, as it will be us who are responsible for coordinating the movement of a unit and ensuring that they reach the desired destination.” **Cadet Prabhakar** also had this to share, “Participation in weekly labs has allowed my knowledge of tactics to increase and develop. At Basic Training, battle drills and patrol bases were not heavily emphasized; most of the focus was on the very basic Soldier skills. However, going through labs and serving as squad leader for the younger Cadets has given me a solid understanding of what I need to do in order to succeed with squad tactics.”

Lastly, we have instituted small unit leader classes that are designed to teach the MS-III's what it really means to lead and to take care of those who are under your charge at the platoon and squad level. **MSG Bruce Hutcherson**, the Senior Military Instructor (SMI), **Mr. Eric Ashworth**, and **SFC Jaime Leon**, who is an assistant instructor and training NCO, put together multiple classes specifically designed to teach the MS-III's the basic expectation and skills of NCO leadership. **Cadet Holm** had this to say about the challenges of leading this semester, “To kick off the semester, we were each placed in a leadership role that ranged from commanding 6-26 other Cadets in their freshman and sophomore year. We were tasked with training these Cadets to meet the standards of the ROTC program and ensure that they were prepared for platoon and squad leader positions when they had to fill our boots. This was something new for us, as previously the highest leadership role any of us had filled was that of Team Leader, a position that required the oversight of only 2-3 other cadets. This experience gave us an opportunity to develop our management of others and test out our own leadership styles in order to see what would and wouldn't work with Cadets at Advanced Camp.” **Cadet Prabhakar** echoed **Cadet Holm** by saying, “This semester was the first time I've been in a significant position of leadership, and it was very daunting for me. Getting up in front of people and leading is something that I'm not very uncomfortable with, yet it is required in life.”

We will continue to refine our program here at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to better prepare these young men and women for the greatest profession in the world, an officer in the U.S. Army. Some of the changes we are making for next semester are physical fitness five times a week, more training and emphasis on small unit leadership, and to continue to develop Cadets to coach, train, and mentor those who follow them in the Fighting Illini Battalion.



MSG Bruce Hutcherson gives a small unit leader class to discuss command presence to this year's MS-III class.

MS-IV Class Updates

Planning A Successful Semester

Edited by Second Lieutenant Jonathan Rodriguez, Gold Bar Recruiter

The senior year of Army ROTC often proves to be a unique experience for Cadets compared to the other three years within the program. Whether a Cadet has been in the program for all four years or not, MS-IV Cadets take on the duty for planning every event within the battalion. MS-IVs also have the responsibility to properly develop the junior Cadets in regard to their physical fitness, Army skill set and knowledge, and leadership capabilities. Cadets **Alex Kim, Craig Muncaster, Sushruth Pattekar, and Fidel Toto** share their experiences and stories on the challenges they faced in ensuring the Fighting Illini Battalion was prepared complete every mission ahead of them.

Cadet Alex Kim—Developing Others In Leadership

“Leadership is about taking responsibility.” “Leaders produce more leaders.” “Leaders lead.” It’s easy as Cadets to think about leadership through these ever ubiquitous and equally vague quotes. Framed on walls, and repeated by everyone, keeping leadership as a nebulous concept requires little effort and makes it seem easy to understand what leadership is, but this year as an MSIV, I learned that leadership is more than just sayings. As the opportunity to lead transformed into a responsibility to lead, leadership went from being a vague collection of words to something more concrete.

One of the leadership responsibilities given to our class was the job of mentoring an MS-III in preparation for Advance Camp. The main requirement for this job was to have weekly diagnostic blue cards (the Cadet Leadership Assessment Card) that would outline what the MS-III Cadet did well and what they should work on to improve. Every week, I met with my mentee to have a face to face conversation and used these blue cards to reflect on his week. I understood the value of having a mentor beforehand, but this experience taught me that mentorship is much more effective having certain tools on hand. The blue cards, despite being a hassle at times, allowed us to keep track of what we talked about week to week and gave us a sense of how my mentee was making progress with the things he wanted to improve on. What leadership sayings are missing that I gained through this practical application of leadership was that tools can help facilitate leadership.

Another lesson I learned this semester was as the Battalion Operations Officer. Coming into the semester, I assumed that being the operations officer would be all about planning and preparation, so that was the mindset I went into the semester with. I took time to carefully organize documents and set deadlines and set definite guidelines for those working with me in planning operations. What I quickly came to realize however was that planning as a leader was more than just about setting deadlines and providing resources. More than anything, it was about team work and trust. When planning labs, it wasn’t the checklists and calendars that allows us to make progress and execute great labs. It was the willingness of everyone in the battalion to do things like meet in person and communicate effectively with each other over the details needed to provide quality training to the junior Cadets.



Cadet Alex Kim discusses standards of the Fighting Illini ROTC Battalion to ensure they are met.

MS-IV Class Updates

Planning A Successful Semester (Continued)

Cadet Craig Muncaster—Improving the Physical Training Plan

This past semester I have had the distinct pleasure of being the Fighting Illini Battalion's Cadet Command Sergeant Major. I was responsible for a wide variety of tasks from physical training (PT) to executing parades to facility maintenance. It certainly was not an easy job to do, but I had a great deal of help from my peers as well as my subordinates. The effort I saw being given was amazing, especially from the MS-III platoon sergeants.

Originally I was the one planning all the PT sessions for the battalion, but as we progressed into the semester I handed that job off to the platoon sergeants. The moment I told them they were responsible for planning the physical fitness of their platoons each morning, they began to ask questions about what they could and could not do. All three of them wanted to try new things and make big changes to PT. The level of motivation and enthusiasm I saw was incredible. They took the job in stride and began to churn out very creative plans for their platoons. Some of the plans had to be scrapped or changed but they quickly learned as I had at the beginning of the semester on what worked and what did not. The development I saw in the platoon sergeants was amazing, and it began to affect their platoons as well. When they began to truly take responsibility for PT their platoons began to perform at a higher standard. I learned that simply delegating a task such as planning PT to the MS-III Cadets had a profound effect to motivate and buy-in to the overall goal of improved physical fitness in all of the Cadets. Their development and willingness to try new methods has driven me to work even harder to improve myself so that I do not get left behind.



Cadet Craig Muncaster reads the instructions for the Army Physical Fitness Test

Cadet Fidel Toto—Developing Your Own Leadership Abilities



Cadet Fidel Toto stands with **Cadet Timothy Wallace** at the Memorial Stadium Colonnades.

As an MS-IV Cadet, I have experienced the highs and lows of being a leader and I understand decision-making requires intensive critical thinking in order to produce the best course of action. Although a leader is responsible, the beauty of command is having the ability to hear ideas from other Cadets. Up to this point, I would concentrate on providing quality feedback to a subordinate Cadets to give them a different view of a situation. One of the benefits of operating as part of the Cadet Staff, is the exposure to me of different ideas to solve problems.

Development can also come from an operational environment such as a Field Training Exercise or tactical lab, an institutional environment such as school, but I believe the most effective comes from self-reflection. Self-reflection allows one to identify their own strengths and weakness and focus their own efforts on ways to make themselves better. Sometimes it is hard to look at oneself critically but once you are able to master this, it is humbling and allows for a stronger potential for growth.

MS-IV Class Updates

Planning A Successful Semester (Continued)

Cadet Sushruth Pattekar—Overseeing Dedication and Success

As Cadet Battalion Commander for the Fighting Illini Battalion, the last few months have been some of the most challenging and rewarding of my college years. One of these rewards was watching the Battalion grow, persevere, and achieve at every level, from brand new MS-I Cadets to MS-IVs on the verge of commissioning in the United States Army.

The dedication and effort Fighting Illini Cadets have shown through the semester is inspiring at all levels. MS-I Cadets, freshly exposed to a world of military discipline and physical challenge, adapted to these changes in their lifestyle with ease. On top of this, these Cadets already were dealing with the jarring change of starting college life. The MS-II class continued to be the hard charging group of dedicated Cadets I had come to know last year. Leading the way in ROTC Clubs such as Ranger Challenge and Ruck Club, they blazed the way, proving to be the bright examples that the younger Cadets could follow and learn to emulate. They dedicated their time and effort to the program, whether it be as a Push-Up Crew member bringing publicity to the Battalion on the football field, raising money by working the concession stands at football games, or working in the supply room to help the demanding and fast paced efforts to relocate during the Armory renovation. They have shown they have more than what it takes to lead the Fighting Illini Battalion in the coming years. The MS-III class is perhaps the most crucial of any ROTC program. This is where the rubber meets the road. MS-IIIs are the direct leaders, the chain of command, the leaders the MS-Is and MS-IIIs follow and look to for guidance. I saw members of this class handle the ever-increasing stresses of the academic world, on top of a highly intensified new responsibility of developing and training their ROTC subordinates. In addition to these responsibilities, the MS-IIIs also had to focus on preparing themselves for the most crucial target of all, Advanced Camp. This meant training for peak physical fitness, ruck marches, extra land navigation practice, and a plethora of other means of self-improvement and preparation.

None of what this Battalion has accomplished would have been possible without the excellent MS-IV team and staff I had the privilege of working with. Without the dedicated constant planning and organization of the Operations shop, there would have been the high quality training events to execute. Without the demanding work put in by the Supply shop, there would have been no way for Cadets to get the equipment they needed for training. Without intelligence, there would be no way to prepare for the elements, to adapt the plan, to have the information necessary to provide the best training possible. And of course, the awards each Cadet was recognized with during the Dining-In was available through the dedication of our S-1 staff. These are just a few of the ways the Battalion staff made the program run. The MS-IVs worked seamlessly together, and this allowed for the class to provide useful and quality training to our fellow Fighting Illini Cadets. The dedication and hard work put in by my fellow MS-IVs was humbling to say the least.

It has been an honor and privilege working with my fellow Fighting Illini Cadets. I have great assurance that the Battalion will continue to improve with every new semester and every new year, as this last semester has shown.



Cadet Pattekar leads the way in front of the Fighting Illini Battalion before the Homecoming Parade.

Cadet Spotlight

The Norwegian Foot March

By Cadet Patrick Reynolds



Cadet Joy Kim races to complete the Norwegian Foot March Competition

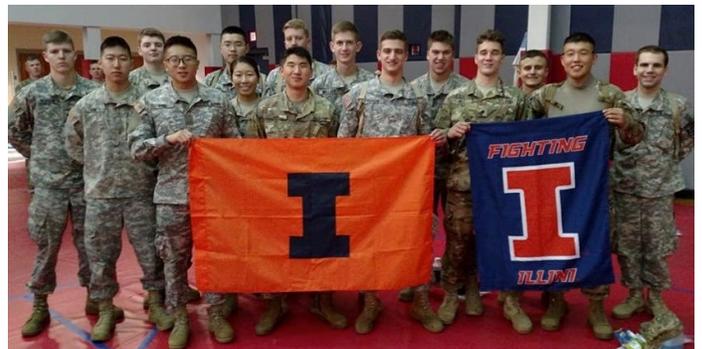
For the past 11 weeks, Cadets from the Fighting Illini Ruck Club have risen before the sun, put on their uniforms, rucked up, and traversed five miles of country road. The Cadets were training for the Norwegian Foot March, a timed, 18.7 mile ruck course, that had an only 60 percent pass rate. As the team captain of this group, I was motivated every morning by my fellow ruckers, as I knew that thanks to their determination, skill, and commitment, the Fighting Illini Ruck Club would emerge from the Norwegian event, victorious.

The 12 mile ruck march at Advanced Camp is often cited as one of the most difficult portions of the 30-day course at Fort Knox, KY. Therefore, it is absolutely crucial that Cadets prepare for, enhance their skills, and ultimately master, the practice of ruck marching. However, I can say with confidence that our 15 Norwegian participants will have little to no trouble at all finishing the Fort Knox Course. This is due to the fact that all of our ruckers finished the 18.7 mile Norwegian Foot March, and 14 of those 15 finished within the required four hours and 30 minutes. This meant that our

battalion produced a 93 percent success rate (compared to the course's normal 60 percent rate), proving once again that the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion is truly one of the finest commissioning sources in the nation.

While The Fighting Illini Ruck Club did very well during the Norwegian Foot March, it was certainly no walk in the park (no pun intended). For one, a majority of the course winded and twisted through steep hills that often seemed to be endless. In addition to the elevation, the sheer size of the course often was discouraging. I can personally recall winding around a forested corner near mile 14, only to find a long stretch of barren highway. Already exhausted, this seemingly endless stretch of road would have negatively affected my morale and drive to finish, had it not been for my fellow ruckers supporting me. **Cadets Timothy Wallace, Thomas Jackson, and Ryan Kim**, to name a few, never quit, and we helped each other cross the finish line in record time. These Cadets exemplified the Army Values, and demonstrated the best qualities of Army Cadets.

It is with the success of Norwegian in mind, that the Ruck Club looks to the future, in anticipation of the Bataan Memorial Death March. Held at White Sands, New Mexico in late March, this 26.2 mile Ruck Course will be more challenging logistically and physically for our ruckers. However, it is with this in mind that the Cadets are training harder than ever, practicing almost every single day. We have linked up with our Battalion's Ranger Challenge Club for Tuesday Rucks and continue to conduct weight training exercises on the weekends. With this training schedule and our Cadets' drive and commitment to greatness, I am confident that we will be able to duplicate the success that was experienced at Norwegian.



The Fighting Illini Army ROTC Ruck Team poses for a photo after completing the Norwegian Foot March of 18.7 miles



Fighting Illini Battalion



Cadet Orientation Program Day 1

Summary: On August 24, 2017, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion introduced new Cadets into the program. The day began with LTC Randall Smith welcoming the Cadets and their families. LTC Randall Smith also presented checks to the scholarship winners. After the brief, incoming Cadets were formed into their squads and were introduced to ROTC activities. While this occurred, parents were given a tour around the armory and were given information about the program. At the end of the day, parents and Cadets rejoined for a cookout.



Cadet Alex Tkaczyk and Cadet Andrew Jacobs grill the food for the cookout.



LTC Randall Smith presents Cadet Patrick Fox with his four year scholarship award.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Cadet Orientation Program Day 2

Summary: Day 2 of COP occurred on August 26, 2017. Throughout the day, Cadets were familiarized with Army skills. The day kicked off with an introduction to Physical Readiness Training (PRT). Afterwards, Cadets learned how to throw a hand grenade and handle multiple weapons (such as a M4 rifle, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, and the M9 Pistol). The day ended with a weapons assault course that each new Cadet successfully completed!



Cadet Hannah Wright instructs on how to properly throw a hand grenade.



The new Cadets are shown how to handle a M9 Pistol by Cadet Samuel Chung.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Cadet Orientation Program Day 3

Summary: Cadets finished COP on August 30, 2017. The new Cadets were issued training gear and shown how to properly wear and use each item. This was a great exercise for the new Cadets to see their squad leaders, platoon sergeants, and platoon leaders in action! In order to become an effective soldier, troops must learn not only how to wear their gear, but why they wear each piece. The Cadets are now one step closer to accomplishing this goal.



Cadet Joy Kim helps Cadet Steven Irace adjust his Load Bearing Vest (LBV).



Cadet Maritza Palafox and Cadet Lamar West show a new cadet how to add pouches to their LBV.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Quad Day

Summary: On August 27, 2017, members of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion set up a booth on the main quad to inform new students about the ROTC program. This is a great opportunity to spread the word about Army ROTC because over 10,000 new and transfer students attend this event every year. Interested students were able to talk to Cadets about joining the program and scholarship opportunities.



Cadets, Timothy Wallace and Edward Thomas, speaking with a new student.



Mr. Eric Ashworth informing students about the Fighting Illini Army ROTC program.



Cadets enjoying Quad Day while working the booth.



Town Hall Lab

Summary: On the first day of class, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted our first lab: Town Hall. This lab is designed to introduce Cadre and Cadet leadership to the Battalion. During the presentation, Cadets are informed about the training schedule for the semester; given details about ROTC clubs and opportunities; and are told the expectations for each Cadet by Cadre and the senior students of the Battalion.



Cadet Dylan Shearer tells an interesting fact about himself.



Cadet Samuel Chung informs the Battalion about his position as Assistant S3.



German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Summary: Cadets from the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion joined Cadets from the Air Force ROTC Detachment to participate in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition. This competition was held at Western Illinois University on September 8-10, 2017. Cadets competed for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold badges by completing numerous events that are graded for points. All in attendance finished the competition and were awarded the Gold medal which they will be able to wear on their dress uniform for the rest of their careers.



Cadet Alex Kim completes the ruck march on time.



The Army ROTC cadets relaxing with the Air Force after completing the Basic Fitness Test (BFT).



Cadets, Katherine Kezon and Alex Kim, receiving their Gold badge.



Land Navigation Lab Part 1

Summary: On September 7, 2017, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted Part 1 of Land Navigation Lab in order to instruct MS-I and MS-II Cadets on the basics of Land Navigation. The MS-III Cadets were given training on how to correctly plot points to prepare them for Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Cadet Grayson Becker checks his points to ensure it is plotted correctly.



SFC Jaime Leon teaches the Fighting Illini Battalion an introduction to Land Navigation.



Land Navigation Lab Part 2

Summary: On September 14, 2017, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion conducted a practical Land Navigation Lab in order to instruct the MS-I and MS-II Cadets on the various methods of Land Navigation; such as dead-reckoning and compass-to-cheek method. MS-III Cadets utilized their previous knowledge of Land Navigation to plot and find six points.



MS-III Cadets plot their six points for the Land Navigation course.



Cadet Craig Muncaster teaches MS-I and MS-II Cadets the various methods of Land Navigation.



Chucktown Throwdown

Summary: On Saturday, September 9, 2017, the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Battalion participated in the first annual Chucktown Throwdown, held at Lake Charleston. Eastern Illinois hosted the competition consisting of physically demanding events along the 3.6 mile trail around the lake. The UIUC Ranger Challenge Team and their hard work was rewarded with a 2nd place finish among the five teams that participated.



Cadet Jonathan Becker leads his team through the litter carry station.



The Ranger Challenge Team maneuvers the woods while carrying a pipe.



9/11 Memorial Run

Summary: The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion values the sacrifices that Americans make for our freedom. One way to show our respect is participating in the Annual 9/11 Memorial Run. Over 100 Cadets and Cadre members ran around campus to show our gratitude for the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001. The run concluded with a motivational speech from LTC Randall Smith on the main quad.



LTC Randall Smith and Cadet Battalion Commander, Sushruth Pattekar, lead the way on the Main Quad.



LTC Randall Smith speaks to the Fighting Illini Battalion following the run.



Basic Rifle Marksmanship

Summary: The Fighting Illini Battalion conducted Basic Rifle Marksmanship training on September 14, 2017 at the Illinois Army National Guard Urbana Armory in order to introduce the Cadets to the four principles of marksmanship, the different firing positions, remedial actions to take in the event of a malfunction, and M4 assembly and disassembly.



Cadet Fidel Toto teaches second platoon the four principles of marksmanship.



Cadet Daniel Lasota gets into a prone unsupported firing position.



Field Training Exercise Preparation

Summary: On September 21, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted preparation for the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) in order to reiterate weapon safety from the Basic Rifleman Marksmanship (BRM) Lab and introduce field craft to prepare Cadets for sleeping outside. The Cadets were also shown how to properly care for their feet for rucking long distances.



Cadet Tim Wallace teaches MS-I cadet, Baylie Mabbett, about weapon safety.



Cadet Daniel Lasota teaches 3rd Platoon the importance of accountability.



Field Training Exercise (FTX) Day 1

Summary: Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion Cadets conducted the first day of FTX on September 22, 2017 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. They began the day by conducting a Field Leaders Reaction Course (FLRC) where they were able to work on their communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.



Members of Second Platoon negotiate through the obstacle.



Cadet Jarrett Kapusta maneuvers through an obstacle with his squad.



Field Training Exercise Day 1 (Continued)

Summary: Later in the day, the Cadets conducted a practical exercise on Land Navigation - applying what they learned from their leadership labs. MS-IV Cadets accompanied MS-I Cadets on the Land Navigation course while MS-II and MS-III Cadets tackled the course on their own to build their confidence and skills.

The Cadets walk 100 meters to find their pace counts.



Cadet Patrick Fox plots his points before advancing to the Land Navigation course.



Cadet Kurt Kuzur gives a safety brief before conducting Land Navigation.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Field Training Exercise Day 2

Summary: Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion Cadets conducted the second day of FTX on September 23, 2017 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Pre-Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) and Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) were highlights of the second day of FTX. The Cadets were able to “group and zero” their weapons and qualify on the “pop-up” range where 39/65 cadets qualified on their first attempt.



Cadets “group and zero” their weapons.



Cadet Choi helps MS-1, Cadet Jonathon Munoz, adjust his sights on target.



Fighting Illini Battalion



Field Training Exercise Day 3

Summary: Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion Cadets conducted the third day of FTX on September 24, 2017 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The Cadets started the morning with a 3 mile ruck march. Upon conclusion, LTC Randall Smith awarded Cadets who exemplified going above and beyond throughout FTX.

Cadets taking time to clean their weapon.



Cadet Tyler Igunbor receives an award for scoring 36/40 on the range.



The Cadets begin the ruck march.



Troop Leading Procedures

Summary: On October 5, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted a practical lab on the Eight Troop Leading Procedures (TLP) at Huff Field in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the TLPs. Cadets were given two problem-solving scenarios including crossing their squads with limited resources and maneuvering around a minefield with blindfolded stretcher bearers.



Cadets from 3rd Platoon execute their plan by maneuvering through the "minefield".



Cadets from 2nd Platoon rehearse their plan to cross the "river".



Individual Movement Technique (IMT)

Summary: On October 12, 2017, Cadets of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion learned the different types of squad movement techniques. The techniques consisted of tactical movements and formations. Once proficient in these tasks, they were able to put their skills to the test in a challenge that involved moving to cover and dodging the fire from paintball guns!



Cadet Michael Hill runs for cover as Cadet Grayson Becker watches his rear.



Cadet Ben Guo teaches his squad what to do if an enemy is spotted.



Ranger Challenge

Summary: Cadets of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion participated in the Ranger Challenge Competition from October 13-15, 2017. The team conducted events such as: a 10K ruck march, the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), a hand grenade assault course, and land navigation. The Cadets also had to know how to assemble/disassemble a M16 rifle and complete a Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) lane. The Ranger Challenge Team was also given a written test on platoon and squad tactics. After the competition, the Cadets were given Ranger Challenge Tabs at Middle East Conflicts Memorial in Marseilles, IL.



The Fall 2017 Ranger Challenge Team.



The Ranger Challenge Team completing the ruck march.



Marseilles Memorial Wall

Summary: On June 19th, 2004 a Granite Memorial Wall was dedicated commemorating the servicemen and women who have lost their lives in worldwide conflicts since 1979. After the Ranger Challenge competition, the Cadets visited the Memorial in Marseilles, IL. LTC Smith gave a few words focusing on the importance of duty and selfless service and the Cadets responsibility as they continue their path as aspiring United States Army Officers.



Cadet Roy Kim places an American flag at the memorial site.



Cadets show respect to the fallen servicemen and women featured on the memorial wall.



Open House

Summary: On October 19, 2017, the Fighting Illini Battalion hosted the Fall Semester Open House event to spread the presence of the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion to students on campus. This event allowed students the opportunity to experience the types of training that occurs through ROTC and assists the program recruit prospective students. This semester’s Open House featured a Physical Fitness Tire Flip Station, Army Photo Station wearing military gear, the ROTC Rock Climbing Wall, a weapons display table, a One-Rope Bridge, an Army National Guard and Reserve information table, and an assault course known as the Ultimate Challenge Station.



A UIUC student experiences the gunner’s hatch of a HMMWV.



Cadet Sushruth Pattekar teaches a UIUC student how to properly throw a hand grenade.



Homecoming Parade

Summary: On October 27, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets participated in the annual University of Illinois Homecoming Parade. One of the highlights of the event was for the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion to lead the parade. This event brings alumni back to campus to reminisce and revisit old memories of the Fighting Illini Battalion and other organizations of the university.



The Fighting Illini Battalion stands ready before the parade.



The Tri-Service Color Guard. Supporting from Army ROTC are Cadets, Dylon Hopp, Allison Duncan, and Lanise Branch.



Battle Drill Lab Part 1

Summary: On October 26, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted an introductory lab on Battle Drills. These drills include: conducting platoon attack, reacting to contact, breaking contact, and squad ambush. Battle Drills are practiced to develop squad cohesion. MS-III Cadets were trained and evaluated on leading their squad in order to prepare for future tactical labs and Advanced Camp.



Cadet Tyler Igunbor prepares to assault through the objective.



Cadet Alieah Moore provides suppressive fire as the squad breaks contact.



Battle Drill Lab Part 2

Summary: On November 2, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted a practical lab on the Battle Drills learned prior in order to gain experience on the execution of the various battle drills. MS-I and MS-II Cadets were trained on how to properly complete the Battle Drills. MS-III Cadets applied their knowledge to various scenarios that required developing the best course of action.



Cadet Andrew Lee orders his squad to assault the objective.



Cadet Thomas Jackson gives instruction to his squad before executing the mission.



Halloween Fun Run

Summary: On October 31, 2017, Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets conducted the annual Halloween Fun Run. Every Cadet dresses up in an imaginative costume for a 3 mile run around campus, shouting cadences and sharing the Halloween Spirit with faculty and students alike. With a spooky run on a gloomy afternoon, even a giant banana could get spooky too.



Cadets, Edgar Gamino, Maritza Palafox, and Alejandro Nava, pose in their costumes.



The Fighting Illini Battalion runs around campus spreading the Halloween spirit.



Veterans' Day Ceremony

Summary: On November 9, 2017, the Fighting Illini Battalion hosted a Veteran's Day Ceremony with Air Force ROTC Detachment 190 at Gregory Hall. This year's ceremony included guest speakers Colonel, USAF Retired Philip E. Smith and Sergeant, U.S. Army Retired Garret T. Anderson. Each shared experiences from their time and service within the military and providing the Cadets with a greater understanding of their military heritage.



Colonel, USAF Retired Philip E. Smith shares his story about being a prisoner of war in China during the Vietnam War



Veterans' of the University of Illinois gather together for a photo after the ceremony.



Loyalty Oath Ceremony

Summary: On November 11, 2017, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC battalion held the loyalty oath ceremony for newly contracted Cadets at the Salute to Veterans' University of Illinois (UIUC) home football game. This year's ceremony included 29 contracted Cadets; the largest swearing-in ceremony held at Memorial Stadium during a football game in recent history. To make this event more special, it was held during Dad's Weekend at the university, so the cadets were able to share this great moment with their families.



Newly contracted Cadets swear in to serve in the United States Army during the Veterans' Day home football game.



Newly contracted Cadets pose for a photo at the colonnades at Memorial Stadium.



2017 Dining In

Summary: On December 7, 2017, the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion held its annual Dining In ceremony at the I-Hotel in Champaign, IL. The Dining In ceremony is an event in which the Battalion takes time to recognize the achievements of the cadets throughout the semester, the consumption of the infamous grog, and features skits performed by all MS classes to add to a joyous event.



LTC Smith awarding Cadet Joy Kim Cadet of the Semester.



Cadet Battalion Commander Sushruth Pattekar testing the flavor of the grog.

THE STORE

“The Store” has earned the Army ROTC Operating Fund over \$100 thanks to the purchases of the alumni and other supporters of Army ROTC shirts and sweatshirts. It has been an ever-growing success and a portion of the price (\$3-5) of each item is allocated to supporting Cadet training and development. All funding earned through this fund-raiser is used for cadet activities.

S/S t \$12.00



L/S t \$15.00



Crew \$20.00



Hood \$25.00



5015 Polo \$35.00



5091 Polo \$35.00



5013 Polo \$35.00



5092 Polo \$35.00



If interested in purchasing any of these items, fill out the online order form at the following website: teshurt.com/uiucrotc You will pay and receive your order straight from the vendor. If you have questions, please contact Eric Ashworth at eashwort@illinois.edu. Let us know if you have other ideas. Thanks.

Alumni Update

Army ROTC Cadet Fund Reaches Endowment Status

By Mr. Eric Ashworth, Cadre Sponsor for Alumni Outreach

On December 20, 2017, a short eight months after the creation of the **Army ROTC Endowment Fund** by **Colonel (Retired) Deborah Olson Read**, the fund received sufficient donations to be established as a perpetual endowment for the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Cadets. This means that the minimum required deposits of \$25,000 had been reached and the requirement by our alumni/supporters to fund raise this amount within a five-year period had been met. No longer do the contributors have to be concerned that their generosity could be diverted to an operating fund by the University of Illinois Foundation. Words can not express the gratitude the Cadre and Cadets of the Fighting Illini Battalion have towards your generosity.

To date, the fund holds a balance of over \$28,000. This amount will provide the Cadets a check for over \$1,100 each year from this endowment. But here is the beauty of this December 20th achievement. From now on, every donation, no matter how large or small, will ensure the check the Cadets receive each year will increase. For planning purposes, every \$1 received gives the Cadets training program \$0.04 each year. Or to put another way, in 25 years, 100% of your donation has been sent to the Cadets and from then on, the fund generates money on your behalf for eternity. That's a pretty good return on your donation.

So thank you to all of our donors to this Endowment Fund and the current operating fund, known today as the **Army ROTC Alumni Fund**. Our excitement about this milestone would not have occurred without each donation received. Special thanks goes out to **Colonel (Retired) Deborah Olson Read**; her husband, **Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Rick Read**; and **Ms. Angela Dimit**, who did a large majority of the work to establish the fund as a part of the University of Illinois Foundation. We would also like to thank **Secretary Sam Skinner**; **Colonel Read**; **Dennis and Jane Stubblefield**; **John Dill** and **Marilyn Tucker** who provided greater than expected donations that allowed the fund to reach endowment status so quickly.

Continued Donations towards Cadet Training: This endowment was established to support Cadet training events that are covered by military funding. Last year, your generosity allowed the Fighting Illini to participate in the Ranger Buddy Competition, the Bataan Memorial Ruck March, the Scabbard and Blade Honor Society, the Norwegian Ruck March, the Tough Mudder Competition, and field a rifle team. These events were excellent leadership development opportunities for the cadets and require significant training to prepare the teams. If you wish to continue to support, please visit <http://www.giving.illinois.edu/> for the certified University link and be sure to indicate to which fund your contribution is directed towards—**Army ROTC Cadet Endowment Fund (11774561)** or **Army ROTC Alumni Fund (11330418)**. Both of these funds are not included in the drop-down menus, so you will have to type the name into the "Search" box. Your donations make an impact, and are greatly appreciated by the Cadets. Thank you for your time, your financial support and your interest in the Fighting Illini Battalion. If you ever have questions or would like more information, please contact us a arotc@illinois.edu or by phone at **(217) 244-1407**.



Alumni Update

Other Opportunities to Support Current Cadets

The establishment of the endowment is an impressive manner of support to our Cadets. However, there are other means of support that you might consider. The next few pages describe a few ideas to contribute to the current Fighting Illini Battalion:

Support to the 150th Anniversary of the study of Military Science at UIUC: In 2018, the Army ROTC Program celebrates our 150th anniversary of graduating students with a background in “military training.” Several events are being developed to highlight the role of the military at UIUC. If you would like to be a guest speaker or involved in some of these events, please let us know. You possess experience that today’s Cadets are anxious to hear. For example, here is a page out of the May 22, 1943 edition of *The Millini*, written by the Commandant of Cadets, that describes the termination of the Advance Course portion of Army ROTC during World War II:

“Greetings from the Commandant to the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at the University of Illinois:

Upon completion of the current school year twenty-four years of the Advance Course of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at the University of Illinois will be brought to a temporary close. For the remainder of the war, the basic phase only of the ROTC instruction will be continued. The Advance phase will be superseded by the Army Specialized Training Program.

With the departure of the present group of 690 cadets in the Advance Course the University will have provided, through its ROTC, 846 potential officer candidates for the Army and Marine Corps since the inauguration of its accelerated war program last summer.

During the twenty-four years of its existence, the ROTC at the University of Illinois has trained over forty-eight hundred cadets for reserve commissions in our national defense forces. The vast majority of these men are now rendering valuable service in those forces all over the world.

The traditions of integrity, loyalty and devotion to duty, which have become an integral part of the Corps of Cadets at the University of Illinois, will be enhanced through the service of its members in this war. When again we return to our normal peace-time procedure, we shall find the University, with an enriched heritage, carrying on the training of her sons for positions of responsible leadership in the service of our country.”

— Colonel Leonard C. Sparks
Commandant

How interesting would it be to hear about the temporary termination of Army ROTC during World War II, and what were some of the factors the Army wrestled with in making this decision? Also, was it simple to return ROTC to campuses after the war or was there discussion not to return to “our normal peace-time procedure?”

2018 Annual Dining-Out: The spring Dining-Out has been confirmed for Friday, 27 April 2018 at the iHotel and Conference Center (1900 S 1st St, Champaign, IL 61820). More specifics on the Dining-Out, please contact Cadet Brian Bell at btbell2@illinois.edu or arotc@illinois.edu.

Alumni Update

Fighting Illini Alumni Mentorship Program By Cadet Alex Kim, Cadet Battalion Commander

Dear Fighting Illini Alumni,

As a Cadet, it is easy to consider our success as our own, but in reality, we understand that our success only happens on the shoulders of those who came before us. Each alumnus that has passed through this program has contributed in some way that we Cadets benefit from today, and for that we thank you. But we also know that you, the alumni, continue to support our efforts in a much more direct way. By reaching our endowment goal, we can see that our alumni are not only willing to support the program, but want to contribute to it beyond what is expected.

Which has given us the idea and why we are piloting an alumni mentorship program. This program aims to connect the alumni of the Fighting Illini Battalion with current Cadets enrolled in the program. The one-on-one contact with an alumni mentor will not only allow you as a alumni to pass on your knowledge and have a more direct impact on the Fighting Illini Battalion, but also give our Cadets an opportunity to gain knowledge about being an Army Officer and what tools they need to succeed.

If this is something you would be interested in supporting, please contact our Scholarships and Enrollment Officer, **Mr. Eric Ashworth**, at eashwort@illinois.edu with the following information:

- Year of Graduation
- Rank
- Branch
- Occupation (If having left the Army)
- Best means to contact you (email, phone, carrier pigeon)
- Any mentee preferences (such as desired branch, MS Class, gender, race, etc.)

Once we receive this information, we will match you with one of the Cadets in the program. Again, thank you for everything you have done for the program, and we look forward to your continued support.

Very Respectfully,

Alex Kim,
Cadet Lieutenant Colonel
Cadet Battalion Commander



Cadet Alex Kim, the new battalion Commander for the Spring 2018 semester.

Editor's Comment: At the start of the Fall semester, the UIUC Cadre implemented a mentorship program with the MS-IV Cadets as another means to develop them towards becoming a 2nd Lieutenant. This effort has been well received, and the Cadets have recommended this mentorship program be opened to the alumni of the Fighting Illini. Cadet Kim's request to you is the culmination of this year's Cadets desire to learn more about the Army before they arrive at the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC).

Hall of Fame Update

Hall of Fame: The Cadet Battalion is developing the plans for the next Hall of Fame induction ceremony during the spring of 2018. We expect the date to be on one of the weekends in March or April. We have received a couple nominations but time is still available to submit additional nominations. We will establish the nomination review board in February and the inductees will be notified by the end of February. If you are interested in submitting a nomination, we must have your application by 31 January 2018. Listed below is the application form .

Fighting Illini Battalion Army ROTC Hall of Fame Nomination Form

- 1. Your Name: _____
- 2. Your Email: _____
- 3. Your Phone Number: _____ Best time to call: _____



Fighting Illini Army ROTC
Hall of Fame Medal

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Date Graduated UIUC (if alumnus): _____

Degree(s) Achieved at UIUC (or other University): _____

Will this award be Posthumously? _____ Yes _____ No

If no, do you have contact info for Nominee (Address, City, Zip and/or email/phone):

If yes, do you have contact info for Nominee’s Family: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please provide any info you may have (Family member’s name, address to include city and zip/email/phone number):

On a separate sheet of paper, please TYPE a brief military biography listing the awards the nominee received during service along with a short story on why the nominee should be considered for the Hall of Fame (e.g., contributions to the community where the nominee may have retired, significant contributions to the US Army and/or significant contributions to the University of Illinois).

If the nominee is selected, you may be contacted to provide a picture (recent or historical) of the nominee or for direction to where a picture may be found of the nominee.

Please return this form with the nomination biography to arotc@illinois.edu.

	<h1>Support The Fighting Illini Battalion</h1>	University of Illinois Foundation
		Recruiting, Donations Visits, Expertise

Fighting Illini Army ROTC has strong roots, dating back to the founding of the University under the Morrill Land-Grant Act. This coming academic year, 2018 marks 150 years of military training at the University of Illinois. Be on the lookout for the 150th anniversary MILLINI articles, 150th anniversary commemorative clothing offerings in “The Store,” distinctive logos, and historic photo essays.



Contacting the “Fighting Illini” Cadre

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Enrollment Eligibility Officer: Ms. Emily Brown
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THE FIGHTING ILLINI ARMY ROTC



FORGING STRONG LEADERS SINCE 1868

