



Army's Newest Second Lieutenants Phuc Duong, Kya Rybachek, Luisa Bernia, Micha Poor with the Golden Gopher Battalion Cadre during the Fall 2023 Commissioning Ceremony

The U.S. Army's Newest Lieutenants By: Captain Austin Hultman

Minneapolis, MN – December 2023 was a pivotal month for four Cadets of the Golden Gopher Battalion. It marked the end of their college careers and time as Cadets, and they started their new careers as commissioned officers in the US Army. 2LT Kya Rybachek graduated from Augsburg University with a degree in Physical Education. She will be branching into active-duty service as a Military Intelligence officer but first starting with Field Artillery as a branch detail. 2LT Micah Poor graduated from the UMN with a degree in Economics. He will serve as an Aviation officer in the MN Army National Guard. Next is 2LT Phuc Duong, he is branching into active duty as an Ordinance officer. Lastly is 2LT Luisa Bernia, who graduated with a degree in Health Administration from the UMN. She will serve as a US Army Reserve officer with the

Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, and Nuclear (CBRN) branch. The ceremony for these individuals was on 21 December 2023. Family, friends, fellow Cadets, and Cadre gathered to honor and celebrate the achievements of the US Army's newest Second Lieutenants. The ceremony included a commissioning address presented by UMN Gopher Battalion alumnus MG (Ret) Blake Ortner, the oath of office, and the rendering of the first salute. Though it was just the beginning of their careers as young officers, this day represented years of hard work, dedication to their academics, and military commitment. This day marks their first major milestone as United States Army Officers, with hopefully numerous others to follow. Congratulations to the new 2LTs, and good luck in all your future endeavors!

Golden Gopher



Battalion

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AUSA Annual Meeting & ROTC Luncheon By: Cadet Mathew McCormick



Washington, D.C. - On October 9th, the Gopher Battalion Army Ten-Miler team had the opportunity to attend the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. The Cadets listened to the Secretary of the Army speak on the U.S. Army's

current state at the conference's opening ceremony. During the exposition, Cadets explored exhibits demonstrating the Army's newest upcoming technologies, including prototypes for the Army's Robotic Combat Vehicle, new Apache controls and cockpit, and drone technology. At the annual ROTC Luncheon and awards ceremony, Cadets Mathew McCormick and Alyssa Abke accepted two awards on behalf of the Gopher Battalion: The largest AUSA ROTC Company and the Most Active AUSA participation within an ROTC Battalion. Cadets also met Major General Munera, the Commanding General of Cadet Command.

Professor of Military Science By: Lieutenant Colonel John Nguyen

Greetings Gopher Battalion family,

As the year draws to a close, it's with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the achievements and growth within our ranks. The past months have been filled with challenges, triumphs, and the unwavering commitment of our Cadets. Join us in revisiting the highlights of 2023 and eagerly anticipating the opportunities that lie ahead.

Triumphs of the Fall Semester:

The Fall Semester has seen the Gopher Battalion Cadets rise to new heights, establishing a culture of success through spirited competition and an unyielding desire to excel. Notable triumphs include the Army Ten-Miler, where our Cadets showcased their endurance and determination by finishing 6th place overall among 69 ROTC teams. Next, the Battalion defended a 1st place trophy at the Task Force Ranger Challenge for a second year and moved on to secure another 1st place trophy at the Brigade-level event. This win is a first EVER in program history and advances our team to the Sandhurst International competition held at West Point every year. We take pride in witnessing our Cadets not just talk about excellence but embody it as a sport. Beyond the field, our commitment to service has shone brightly. Cadets have volunteered selflessly to support Veterans facing challenges, exemplifying the essence of our noble profession – taking care of people. Whether providing last-minute color guard details for our local stakeholders or assisting with our Junior ROTC partners, the Gopher

Battalion continually reinforces its value through active engagement.

Striving for Excellence in Training:

Our MSIVs have dedicated considerable time to reflecting on our training plan. Capitalizing on the gains from last year, the MSIVs have owned the program in every way. This year - the Gopher Battalion moved from Leadership Labs with MSIVs in the lead, to an MSIII-centric concept where MSIIIs are the trainers for our underclassmen. The purpose is twofold, first – our MSIIIs develop the needed skills, and most importantly – MSIIIs are given multiple reps of public speaking to display their mastery of trained tasks. Following the delivery of classes, MSIVs provide “blue-card” feedback to MSIIIs on the presence, competence, and confidence of the directed training task. Having MSIVs provide this feedback is critical to the continuity of the program and our responsibility to create Platoon Leaders for the Army, not just commissioned officers. As a Lieutenant, our graduates must meticulously plan, resource, and execute training to a defined standard. In doing so, they must train and certify their subordinates to ensure we remain a talent-focused profession. Finally – as a dovetail to this effort, the Cadet of the Semester program has evolved from an individual competition to a team competition focusing on mentorship, physical fitness, and military competence. Our Senior Military Science Instructor, SFC Cramer did a great job taking us to the next level! Winning Matters!

Exciting Initiatives for the Coming Year:

Looking forward to 2024, we look forward to attending the Bataan Memorial Death March, Northern Warfare Challenge, Buddy Ranger Competition, and the International Sandhurst Competition to showcase the strength, dedication, and hard work of our dedicated cadets. Prior to Commissioning, our MSIVs will execute a capstone event by running a Company Command Post (CP) during the 3rd Annual Norwegian Foot March (NFM). Operating in a fluid environment is a required skill for future Lieutenants, and the NFM will be a great opportunity and experience our future Lieutenants can carry with them into the profession of arms.

Celebrating Success and Looking Forward:

As we celebrate the successes of this semester, we extend heartfelt congratulations to the newly commissioned Second Lieutenants Luisa Bernia, Kya Rybachek, Phuc Duong, and Micah Poor. Their dedication and commitment are commendable, and we wish them well in their future military careers. To our entire Gopher Battalion community, we express gratitude for your unwavering support. As we wrap up this chapter, let's eagerly anticipate the developments the Class of 2024 will bring as they continue to shape the future of our program. May the spirit of “Whakapapa” guide us to become good ancestors, leaving a legacy for those who follow.

“Gopher Strong! Dig Deep!”

Senior Military Science Instructor By: Sergeant First Class Gerald Cramer

Greeting Friends and members of the Gopher Battalion. As we near the conclusion of another exceptional semester, it is with a sense of honor and appreciation that we reflect on the values that have shaped us as a program. It has been a productive and enduring semester filled with challenging events for our Cadets as they strive to become influential leaders. The embodiment of dignity and respect for themselves and others has become the cornerstone of our success. The Corps of Cadets has made immeasurable strides to our foundation and continue building for a brighter future.

Dignity and Respect:

Throughout the semester, we have displayed a high level of dignity and respect throughout the Gopher Battalion. Cadets have learned the value and importance of teamwork through training and competition with unwavering commitment to treating every individual with the respect they deserve. I am very proud to say we have built an organizational culture that upholds the inherent dignity of each person.

Semester Achievements:

As we reflect on the semester, I would like to take the time to recognize the outstanding performance of our Cadets. The Gopher Bat-

talion Color Guard has dedicated countless hours to giving back to community by performing ceremonial events and teaching community members flag folding procedures. The Ranger Challenge Detachment mentored and coached JROTC Cadets on specific tasks and drills to prepare them for the USACC JROTC Raider Challenge. Whether it was successfully performing for the community or mentoring future leaders, the Gopher Battalion executed these tasks flawlessly and stands as a testament to the values we hold as a program.

Wishing You a Joyous Holiday:

To every member of the Gopher Battalion and community – whether you are a dedicated team member, supporter or parent – I would like to thank you for your unwavering dedication to upholding the principles and values we proudly stand for. Your support and commitment have allowed us to thrive and create a positive impact within the community that we choose to serve. With that, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a joyous holiday season, a peaceful respite, and the anticipation of a new year filled with promise and opportunities. Let us carry the spirit of dignity and respect into the future, knowing that it is the foundation upon which we will build a stronger, and more inclusive organization.

Cadet Leadership Spotlight

By Cadet Haley Wolff

Leadership is not only what is seen with two eyes but what is felt when you can place full trust and knowledge in a person and their ability to get you where you need to be. It is not just what is shown upfront, but what occurs behind the scenes. It is not just the recognized accomplishments, but the hidden and unknown ways one works to aid others and build upon themselves. In ROTC we train to be leaders so it can feel as if the word is like any other. Leadership is not merely a position but a dynamic quality that shapes one into a capable future officer. With this, as future leaders, we must ask ourselves, “What do you want people to think when they hear your name?” This inquiry can prompt one to reflect on the legacy they aspire to leave and encapsulate the essence of what it means to be a leader. Find what is important to you and make a deliberate effort and plan to leave things better than found, whether that be your soldiers, your peers, the cadet environment, or the program as a whole. When I entered the program, I knew next to nothing regarding anything military-related. No one in my immediate family is in the military and my commitment was very last minute. I contribute so much to where I am today in the program to those that took me under their wing and provided the leadership and guidance that put me on a path to success. With this, interpersonal skills is an aspect of my leadership that is towards the forefront. Being a captain of a Ranger Challenge team this year really proved that to myself. For me, being a leader extends beyond giving orders and making strategic decisions, and encompasses a commitment to fostering a cohesive and motivated team. Whether this translated to taking the extra time to teach skills, making shells for my team, or even just hearing people out was something that I had never given a second thought to because it made not just my team better, but myself. So, I encourage everyone to look inside and think about the type of legacy they want to leave, whether that's through people or tangible changes. Whatever the case may be, do it with intent and reasoning, and not just the people around you, but you yourself will be better for it.

Cadet Battalion Commander By: Cadet Ben VanBinsbergen

The Gopher Battalion Army ROTC is in the home stretch to end a hectic semester. Within the first month, Cadets hit the ground running and completed a Fall Field Training Exercise, Army Combat Fitness Test, and Combat Water Survival Test (CWST). The MS Is were exposed to life as a Cadet and introduced to basic soldiering skills. The MS IIs were able to build upon their knowledge in previous years and learn even more of what the program has to offer. MS IIIs experienced their first semester in leadership roles and began preparing for Advanced Leadership Camp through extensive immersion in tactics and leadership responsibilities. MS IVs in staff positions spent the semester planning numerous events and are now looking forward to diving headfirst into their selected branches! Some semester

highlights include Rappelling, completing an Obstacle Course, and competing in the classic Dodgeball Tournament. It was great to see Cadets dress up and have some competitive fun. It was also great to see the members of our Battalion Army Ten-Miler, and Ranger Challenge teams compete in their races and competitions. Our Ranger Challenge teams did exceptionally well, winning at the Task Force and Brigade level, as they now begin their training for Sandhurst in the Spring. Now the semester comes to a close, and the transition of Cadet leadership takes place, there comes an exciting opportunity for growth within the Battalion. It was an honor to serve as the Gopher Battalion commander and to work with such a hardworking staff and excellent Cadre. Given our extensive and continuously growing Battalion, our

successes would not have been possible without these people's help. Seeing the growth amongst all MS levels within just a few months is exciting. With more opportunities for Cadets to be put in leadership positions next semester, there is a sense of eagerness to see the development of the Army's future leaders. Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and willingness to learn and adapt. It does not go unnoticed and is crucial in developing the atmosphere we have already begun creating. As we move into the next semester, I encourage all Cadets within the Battalion to carry our momentum forward and continue the growth we have seen over the Fall semester. We should all take the upcoming well-deserved winter break to relax, recharge, and prepare for another great semester within the Gopher Battalion. Dig Deep!

Cadet Command Sergeant Major By: Cadet Reed Riesing

The Golden Gopher Battalion is an incredible organization like none other. Cadets constantly strive for success and foster the development of those around them. Roughly 200 Cadets worked day in and day out to prepare for the numerous training exercises set before them throughout the semester, from the first day of Physical Training, where the Cadets from 12 different schools arrived at 6:30 AM and put time and effort into preparing for their first ACFT a month later, to arriving at MS class ready to learn from their Military Science Instructors. The beginning of this training culminated in our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Ripley, where MSIIIs and I could share tips/tricks on how to succeed in our fast-paced environment. Other events throughout the semester consisted of six, eight, and 12-mile ruck marches throughout the adversities of MN weather. Cadets who have never done combat survival water training had an opportunity to test their skills early in the semester. Multiple labs and physical training exercises were conducted

throughout the semester. Each day, our Cadets strove to better themselves by taking ACFTs every other Friday to try and move up through our tiered PT structure or participate in extracurriculars. One way Cadets showed their commitment and buy-in to the program was by joining specialty teams. Three specialty teams are running in the fall (Army Ten-Miler, Color Guard, and Ranger Challenge). The Army Ten-Miler team trained five to six days a week leading up to their competition in Washington, D.C. Out of the 69 ROTC teams competing, the Gopher battalion placed sixth! Our Color Guard team cleaned up their drill and ceremony skills on Thursday nights throughout the semester. You may have spotted them at the Gopher games, homecoming parade, or various events throughout the community. Our Ranger Challenge team had the most successful season in over a decade. They took first place at the regional competition, qualifying them for the brigade challenge for the second time since Cadre member Captain Hultman was a Cadet, and this year,

they succeeded in beating the most successful schools in the brigade to win a slot to Sandhurst in the Spring. These Cadets trained early mornings and late Wednesday nights to prepare for this event. We are extremely proud of them and can't wait to see them dominate the fields of West Point in a few months! Our Fall semester training culminated in our annual Mega Lead Lab, where Cadets got more experience on the Land Nav Course. MSIIIs were shown what right looks like by some of our competent seniors by conducting a platoon STX lanes led by MSIVs. Lastly, I wanted to speak directly to the battalion. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this semester. With the fast pace that our battalion is growing, sometimes it can seem overwhelming, and it can become difficult to see where you stand among the many. But you stuck it out, and on behalf of the senior class, we cannot thank you enough. Serving as your c/CSM this semester has been an honor, and I hope to carry the same hard work and dedication into the spring. "Dig Deep.

Ranger Challenge Team By: Cadet Charles Frattalone



Fort Leonard Wood, MO - Ranger Challenge is a soldiering skills and teamwork competition held each year's fall semester. The 42 teams in the 3rd Brigade are broken down into Task Forces, where they conduct local Ranger Challenge competitions. The winners from each Task Force or region compete in the Brigade Competition held at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Each year, the 3rd Brigade sends the top two finishing teams to the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) to compete at Sandhurst, a two-day Military Skills Competition between teams from West Point, Army ROTC Brigades, and 14 international teams across the globe. The first step to compete on a University of Minnesota Ranger Challenge team is to make the Ranger Detachment. In the first week of each semester, the Ranger Detachment holds tryouts open to all Army ROTC Cadets looking to challenge themselves mentally and physically. The tryout replicates the Ranger Physical Fitness Test (RPFT), a requirement to enter the U.S. Army Ranger School. Upon completing the RPFT, Cadets earned their spot in the Ranger Detachment. Teams are formed based on the RPFT scores, soldiering skills, and cohesive ability. There are two team categories, 9-man, and 5-man. Each team has two alternates for 11 personnel on the 9-man and seven on the 5-man. The Gopher Battalion formed two teams to compete in each category. Team Captains are chosen based on leadership capabilities and lead their teams week-

ly through training and competition. The typical week leading up to the Ranger Challenge consists of 7 practices. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings are team-based endurance, strength, and power training. Tuesday and Thursday mornings are skill practices, such as Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), Call for Fire (CFF), 9-Line Medevac, and more. Wednesday and Friday afternoon practices occur at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS). At AHATS, Cadets practice their marksmanship, assemble, and disassemble weapons, practice loading radios, and more. Through the many hours spent together in the gym, rucking, at AHATS, and outside of ROTC, Cadets in the Ranger Detachment hold each other to a standard that fosters teamwork, personal growth both mentally and physically, and a life-long bond. For the *Task Force 2023 Ranger Challenge Competition*, The University of Minnesota sent two 9-man and two 5-man teams to the competition at Camp Ripley, MN. The Gophers dominated the competition, placing all four teams in the top three in their respective categories. The 5-Black squad, led by Cadet Wolff, and the 9-Black team, led by Cadet Conn, took home the first-place trophies in their respective categories solidifying their spots at the Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition. After just two weeks of physical and in-depth skill training, Cadets Wolff and Conn's teams made the trip down to Fort Leonard Wood, MO., for the *Annual Brigade Ranger Challenge*

Competition. Without experience competing at the Brigade Level, Cadets Wolff and Conn's teams relied on their soldier skills, physical capabilities, and team cohesion. The two-day competition challenged Cadets through 14 events, including the 12k Ruck March, M4 Marksmanship, CBRN Medical Lane, One Rope Bridge, Hand Grenade Assault Course, and more. After two grueling days, the University of Minnesota 5-Black team finished the competition in second place. The University of Minnesota 9-Black team finished the competition in first place, earning a spot at the *Sandhurst Military Skills Competition* in the Spring of 2024. In conclusion, the University of Minnesota's Ranger Challenge program is a testament to its Army ROTC Cadets' commitment, resilience, and excellence. From the demanding tryouts to the Task Force and Brigade competitions, Cadets undergo rigorous physical and mental training, fostering individual growth and strong, cohesive teams. The outstanding performance of the 9-Black and 5-Black teams at the *Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition*, securing first and second places, respectively, exemplifies the dedication and leadership instilled in the Cadets. The bonds forged, the skills acquired, and the lessons learned during this challenging journey will undoubtedly impact the participating Cadets, shaping them into future leaders in the U.S. Army and beyond.

Army Ten-Miler By: Cadet Alyssa

Washington, D.C. - This past October, Cadets from the Golden Gopher Battalion traveled to Washington, D.C., and participated in the 39th Annual Army Ten-Miler. The race is a ten-mile route around D.C.'s most famous and historical monuments. Cadets trained throughout the summer on their own and as a team for five weeks in preparation for the race. Training consisted of time trials, endurance runs, and speed workouts. Army Ten-Miler is an incredible experience for Cadets and an opportunity to push themselves mentally and physically with team support from our battalion. This year's runners were motivated and trained hard. This was illustrated by their 6th place spot out of 69 teams in the Military Academy and ROTC category. A big thank you to the families, friends, and alumni who financially assisted and made this year's trip possible.



Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) By: Cadet Alexander Wimmer



Camp Ripley, MN - This September, the Gopher Battalion completed their Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Ripley. During these four days, Cadets were challenged mentally and physically in ways that will prepare them both for Advanced Camp at Fort Knox and their future careers in the Army. Cadets participated in the usual Land Navigation, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, the

Confidence Course, a 4/6-mile Ruck March, and Field Leadership Reaction Course. Different this year was MSIII participation in the Hand Grenade Assault Course to adapt to new guidelines put out by Cadet Command. Furthermore, MSIs and MSIIIs received hands-on with the Army M4 weapons system and able to execute a live Table IV weapons range.

Land Navigation



Land Navigation this year consisted of a training block provided by experienced MSIVs to the younger MS levels, then a practical exercise in the classroom, with the final portion culminating in a test and field portion that consisted of finding both day and nighttime points. Moreover, the MSIs-IIIIs are also conducting their training on a more extensive and more difficult land navigation course, really putting their abilities to the test!



Hand Grenade Assault Course

The Hand Grenade Assault course provided MSIIIs with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the steps to both arms and throw an M67 hand grenade. As they went from station to station around the course, they practiced throwing the hand grenade dummies in different fighting positions.



Basic Rifle Marksmanship

Basic Rifle Marksmanship, given the Army's qualification system, tested the MSIIIs' ability to operate an M4 rifle. Six tables must be completed, including drills, the engagement skills trainer, zeroing the iron sights, and the qualification system. While not sent to the qualifying range,

MSIs and MSIIIs received hands-on experience with the weapon system while firing live rounds at the zero range.

Field Leader Reaction Course



Finally, our Cadets got to participate in the Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC), giving MSIIIs a chance to lead a squad. The premise of FLRC is that there is a variety of challenges that a squad must accomplish within a time constraint. An example of this is moving several boards from one space to another while only being able to

be in a couple of authorized spots. This year, the weather further complicated the lanes as Cadets had to traverse inter-squad communication and torrential downpours. This was an excellent finish to our FTX, as always, and helped further develop our capable Cadets' leadership skills!

Fall Mega Lead Lab (MLL) By: CDT Emma Voigt



Arden Hills Army Training Site, MN - In November, we executed our fall term Mega Lead Lab training exercise that spans two days and takes place at AHATS, about fifteen minutes from the University of Minnesota. Our access to this training facility is one of the many reasons our Cadets are so successful when they go to Fort Knox, KY, in the summer of their junior year. During these training

exercises, Cadets can apply what they learn in the classroom in a field environment that prepares them for Cadet Summer Training (CST). This year, Cadets conducted a plethora of training, from squad-size STX lanes to land navigation and Platoon STX lanes led by MSIVs.

Land Navigation



As at our previous FTXs and Lead Labs throughout the semester, the MSI-IIIs had one last crack at Land Navigation for the semester. This kicked off the MSIIIs participating in night navigation on day one of the lab. Then, all MS levels had a chance to get back on the course for an iteration of day navigation on day two in the field. These multiple iterations are used to measure how the battalion is doing at this soldiering skill and where we can improve our curriculum in the future.



Squad STX



During Squad-size STX lanes at Fall MLL, the MSIIIs worked on their operation planning and Operations Order (OPORD) flipping. They also had their first opportunities to walk through actions for an operation. While this was going on, each MSIII was graded by an MSIV on their leadership qualities and capabilities. This gave the MSIIIs a look at how their leadership styles can be improved coming into the next semester and further to CST.



Platoon STX

Spanning across both days of training, a select few of our MSIVs were tasked with showing the MSIIIs what right looks like when it comes to planning and executing a platoon-sized mission. This training started on day one, with the MSIVs planning and pitching their operations following the troops leading procedures. This consisted

of flipping an operation order (OPORD), making a terrain model, and briefing their five-paragraph order to their assigned MSIIIs. Then, on day two of training, the MSIVs took control of their Platoons and brought each of their Platoons through rehearsals, movement and actions on operations.



LPD with MG Kemper



After day one of training, our training was coming to a close. The MSIV class had the unique opportunity to participate in a Leader Professional Development (LPD) with Major General James Kemper. MG Kemper is the Commander of the 34th Infantry Division out of Rosemount, MN. He spoke with the Cadets about many topics ranging from his experience in ROTC to how war will be framed shortly. The MSIVs then had the distinguished opportunity to ask MG Kemper questions regarding many issues ranging from how he deals with Sexual Assault awareness within the Minnesota National Guard to how the development of drones has shaped the future of warfare. He parted the groups with lasting remarks on how they could become the future lieutenants the Army needed. Overall a great opportunity and great professional discussion. Thank you, Major General Kemper, for your time!

Army ROTC Open House By: CDT Emma Voigt



Minneapolis, MN - On October 18th, 2023, the Golden Gopher Battalion hosted an Open House for high school and college students of the Minneapolis metropolitan area interested in learning more about what Army ROTC offers. Following a presentation by our Recruitment Operation Officer Alberto DeJesús and c/ROO Cadet Voigt on the basics of ROTC, open house attendees could participate in the rappelling lab outside the Armory building. This consisted of learning how to tie a *Swiss Seat*, numerous knots essential to rappelling, getting a shot at the slant wall, and climbing up

rock walls provided by the Minnesota Army National Guard. Following the conclusion of training, attendees had the opportunity to sit down and ask the MSIVs their remaining questions and have one-on-one meetings with DJ, all being well-fed with pizza and refreshments. Events like this are how we keep growing as a battalion and engage with our local community. There is no restriction on who can participate in these events. We always enjoy hosting prospective students from around the Twin Cities area at the battalion!

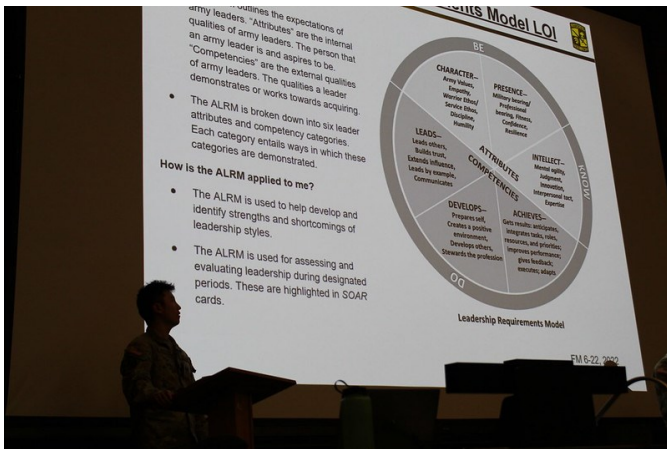
Open PT Session By: CDT Emma Voigt

Minneapolis, MN - On November 29th, the battalion hosted another campus community-focused event culminating in an open Physical Training (PT) session. For this event, Cadets were encouraged to bring friends from the University to participate in one of our curated PT sessions throughout the semester. During this event, around fifteen participants had the unique opportunity to take a crack at specific Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) events and work out with the Ranger Challenge teams doing a weighted HIIT workout. This was a super fun event to bring back and thank the University Men's Lacrosse team for hanging out with us!



Cadets Voigt, McGarry, Anderson, Ley, & Abke spreading some Care Bear smiles during the Golden Gopher Battalion Halloween PT 2023.

Sights from Fall 2023



CDT Gunstrom gives a brief on the ALRM model for grading MSIII leadership attributes and competencies at the beginning of the year.



CDTs Cragoe and Hoge in the midst of giving a class on the art of applying face paint.



c/XO Wimmer and c/S3 Upham cheesing it up for the camera at LL2.



Cadets receiving instruction on the basics of ruck packing under the watchful eyes of the c/BC and c/CSM VanBinsbergen and Riesing.



Cadet Yurek prepares to conduct the high dive at CWST.



Cadets McGarry and Decker ready in the pool for CWST.

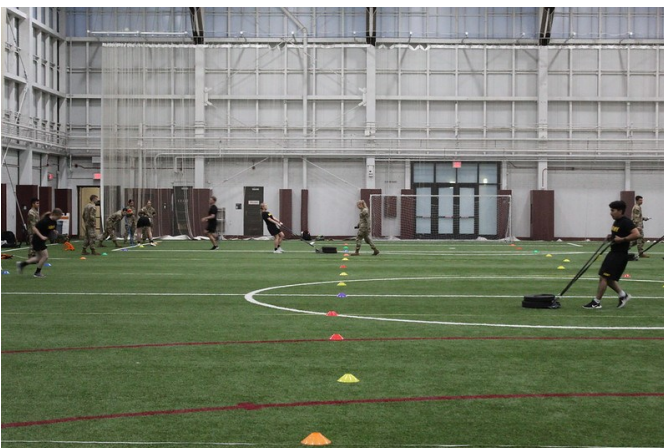
Sights from Fall 2023



Cadets learn the basics of land navigation before heading out on the course during Fall FTX.



Cadets Geiger and Wolff are ready to help their fellow MSIIIs learn the basics of navigating the barricade for the M4 rifle qualification.



Cadets hard at work running the Sprint, Drag, Carry during the Fall ACFT.



Cadets conducting the 'easiest' part of the ACFT this fall..... *the plank*.



CDT Conn showing the MSIIIs how its done when it comes to pulling security.



Cadets conducting training at Arden Hills Army Training Site during LL3.

Sights from Fall 2023



Cadet rappelling off the top of the turret on the historic Armory building at the University of Minnesota.



Cadet scaling the Rockwall while waiting for a chance to rappel at LL4.



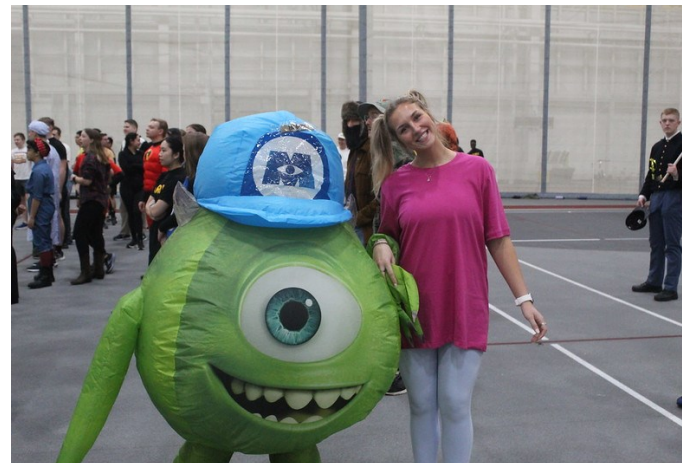
Cadets are all smiles while waiting to head out for the 6/8 mile ruck march.



Smiles are still going strong at the 8-mile turn around point on the ruck march.



Cadet Kiesow looking extra patriotic at Halloween PT this semester!



Mike Wazowski and Boo are ready to win the costume contest!

Sights from Fall 2023



Cadets debrief from training as the sun is going down on another successful lab!



Cadets prepare to clear the objective during training at LL5: Squad STX.



Cadet Brunig looking relieved as he finishes in the top ten on the 12-mile ruck march.



Cadet McCormick helping teach the MSIs and IIs on the basics of MARCH.



Cadet Kearns pondering what path she will take on the Land Navigation course at AHATS as the sun sets for night navigation.



Cadet Springer looking as happy as ever to be out in the field conducting STX lanes on such a beautiful Minnesota day!

Sights from Fall 2023



Cadet Snidarich looking ready as ever to give her OPORD to the squad.



Cadets McCormick, Conn, and Palmer providing some firepower to this assault line at MLL.



Cadets Voigt and McCormick providing guidance for the Land Navigation exam at LL6.



9-Man Black looking excited as they come in first on the 10k Ruck march to seal their win at Task Force this year.



Our fall Commissionees preparing to say the oath and become 2LTs.



2023 9-Man Black Golden Gopher Battalion showing off their domination at this year's Task Force Ranger Challenge competition.

Spring Semester '24 Upcoming Events



Join the Golden Gopher Battalion in our Annual 5K Trail Run & Norwegian Foot March 30K Challenge

Saturday, April 13th, 2024

Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)
4761 Hamline Avenue S.
Arden Hills, MN 55412

Visit the event page to Register

UMNNorwegianFootMarch.com



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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA & CROSSTOWN SCHOOLS STUDENTS

Several options are available to those already attending the University of Minnesota or one of our Crosstown Schools and are now considering Army ROTC.

REQUEST INFO SESSION BY EMAIL - adejesus@umn.edu

SPRING SEMESTER '24 EVENT CALENDAR

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	15 January 24
First Day of Classes	16 January 24
LL0: Admin	17 January 24
MSIII Branch Lab	31 January 24
CWST	1 February 24
LL1: Patrolling Tasks	7 February 24
Presidents' Day Training Holiday	16-19 February 24
LL2: TCCC	21 February 24
Northern Warfare Challenge	23-25 February 24
6-Mile Ruck March	26 February 24
UMN Spring Break	4-8 March 24
LL3: Weapons	13 March 24
ROO Open House	13 March 24
Bataan Memorial Death March/Marathon	15-17 March 24
Mega Lead Lab	23-24 March 24
8-Mile Ruck March	27 March 24
Ranger Buddy Competition	5-7 April 24
ACFT Week	8-12 April 24
Norwegian Footmarch	13 April 24
Spring CFTX	18-21 April 24
12-Mile Ruck March	24 April 24
Sandhurst Competition	24-28 April 24
Last Dat of Classes	29 April 24
Armory Clean Sweep	6 May 24
Spring Commissioning Ceremony	9 May 24

Army ROTC Open House

Please join us 13 March from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Gopher Battalion Armory

RSVP by Scanning the QR Code



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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Fall 2023 Edition

This issue was compiled by:

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AUSA— Voice of the Army

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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,