



Golden Gopher Battalion Commissioning Class of 2022

Off We Go! By: Alberto DeJesus

Minneapolis, MN - On May 11th, at Northrop Auditorium of the University of MN, the graduating ROTC Class of 2022 started their new chapter in the United States Army. This spring, Golden Gopher Battalion commissioned 22 new 2nd

Lieutenants. Of these Lieutenants, almost half will serve in the National Guard right here in Minnesota and the rest will go on to serve in the Active Duty and Reserve components. Though it is just the beginning of their careers as young officers, this commissioning cere-

mony represented years of hard work, dedication to academics and military training, and their first major milestone as United States Army Officers. Congratulations new Lieutenants and good luck in all future plans, decisions, and actions. Gopher Strong! Dig Deep!

Golden Gopher



Battalion

U.S. Army Newest Second Lieutenants - Class of 2022

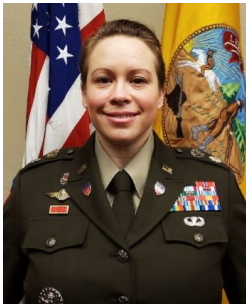
We would like to recognize the new Lieutenants of the 171st Commissioning Class by Name, Degree, Branch and Army Component:

Caleb T. Brooks	English	Military Intelligence	Active Duty
Danielle C. Camperchioli	Kinesiology	Field Artillery	Active Duty
Grant J. Collinge	Finance	Infantry	Active Duty
Susan A. Esbe	Political Science	Ordnance Corps	Active Duty
William L. Hawley	Political Science	Signal Corps	Active Duty
Macallister D. Karick	Psychology	Infantry (MI)	Active Duty
Case M. Kettner	Biology	Chemical Corps	Active Duty
Kathryn R. Kruta	Computer Science	Cyber	Active Duty
Hunter T. Mann	Civil Engineering	Military Intelligence	Active Duty
Scotti E. Marin	Psychology	Quartermaster	National Guard
Natalie N. Miller	Finance	Quartermaster	National Guard
Austin J. Morrow	History	Armor	Active Duty
Dalton . Ness	Finance	Transportation	National Guard
Nicole S. Riepe	Animal Science	Transportation	National Guard
Emily A. Roddel	Neuroscience/Spanish	Adjutant General	National Guard
Colton J. Rossow	Sport Management	Adjutant General	National Guard
Kellie A. Schmidt	Neuroscience	Medical Service	National Guard
Addison R. Scufsa	Supply Chain Mgmt	Transportation	Army Reserve
Chen C. Thao	Business/Marketing	Finance Corps	National Guard
Christina L. Theis	Architecture	Corps of Engineers	National Guard
Luke J. VandenBergh	Economics	Aviation	Active Duty
Allen M. Villaluz	Sociology/Spanish	Infantry (MI)	Active Duty

Inside this issue:

Spring Commissioning	1
Class of 2022	1
Words from Our PMS	2
Commandant of Cadets	3
Cadet Leadership	4
Mega Lead Lab	5
PT & JMAC	5
GAFB & Bataan	6
Ranger Buddy & Northern	7
Spring CFTX	8
Volunteer Team & JSR	9
Order if Marechaussee	10
Alumni Corner	10
Awards & Scholarships	11
Sights from 2022	13-16
Norwegian Footmarch	17
Meet our New PMS	17
Fall 2022 Events	17

Professor of Military Science By: Lieutenant Colonel Melissa Hoaglin



Gopher Family and friends, it has been an absolute honor to have served as Gopher 6 for the past three years. As I depart for battalion command down in Ft. Stewart, Georgia, I am encouraged by the fact I already know we have

alumni within the area, and that I will be able to keep abreast of all your outstanding accomplishments via social media and future newsletters. I want to thank all of our Cadre for their dedication to the program; I have never had a harder working team that was so driven to learn and help others develop as leaders of character. To our Cadets, Class of 2022 – to quote the great Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the places you'll go", there is no doubt in my mind that the National Guard, Reserve and Active Army will be better through your leadership. To our continuing Cadets – you are in great hands; set your expectations high and continue to get after it! I welcome LTC John Nguyen, who will replace me at the end of May, a Field Artillery officer by trade, he is coming from beautiful Ft. Hood, Texas, where he just completed a tour on III Corps G3 staff.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Many people over the years have peered at me with that tilted head scrunched eyed look when I exacerbate how much I love being a "staff" officer. The common question is "WHY?", usually said with, what I take as, a real excitement because they want to love the staff too ;0). The Why:

The leadership style I prefer is servant leadership. A servant to the larger organization, I try to place the needs of others above my own and by doing so focus development on others in an effort to collectively transform the entire organization resulting in increased levels of performance and achievement of full potential. The servant leadership mindset is very effective when serving in a staff position. As a staff officer, your job is to advise the Commander – you are by definition fulfilling the role of servant. I identify that the Commander, the Organization, the Soldiers, and the Families are the reason for my employment. When in a staff role, my job is to ensure that they are empowered, resourced, supported, educated, and ready to execute their operational requirements effectively. The AG realm encompasses everything from personnel paperwork to holistic health and fitness to Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to informing the Commander of readiness shortcomings, trends, or indicators. I focus on identifying the elements that I have access to, or can influence, that will increase the overall operational/situational understanding and ability of the Soldiers or Com-

manders I support to make decisions that will achieve the mission, create a better climate, improve overall Soldier quality of life, and increase the operational efficiency of the organization. The hardest part about being on staff is knowing how to take the information, the paperwork, and the data (all of which are extremely exciting to me – but not always so to others) and communicate it to the others so they can take action toward one of the above results. The validity of the data, the scope, the nitty-gritty, not so fun endless piles of information that a staff can collect is only as good as the awareness of its contents, the analysis of its relevance, the creativity of its breakdown, and the convergence or divergence to create better awareness and ultimately to communicate for understanding to your audience. The communication should be focused on strengths and weaknesses to identify threats and opportunities to facilitate better results. Commanders cannot improve, support, train, or resource their units without the support of staff. When in a staff position, my job is to enable Commanders to do their job. Suppose I don't do my job well or find joy in it. In that case, I will not be able to provide my Commander with my best attitude, effort, and dedication. I will not facilitate that Commander being the best they can be to take care of America's sons and daughters. My equation does not include a thank you for my efforts; the intrinsic satisfaction I receive by facilitating action and seeing my efforts help promote, award, deploy, redeploy, be there for a child's birth, etc., are the reward. My most prized challenge coin was presented to me from a Soldier who we helped to return home from deployment to support the birth of his child at 22 weeks – it was a once in a lifetime opportunity, both the birth of his child and my ability to give all I could to support it. So the "why" I love staff, aside from the fact I am a total nerd who loves pivot tables, is that I am in a position that allows me to impact the organization for the better. If I do it right, I will help the entire organization and its Soldiers holistically improve and accomplish the mission more efficiently so they can live their lives more effectively.

The other side of my "why" is from a Commander's perspective – why do I, as a Commander, need my staff to love their job, be the subject matter experts (SME), and give it their all. I, as the Commander, cannot get situational awareness or understanding without the staff.

About 12 years ago, someone provided me with a copy of the "Golden Rules for Staff" we have revised it over the years, and it is provided here as a guide for future Staff Officers. Key note, IAW DA PAM 600-3, EVERY branch is recommended to do some staff time, especially as you go up in rank.

Whether you are a staff officer or a Commander, you are entrusted to take care of our Soldiers to the best extent you can. There is no better job in the world. Enjoy it, figure out the

"Golden Rules for Staff"

Thou Shall Ensure:

1. You never forget we are at war.
2. The Command and the organization deserve and receive your undying loyalty.
3. The Chief/XO is informed.
4. Subordinate Commanders are never ambushed.
 - a. Commanders will not be told "no" by a staff officer.
 - b. Commanders deserve an explanation from the command group for any unfavorable consideration of a request/issue.
5. Subordinate staffs and lateral staff sections are well informed.
 - a. Coordinate, Coordinate, Coordinate.
 - b. Suspense set by our staff must be realistic – understand the operational impact of your request.
6. Meetings are focused, begin on time, have an agenda and a time limit, and drive specific results/ end-states/or outcomes.
7. You have a trained and knowledgeable backup.
 - a. Check email early, late, and often.
 - b. No action should be completely reliant on one individual.
8. Your staff section doesn't set policy or precedent – this is Commander's business.
9. Character and integrity count—There are some things we can't do, some things we shouldn't do, and others things we won't do.
10. You solve for "Yes".
 - a. Exhaust all avenues and challenge all assumptions; there is usually "a way" to meet the Commander's intent that is legal, moral and ethical.
 - b. There is almost always an ETP; you just have to who the approval authority is.
 - c. Understand the intent—offer a solution.
 - d. Unless it is illegal, immoral, or unethical, you owe it to the boss to have the intestinal fortitude to advise against it.
11. You articulate the human impact, not just the hardware status.
12. Timeliness and Accuracy and the risk between or that can be assumed with each.
13. The Commander understands.
 - a. Bad news does not get better with time, nor is a problem solved faster when a delay is added.
 - b. Staffs do not present data. We analyze data to present the information in a manner which creates understanding.
14. You remember we are all part of the same organization.
 - a. Rivalry is good, but ensuring everyone grows is better.
 - b. We police our own—if we don't, the reputation of the entire section will suffer.

angle or frame that allows you to love your job or mission under any circumstances, and bring that positive energy and motivation to your Team – it will make the difference in your life and theirs. I wish you all the best of luck this summer and over the next year, Dig Deep, Gopher Strong! Gopher 6 out.

Commandants of Cadets

By: Master Sergeant Andrew Hale



Another semester and school year down! I am exceptionally proud of our Cadets accomplishments this year. From the first few weeks of September

to now, we have accomplished major training events such as Fall Training Exercise, Combined Field Training Exercise, Mega Lead Labs, and ACFT's. Our seniors planned, resourced, and executed these training events and they proved to be some of the best led events I have seen in my career. We have conducted a total of nine boards which included Cadet of the Month, Cadet of the Semester and Cadet of the Year boards. A special congratulation to our year winners! CDT Maggie Fliszar, CDT Ben Vanbinsbergen, and CDT Rory King who all displayed extreme dedication to learning and leading, and have set a high standard for next year's competitions. Our specialty teams conducted many events including the Army 10 Miler, Norther Warfare Challenge, Bataan Memorial Death March, Norwegian Ruck March, Task Force Ranger Challenge, Kansas University Buddy Ranger Challenge, and several Color Guard events to name a few. Our future leaders have dedicated hundreds of hours preparing for these events and we have had amazing results. We showed well in each of these events, but in particular, our Buddy Ranger teams out performed the rest of the competition by winning the Best Battalion Award, placed first

in the co-ed team, and our women's team placed first as well! Great effort by all, and our results speak for the character and dedication our Cadets have to be successful. As we conclude the semester with our commissioning ceremony, it is important for our seniors to reflect on their accomplishments throughout their time as a Gopher. 22 will walk the stage and receive their commission as second lieutenants (2LT), with a few more closely on their tails. They have chosen to be something greater than themselves and we are honored to help them to achieve their goals of leading the best Soldiers, in the best Army in the world. I few points I'd like these newly minted 2LT's to remember. Stay humble and remember your Soldiers don't care what you accomplished in ROTC. They care how you lead them. There is no badge, school, GPA or story you can brag about that will win your Soldiers over. You must be honest, fair, and tough on them. Be consistent in your approach, and never compromise values and morals. Be proud of what you have done, celebrate your victory, and prepare for the next chapter, Basic Officer Leader Course. We look forward to the start of the Fall Semester and seeing the results from Cadet Summer Trainings, particularly with our MS III class as they compete for their branch assignments. Lastly, I'd also like to welcome to the team LTC John Nguyen and Ms. Melissa-Marie Thomas. Ms. Thomas will assume the duties of the Human Resources Advisor, working with Maggie and Mr. DeGreeff helping our Ca-

dets administratively. LTC Nguyen is coming to us from III Corps at Fort Hood and will assume the duties as the Professor of Military Science. We are excited for he and his wife Katrina to become a Gopher and continue to make this program one of the most successful in the nation. Have a great summer and we'll see you in the fall!

Cadet Leadership Insight Call-Out

By: CDT Addison Scufsa

During this semester, the Cadets organized a volunteer opportunity through Feed My Starving Children, a Christian nonprofit organization "dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and in spirit." This was a special opportunity that brought Cadets, Cadre, and their families together during multiple sessions to package food for shipment around the world. This is truly a unique environment where individuals give their most precious commodity, time, to serving others—people they've never even met! The fact that Cadet leadership put this opportunity together completely on their own, with no prompting from their instructors, is a testament to the quality of officer this program produces. Over 10% of the Battalion participated over their spring breaks. True servant leaders of character, and they represent the Gopher Battalion well!

Cadet Battalion Commander

By: Cadet Macallister Karrick



University of St. Thomas - As the semester winds down and out Cadets prepare for commissioning or summer training, I would

just like to highlight the excellence of our Cadets here at the Golden Gopher Battalion. This semester we hosted many different events including a Norwegian Foot March as well as a combined field training exercise with other programs within the brigade at Camp Ripley. Gopher Battalion Cadets not only excelled in both big events, but also had a huge role in making them happen as these trainings were set

up and supported by Cadet workers and volunteers. The success of these events rests largely on the Cadet corps here at the University of Minnesota. In the specialty team wheelhouse, we made a great showing in all areas. For the first time ever, Gopher Battalion sent two teams to the Fighting Irish Basketball Tournament at Notre Dame! Our Northern Warfare Challenge team took second in the grueling ruck and made an excellent showing in La Crosse, WI. The Gopher Battalion Buddy Ranger teams went on to win the female and co-ed divisions and had the most teams finish the competition in battalion history. They also brought home the best battalion

award, beating out the ex-reigning champion, Kansas University. Cadets within the battalion also earned foreign awards such as the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and Norwegian Foot March Badge. The accomplishments of the Cadets this semester just goes to show the drive and determination they must have to do great things. The caliber of Cadets at our program is top notch and that is a direct result of the growth and mindset this battalion maintains. I cannot thank the Cadets enough for making this a memorable year. Us seniors leave knowing that the battalion is in good hands and the tradition of excellence will continue to be upheld. Gopher strong, dig deep!

Cadet Command Sergeant Major

By: Cadet Christina Theis



University of Minnesota - The Gopher Battalion has continuously proven to be the best of the best, and this semester was no different.

We started off the year restricted by COVID, but were able to execute a multitude of events such as Dining Out, JMAC, MLL, JSR, CFTX, and more, all while following CDC guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of our Cadets. During a series of lead labs and MLL, Cadets were able to learn about a multitude of individual tasks such as land navigation, CBRN, TCCC, BRM, STX, and more. The culminating training event of the semester was CFTX up at Camp Ripley where

ROTC programs from the area came together to improve upon their leadership and tactical skills. In order to bring more awareness to important, but difficult topics, the Gopher Battalion planned and executed training for substance abuse and SHARP/MEO training. All while Cadets were brushing up on their tactical knowledge, many were training hard for their respective specialty teams. Our Ranger Buddy team not only won 1st place in both the female and co-ed divisions, they also took home the Best Battalion Award and two Airborne slots. Our GAFFB team performed amazingly with 10 Cadets receiving the gold standard badge, and one receiving silver. The Bataan team had the opportunity to send Cadets to El Paso, TX

to participate in the annual commemorative marathon run. Those who didn't go to Texas completed the run virtually in Minneapolis and did so with outstanding times. I could not be more proud of the Gopher Battalion and what they've accomplished this semester. The MSIV class consistently planned and executed top notch training, ensuring the MSIII class is more than ready for Advanced Camp this summer and the MSI-II classes are competent for their next years in ROTC. I am humbled and honored to have been able to serve as the c/CSM for such a great group of Cadets and can't wait to see what else the Gopher Battalion achieves. Continue to push yourself in all aspects of your life. Have a safe and fun summer.

Mega Leadership Laboratory

By: Cadet Addison Scufsa

Arden Hills, MN - UMN Army ROTC Cadets participated in a Mega Lead Lab conducted at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS). The laboratory focused on platoon level situational training exercise (STX) lanes. All juniors or MSIII Cadets were evaluated as either a platoon leader or platoon sergeant, also getting valuable repetitions in as squad leaders along with MSII Cadets. They also conducted Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) classes in preparation for individual weapon qualification at the Spring Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX). All Cadets closed out the weekend by executing the land navigation course. All Cadets stayed positive throughout the training and felt comradery with their peers, including a few Cadets from Mankato State University ROTC program, who participated with us. The Cadets successfully executed their missions, making the most out of the cold, windy weekend at Arden Hills Army Training Site.



Physical Training & Joint Military Athletic Competition

By: Cadet Scotti Martin

Minneapolis, MN - Gopher Battalion stayed busy with all our physical training events this semester and our Cadets consistently put in their best effort week after week. As the semester progressed, we were able to resume nearly all events as normal as COVID restrictions relaxed. Some of the events from this semester were the Joint Military Athletics Competition (JMAC), Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT), Combat Water Survival Training (CWST), ruck marches, and the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). JMAC took place this February. This year, Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC from the University of Minnesota competed against each other in track, soccer, basketball, and pull up events. CDT Cleary

brought home the win for Army by competing against the Navy and Air Force in pull-ups. Army ROTC took 2nd place overall after a close basketball game. The Gopher Battalion completed a 6 and 8 mile ruck marches this semester in order to prepare Cadets for summer leadership training, a future career in the Army, and enhance physical fitness in general. There was also a 12-mile ruck at Arden Hills Army Training Site for Cadets commissioning in May and all MSIIIs. We conducted one ACFT this semester, testing our battalion on their overall physical ability in accordance with the Army's newest version of the Army Combat Fitness Test, including updated scoring tables. This assessment was the first time that we have

done the ACFT without the leg tuck and to include the plank as a main event. Our Cadets proved their ability to adapt their training in and outside of battalion physical training in order to improve their scores.



Cadet during the new Combat Fitness Test (ACFT)

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

By: Cadet Allen Villaluz



Camp Ripley, MN

The twelve Gopher Battalion Cadets, led by Cadet Allen Villaluz, spent two months training firearms, the Basic Fitness Test (BFT), and swimming which was coached by Cadet Maya Theune-Baillargeon. Unlike last year, this year GAFPB occurred all in one day. The Gopher Cadets hit it bright and early at 4:00am with the Basic Fitness Test: the flexed arm hang, the 11 x 10 meter sprint, and the 1000 meter sprint. From there, they tested their marksmanship proficiency with the M17 pistol qualification, in which participants engaged three targets at a distance of 20 meters

with the Army's new service pistol. Afterward, they tested their well-rounded physical fitness and endurance with the 100 meter swim, which required participants to swim in their combat uniform in under 4:00, as well as removing it immediately afterwards in the pool. Finally all Cadets were required to complete the Road March, in which each one of the Cadets completed it at the Gold standard of 12km distance in under 120 minutes. At the end of the competition, the Gopher Battalion Cadets had the honor of being presented with their badges by Colonel Oliver Barth, the German Officer and honored guest for the event. The Gophers earned ten gold and one silver medal. Gopher Strong and next year Go For Gold!



Bataan Memorial Death March/Marathon (Virtual Edition)

By: Cadet Alexander Olson



El Paso, TX - This semester, our Bataan Memorial Death March & Marathon team had 14 competitors, 8 of which ran the full 26.2 mile marathon while the other 6 ran as a part of the 14.2 mile honorary division. The team began training in the fall after Thanksgiving and competed on March 20th totaling over 300 miles

that were ran in training. For the third year in a row, this race was conducted virtually due to the risk of COVID-19. Fortunately, select members of the team were given the opportunity to travel to El Paso, TX and participate in the University of Texas-El Paso's (UTEP) Bataan event where they ran next to the Rio Grande from El Paso to New Mexico. The

rest of the team competed in Minneapolis in and around the University of Minnesota campus, where they were supported by their fellow Cadets along the route. The team did very well this year with 3 of our honorary runners finishing in the top 12 out of 285 and all 8 of the full-marathon runners finishing in the top 12 out of 682 finishers.

Ranger Buddy Competition

By: Cadet Luke VandenBergh



Lawrence, Kansas - Gopher Battalion's Buddy Ranger team competed at the 27th Annual Ranger Buddy Competition in Kansas and won the Best Battalion Award for distinguishing themselves as the most proficiently and physically talented team in 3rd Brigade, USACC. The competition consisted of a 15k ruck, 12 Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) skill lanes, 3 mystery lanes, and a 5k run. In addition to the

Gophers winning the team award, they also placed First in the Co-Ed and Female divisions. Cadets Decker and Karrick won the Co-Ed division, and Cadets Rogers and Theis won the Female division for a second consecutive year while the rest of the Ranger Buddy teams performed excellent to round out a hard-fought team win. This marks the first time in Gopher Battalion history where the Gophers have won the Ranger Buddy Competition's Best Battalion Award.

In doing so, the team earned two Airborne slots and Cadets Decker and Rogers will be attending Airborne school this summer. The Buddy Ranger team can attribute their success to a five month preparation cycle, rucking every weekend, conducting a mock competition, and staying consistent with sleep schedules, eating, and studying. "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure" —General Colin Powell

The Northern Warfare Challenge

By: Captain McNew



La Crosse, WI—Each year 3rd AROTC Brigade host the Northern Warfare Challenge. This took place on February 12th at Grandad Bluff in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This year's UMN-TC Northern Warfare Team, consisting of Cadets Hawley, Vandenbergh, Karrick, Frattalone, and Wimmer, These Cadets braved some of the worst conditions the north has to offer to represent the Gophers. During the competition, the team was

tested on their survival and Soldiering skills through practical, hands on, and written batteries. The Cadets proved their mettle by showing their ability to start a fire with a standard issue elbow flashlight, tie knots, rappel, and conduct cold weather casualty evacuation. Following a whole day a training and testing, the team then met at 0400 to conduct a grueling 16 mile ruck march in -6 degree weather. For a significant portion of the ruck march, they had to drag a weighted sked through the snow and

ice to simulate a casualty. The team was challenged, from the threat of frostbite to having their water sources freeze solid during the race, and they tackled every opportunity to grind harder. After taking charge early the race in 5th place, the team dug in for all 16 miles, eventually finishing the ruck 2nd out of 40 teams. This event, known to many as "The Hardest Race in ROTC" was quite an event to behold, and almost hard enough for UMN's Golden Gophers. Almost.

Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) By: Cadet Addison Scufsa



Camp Ripley, MN - Gopher Battalion conducted a Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) in April, along with Cadets from NDSU, UND, MNSU, and SJU. Cadets received valuable training working together with peers from other schools. The CFTX began with a reception of troops the first day, "cold load" train-

ing on Helicopter Model UH-60 and CH-47 aircraft, followed by transportation to the Assembly Area (AA) in the field on those same aircraft! The Cadets were broken down into platoons, issued their equipment, and received the "Road to War" brief to kick off the Squad Training Exercise lanes (STX).

Land Navigation

All Cadets closed out the weekend's activities with some practical daytime land navigation training. MSIIIs executed their own course, building confidence for their trip to Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY this summer. MSIs and MSIIIs had the opportunity to execute land nav individually or in

battle-buddy teams, gaining valuable experience in preparation for their return in the Fall. It was a cold, rainy day to traverse the woods of northern Minnesota, but Cadets made the most of the training and went home better prepared for their futures as Army officers.



Obstacle Course

MSI and MSII Cadets had the opportunity to hone their skills on the obstacle course, fostering a competitive environment where Cadets from each of the nine platoons held friendly competitions to see who could trav-



erse the course the fastest. The concept of teamwork was reinforced, and the Cadets all moved on to the next training event motivated and confident!

Basic Rifle Marksmanship

MSIII Cadets spent Monday at the M4 Rifle zero and qualification ranges. Cadets honed their marksmanship skills getting a tight grouping and successfully zeroing their weapons

before moving on to the qualification range where most received multiple opportunities to hone their skills prior to Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox.



STX Lanes



A long day packed with STX lanes occurred on Sunday. Cadets conducted reconnaissance, ambushes, raids, and movement to contact missions, to include patrol base operations at night. Several of those lanes included evaluating a casualty and sending a 9-line Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) request to elements of

the 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB) from the Minnesota Army National Guard who dispatched medevac aircraft to the Cadets' location providing some realistic and exciting training. Strict timelines throughout tested the Soldiers' dissemination of information and understanding of the overall intent.

Gopher Volunteer Team

By: Cadet Dalton Ness

Minneapolis, MN - The University of Minnesota Army ROTC volunteer team assists program and community events. Volunteers this spring formed closer relationships with their peers with opportunities like the Bataan Memorial Death March & Marathon running team support or learning valuable skills through roles like Buddy Ranger basic rifle marksmanship trainer. Our program hosted the Norwegian Ruck March for any surrounding military members to participate. Recruiting efforts are enhanced with the assistance of our Cadets. Volunteers can relate with potential recruits better through shared experiences and give

their personal experiences within the program. Notable recruiting events this semester include a National Guard open house and multiple Gopher Men's hockey games. The volunteer team provides value to the surrounding university and local communities. The team attended a change of command ceremony at Cretin-Derham High School, setting an example for JROTC Cadets. Our program also assisted snow removal at the University's Recreation Wellness (RECWELL) dome. When we support the surrounding university community, they often support us through our Cadet fund to support future

events. Our volunteers participated in the Get in Gear 10k race. Our volunteers aided Get in Gear staff with race operations and preparation, and our Color Guard team presented the colors and awards during the event. The scope of our efforts isn't limited to our immediate surroundings. The volunteer team also participated in Feed My Starving Children to reduce food insecurity around the world. A portion of this food was sent to Ukrainian refugees displaced by the ongoing conflict. The volunteer team made a difference in our community and expressed our University of Minnesota Army ROTC values this semester.



Joint Service Review

By: Cadet Christina Theis

Mendota Heights, MN - This semester, the Gopher Battalion participated in the 63rd Annual Joint Service Review (JSR) ceremony. This parade and review is conducted by the Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine ROTC programs from the University of Minnesota and its cross-town colleges to commemorate the tradition of "inspecting of troops" while celebrating the success of many Cadets and midshipmen through the presentation of awards.

The Gopher Battalion's Color Guard trained vigorously on their drill and ceremony, receiving instruction on more nuanced subjects including platoon movements, in-ranks inspections, rifle drill, and unique ceremonies. To prepare for the event, numerous practices and dress rehearsals were conducted in order to ensure all Cadets were proficient in their drill and ceremony. The event took place at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights where

friends and family of the Cadets and Midshipmen were able to watch a well-run review. This year, we had the honor of hearing from guest speaker Major General Shawn Manke, the Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard. The success of the event was made possible through the countless hours and effort the Cadets put into perfecting their drill and ceremony, and through the collaboration of all ROTC programs.



The Order of Marechaussee By: Sergeant First Class Gerald Cramer



Arden Hills, MN - The Order of Marechaussee acknowledges the outstanding dedication and devotion to the Military Police corps. The Marechaussee were mounted and ac-

countered light Dragoons and was formed to apprehend deserters, rioters, stragglers, and fugitives during the revolutionary war. The word Marechaussee derives from the French term for marshal or constable. SFC Wilson's degree of professionalism, high standards of integrity and morality, and his promotion of esprit de corps within the Gopher Battalion are unparalleled. These qualities mirror those required of the sixty-three men, who donned the blue uniform with yellow piping in 1778 and mounted their horses to become members of the Marechaussee Corps of the Continental Army. SFC Wilson has met

the challenge, as the Soldiers of the Marechaussee Corps did, of being just and impartial in performance of his duties: being compassionate without being foolish or allowing pity to cloud his judgment, and displaying his devotion to order and justice. By becoming a member of the "Order of the Marechaussee," SFC Wilson enters a unique organization of virtuous heroes who have emulated their predecessors, and by virtue of those acts have received the laurels of their fellow service members. On behalf of the Military Police Regimental Associations, The order of Marechaussee is awarded to SFC John J. Wilson.

Alumni Corner By: Captain Austin Hultman



Captain Nellis earned a BS of Kinesiology and commissioned as a 2LT from the University of Minnesota Army ROTC program. After college CPT Nellis attended the Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He was assigned to the 652nd EN Company in Hammond, WI and immediately upon returning from BOLC, he led a team of bridge crewmembers in a NATO bridge-build in Goose Bay, Canada. He served his Platoon leader time with the 652nd, and transferred to the 410th Combat Engineer Company in Wausau, WI as the Company Executive Officer (XO) and conducted a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. During his time as an XO, he also earned a second bachelor's degree in industrial design at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He moved to the mountains in Colorado and became a

board certified Pedorthist. He makes custom orthotics for patients all over the country and the state of Colorado. In CO, CPT Nellis joined the 440th Civil Affairs BN at Fort Carson and began his branch transfer to become a Civil Affairs Officer. He completed his 4th phase of the Reserve CA Captains Career Course in May 2020. He just completed a very intensive 57-week Russian language

course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. With these language skills, CPT Nellis is slotted to mobilize to Poland in February, 2023 in the capacity of a Civil Information Management (CIM) team chief. In the meantime, he is back working at the Xtreme Footworks, the orthotic lab in Idaho Springs, CO where he hopes to take ownership over the next several years.



The George C. Marshall Leadership Award By: Maggie Marchesani



Minneapolis, MN - The nation's top tier Army ROTC Cadets have been receiving the George C. Marshall (GCM) award and attending the leadership seminar annually since 1978. Each of the 275 SROTC/USMA programs nominate the senior Cadet who most

exemplifies scholarship, leadership values, physical fitness, and service to community. The GCM Award is one of the highest awards that an ROTC Cadet can receive. It is named in the honor and legacy of General of the Army George C. Marshall, who served in World War II as the Army Chief of Staff and after the war as Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. He later received the Nobel Peace Prize after successfully implementing the Marshall Plan to eradicate hunger and poverty in war-torn Europe after World War II. Originally held in Lexington, VA, Cadets receive mentorship at the GCM seminar from the highest echelons of

the U.S. Army's leadership ranks, scholars, and experts in the area of national defense, making our newest generation of leaders better informed and prepared to support the Army's vision at both the tactical and strategic level. U.S. Army Cadet Command (USACC) conducted this capstone leadership development event virtually on 15 February 2022 IOT mitigate COVID-19 risk to our force this year. For school year 2021-2022, University of Minnesota Cadre selected Luke J. VandenBergh as the GCM recipient. Selection was based on leadership potential as measured by Cadet Battalion responsibilities and contributions to the program, Advanced Camp performance, extra-curricular participation, academic accomplishments, and physical capabilities. Former Cadet VandenBergh was a 4-year National Scholarship recipient and received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. His motivation and desire to mentor the younger Cadets made him a tremendous asset to the program. In his four years as a Gopher Battalion Cadet, he served in several leadership positions, including Executive Of-

ficer during his senior year. He also competed for several summer training slots, including Air Assault, and led the battalion at the Ranger Challenge competition. He completed Advanced Camp during summer 2021, at which he received a Recondo badge and was ranked as the number one Cadet in his regiment. As further evidence of his capabilities, CDT VandenBergh has received an award at every Joint Service Review since he joined ROTC, in recognition of demonstrated leadership qualities, exemplifying the Army Values, military bearing, and Officer potential. Congratulations to now 2LT VandenBergh for being selected as this year's George C. Marshall recipient! It is a prestigious honor that only the most outstanding Cadets in the nation receive. 2LT VandenBergh's scholastic achievements and excellence in military science make him a deserving candidate and highlight the type of Army Officer that the Gopher Battalion is proud to produce. 2LT VandenBergh commissioned on 12 May 2022 as a Distinguished Military Graduate and will proceed to Active Duty later this summer as an Aviation Officer.



Congratulations to Awards & Scholarships Winners

Our Army ROTC Cadets are regularly recognized by prestigious University Alumni, Scholarship Foundations, and Department of Defense Agencies for their outstanding leadership potential and diligent efforts to better themselves and others. Whether it is a certificate of appreciation or full tuition and fees, these scholarships truly recognize the continued support and respect your choice to join our Profession of Arms and what it means to the community. We would like to congratulate the students who have been recipients of awards over this past semester and to those future Golden Gopher Battalion members who have won and accepted Army ROTC scholarship. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the 2022 Fall semester.

2022 Awards Recipients

- Military Officers' Association of America:** Kya Rybachek
- General Society of the War of 1812:** Aislin Rogers
- American Legion Military Excellence:** Katelynn Fox, Matthew McCormick, Rory King, Kellie Schmidt
- American Legion Scholastic Excellence:** Cort Doyle, Alexander Wimmer, Isaac Olson, Hunter Mann
- American Legion ROTC Scholarship Award:** Emma Voigt, Alex Crary
- William T. Harris American Legion Leadership Award:** Sarah Bissen
- Sons of the American Revolution:** Isaiah Wildenberg
- Daughters of the American Revolution:** Susan Esbe
- Reserve Officers Association:** Maya Theune-Baillargeon, Garrett Lyons, Austin Morrow
- George C. Marshall:** Luke VandenBergh
- AUSA:** Anna Decker
- USAA Spirit Award:** Natalie Miller
- National Sojourners Award for Americanism:** Lucas Kiesow
- Veterans of Foreign Wars:** Alyssa Abke
- Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction:** Makenna Larson
- Fort Snelling Officers' Club:** Grant Higgins
- Department of the Army Superior Cadet:** Charles Frattalone, Benjamin VanBinsbergen, Jacob Henriksen, Addison Scufsa

2022 Scholarship Recipients

- University of Minnesota:** Aaron Clausen, Avery Hoge, Emily Macakanja
- Spring 2022 Campus-Based Scholarship Winners:**
- University of Minnesota:** Justin Broughman, Matthew Long, Caleb Smit

2022 Minuteman Nominations

- Army National Guard:** Rachel Besselievre, Lachlan Cotner, Trevor Cragoe, William Jessich, Anthony Lee, Cameron Lehman, Zhiyang Jiang, Madalyn McGarry, Alming Siv
- US Army Reserve:** Jeremy Davie, Simon Granberg, Samuel Hill

SY 22-23 Scholarship Board Dates

- Campus Based:**
- August 2022
- September 2022
- October 2022
- High School/National Boards:**
- 17-21 October 2022
- 23-27 January 2023
- 13-17 March 2023

Sights from Spring 2022



Cadet Hoge completing the obstacle course at CFTX



Cadet Decker receiving an award at JSR



Cadet Ley during the plank portion of the ACFT



LTC Hoaglin passing Cadet Bissen the BN Guidon at the Change of Command ceremony



Cadet Scott and Cadet Scufsa complete the 8-mile release ruck

Sights from Spring 2022



Cadet Poor after finding all of his points during Day Land Navigation



Cadet Becker gets ready to complete hand release push ups during the ACFT



Cadet Martin during the BFT portion of the GAFB requirements



Cadets conducting a raid at Mega Lead Lab



CPT Kienholz and the MSIV class

Sights from Spring 2022



Cadet Crary helping zero rifles on the range



Cadet Scott grading the ACFT



Cadets listen to statistics about SHARP during the BN SHARP focused PT session



MSIV Cadets teaching how to "Call for Fire"



Cadets participate in the JSR Color Guard



Cadet Rossow and Cadet Poor during a Patrol Base PE

Sights from Spring 2022



Cadet Frattalone repelling during Northern Warfare Challenge



Cadet Higgins showing excellent communication skills as he completes the obstacle course



MSIII and MSIV Cadets complete a 12 mile ruck before the end of the semester



Cadet Camperchioli grading and encouraging the Cadets during the CWST



MSIV Cadets conduct a Staff Ride on the Battle of Wanat from Operation Enduring Freedom

Sights from Spring 2022



Cadet Rybachek during the gear drop portion of the CWST



Cadet Kirby and Cadet Larson practicing TCCC



Cadets loading a Minnesota Army National Guard Utility Helicopter during the Combined Field Training Exercise



Cadet Villaluz celebrating his birthday by completing the Norwegian Foot March



Cadet Scufsa directing Cadets to their barracks as they arrive at CFTX



Norwegian Footmarch

On the 23rd of April 2022, the University of Minnesota Army ROTC Cadet leadership hosted their 3rd Annual Norwegian Foot March 30k Challenge. Finisher photos for the event can be found at <https://geosnapshot.com/e/norwegian-footmarch-2022/14817> and photos of the event are also on our Flickr site (see visit us on the web, page 18). Congratulations to all our Finishers! 1st Place Male: SFC Todd Gunter at a time of 3:13:07, 1st Place Female : SPC Allana Rybachek at a time of 4:11:24.



Meet our New Professor of Military Science

By: MAJ Derek Zeman



With the departure of LTC Hoaglin, we are excited and humbled to welcome our new Professor of Military Science (PMS) LTC John D. Nguyen as the new "Gopher 6" of the Golden Gopher Battalion. All of the Cadets are eager to learn from the unique experiences each officer brings to the table.

Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen, originally from Virginia was commissioned through James Madison University ROTC program and entered on active duty in May 2005. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration, and a Master's in Public Administration from Villa-

nova University. LTC Nguyen is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

His military education includes Combatives Level 1 & 2, Field Artillery Basic Officer Course, Infantry Maneuver Captain Career Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Joint Plans Course and Intermediate Level Education (ILE). He has been deployed to Iraq in 2008 and 2011. LTC Nguyen comes to the University of Minnesota Army ROTC program from Fort Hood, TX.

While assigned to the Gopher Battalion he will reside in Forest Lake, MN with his wife, Katrina. A "BIG Dig Deep" welcome to LTC Nguyen and his family. Gophers' Pride!

Fall Semester '22 Upcoming Events

FALL SEMESTER '22 EVENT CALENDAR

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Army ROTC Open House

Please join us 16 November 2022

From 4:30PM - 6:30 PM

UMN Armory Building
15 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Complimentary Food & Drinks
will be provided by the
Minnesota Army National Guard

RSVP by emailing adejesus@umn.edu
Contact us at 612-386-8491 or arotc@umn.edu
for additional questions

New Cadet Orientation	29-30 August 22
Welcome Week BBQ	29 August 22
Labor Day	5 September 22
Lead Lab 1: Admin and Patching Ceremony	7 September 22
911 Color Guard	9-11 September 22
Lead Lab 2: FTX PCCs & PCIs	14 September 22
Fall FTX	16-19 September 22
CWST	22 September 22
Home Coming Parade**	30 September 22
Home Coming Game**	1 October 22
Army Ten-Miler	9 October 22
Columbus Day	10 October 22
Mega Lead Lab 1	15 October 22
Task Force Ranger Challenge**	21-23 October 22
6 and 8-Mile Ruck	26 October 22
3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge	4-6 November 22
12-Mile Ruck	9 November 22
Veterans Day	11 November 22
LLB 3: Finance and Open House**	16 November 22
Mega Lead Lab 2	19-20 November 22
Thanksgiving Break	24-27 November 22
ACFT (MSIVs Only)	2 December 22
Cadet of the Semester	7 December 22
ACFT	9 December 22
Dinning Out**	9 December 22
Last Day of Classes	14 December 22
Fall Commissioning**	22 December 22

** Alumni and Family encouraged!!!



University of Minnesota Army ROTC

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps

15 Church Street S.E. ,
 Minneapolis MN, 55455
 Armory Building Room 101
 Golden Gopher Battalion

Phone: 612-386-8491
 E-mail: arotc@umn.edu

If you know someone who has the potential to be an Army officer, tell them about us! They don't have to be from Minnesota! We have great opportunities for high school and in-college scholarships. Current enlisted Army National Guard and Reserves enrolled at the University of Minnesota are also eligible to participate in Army ROTC and may be eligible for additional scholarship and DoD programs. Call (612) 386-8491 or email arotc@umn.edu for more information.

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<https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/schools/university-of-minnesota.html>

<https://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html>

Referrals, Referrals, Referrals!!!

Do you like money? Cadets who brings in a referral to the Army ROTC Gopher Battalion will receive \$200 cash! What is the catch? The referral has to sign up and attend the Military Science I or II. Don't worry if you're a sophomore in college, you can enroll in both MS I and II classes simultaneously to get caught up. It is not too late. Referrals can come from the U of M or any of our 11 crosstown schools. Please contact Mr. Alberto (DJ) DeJesus for any questions, or to send referrals and collect your \$200. You have nothing to lose and plenty to gain!

AUSA– Voice of the Army

Consider joining the Golden Gopher Subchapter of AUSA. Since 1957, the Association of the U.S. Army has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve. AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army—Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family

members. AUSA provides our Cadets numerous Professional Development Opportunities at a variety of events both local and national. All new Cadets are qualified for 2-year complimentary membership.

Visit the General Vessey Chapter's website at <https://vesseychapter.org/> or call Mr. Alberto DeJesus at (612) 386-8491 to learn more.



If you are interested in making a donation please contact (612) 624-3080 or send to Attn: Campus Life Program Cadets Fund, 15 Church St. SE, Minneapolis,