



SPRING 2021

University of Minnesota
Army ROTC
"Dig Deep"



Golden Gopher Battalion



Golden Gopher's Newest 2nd Lieutenants

By 2LT Joshua Kim

Minneapolis, MN - On May 13th, at the University of Minnesota, the graduating ROTC Class of 2021 started their new chapter in the United States Army. This spring, Golden Gopher Battalion commissioned 23 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. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed some aspects of the traditional, in-person commissioning ceremony, the Gopher Battalion was able to conduct a socially distanced commissioning ceremony to ensure friends, family, and fellow Cadets can witness this remarkable moment of the new Lieutenants' lives. Though it is just the beginning of their careers as young officers, this commissioning ceremony 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! - *See complete list of Class of 2021 on page 4*

Cadet Battalion Commander

By 2LT Taylor Lyons



Minneapolis, MN — The last year has had serious ups and downs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot of the training that we executed looked considerably different than it has historically. Nonetheless, the Cadet Corps of the Gopher Battalion never ceased to amaze me as they continued to show up and they continued to give their all in the face of all of this adversity. Every day was a true test of every individual's grit and determination. Everyone was forced to push themselves even harder due to extra hardships that COVID inflicted. Even with all of this, we successfully completed two Field Training Exercises, two Mega Lead Labs, a Winter Survival Lab, Team Building lab, and a plethora of other leadership laboratories that strengthened everyone's abilities. Despite the drastic impact of the pandemic, we

saw great comradery and competition within all of the various specialty teams that we had this year. The Army Ten Miller Team competed in a local virtual event that scored incredibly well for both teams. Additionally, our Ranger Challenge team competed and did remarkably well. During the spring semester, we saw great work in the Northern Warfare challenge, Buddy Ranger Challenge, and Bataan. Buddy Ranger brought us home a 1st place victory and two other top 10 finishes, while everyone in Bataan placed within the top 50 out of 1600 total runners. While another fantastic year is coming to a close, I have complete and utter faith with the incoming leadership and MS4 class. Good luck to the MS3's at camp and all the Cadets with wherever their summer excursions may take them. As for the underclassmen, you all have walked out of this year stronger, better, more developed, and one step closer to becoming a US Army Officer. Have a safe and enjoyable break, Gophers! - Dig deep!

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From the Professor of Military Science

By LTC Melissa Hoaglin



One of the most common things you will hear from Soldiers when assessing previous leaders is that there are two types of leaders—the good ones and the bad ones. It is not that there is no in-between; of course

there are, but those in-betweens are not usually the leaders that leave a lasting impact on their Soldier's development and growth. Our goal here at the Gopher Battalion is to cultivate those quality leaders who can transcend barriers, traverse obstacles, and transform groups into their best teams. Teams that excel have a shared purpose and practice positive culture. Note that the focus is on THEIR best team, not THE best team. The two extra letters make a difference and are essential, especially when we look at entry-level to mid-level leadership positions within the Army and how future Cadets can prepare themselves for these positions.

Ask yourself, "Do the two extra letters make a difference?" Then ask yourself, "WHY should the two extra letters make a difference?" The U.S. Army is comprised of hundreds if not thousands of teams; Gopher Battalion falls under United States Army Cadet Command (USACC), which aligns under Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), which is under the overall Army umbrella, which is part of the Department of Defense team, which is ultimately part of the governmental team established to support and defend THE Constitution of the United States of America. THE TEAM is made of THEIR Teams or the sub-teams. So, the two additional letters, "I" and "R" have fundamental values.

For entry-level to mid-level leadership, one of the most critical pieces to the puzzle of building a team is creating the shared understanding of how they fit into the bigger mission—the why for their existence. Enter our first extra letter of "I"; each of the sub-teams of all of these organizations is *Instrumental* and *Integral*. By definition, *instrumental* is the act of being a means or method to achieve a desired end-state or result. *Integral* is an adjective, meaning necessary to the completeness of the whole. Thus THEIR team must first understand they are part of THE bigger team, an integral part of THE bigger team, a necessary component. Second, THEIR team must realize by being a part of THE bigger team, they are instrumental in THE TEAMS ability to achieve THE overall mission¹. One of the biggest challenges for junior leaders is

tying the everyday obstacles and tasks to the bigger Mission Essential Task List (METL) tasks and overarching mission in a digestible manner for Soldiers at the tactical level. Effective leaders do this through clear communication and creating shared understanding. Advice to Cadets for this summer—continue to develop your communication skills and observe how leveraging different communication techniques can improve interactions with others and build teams.

Entry-level to mid-level leadership also face an additional challenge when building a team, the additional challenge is the actual building process. Bringing us to our second letter "R". To be an effective organization, teams must be *Reliable* and *Representative*. *Reliable* defined as trusted, honest, dependable in achievement, reciprocation and respect given¹. They must also be *Representative*, meaning made up of diverse and unique individuals from varying backgrounds, experience, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, and fields; when combined, they create a range of specialties, opinions, views, and strengths that collectively creates a better product¹. The successful building composition of a sub-team with members who are committed and collectively work together through hardships and tribulations is what defines our organizational resilience and ensures our ability to fight and win for the long run². Representative teams that are diverse and reliable, have a shared understanding of why they exist, and are committed to working together, are statistically proven to persevere and perform at a higher level than other teams³.

As you work to prepare yourselves for entry-level to mid-level leadership positions within the Army Officer Corps, remember to focus on THEIR best team. If you get their team right, THE TEAM will be right. Two extra letters make a difference and are essential; use this information to help prepare yourself. The sub-team you create, its reliability, and what it represents are integral and instrumental parts of the overall Army. What you do and how you do it matters—MAKE A DIFFERENCE! DIG DEEP! GOPHER STRONG!

In this edition of the Golden Gopher Battalion Newsletter, you will continue to see all of the inspirational activities our Cadets have accomplished over the past semester to include JMAC, Northern Warfare, Bataan, Buddy Ranger, GAFPB, labs, CFTXs, classes and commissioning. Our current Gophers made leaps and bounds this year brought home multiple trophies, streamers for the guidon, and memories that will last a

lifetime. Spring is always a bittersweet time of year. We say goodbye and good luck to our new second lieutenants and send another batch of the Army's finest off into the different components. This spring, we also said goodbye to multiple Cadre. We would like to wish them well in their endeavors and thank them for all they have done for our Cadets, Families, and fellow Cadre.



Mr. John Joyner departed the program after more than 21 years of service as our Budget Analyst. JJ is now on his second retirement here in Apple Valley, Minnesota, playing fantasy football and enjoying the quiet.



CPT Matthew Cordell is in the process of starting a new chapter on the civilian side. He is looking forward to spending a lot of time with his family over the next few months. The Cadets are already missing him as the Military History instructor, and we wish him the best.



MAJ L, our XO and secondary MSIV instructor, departed in May to continue his remarkable career as an Active Duty Reserve Officer. He is looking forward to a summer of baseball and getting back to his branch's functional area.



MSG Troy Hill has retired after 21 years of service. The good news is he is staying in WI and continuing to be a part of the community supporting Junior ROTC, Association of United States Army, and other local veteran clubs.



Shanna Young departed the program after 16 years to pursue a civilian career and entrepreneur opportunity with one of her friends. As she starts her new career, we wish her well and will hold her to her promise to come back and visit!

References: 1. <https://www.dictionary.com/> 2. Armstrong, Chris and Vince Brantley, *Unmasking the Culture Culprit: Getting to the Root of What Ails Us*, 2020. 3. <https://hbr.org/2016/11/why-diverse-teams-are-smarter>

From the Commandant of Cadets

By MSG Troy Hill



I first off have to say that I am proud of all of the things our Cadets have accomplished this year. Through the trials and tribulations of today, the Cadets continued to thrive and excel. I am extremely proud of our athletes that partic-

ipated in the annual Joint Military Athletics Competition. They won for a second consecutive year after over 40 years of futility! Not only did they win, they dominated the competition! I also want to give a shout out to our athletes that competed in the Northern Warfare Challenge, Bataan Memorial Death March, and the Buddy Ranger teams. The Northern Warfare team fought to the very end of an extremely grueling course. The Bataan team had all members finish in the top 50 nationally with Cadet Birkholz finishing 11th overall! Cadets Schmidt and Miller finished 2nd and 3rd nationally of all females competing. The Buddy Ranger teams that competed at Kansas University also did an amazing job. Our female team of Cadet Theis and Cadet Rogers finished 1st overall, and the other female team of Cadet Rybachek and Cadet Erickson finished 3rd! The overall team finished just 2 points behind the host University for 2nd place. Great work! As some of you may know, I will be retiring from the Army after

22 years of active service to our nation. I chose to begin my retirement leave the day after commissioning because I wanted to leave the Army the same day that these outstanding men and women begin their journey. Although I will not be part of the Gopher Battalion and the Army, I am continuing my service as a military instructor down the road at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights. I will continue to follow the Gopher Battalion, and all of the fine officers I had the opportunity to serve with. As I watch your sons and daughters begin their career as a military officer in the active duty, National Guard, and Reserves I am renewed in the faith that my Soldiers will be well led and taken care of. Many of our Cadets have worked tirelessly to earn the right to defend this great nation, and I know that they will continue to lead the Army and nation to new heights. What they have achieved is a great accomplishment. A few things I want to say to the new 2LTs, and to the Cadets who will pin on their gold bars in the future. The first thing is to take care of our Soldiers. Without them, there can be no leaders. We work for them, and it is not the other way around. Make the right choice at the right time. It is called leadership not likership. If your motivations are pure, then you will make the right decision, it probably will not be the most popular decision. Let the regulations guide you to the right answer, but ultimately it is your head and heart that will ensure you are do-

ing what is right. If it is not for the benefit of the mission or the men, then rethink your choices. Being a leader in the Army is a life of sacrifices. Those sacrifices will not make you rich, will not provide more safety for you, and definitely will not keep you from getting hurt. What they will do is protect our Soldiers, our nation, our freedoms, and our way of life. As for my time in the Army, I would not change a thing. In my 128 months spent overseas I have been to some of the greatest places in the world, and some of the worst. Germany and Israel were by far the best, and well, some of you will find out the worst. I have seen the best humanity has to offer, and the evil as well. The Army afforded me the opportunity to serve a purpose far greater than myself: the purpose of defending this great nation. I will be a part of a brotherhood that is unlike any other, now and forever. What I will remember most when I am sitting on my porch as an old crusty grandpa talking to my grandchildren are the people. I will remember the best of times, and the best of people in the worst of times. I will never forget Jesse Givens, Gilberto Mesa, A.J. Walker, Rodney Harris, Randy Stone, or the many other brothers and sisters who are watching over us. I joined when the slogan was "be all that you can be". I believe I have, and feel as if I helped make the Army a better organization. Gopher 7 signing off the net.

From the Cadet Command Sergeant Major

By CDT Godwin Afolabi



Minneapolis, MN - The University of Minnesota Army ROTC had yet another challenging but amazing semester. We continuously worked hard while following CDC guidelines and ensuring the safety and well-being of all Cadets. We also

had an outstanding performance with our specialty teams. Our Buddy Ranger team for this semester ranked 1st and 7th for the female and male teams respectively out of 73. Due to COVID, for the first time, our Bataan team conducted their march virtually but still managed to total over 3000 miles collectively. During a series of Lead Labs, Mega Lead Labs, and Field Training Exer-

cises, our Cadets learned more about first aid, CBRN protective measures and they brushed up on their tactical skills in preparation for the Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY. The Gopher Battalion also took first place during the physically demanding Joint Military Athletic Competition between the Naval and Air Force ROTC Detachment here at the University of Minnesota. Despite all the obstacles and challenges that the Gopher Battalion had faced, the Cadets contin-

ued to live by the ROTC motto and showcase "Leadership and Excellence" in all areas. I am extremely proud of the work all the Cadets have put in this semester. Continue to strive for greatness, continue to meet and exceed the standard. As the ROTC semester comes to an end, don't forget to dig deep academically as well. Good luck on your finals, enjoy your summer and good luck at CST. Go make PAPALABI proud.

"In my experience in the Army, I've had awesome, and terrible, leaders and this made me want to become an officer that can affect change and inspire others. ROTC was the best option to achieve said goal because it allows me to continue my education while also working to become an officer," he explained. "Being an officer will set the bar for anyone else in my family that joins after me, but it will also allow me to help others like my subordinates achieve their goals." - CDT Godwin Afolabi

Mega Lead Lab

By 2LT Kieran Mueller

Arden Hills, MN - UMN Army ROTC Cadets participated in a Mega Lead Lab conducted at Arden Hill Army Training Site. The lab focused primarily on situational training exercise (STX) lanes for the MS2s and MS3s. MS4s played the role of the Opposing Force. Cadets rotated through various leadership positions, getting valuable repetitions in as squad leaders, platoon sergeant, or platoon leader. These STX lanes are conducted to prepare MS3s for their upcoming Cadet Summer Training. The lanes included

a reconnaissance to gather critical information, an ambush to destroy a dismounted enemy force travelling down a linear road, and a raid to capture and kill a high value target. MS1 Cadets brushed up on their tactical formations, hand and arm signals, and linear danger area (LDA) crossings. All Cadets stayed positive throughout the training and felt comradery with their peers. The Cadets successfully executed their missions, receiving excellent training value and making the most out of their day at AHATS.



Cadets put finishing touches on their Terrain Model Kit



CDT Villaluz pulls far-side security



MSIII Cadets receive BRM instruction



CDT Henriksen emplaces a claymore for an ambush

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB)

By SSG Gerald Cramer

Camp Ripley, MN – This year’s GAFPB was held at Camp Ripley Training Center (CRTC) from 21-23 May. Prior to the event Cadets were assessed to meet the participation requirements which ensured they maintained exemplary standards within the Gopher Battalion program. The 11 Gopher Battalion Cadets, led by 2LT Jesse Sattler and CDT Garrett Lyons, spent the last few months rigorously preparing for the three day physically and mentally challenging event. Day 1 consisted of the flexed arm hang, the 11 x 10 meter sprint, and the 1000 meter run. Day two kicked off with the M9 pistol qualification, in which participants were challenged with engaging three separate targets with five rounds from a dis-

tance of 20 meters. After that, the participants concluded their day two events at the Little Falls Community Middle School where they conducted the 100 meter swim. Requirements for the 100 meter swim tested the participant’s endurance requiring them to complete the event in four minutes or less. Day three began with the Road March, which required the participants to carry 33 pounds in their MOLLE Ruck to a certain distance within an allotted time. The Gopher Battalion Cadets ended their journey with an awards ceremony. German Officer, Colonel Barth presented each Cadet with their respective badge, Gophers earned 6 Gold Badges and 7 Silver Badges. Great Job Cadets, Gopher Strong!



Front Row: CDT Pauly (Gold), CDT Kettner (Silver), CDT Lyons (Silver), 2LT Lyons (Gold), German COL Barth, 2LT Sattler (Gold), CDT Villaluz (Silver) **Back Row:** CDT Wimmer (Silver), CDT Collinge (Gold), CDT Mann (Silver), CDT MacDonald (Gold), CDT Conn (Gold), CDT Olson (Silver), CDT Michelizzi (Silver)



2LT Sattler and CDTs Collinge, Conn, and MacDonald.

Bataan Memorial Death March

By 2LT Dakota Birkholz



Golden Gopher Battalion team ready to crush the 26.2 mile race

Minneapolis, MN - Every year, Cadets at the University of Minnesota compete at the annual marathon at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to honor the historical event that took place in the Bataan Peninsula, April 9th, 1942. The training began in early November and was rather extensive. Cadets initially start with 7 mile runs every Saturday morning and progressively train up to 20 miles against Minnesota's brutally cold conditions to

prepare for the unruly desert mountain terrain. Over the course of training, the Gopher Battalion ran over 4000 miles. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Army decided to host this year's Bataan Memorial Death March as a virtual event. This is the first time in its history the Bataan Memorial Death March was done virtually. Gopher Cadets competed with other branches and schools at the Gateway State Trail in Stillwater MN, and every Cadet placed within the top 50 nationally. The Golden Gopher Battalion is ready to compete for next year's Bataan Memorial Death March. Gopher Strong!



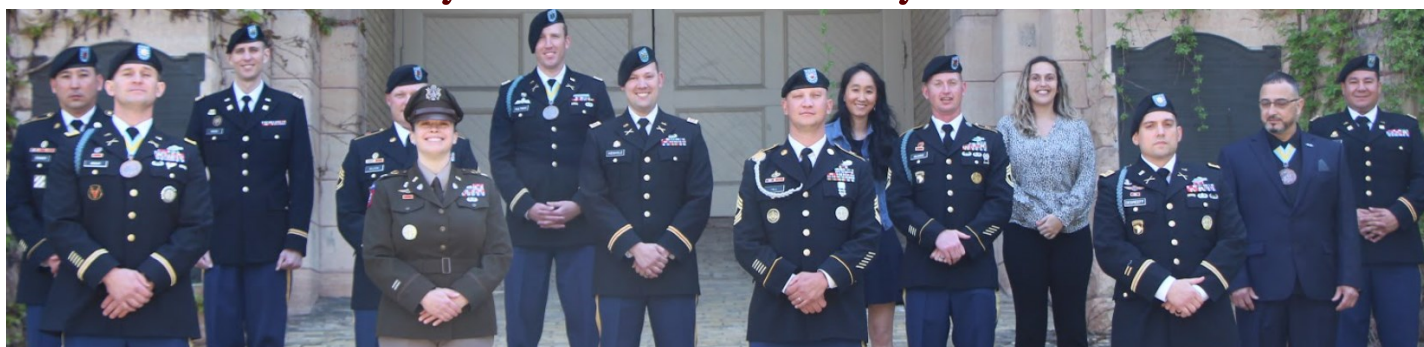
CDT Birkholz placed 2nd overall in the event & CDT Schmidt led the ROTC Female Division

U.S. Army Newest Second Lieutenants - Class of 2021

We would like to recognize the new Lieutenants of the 170th commissioning class by Name, Degree, and Branch:

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Nicholas A. Ambroz | <i>Economics</i> | <i>Military Intelligence</i> | 13. Kieran L. Mueller | <i>Business</i> | <i>Infantry</i> |
| 2. Matthew T. Bertke | <i>Finance</i> | <i>Finance Corps</i> | 14. Timothy N. Pease | <i>Finance</i> | <i>Medical Service Corps</i> |
| 3. Dakota T. Birkholz | <i>Bioproducts/systems Engineering</i> | <i>Quartermaster</i> | 15. Sabel O. M. Peterson | <i>Marketing</i> | <i>Quartermaster</i> |
| 4. David M. Bornstein | <i>Psychology</i> | <i>Medical Service Corps</i> | 16. Alyssa L. Rathke | <i>Political Science</i> | <i>Military Intelligence</i> |
| 5. Conor M. Burns | <i>Kinesiology</i> | <i>Quartermaster</i> | 17. Noah A. Rivera | <i>Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics</i> | <i>Quartermaster</i> |
| 6. Sean P. Conway | <i>Finance</i> | <i>Finance Corps</i> | 18. Kaleb J. Ruhl | <i>Communications</i> | <i>Adjutant General</i> |
| 7. Paul J. Hockert | <i>Criminal Justice</i> | <i>Infantry</i> | 19. Jesse A. Sattler | <i>Marketing</i> | <i>Infantry</i> |
| 8. Joshua M. Kim | <i>Biology Computational Biochemistry</i> | <i>Infantry (MI)</i> | 20. Saren L. Taing | <i>Quantitative Economics</i> | <i>Military Intelligence</i> |
| 9. Taylor S. Lyons | <i>Mortuary Science</i> | <i>Field Artillery (EN)</i> | 21. Ryan T. Teske | <i>Finance</i> | <i>Field Artillery (MI)</i> |
| 10. Dylan M. Martinez | <i>Recreation Admin</i> | <i>Armor</i> | 22. Cameron J. Tomczyk | <i>Applied Mathematics Actuarial Specialization</i> | <i>Infantry (FI)</i> |
| 11. Logan A. Meurer | <i>Political Science</i> | <i>Field Artillery (SC)</i> | 23. Tyler R. Wood | <i>Health Promotion</i> | <i>Infantry (MI)</i> |
| 12. Christopher C. Mitzel | <i>Political Science</i> | <i>Military Intelligence</i> | | | |

2020-2021 University of Minnesota Army ROTC Cadre



Northern Warfare Challenge

By CDT William Hawley



Cadets Erickson, Shreve, Puntillo, Olson (I), and Olson (A) (From left to right)

La Crosse, WI - On 20 February, Cadets from Gopher Battalion competed in the 2021 Northern Warfare Challenge hosted by University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse's Eagle Battalion. Headed by CDT Shreve, the 5 person team took on the 16.27 mile ruck march which tested their physical and mental toughness. Cadets also demonstrated their wide array of cold weather capabilities, being tested on cold weather operations as well as competing in several skill lanes from fire-building to cold weather casualty evacuation. The Sked drag was arguably the most difficult event for the Cadets, as they dragged a 135lbs sked through narrow switchbacks for over 3 miles. The Cadets crossed the finish line after a grueling 10 hours on the course, with the best performances from Gopher Battalion in recent years. Northern Warfare Challenge poses a significant range of difficulty. Boasting the title of the hardest race in ROTC, it truly tests the physical preparedness and mental toughness of all participants. Cadets must truly dig deep and display intestinal fortitude necessary in order to surmount the steep bluffs and deep snow. These Gophers completed a truly admirable feat in conquering the Northern Warfare Challenge course, and have set themselves apart from the rest of the Battalion.

Gopher Volunteer Team

By CDT Susan Esbe

Minneapolis, MN - The Volunteer Team has had a very busy semester, despite the many obstacles we faced when it came to finding COVID friendly events. We got the ball rolling with eCYBERMISSION, a virtual STEM event through the Army Educational Outreach Program. These Cadets served as virtual judges, grading project folders created by 6th-9th grade students. It was a great opportunity to help a program that challenges real students to think about real world problems in the realm of STEM. Another great opportunity that our volunteer team helped with was the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon that our very own Cadets ran in! Volunteers were either biking along the runners to ensure their safety or working checkpoints to guarantee that everyone was hydrated and mo-

tivated. These Cadets got the best of both worlds by cheering on their fellow Gophers and helping the event run smoothly. We also had a large turnout of volunteers to help out with Joint Service Review set up and tear down. These Cadets came motivated early in the morning to ensure the event was set up properly and stayed afterwards to help clean up. Finally, our team participated in two fundraising events that raised funds for our Battalion to use in the future! These events included the Chipotle fundraiser and assisting in the RecWell's Dome tear down. Thank you to everyone who came out to these events and helped support the Gopher Battalion and the local community!



Volunteers ready to assist the Gopher BN Bataan Team in their virtual event



Gopher BN Color Guard during the 2021 Spring Commissioning Ceremony

Physical Fitness & Joint Military Athletics Competition

Minneapolis, MN - This last semester, Gopher Battalion still got after our physical fitness even in a COVID environment. Having to adapt to COVID mitigations while still trying to get the most out of our time together to improve ourselves physically is certainly a challenge, but challenges like that are what makes leaders great. Our Cadets stepped up to the plate and consistently put in their best effort week after week. Some of the events from this semester alone were the Joint Military Athletics Competition (JMAC), 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 submitted three events each that could be completed on their own and recorded in order to reduce risk of COVID transmission. For the second consecutive year,

Army ROTC took 1st place and looks to keep on dominating! 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 a number of Cadets who were either competing for a position for various training opportunities over the summer. We conducted two ACFT's this semester, testing our battalion on their overall physical ability in accordance with the Army's new Army Combat Fitness Test. These two assessments are only the second and third time that we have done these tests and with each test our Cadets adapt their training in and outside of battalion Physical Training in order to improve their scores.



Cadets Brooks, Lyons, & Afolabi with the JMAC trophy

Joint Service Review

Minneapolis, MN - This semester, Gopher Battalion's Color Guard conducted rigorous Drill and Ceremony training twice a week, culminating in the 62nd annual Joint Service Review and the first Gopher Squad Competition. Despite the challenges presented by COVID and the lack of normal ceremonies to assist with, the Color Guard increased participation, with almost a fourth of the battalion attending during the semester. In order to better prepare Color Guard for future events, practices were held twice per week in the evenings, a shift from past semesters. The

team received instruction on more nuanced subjects including platoon movements, in-ranks inspections, rifle drill, and unique ceremonies. MSIs and MSI-Is took several small leadership positions throughout the semester, setting the color guard up for future success. The biggest event of the year for Color Guard was the Joint Service Review with the other ROTC programs at the University of Minnesota. In addition to normal practices, dress rehearsals were conducted every day in the two weeks leading up to the event. Working with members of the Navy, Air Force, and

Marines, Army Color Guard Cadets used their training to conduct a well-run review for family members watching at home. Color Guard also participated in the first ever squad competition in late April. A test of their leadership skills and knowledge learned over the course of the semester, the squad competition required Cadets to move as a joint color guard, present and post the colors, and answer questions about our chain of command and battalion history. The squads were entirely MSI or MSII led and performed very well. To watch, visit our [Facebook Page](#)



Joint Service Color Guard marches onto the parade field



Cadet Taylor Lyons leads the Gopher Battalion during the 2021 Joint Service Review

KU Buddy Ranger Competition

By 2LT Cameron Tomczyk

Rim Rock, KS - The Golden Gopher Battalion sent 10 Cadets to compete in the annual Ranger Buddy Challenge at Rim Rock Farm in Lawrence, Kansas on April 10, 2021. The Gophers sent 1 Male team, 2 Coed teams, and 2 Female teams, consisting of Cadets Karrick and Vandenberg, Rossow and Theune-Baillargeon, Vanbinsbergen and Bissin, Theis and Rogers, and Rybachek and Erickson. The competition consisted of a 15K ruck march, 12 skill lanes, and a 5K foot race. The ruck march required a 35lbs pack, and the skill lanes consisted of weapons skills, medical skills, radio skills, and more. These events were completed consecutively and for time. The teams

stepped off at 0430, and after a brutal day of competition against 70+ teams from across the Midwest, the results were in. Karrick and Vandenberg took 7th for the males, Rossow and Theune-Baillargeon took 9th for coed, Vanbinsbergen and Bissen took 5th for coed, Rybachek and Erickson took 3rd for the females, and Theis and Rogers took 1st for the females. Theis and Rogers also earned the Gopher Battalion an Air Assault slot with their first place finish. Overall, everyone did a great job competing, pushing themselves to their limits, and representing the Gopher Battalion. I am grateful to have been OIC for this brutal competition. DIG DEEP!



2021 Gopher Battalion Buddy Ranger Teams

Combined Field Training Exercise

By 2LT Kieran Mueller



Cadets Pauly & Olson during the Spring Semester CFTX

Camp Ripley, MN - Gopher Battalion MSIII Cadets conducted a Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) in April, along with Cadets from NDSU, UND, Mankato State, and St. John's University. Cadets received valuable training working together with peers from other schools. The CFTX began with a reception of troops the first day and an improvised explosive class. Cadets made themselves comfortable for the night within a Patrol Base along the wood line. The next day was spent at the M4/M16 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. Cadets conducted the new army weapon qualification and shot as many iterations neces-

sary to qualify with a minimum of 23 out of 40 targets hit. After the range, Cadets tactically road marched back to the assembly area. On the way, platoons were each hit with a notional IED, kicking off their STX lane experience. Back at the Assembly Area (AA), platoons received a mission to move and create a patrol base. Abrupt leadership changes throughout tested the soldiers' dissemination of information and understanding of the overall intent. Soldiers woke early, pulling security within their patrol base during stand-to. A long day packed with STX lanes began. Cadets conducted reconnaissance, ambushes, raids, and movement to contact. Cadets were positive throughout and killed their respective lanes, earning their time to relax and head home the following day.



Cadet Morrow during Basic Rifle Marksmanship at the 2021 Spring Semester CFTX



Golden Gopher Cadets in Action during the 2021 Spring Semester CFTX

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

2021 Awards Recipients

American Legion Military Excellence: **Alexander Wimmer, Kya Rybachek, Paul Hockert**

American Legion Scholastic Excellence: **Anna Decker, Vitaly Brown, Colton Rossow, Alyssa Rathke**

American Legion ROTC Scholarship: **Mariajose Garcia, Paige Yurek**

American Legion Leadership (UMN): **Natalie Miller**

AUSA ROTC Medal : **Matthew McCormick**

Daughters of the American Revolution: **Taylor Lyons**

Department of the Army Superior Cadet: **Alyssa Abke, Jacob Henriksen, Luke Vandenberg, David Bornstein**

Flower and Garden Club of Fort Snelling: **Isabella Erickson**
General George C. Marshall Leadership Award: **David Bornstein**

General Society of the War of 1812: **Rory King**

Military Order of the Purple Heart: **Sergio Almeida**

Military Officers Association of America: **Alexander Olson**

Reserve Officers Association: **Benjamin Shreve, Macalister Karrick, Jesse Sattler**

Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction: **Sarah Bissen**

Sons of the American Revolution: **Shane MacDonald**

National Sojourners Award for Americanism: **Susan Esbe**

Veterans of Foreign Wars: **Olivia Ley**

USAA Spirit Award: **Addison Scufsa**

Armed Forces Communication & Electronic Association Award: **Kellie Schmidt**

The Armory Crest Patch



2LT Joshua Kim worked diligently this year to create the award of the Armory Crest Patch. Seniors are eligible to wear the patch upon graduation of Cadet Summer Training. The emblem has adorned the Armory since 1896, it represents over a century-worth of time-honored traditions and service to our

Country. Dedicated to the honor of those alumni who have been killed in action defending the ideals of this country, the maroon backdrop represent not only the colors of our Alma Mater but also the blood spilled in valor and the honorable price of lives lost so that future generations could carry on the traditions and values inherent in our service. Wearing the patch demonstrates one's commitment to these traditions, devotion to leadership as a senior member of the Gopher Battalion, and anticipation of swearing the oath upon commissioning to the U.S. Constitution.



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 2021 Fall semester.

2021 Scholarship Recipients

2021 National Scholarship Winners:

University of Minnesota: **Joshua Johnson, Andrew Carlson, Alexa Dunlap, Charles Frattalone, Mason Knooi-huizen, and Ryan Porter**

Bethel University: **Cort Doyle**

Spring 2021 Campus Based Scholarship Winners:

University of Minnesota: **Justin Broughman, Emma Voigt, Micah Poor, Lucas Kiesow, Shane MacDonald, and Drew Broas.**

University of Northwestern: **Travaris Ricks**

Gopher Alumni Corner

By LTC Melissa Hoaglin

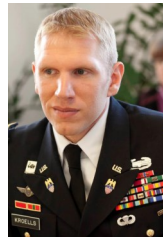


Photo from 2014 Army Times

On April 24, 2021 the Gopher Battalion Cadets had a guest speaker come to discuss leadership, expectations of Lieutenants, and operations in Europe. LTC Ryan R. Kroells, Class of 2004, currently serving as the Military Assistant to the NATO Deputy Chairman in Brussels, Belgium took time out of his schedule while returning to Washington D.C. and stopped by to visit with the Corps of Cadets. LTC Kroells give the students a first-hand perspective of being assigned to a joint and coalition headquarters, providing them critical insight on just how important their leadership, communication, and teambuilding skills can be when executing at the national and strategic level. A little reminiscing about his time in the Armory and lots of questions by the students on everything from foreign policy, strategic partnerships, and basic expectations as a future battalion commander. The next generation of Gophers greatly appreciated his visit! LTC Kroells was selected by the CSL board to take command of 1st Battalion 63rd Armor Regiment in Ft. Riley, Kansas in 2022.



General George C. Marshall Leadership Award

By Ms. 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 nominates 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. In order to mitigate risk to our force this year, U.S. Army Cadet Command (USACC) conducted this capstone leadership development event virtually on 11 February 2021. For school year 2020-2021, University of Minnesota Cadre selected CDT David M. Bornstein as the GCM recipient. Selection was based on leadership potential as measured by Cadet Battalion responsibilities and contributions to the program, Operation Agile Leader performance, extra-curricular participation, academic accomplishments, and physical capabilities. CDT Bornstein is a Green-to-Gold Active Duty Option Cadet majoring in Psychology at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He joined the U of MN AROTC program in 2019 as an E-7, 11B (Infantryman) with over 10 years of Active Federal Service. His military experience has made him a tremendous asset to the program through his ability to mentor the younger Cadets. In his two years as a Gopher Battalion

Cadet, he has served in several leadership positions, including Executive Officer and has led the battalion at the Ranger Challenge competition. He completed Operation Agile Leader during summer 2020 and received the #1 Overall Cadet and the #1 Marksman awards among 160 rising MSL IV Cadets in the Task Force. As further evidence of his capabilities, during the 2020 Joint Service Review, CDT Bornstein was also the recipient of the Sons of the American Revolution award for demonstrated leadership qualities, military bearing, and Officer potential. Congratulations to CDT Bornstein 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. CDT Bornstein’s scholastic achievements and excellence in military science make him a deserving Cadet and highlight the type of future Army Officer that the Gopher Battalion is proud to produce. CDT Bornstein will commission in May 2021 as a Distinguished Military Graduate and onto Active Duty as a Medical Service Officer.

Order of Saint Maurice Recipients

By MAJ Jonathan DeGreeff



served the Infantry with distinction; must have demonstrated a significant contribution in support of the Infantry; and must represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and dedication to duty. The same medalion is used for each level, with an attachment that identifies the level.

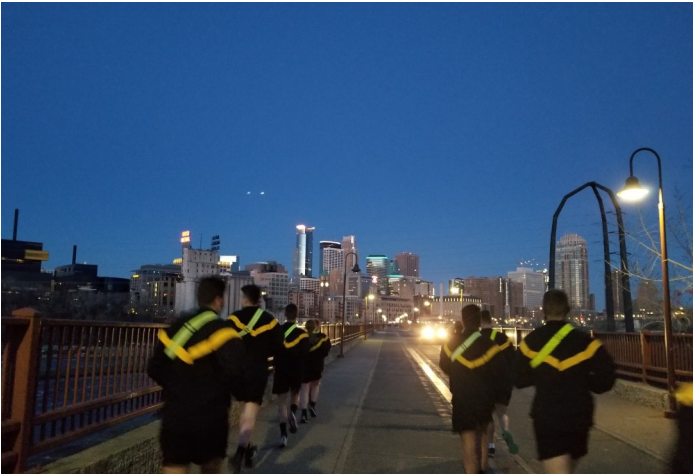
Legionnaire - Outstanding or conspicuous contribution to the Infantry. Infantrymen and Soldiers of other branches and other United States Armed Services are eligible for this level. Active and Reserve Component Infantrymen who are nominees must be members of the National Infantry Association. **SFC Travis Baldrige**

The Order of Saint Maurice was awarded to Major Lukas Wright and SFC Travis Baldrige by the National Infantry Association and the Chief of Infantry. This is to recognize the significant contributions made by these two Infantrymen. The Order of Saint Maurice has six levels. A nominee for the Order of Saint Maurice must have

Centurion - Middle Level, Brigade & Battalion Officer and Non-Commissioned Leadership and Special Nominees for an outstanding contribution to the Infantry. Must be or have been Infantry Branch. Active and Reserve Components nominees must be members of the National Infantry Association. **Major Lukas Wright**



Sights from Spring 2021



Cadets running over the Stone Arch Bridge during morning Physical Training



Cadet Rossow low crawling with his squad during Mega Lead Lab



Cadet Pauly pulling security at an apex at Camp Ripley, MN



Cadets Decker & Bissen having fun during the Winter Survival Lead Lab



Army & Air Force ROTC Cadets during the Annual Joint Service Review



Cadet Ambroz mentoring Cadet Hawley during Basic Rifle Marksmanship

2021 Fall Semester Events

Cadet Welcome Week	30 Aug 21	Army Ten-Miler (Virtual)	16 Oct 21	Cadet of the Month (Nov)	17 Nov 21
Classes Begin	7 Sep 21	Mega Lead Lab 1	23 Oct 21	Norwegian Footmarch	20 Nov 21
Patching Ceremony	9 Sep 21	Cadet of the Month (Oct)	27 Oct 21	Dining Out	10 Dec 21
Fall FTX/Welcome Back BBQ	17-19 Sep 21	Brigade Ranger Challenge	5-7 Nov 21	Cadet of the Semester	15 Dec 21
UMN Homecoming	20-25 Sep 21	Mega Lead Lab 2	6 Nov 21	Commissioning Ceremony	22 Dec 21
Task Force Ranger Challenge	15-17 Oct 21	Veterans Day	11 Nov 21		

Virtual Leader Development Lunches 28 Sep 21, 13 Oct 21, and 9 Nov 21—All are welcome and encouraged! Please join us for some great leadership discussions: Meeting ID: 957 3222 1022, Passcode: 3nDZQh

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the events or for more details please contact arotc@umn.edu.



AUSA—Voice of the Army

Consider joining the Golden Gopher Sub-chapter of AUSA. Since 1957, the Association of the United States 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 years complimentary AUSA membership.

Visit the MN Vessey Chapter’s website at <https://vesseychapter.org/> or call Mr. DeJesus at (612) 625-3062 to learn more.

If you are interested in making a donation please contact (612) 624-3080 or send to Attn: Campus Life Program Cadet Fund, 15 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

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

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.



Golden Gopher Battalion



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**This issue was compiled by:
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