



SHARP/MEO Run By: Cadet Alex Crary

Minneapolis, MN—In the fiscal year of 2020, there were 7,816 sexual assaults reported across the Department of Defense. The United States Army Cadet Command set a goal for all Senior ROTC programs to combine to match or exceed that number through walking or running the same number or more miles. During the month of September, we are excited to report that the Gopher Battalion Cadets alone exceeded that goal; we ran or walked a total of 7,944.11 miles combined! In addition to that, on September 27th, the Gopher Battalion received a briefing from LTC Hoaglin and the Advocates, Cadets Crary and Riepe, on the Sexual Harassment

Assault Response Program (SHARP) and how it affects the military as a whole before running 3 miles together. As a whole, we contributed 29% of all miles of 3rd Brigade, altogether dedicating 27,796.97 miles to this important cause. Our work does not stop here. Sexual harassment and assault still remains a large issue in our military. As leaders, we have the ability to set the tones of the units that we are in charge of. Learning about these issues, how to confront, address, and then prevent them at this point in our Army careers will be vital for our development. With this in mind, the Advocates work hard to raise awareness, teach, and mentor fellow Cadets

in order to support the Army's SHARP and Military Equal Opportunity goals. Looking ahead into next semester, the Advocates are planning a dedicated leadership lab that will include hands-on training to further Cadets education on these subjects.



Golden Gopher



Battalion

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Fall Commissioning By: Cadet Danielle Camperchioli

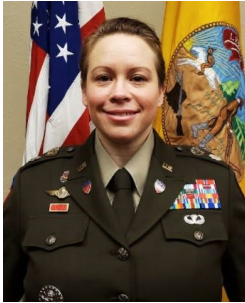


It marked the end of his college education, his pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree, and the beginning of an Army career for former Cadet Godwin Afolabi. 2LT Afolabi began his

military career in 2016, enlisting into the Army Reserve and served with the 452nd Combat Support Hospital. This was an important period for 2LT Afolabi in his military career as he transitions from Cadet to Lieutenant, by commissioning into the Army Reserve. This moment pointed him in a new direction as an Army officer. He successfully completed all necessary training in an excellent manner. 2LT Afolabi will be attending the Signal Officer Basic

Course at Fort Gordon, GA. This special commissioning ceremony was attended by family, friends, fellow Cadets, and Cadre. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Mathematics from Saint Thomas University. We wish this newly commissioned Lieutenant the best of luck in his career as an Army officer. On behalf of the Golden Gopher Battalion, we congratulate 2LT Godwin Afolabi on a job well done!

Professor of Military Science By: Lieutenant Colonel Melissa Hoaglin



Throughout one's time within the military, and for this audience specifically, during time within the Gopher Battalion, we strive to develop ourselves and others as not just future Soldiers but leaders of Soldiers.

Upon entry into any Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, Cadets declare their commitment to becoming practitioners of leadership and willingness to sacrifice for a greater moral and ethical calling. Adjusting personal goals and aligning with the higher standard of values required within military service can be a daunting task.

For this, I salute the efforts and all that our Cadets and alumni have accomplished over the past semester. This commitment is not for the faint of heart and is not an easy feat. Amongst the potential temptations and experiences that abound on a Big 10 campus, your efforts to take the high road, remain impartial, and demonstrate professional behaviors is greatly appreciated and respected. The opportunities that ROTC can provide through completion and the swearing of one's commissioning oath are limitless, additionally the quality of character you demonstrate and the quantifiable impact your actions have on those who experience your leadership is priceless.

From our Nations inception, it has been understood and upheld, that our Officers will act with honor and fidelity. Doing so allows them to execute the duties of their office and successfully care for the Soldiers under their charge. Article Six of the Constitution

of the United States mandates that all commissioned officers take the oath of office before being granted the authority and inherent obligation required of our military leaders. Our recognition of this obligation, to not just be appointed, but to be a practitioner of leadership, is an important distinction, and can define how you navigate your career as an Army Officer.

As leaders adapting over time and improving themselves, we within the Gopher Battalion remain vigilant to developing the best professional leaders for our Armed Services and have spent over 400 hours this semester towards this end.

The Cadets and Cadre have refined our influencing techniques, understanding the purpose behind our actions, identifying the direction and tasks to be accomplished, and experimenting with multiple motivational methods to improve the Battalion and ourselves.

I recently read a short article on inc.com which sums up some of the areas we focused on this semester to improve one's leadership. The article focused on many of the same concepts identified within the Army's doctrinal publication series 6-22, which focuses on leadership. For the Army, identifying purpose, direction, motivation, and improvements to accomplish the mission is the essence of leadership. As leaders, it is our responsibility to do this in the most effective and efficient manner so that when we are placed in demanding, stressful, complicated and dynamic situations, we do what we have prepared for, we lead.

One of the article's points which I enjoyed was the concept of unmasking

"7 Absolutely Certain Ways to Grow as a Leader" according to Lolly Daskal:

1. **Identify your motivation**
2. **Unmask your flaws.**
3. **Learn from your failures.**
4. **Appreciate Feedback.**
5. **Listen to those with more experience.**
6. **Refuse to settle for mediocrity.**
7. **Invest in yourself.**

Lolly Daskal is the President and CEO of Lead from Within, her full article can be found at <https://www.inc.com/lolly-daskal/7-opportunities-you-have-every-day-to-grow-as-a-leader.html>

your flaws. In reflection, it is not just about the ability to see them or accept them, from my foxhole it is also about the ability to leverage your team to compensate for them. The Army is a team sport, we live and die based on our efforts to work together, adapt, and overcome in order to accomplish the mission. We depend on each other to cover our six; we owe it to our brothers and sisters in arms, to be honest and transparent with all our strengths, weaknesses, and flaws. We owe this transparency to ensure we plan and resource the appropriate coverage to maintain security of all our sixes. Unmasking can make you feel vulnerable; however, good teams mitigate each others vulnerabilities and work together to improve as a whole. Gopher Battalion is not just a good team but a GREAT Team - proud of all the building that was accomplished this semester and the transparent leadership that facilitates mutual growth.

Wishing you all a great winter break, enjoy the time with friends and family, and I look forward continuing our simultaneous development as leaders in the spring semester. Gopher Strong! Dig Deep!

Commandants of Cadets

By: Master Sergeant Andrew Hale



Finishing up my first semester as the Commandant of Cadets I've learned a few things. First, the Cadets of this Battalion are some of the hardest working, most dedicated

people I have worked with over the last eighteen years. The men and women of the Gopher Battalion continually perform at a high level and display their innate ability to push themselves to be better. Everything from physical training to leadership in practice has grown leaps and bounds from the beginning of the year.

For most of our Military Science Level I class, Fall FTX was their first experience doing Army things, and for a lot of them, the first time they had ever slept outside. I was thoroughly impressed with their ability to embrace the cold/wet conditions while maintaining a positive attitude. After much training for three days, requiring them to be on their feet in full gear, we asked them to complete a six mile road march back to the barracks. The conditions were not ideal, and many blisters were formed, but they persevered and were able to toughen their minds and bodies.

The Military Science Level II class was no rookie to the conditions, but had the additional burden to motivate their younger classmates, and show them some tricks of the trade to thrive in the field training environment. Our MS II population, which is often the middle child in the organization, has stepped up their game and showed an eagerness to perform at a higher level. We look forward to their continued development as future leaders in the United States Army.

Military Science Level III Cadets are where the focus lies in the program as they are less than one year away from

their Cadet Summer Training (CST), which consists of a nationwide competition for their Order of Merit List, ultimately giving them a chance to compete for their preferred branch. Not only are they preparing for CST, they have a heavy school workload. I have been impressed with their managerial skills in balancing ROTC requirements, and school requirements. Our Juniors are our primary leaders within the Battalion, responsible for the ins and outs of the Cadet life. They are the first line leaders within their respective Platoons, and carry the burden of mentor for the younger Cadets. They serve in the role of Team Leader, Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant. These roles are crucial to the overall cohesiveness of the Corps of Cadets and without them, the Battalion would not be able to train at a high level. I am eager to see how they perform in the Spring semester and Cadet Summer Training.

Our seniors and Military Science Level IV Cadets are the heart of the Battalion. From the Cadet Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major, down to the OIC (Officer in Charge) of the specialized events, our MS IV's have done an exceptional job preparing and executing high level training events. They have proven to be dedicated to this battalion and to the Cadets they serve. From long evening planning sessions during their study time, to late night and weekend training, our Seniors have given their all to the Battalion and the underclassmen have reaped the benefits. Those who were in previous Battalion level leadership positions will enjoy a great break through the holidays while preparing the next leaders for their tenure in the most strenuous positions. I am proud of what they have done and look forward to Spring as we kick it up a notch.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the Cadet of the Semester. These individuals dedicated themselves to not only the University of Minnesota Army ROTC Program, but to their future in the

Army. Many hours went into their studies and coming to our boards, and they deserve the right to be recognized as the best of their Military Science level:

MS I: CDT Margaret Fliszar

MS II: CDT Benjamin VanBinsbergen

MS III: CDT Jacob Henricksen

It is an honor to be the Commandant of Cadets to such an amazing group of young leaders, and I thoroughly enjoy my interactions with the future of our Army. Enjoy the holiday break and always stay Gopher Strong!

Cadet Leadership Insight Call-Out

By: Major Derek Zeman

During this semester, the MSIV class was tasked with reading *Leaders Eat Last* by Simon Sinek and synthesizing the book's content. For their midterm, they were required to compare similarities or differences from within this book against the Army Leadership Requirements Model (ALRM). In her paper, Cadet Esbe identified integrity as the most important attribute of an Army officer. She argued that, "integrity is critical to trust and trust is the bedrock for the military profession." Additionally, she provided insight on why integrity can be difficult in practice. "It is easy for me to be honest when I do something correct, but when I make a mistake or misstep, it is a lot harder to come clean about it." Cadet Esbe continues to challenge herself not only as a future leader, but as an individual. "Something I learned from this book is that respect and trust you earn from coming forward and owning a mistake far outweighs the consequence of the mistake itself."

Battalion Commander

By: Cadet Kellie Schmidt



Gopher Battalion Army ROTC is rounding out the home stretch of an action packed semester. Just in the first month, we successfully completed the ACFT, Fall FTX, Combat Water Survival Training, and the OPAT! We definitely hit the ground running. At MLL MS1s and MS2s had fun being unleashed on the building learning to clear rooms, while MS3s were being taught classes in order to prepare them for camp leadership positions. One of the biggest highlights was the traditional Halloween PT dodgeball tournament. Squads, classes, and even Cadets vs. Cadre went head to head in intense dodge battles. In November MSIVs anxiously awaited active duty branching results which were released on the first of December. We started December off strong,

On the first day of the month, the Battalion conducted a gear layout and cleaning lab where we ran into a bit of a surprise. The gym was infiltrated by the University of Minnesota Cheer Squad. CSR Rossow made first contact with the enemy, and soon called in additional support. In the end, we reached compromise, with us providing competition like distractions for the cheer squad, and them providing us motivation to persevere through the strenuous task of deep cleaning the locker rooms. A true win win. With the changing of command at the end of the semesters comes an exciting new opportunity for growth and change within the Battalion. It is time to pass the Guidon and welcome the Spring semester leadership. It was an honor to serve as the Cadet Battalion Commander, and to work with such a spectacular staff. We work hard to develop training that will have a positive, lasting impact on the Battalion. This semester, we have all been pushed beyond our comfort zones,

which proves to be the best source of growth. MS1s were introduced to ROTC and college life all at once, which is a huge undertaking. MS2s were able to serve as mentors for those MS1s while observing and getting ready for leadership responsibilities. MS3s really got to put those leadership responsibilities to the test, through Team Leader, Squad Leader, and Platoon Sergeant responsibilities both in garrison, and during field training exercises. MS3s are one semester closer to tackling Advanced Camp, while MSIVs are just one semester away from commissioning and going forth and beginning their careers as leaders in the Army. With the end of each semester comes an opportunity to reflect on just how far we have come, and envision the possibilities of how much further we can go. Our expanded comfort zones push us to become stronger and better leaders, which is what we are all a part of this Battalion to do. Keep pushing yourselves and doing great things. Gopher Strong!



Cadet Command Sergeant Major

By: Cadet Colton Rossow



Becoming Cadet Sergeant Major (c/CSM) for the Fall 2021 semester has been the most humbling and rewarding learning experiences of my ROTC career. I was able to see the future that the Gopher Battalion has to offer and I can not be more proud of everyone's accomplishments. We have grown tremendously as a Battalion over the course of the last 5 months. It was inspiring to see how many Cadets have shown true leadership and stepped up in ways I could not have foreseen as possible.

NCO Lab, 3 Cadets of the Month Boards, One Cadet of the Semester board, Volunteer events, Dome set up, Color Guard at all Gopher Football games and the list continues to go on. Our Ranger Challenge team as well as our Army Ten Millers competed hard and showed the true strength of the Gopher Battalion in tough competitions. While you all were competing in all these events and training your first priority has been school. Our Battalion has excelled not only in specialty events but in the classroom.

ter themselves and their peers. We are a Battalion that cares about their battle buddies on their left and their right who never give up in the face of adversity. Your Battalion has leaders that take charge and do what's best for their fellow Cadets. Continue to serve them well and always put their best interest at the front of your priorities.

Our crazy busy fall schedule was challenging and time consuming but we were able to accomplish Fall FTX, 3MLL, 1

As we continue to move forward I would like to leave a little bit of advice for the next CSM Cadet Theis. This Battalion is made up of strong intelligent individuals that no matter the situations they are dealing with at home or in school will rise to the challenge. Gopher Battalion is made up of the best of the best who continue to strive to gain knowledge to bet-

Staff and Command team, I could not have asked for a better group of MS4's to work with for the Fall 2021 semester. All of you put in 110% and I am grateful for you. Whenever I asked you for anything you made it a priority to see it through. Thank you so much for allowing me to have the honor of being c/CSM. I can't wait to see what the Spring 2022 Staff and command team do to continue to lead the Gopher Battalion.

Respectfully, c/CSM/CSR Rossow

Ranger Challenge By: Cadet Macallister Karrick

Camp Ripley, MN—Ranger Challenge is a soldiering skills competition that happens in the fall semester of every year and it tests Cadets' ability to work on a team to overcome obstacles, complete events, and persevere through extremely strenuous physical challenges. Each year, the best Cadets from each Battalion around the US head to a weekend long competition where they are tested on skills such as knot tying, marksmanship, tactical combat casualty care, call for fire, written knowledge exam, hand grenade assault course, obstacle course, weapons familiarization, a mystery event, a physical fitness challenge and a 10k ruck march. Cadets compete in 9-man and 5-man teams that are pitted against other teams within our taskforce. This year, Gopher Battalion had so much participation and depth of skill that we were able to send two teams for each category (9-man and 5-man), something no other Battalion in

our taskforce has been able to do. This is solely attributed to the quality of Cadets that join and are developed within the Gopher Battalion and showcases their drive to be the best they can be. To be competitive at this competition, Cadets start preparing over the summer with workouts and ruck marches, getting in shape to not only complete these lanes but excel at them. Once the semester begins they do additional physical training, coming in on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for workouts, something other Cadets do not do. In addition to coming to PT every morning of the week, Cadets also take their Wednesday evenings to head over to Arden Hills Army Training Site to conduct weapons familiarization where they clear, disassemble, assemble and function check various weapons systems including a crew-served machine gun. All of this training culminates at the Ranger Challenge competition, which



takes place at Camp Ripley, where Cadets endure a full day of rucking, skill lanes, physical challenges and a 10k race with a full packing list to see who will advance onward to the Brigade Ranger Challenge. These Cadets work very hard and consistently rank amongst the top of their respective classes, earning a respected reputation for the specialty team amongst the Gopher Battalion.

Army Ten Miler By: Cadet Addison Scufsa



Georgetown University, D.C.—This fall, Gopher Battalion participated in the 37th annual Army Ten Miler with Georgetown Army ROTC in Washington, DC. Despite the official race going virtual again this

year, our program created a new connection across the country and coordinated a race for over 40 people along the Potomac River. The Cadets and Cadre from Georgetown generously planned and staffed the race route with only three weeks' notice, marking a return to in-person racing for our running teams. Our team began training back in April and included 16 runners total. With a tough training schedule and limited time back in school to prepare, our Cadets put in extra hours that led to another solid finish for both teams of eight. Congratulations to our top male and female finishers Isaiah Wildenberg and Makenna Larson, both coming in under 75 minutes. CDT Makenna Larson placed 5th in her age bracket and the team placed 8th in the ROTC Division. In addition to the race itself, our team was able to take a tour of the new National Army Museum at Fort Belvoir. The tour was an informative and

emotional experience as we spent over two hours exploring exhibits covering topics all the way back to the Army's founding in 1775. Other experiences included a tour of the National Mall, team dinners, and our traditional two mile warmup run through Arlington. As we look towards the future, the team is now training for the return of the official race in Washington next October. A big thank you to the families, friends, and alumni who generously donated over \$2000 dollars to make this trip possible.



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



Camp Ripley, MN—This September Gopher Battalion completed their Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Ripley. During these 4 days Cadets were challenged mentally and physically in ways that will prepare them both for Ad-

vanced Camp at Fort Knox and their future career in the Army. Cadets proved themselves in Land Navigation, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, the Obstacle Course, Medical Training, a 6 Mile Ruck March, and Field Leadership Reaction Course.

Land Navigation

Land Navigation contained four separate parts. During the first night, the MSII&IIs participated in a class going over the basics of land navigation including helpful tips from experienced MSIVs. At the same time the MSIIIs demonstrated their knowledge by taking a written test on

land navigation. On the second day, the Cadets showed that not only can they find points on paper, but also take those skills and bring them to the real world by walking through the woods of Camp Ripley and finding points during the daytime and then later at night.



Obstacle Course

The Obstacle Course tested the Cadets by their physical abilities and their confidence in themselves. While at this event, MSII&IIs moved between obstacles in their squads with an MSIV guiding them along. Some of the obstacles were necessary to work as a team to overcome while others were individual, but sometimes it was



needed to encourage teammates to motivate them to overcome the obstacles. Some of the key skills needed to negotiate the obstacle are being able to climb a rope, balance, and upper body strength.

Basic Rifle Marksmanship

Basic Rifle Marksmanship tested the MSIIIs on their ability to operate a M4 rifle given the Army's new qualification system. There are 6 tables that must be completed

in the process including drills, the engagement skills trainer, zeroing the iron sights, and the actual qualification system.



Field Leader Reaction Course



The Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC) gave 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 a number of boards from one space to another with only being able to be in a couple of spots. These challenges make the



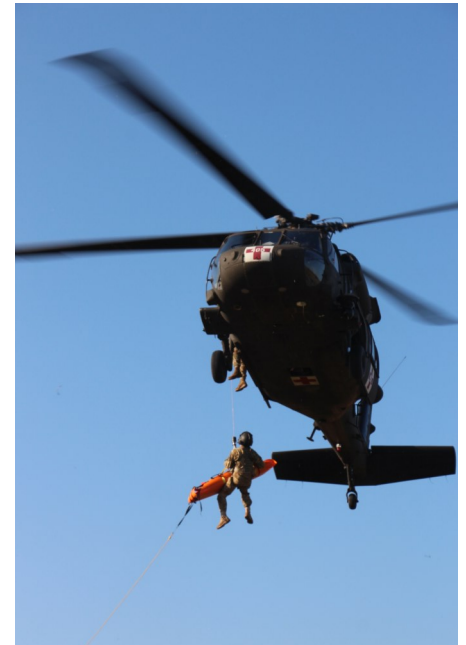
leader both think quickly and listen to those around them since everybody has a different idea.

Aviation Training

By: Cadet William Hawley

Camp Ripley, MN—During Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) this semester, Gopher Battalion Cadets had the opportunity to train medical evacuation operations with actual Blackhawk helicopters. Aviators from the 34th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) lead Cadets through a series of training, culminating in a ride around Camp Ripley. Training began with a cold load portion. Cadets learned the basics of how to load a casualty on and off of a Blackhawk with the rotors off. With practice complete, Cadets had the opportunity to load

and unload a simulated casualty while the Blackhawk rotors were spinning. Cadets then learned the basics of hoist operations. Training culminated with a ride around Camp Ripley with the Blackhawk doors open. For many Cadets, this was their first time in a rotor wing aircraft, and was a highlight of our Fall FTX. Thank you to Major Wright for working with the Minnesota National Guard to plan this training, and thank you to the Soldiers of the 34th ECAB for providing an excellent opportunity for the Gopher Battalion!



Kneeling in the treeline, we watched the Blackhawks land in formation. Rotorwash kicked up grass debris and the rotors were loud as we approached the aircraft—hand signals were solely used. The bird lifted us up into the air and our adrenaline was pumping as the pilots changed our altitude and airspeed frequently. As we flew over all of the training sites that we've previously been challenged and developed on, it provided us an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and how lucky we are to serve in the world's best military.

-CDT VandenBergh, MSIV

AUSA Toys 4 Military Kids

By: Cadet Garrett Lyons

Minneapolis, MN—General John W. Vessey Jr. Chapter celebrates and presents the 20th Anniversary for the Toys 4 Military Kids. The Vessey Chapter and generous donors, in partnership with the University of Minnesota ROTC Program, are continuing this tradition for the 2021 holidays in a different and exciting way! The vision of this event is to ensure that military members are respected for their service, and recognized during the holidays for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on our behalf.

In 2002, Toys 4 Military Kids was created to help our deployed reservists at Christmas with gifts from Santa. The toys that are distributed are given to military units and families based on their needs. In 2005, Toys 4 Military Kids became an ongoing program operated out of the Vessey Chapter of AUSA. After many successful years of toy distribution, in 2014, Toys 4 Military Kids officially partnered with Eagan Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program. The program gives toys in 5 states, 4 surrounding Minnesota and AZ. The commitment to ensuring a joyous Christmas for military children was met by funds and toys donated all year

long. These donations were distributed at unit Holiday Parties and to Families in need over the Holidays.

With the recent Covid-19 pandemic, it has proven difficult to continue the Toys 4 Military Kids vision. However, through the efforts and dedication of our members, a fantastic new opportunity for toy distribution has been made. This year, the Vessey Chapter will host a "shopping" event on December 11th in addition to an Army vs. Navy football game watch party. The Vessey Chapter has partnered with local BTYR Networks to host football food, and parents from the Toy Shopping are invited to visit. Toy Shopping and the Army vs Navy Football Game Watch Party will be held from 11AM - 4PM on Satur-

day, The UMN ROTC Cadets have kindly volunteered to assist in this endeavor by providing special requests for toy deliveries, as well as setting up for the football game.

Parents and guardians were given the choice to select from three options for the toy shopping. The first option was a \$100 gift card to be used for holiday needs. The second option was an in-person "shopping" event for free toys. This includes browsing tables of toys sorted by age for convenience. The third option was to participate in the "shopping" event at a later date, as well as utilize our ROTC Cadet volunteers to deliver the toys.



Cadet Rory King playing Santa Claus during the Toys4MilKids'Event



Cadets from the Golden Gopher Battalion planned, set-up and worked the AUSA Toys for Military Kids Annual Event held at the ROTC Armory



Cadet McCormick manning the Minnesota Army National Guard Inflatable Obstacle Course at during the Toys for Military Kids' Event

Cadets on Orders

By: Cadet Grace Gilbert

Minneapolis, MN—Hey Gopher Battalion, this is Cadet Grace Gilbert! Over the past month, I have been on federal orders with the National Guard on a mission that attempts to reduce the overflow and understaffing that hospitals and other care centers are experiencing throughout the state. After receiving different levels of medical training, we were sent into several different facilities, where we witnessed first hand the status of these locations. In the first several weeks of the mission, our efforts were used as a team for a Transitional Care Unit. Our goal with this was to help people transition out of the hospital and into the TCU to open up beds in the hospital for COVID patients. We were needed in the locations that we have been sent to because those facilities are

experiencing extreme understaffing. It was very eye opening to see how these care centers are able to operate under the conditions of having very short staff, supply shortages and high rates of burn-out within their employees. At the first facility I was sent to, most staff worked sixteen-hour shifts up to four or five days a week. The staff was eternally grateful when they received word that the Minnesota National Guard was going to be sending in a relief force. My team received very warm welcomes at all three facilities we have worked in. After settling in at our third location, my team was selected to undergo more extensive training and become official Certified Nursing Assistants in the state. After completing our CNA training, I will be a part of a traveling task force that moves

throughout Minnesota to different facilities that are encountering the same instances of undermanned obstacles in the midst of a spike in the pandemic. I have been very grateful to have been a part of this mission and I can't wait to share more about my experience.



Alumni Corner

By: Benjamin Weaver

As part of the 2011 graduating class, it had been quite a while since I stepped foot between the walls of the historic Armory. While the faces and flooring



had changed since my last time there, it was a humbling and reminiscent experience. In those classrooms was where I learned and developed the foundations of leadership and what it means to be an Army Officer. The knowledge, wisdom, and experience gained from my time in the Gopher Battalion has led me to a successful career as an EOD Officer.

The experience taught me perseverance and resiliency, aiding me through the rigors and stress of EOD school. It instilled a passion for leading and taking care of Soldiers while serving as an EOD Company Commander. It enabled me to apply critical thinking skills to various complex situations during my tenure as the EOD Officer for 5th SFG (A). After

finding my way to a position in Minnesota, I was fortunate enough to be able to come talk to Cadets about life as an EOD Officer. It has been a wonderful career and life full of unique and rewarding experiences; one made possible by the experiences I had and the people I met as a Cadet in the Gopher Battalion.

2LT Madeline Pantalion commissioned from the University of Minnesota in 2019. She became the first female from Golden Gopher Battalion to branch Active Duty Infantry. On 10 December 2021, she also became the 93rd female to EVER receive a Ranger Tab. She will be assigned to the 4th Brigade 25th Infantry Division in Anchorage, Alaska. We are so proud of her hard work and resilience that she possesses that is inspiring to all. The MSIV and MSIII classes are very lucky that we got to be led by you.

Rangers Lead the Way!



Sights from Fall 2021



Cadets Lyons and Rossow getting ready to grade the CCFA



Cadet Esbe receiving an award from LTC Hoaglin for her academic excellence.



Cadets on the 6 mile ruck at the Fall FTX, Camp Ripley, MN



Golden Gophers 9-man Ranger Challenge Team



Cadets resting up for along day of STX lanes.

Sights from Fall 2021



The Color Guard team performing at a Golden Gopher Football game



Cadet Schmidt handing off the guidon as she retires from c/BC



A push-up contest breaks out before the Golden Gopher Homecoming Parade



Cadet Bissen performing the Leg Tucks event during the ACFT



Cadets Morrow and Karrick on Day 1 of Mega Lead Lab

Sights from Fall 2021



Cadets utilizing their room clearing skills at Mega Lead Lab



Cadets Rossow and Snidarich at the dome set-up detail



MSIV Class after receiving their assigned branches



Cadet MSII leading MSI in Land Navigation



Cadet Gilbert during the O-course at Fall FTX



The female Ten-Miler team after competing with Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Sights from Fall 2021



Cadet Keiling during the Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC)



Cadets Scufsa and VandenBergh racing on the inflatable Obstacle Course during a recruiting event



Cadets Brown and Michelizzi racing to the finish line during a 12-mile ruck march



Cadet Cray, a Cadet Advocate, educates the Corp of Cadets on the available mental health resources during a Lead Lab.



ZLT Afolabi received the traditional first salute from SFC Cramer during the Fall Commissioning Ceremony.

Sights from Fall 2021



Cadets racing up Jacobs Ladder during Ranger Challenge



Cadet Geiger during the 10-meter drop during Combat Water Survival Training



Cadets during a classroom instruction learning Map Reading and Land Navigation



MSIVs after receiving their unit patch for graduating from Advanced Camp, Fort Knox, KY



Cadets Morrow and VandenBergh dressed as Cadet Karrick for Halloween PT

Spring Semester '22 Upcoming Events

MILITARY FOREIGN AWARD BADGE

3rd ANNUAL NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH

umnnorwegianfootmarch.com

DONATIONS TO SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

April 23, 2022

HOSTED BY THE UMN ROTC PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Army ROTC Open House

Please join us 9th February 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 scanning the QR Code
Contact us at 612-625-3062 or arotc@umn.edu
for additional questions

SPRING SEMESTER '22 EVENT CALENDAR

New Cadet Orientation	13 January 22
Cadet Leadership Spring Planning Conference (MSIV Only)	12-13 January 22
Teambuilding Lead Lad	19 January 22
Lead Lab 1: CBRN and Call for Fire	26 January 22
Lead Lab 2: TC3	9 February 22
Northern Warfare Challenge	11 –13 February 22
JMAC	12 February 22
Staff Ride (MSIV Only)	17 February 22
Cadet of the Month	23 February 22
Lead Lab 3: PB Ops/ OPORDs/Land Nav	23 February 22
Gopher Battalion Dining-Out/Formal Event	4 March 22
6 Mile Ruck	18 March 22
Joint Service Review	19 March 22
Bataan Memorial Death March/Marathon	20 March 22
Mega Lead Lab	25–26 March 22
GAFPB	25–26 March 22
Lead Lab 4: CFTX ROC Prep & Admin	30 March 22
Cadet of the Month	30 March 22
8 Mile Ruck	6 April 22
CFTX	9-12 April 22
KU Buddy Ranger	9-10 April 22
Cadet of the Semester	20 April 22
Norwegian Foot March	23 April 22
Cadet of the Year	27 April 22
Senior Dinner	30 April 22
Spring Commissioning	12 May 22



University of Minnesota Army ROTC Gopher Strong!

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

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Fall 2021 Edition

This issue was compiled by:

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&

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AUSA– Voice of the Army

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