



BATTALION BUGLE

FIGHTING ILLINI



Commissioning of Our Finest Special Trust and Confidence



Class of 2015 We had the honor of commissioning eight fine new lieutenants into the force this year. Four will return to serve locally with the Illinois National Guard or Reserves, while others have received assignments to Ft. Bragg, Ft. Meade, and Ft. Knox. We expect them to continue forging a legacy as our alumni have before them!

Samuel Chubb—ARNG; Medical Services
Erikka Davis—USAR; Signal
Frank Jozefzak—USAR; Chemical
Kaushik Kancharla—AD; Armor

Benjamin Reinhart—USAR; Aviation
Nicholas Rice—USAR; Quartermaster
Blake Stokes—ARNG; Infantry
Chandler Wiegand—AD; Engineer



OLD GLORY RESTORED waiving day and night

It has been since the mid-1970s

that the flag was flown above the south center doors of the Armory. However, this semester marked a historical event as the ROTC program raised 100% of the required \$25,000 with the support of military organizations, community members, alumni, and the University, and not only began



LTC Stetson renders the first salute as the flag is raised

reconstruction but completed the flag pole in its entirety.

On May 26th, LTC Stetson presented the first salute while MSG

Staub raised Old Glory back to its place. We are grateful for all the alumni and local organizational support that made this endeavor possible. Of the participants at the ceremony was 1943 alumnus Jerry Howe. It has been an honor being the team present to compete the project this past year.



**Inside:
Dining Out
Hall of Fame Selection
PMS Farewell
FTX Report**



LTC Waters, 1996 alumnus, provides insight at Dining-Out from his experiences as a Battalion Commander in the 101st ABN



COL (R) Debbie Read, 1973 alumnus, & husband LTC (R) Rick Read



LTC Shubert, 1999 alumnus, & wife Lindsay



Dining out

It was once again a special time for the Fighting Illini and alumni as LTC David Waters, class of 1996, addressed the Cadets as the guest of honor. His encouragement and inspiration to the Cadets and cadre will serve us well both in the near and long term. LTC Waters made the event even amidst a busy training calendar at Fort Campbell. We are thankful for his commitment to the program after so many years.



Mr. Charles Finn (left), 1955 alumnus and Armor officer, with table guests

We were enthusiastic to have in attendance COL (Ret.) Read (1973), LTC Shubert (1999), Mr. David Hunter (1951), Mr. Charles Finn (1955), and others, as well as many mothers for the mothers weekend festivities. Also supporting the event was the 144th Army Band's Dixieland Ensemble to provide live music throughout the evening. Many thanks to all our alumni and mothers who could attend.



Mr. & Mrs. David Hunter (left), 1951 alumnus and Armor officer

LTC Waters received his commission through UIUC, and later attended Harvard University and served as an instructor at West Point. His platoon leader time included serving in 2nd BN, 75th Ranger Regiment. He is the current battalion commander of 1-506th "Red Currahee," 1st BCT, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT).



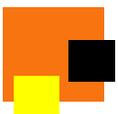
Hall of Fame Nomination Results

This April, the Illini hosted the first-ever *alumni attended* Hall of Fame nomination board, with guests dialing in all the way from Kansas and Hawaii. We look forward to having our alumni play a direct role in selecting distinguished alumni from their own ranks in the years to come. At this year's ceremony, we are excited to induct the following five into the ranks of renowned alumni.

Robert D. Upp—1937
 LCDR (Ret.) Phillips Talbot—1936
 Mr. William K. Takakoshi—1970
 Mr. John C. White—1970
 Thomas H. Martin—1969



The 3rd Annual Hall of Fame is Friday, October 23rd, at 1000 with a luncheon at a local venue. We hope to see an even greater turnout than the past two years, and also invite all our alumni to join us for the Homecoming Parade and football game that weekend. Stay on the net for details in the fall Bugle publication.



Send address and email updates to CPT Jason Nachowicz at nachowcz@illinois.edu



COMBINED FTX AT CAMP ATTERBURY

From 16-19 April, UIUC took the lead role in planning, coordinating, and executing the FTX with Eastern Illinois and Illinois State Universities. Leadership began planning in early January with our first recon delayed by the *negative 20* degree air temperatures, courtesy of the Midwest's winter that so many alumni have fled. Nonetheless, on the day of execution, we trained over 150 Cadets focusing on critical thinking and problem solving, team building, adaptability, as well as developing countless intangible attributes. All this was accomplished through tactical-based scenarios that challenged even the Cadre, as we constantly adapted injects, loosened constraints, and allowed the OPFOR significant opportunities to exercise critical thinking as well.

One of the most unique experiences was integrating an "advanced" land navigation and adaptability exercise by "air assaulting" (vehicle move) Cadet squads at various locations, completely



c/Samuel Chubb provides situational awareness in the first tactical field TOC (Tactical Operating Center)



Cadets work through casualty care and buddy aid

breaking them from their original plan of inserting as a platoon. While we experienced numerous lost, hungry, and frustrated Cadets, the lessons learned were unimaginable. The terrain used this year was completely new to the Cadets, and even our MS4s played a crucial role as they learned tactical operating center (TOC) operations. To further challenge training methodologies, we only allowed six MS4s insight into the plan so that the remaining six could actually participate in the exercise without having prior knowledge of the scenarios.

As our future officers continue to face complex operating environments, we within ROTC are constantly identifying new ways of training and developing them to succeed.

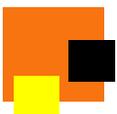


c/Paul Genchanok moves out on patrol



c/Payton Sledge maintains security at the objective rally point

Send address and email updates to CPT Jason Nachowicz at nachowcz@illinois.edu





A FAREWELL ADDRESS

LTC ERIC STESON— *24 years of service and a strongly influential three years as Professor of Military Science*



Fighting Illini Cadets, Alumni and Friends!

We had another tremendous semester with many Cadets achieving goals and setting high standards as leaders.

Already this summer we have Cadets participating in Cultural Language

Understanding Programs around the world and summer training at Fort Knox where it

is hot and muggy – good for training! On the 26th of May we raised the Stars and Stripes over the Armory on the new refurbished flag-pole, something not done in nearly 50 years! Thanks to all those who supported and pushed the project along! As soon as you can, come by and see the Nation’s flag flying proudly again over the armory!

That event was my last official act as the Professor of Military Science, as I retire this summer after 24 years of service. In fact, my “final out” was 18 May and I depart soon for Malvern, PA, with my family to look for a new career in leadership in a meaningful capacity. It is with a heavy heart that I leave the Fighting Illini Battalion. It has been an absolute privilege and honor to serve as PMS and lead an incredible team of Cadre in producing officers for our Army! I can truly say our Cadets have been blessed to be led by, and learn from some exceptional officers, NCOs, and contractors and they were supported by superb civilian staff members. I am in debt to these Cadre and support staff; they made my job easier and a lot of fun! As Alumni and Cadre, together we have made great strides in resurrecting the history of the battalion and the “Corps of Cadets,” and in improving our physical facilities

supporting the Cadets. Our Battalion made an impact on the leadership of the University and raised awareness in general on campus. I am grateful to a number of key alumni for their support and implore all alumni to stay connected with the battalion and support the new PMS, LTC Chris Leung, as he takes the reins as the new detachment commander and PMS. LTC Leung is fired up to take over and I believe he will add a unique perspective to the program and outstanding leadership.

Our alumni are very important to our mission and what we have started with the Hall of Fame and other events needs to expand to mutually benefit alumni and Cadets into the future. Fighting Illini Alumni, please consider serving in future years in an alumni leadership position as part of a self-sustaining alumni organization with a mission of supporting both Cadets and Alumni. Cadre come and go, but Fighting Illini alumni can provide a constant for the program. In the future we would like to have more and more alumni in the classroom, at labs, and present for our social celebrations – *alumni presence and support is invaluable!* We also hope our alumni will benefit from the power of an alumni organization in the lead making things happen for its own ranks. Please stay tuned for more on this topic next semester and consider how you may be able to serve.

Once again, it has been an extraordinary experience, a privilege, and a blessing to serve here at UIUC with the Fighting Illini! I thank you all for the support, wisdom, and friendship, and I thank the Corps of Cadets for their service today and in the future as Army officers in defense of our nation! My permanent email is eric.w.stetson@gmail.com and there will always be a light on somewhere in PA for my Illini Brothers and Sisters! May God Bless our Cadets, Soldiers, their Families and our Nation!

“The strength of our Nation is our Army; the strength of our Army is our Soldiers; the strength of our Soldiers is our Families. This is what makes us Army Strong.”

- General Ray Odierno

Respectfully!
LTC Eric W. Stetson
ILLINI!

THEN & NOW



1992 Ranger Challenge

Back: Brown, Wilson, Mohr, Beaucaire, Samson
Front: SFC Fedd, Hunter, Kruiuzenga, Mitchell, ?, CPT Patterson

Please note that our webpage is still under construction. We will have a new URL within the next two months.

Join our Facebook group!

Want to stay current on what the Battalion is doing and reconnect with other alumni? Join the “University of Illinois Army ROTC Alum” group!

