



FALL 2023



Inside this issue:

ZERO WEEK	2
FALL FTX	3
WORDS FROM OUR PMS	4
COMMANDANT OF CADETS	5
CADET BC AND CSM	6
RANGER CHALLENGE	7
CONTRACTED CADETS	8
“DO BETTER” SEMINARS	9
RALPH ARENA RAPPEL	10
PUSH - UP CREW	11
CADETS ON ORDERS	12
TRUDY’S ALUMNI CORNER	13
SIGHTS FROM FALL 2023	14
UPCOMING EVENTS	17

HAWK EXPRESS

Fighting Hawks ROTC Battalion Newsletter

SECOND TO NONE, FLY AS ONE



UND Armory

255 Centennial Dr, Stop 8360
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8360

Phone: 701-777-3498
Fax: 701-777-3496
Email: trudy.soli@UND.edu



By: CDT Anna Tesar

The Fighting Hawks Battalion conducted a new student orientation the week prior to start of classes. MSIV and MSIII Cadets briefed new MSI Cadets on ROTC expectations. Tours conducted by MSIV Cadets showed new MSI Cadets around campus.



A paintball outing boosted Cadet comradery and set the tone for the coming semester. Finally, the Fighting Hawks Army ROTC Cadets improved relations with the university and student body by volunteering to move freshman into their new dorm rooms.





FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (14-16 SEP)

PAGE 3

HAWK EXPRESS

By: CDT Joel Owens

Annually, Fighting Hawks ROTC Battalion Cadets undergo challenges during their Fall FTX at Camp Grafton, testing grit and military skills. Facing a qualification range, many inexperienced cadets learned live weapon handling and maintenance, fostering camaraderie with upperclassmen.



The second challenge of the FTX involved overcoming mental barriers in an obstacle and Land Navigation course, guided by MSIV Cadets. Rappelling, a concern for new cadets, resulted in a 100% success rate, showcasing their grit. The Fall Field Exercise success affirmed the battalion's ability to lead and succeed in challenging scenarios and the coming Cadet Summer Training.





By: Major Jared Budenski



Major Budenski

From the Staff, Cadre, and Cadets of the Fighting Hawks ROTC Battalion, I hope my first newsletter finds you healthy, happy, and safe during this holiday season. I continually ask myself, where has the time gone? As I finish my first six months here at the University of North Dakota, I look forward to becoming more of a part of the UND family.

We could not have transitioned without the support of Colonel Mathre. I want to thank him for his leadership, mentorship, and friendship during my transition to the Fighting Hawk ROTC Battalion.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the current Fighting Hawks on completing their Fall 2024 Semester. This past semester, I have been impressed by all of your accomplishments. I am thankful for the remarkable professionals who assist our ROTC mission and our families and friends who provide us strength to endure.

This past semester has been nothing short of spectacular. I would also like to congratulate the following Second Lieutenants: Jansen, Lundstrom, and Gartner for their respective commissions.

Our Cadets have accomplished a few training events that I would like to highlight: Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Grafton, North Dakota, where Cadets Archilla, Ingstad, Novak, and Tesar received a coin of excellence from the North Dakota Adjutant General, Major General Dohrman. One of our Cadre also received a coin, Sergeant First Class Martin. Congratulations on a job well done. Although we did not win the Task Force Ranger Challenge competition, we are continually building our team and will be back next year to win it all. I appreciate the hard work that you all do with the color guard and push-up team. Inviting our JRTOC partners to participate allows us to coach and mentor our future leaders. One ROTC!!

We also contracted 13 Cadets into our program this semester. As these Cadets aspire to commission as Second Lieutenants, this undertaking illustrates their level of commitment. Congratulations to those who made that commitment.

We have been impressed by the academic successes of our Cadets. From our Cadets excelling in Nursing, Criminal Justice, Engineering, Theater, Aviation, and others, your dedication to academic excellence is a shining testament to your character. You continue to exemplify the quote, "Leaders come from everywhere, but they start here"!!

Our Spring semester will be remarkably busy. I am looking forward to celebrating your accomplishments during our ROTC Ball. We will be fielding teams for both Northern Warfare and Ranger Buddy. #Winningmatters. I look forward to our upcoming staff ride to the World War I museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The opportunity to participate in events like this not only builds esprit-de-corps but also allows Cadets to grow professionally. Our Spring semester will also allow our Military Science III Cadets the ability to develop as they prepare for Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This Spring will also see 14 Cadets commission as Second Lieutenants.

I challenge each one of you to talk about the Army and what the Army has done for you. As our ROTC Program continues to grow, reach out to those who are interested.



By: MSG Zachary Carpenter



Master Sergeant Carpenter

The Fighting Hawks Battalion at the University of North Dakota has had a busy and successful year so far. As the Senior Military Science Instructor (SMSI), I am proud of the progress that the Cadets have made. The senior Cadets recently completed Cadet Summer Training (CST) and have brought back valuable feedback to help prepare the junior Cadets for their own CST next summer.

In the first month of the school year, we conducted a variety of training exercises to get the unit ready for the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Grafton. This included Land Navigation classes to prepare for the Land Navigation course, as well as rappelling certifications for the Air Assault qualified Cadets to train and certify leaders for the upcoming rappelling events.

During the FTX, the Cadets participated in a range of challenging and exciting events, including Engagement Skills Trainer (EST), Rifle Marksmanship (RM) Qualification, Confidence Course (CC), Obstacle Course (OC), Rappelling, and Land

Navigation. Teams were built and new Cadets have now become part of the

team.

Following the FTX, we conducted Individual Movement Techniques (IMT), Formations and Order of Movement (FOOM), and communications labs to set the Cadets up for success in future operations. In addition, we conducted Squad Attack to establish a baseline of Squad Tactics and to set the baseline of how fire and maneuver work.

Rappelling events this fall were held at the Ralph Engelstad arena and the Alerus Center. CDT's Seibel and Kennedy both rappelled into the UND vs. West Point Hockey game and the event was a fan favorite. The only part that didn't go to plan was that CDT Kennedy's ice cleat fell off his boot before descending to the ice. Clearly, he needs to learn tie downs when he becomes an Infantry officer. CDT Dryden Rappelled 94 feet into the Alerus Center to deliver the game coin. After a morning of setup and practice she rappelled into a highly motivated crowd. During these events we didn't just rappel, but we also did color guard. Immediately following the Ralph Rappel Cadets were packed into vehicles and drove to Camp Ripley for Ranger Challenge.

In October, the Ranger Challenge team was fully invested in training for an event at Camp Ripley, where they placed third overall. In addition, we completed basic battle drill tactical labs on offensive operations, including Movement to Contact, Platoon Attack, Raid, and Ambush

Overall, the Fighting Hawks Battalion is producing lethal leaders who are prepared to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies. We are proud of the progress that the Cadets have made and are looking forward to continuing to develop their skills and leadership abilities. That's all I have to report from my fighting position. The Fighting Hawks Battalion continues to win in everything we do.

Enjoy the holiday break and keep your socks dry. Fighting Hawks!



By: CDT Joel Owens & CDT Sean Kennedy



Cadet Owens

Battalion Commander

The Fighting Hawks Battalion at the University of North Dakota has had one of their most successful semesters yet. Each Military Science class has seen outstanding development of all Cadets. Physical readiness is at an all-time high, and Cadets are eager to continue to prepare for this upcoming semester.

For each of our Cadets, one of the main focuses has been tactical leadership. This focus has been taught by Cadet Seniors and Cadre members in a classroom environment and hands-on during the Cadets' military science labs.

Our Cadets have also impacted our community, presenting the game puck to the UND hockey team and the coin toss coin to the UND football team. We have used the time to give back to those who have helped us by volunteering over twelve hundred hours this semester.

Our physical training program set out by our Cadet Sergeant Major has had significant impacts this year. Our battalion average ACFT score rose over twenty points and demonstrates the success of our leadership and each cadet. It is a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Finally, our Ranger Challenge team performed admirably, taking third place in the task force and first in several individual events. The program could not be more proud of them. We look forward to the Northern Warfare team and expect them to perform to the greatest of their abilities.

Overall, the Fighting Hawks Battalion stands ready to continue the development of the future leaders of the United States Army.



Cadet Kennedy

Command Sergeant Major

After an incredibly successful summer of training, The Fighting Hawks migrated back to Grand Forks for another great semester. To kick off the training, the Battalion organized a highly successful zero-week. Incoming MSI Cadets were introduced to drill and ceremony, physical training, and Battalion leadership in addition to becoming familiar with the campus of UND.

The physical training plan has proven to be very successful. Cadets saw an average increase of 22 points from the August ACFT to the December ACFT. Another statistic that provides insight into our growth in physical training is that compared to the ACFT taken at the beginning of the semester, five fewer Cadets puked during our most recent test. These gains are the product of the intense effort of our Cadets every Tuesday-Thursday from 0600-0700 at the Armory, High-Performance Center, and the Hyslop pool.

This next semester UND ROTC will send two 5-man teams to the Northern Warfare Challenge, a competition held in late February in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This competition is a grueling test consisting of an 18-mile ruck along the frigid bluffs of Wisconsin in addition to other cold-weather warrior tasks. Train-up will begin at the start of the next semester, and The Fighting Hawks are excited to show them what we're made of.

As we look back at the semester, The Fighting Hawks are very proud of what we have accomplished and how we have grown mentally and physically. All in all, we are excited for the new year and the challenges we will face.



RANGER CHALLENGE (13-14 OCT)

By: CDT Gabriel Dryden

Ranger Challenge commenced with Team Ace tackling the Medical Challenge Lane. Prepared and lighthearted, they devised a pre-planned strategy, assigning specific duties to individuals, making them experts in various aspects of the lane. After completing the medical lane, they eagerly moved on to the obstacle course. Despite encountering demotivating penalties, the camaraderie remained high as they navigated through the obstacles. Unfazed by setbacks, they accepted the challenge and pressed on.



Advancing to the Call For Fire lane, the team faced a new format, with a random selection for the call, and others required to take a test. Despite initial tension, their Call For Fire event turned out exceptionally well. Moving to the Land Navigation exam, they double-checked their answers, learned from previous mistakes, and left the lane with confidence.

One Rope proved to be their standout event, with no penalties and a remarkable time of 9 minutes and 11 seconds. Encouraged by support from 2LT Lundstrom, they approached subsequent lanes with heightened spirits. The longest stretch, the written knowledge exam, required a determined effort, including some running. Despite being slightly behind schedule, they finished strong, placing second based on what they knew at the time.

Entering the Burden lane, a physically demanding challenge they had trained for selectively, they dominated and secured a win. Weapons, with less hands-on time this year, presented some challenges but didn't hinder their performance. The Grenades lane, a team-based challenge, followed, and they concluded by returning to the medical lane for transportation to the ruck start point.

Before the ruck, they packed their gear, amped each other up, and positioned themselves strategically for the 6-mile trek. As the horn sounded, the team leader led them, maintaining a running pace while another team member managed the walking pace. Despite some struggles, they finished with a commendable time of 1 hour and 14 minutes.

Overall, they secured 3rd place!





CONTRACTED CADETS

By: CDT Cierra Delzer

Fighting Hawks Battalion contracted 13 Cadets this Fall semester. Many of the contracted Cadets additionally received scholarships that will help them excel in their respective academic fields. Contracting Cadets is significant because it demonstrates a healthy growth in the University of Fighting Hawks Army ROTC program. Additionally, it demonstrates these 13 Cadets' dedication to serving as officers in the U.S. Army. Finally, these new contracted Cadets will now be compensated for the hard work that they've been putting into this program.





“DO BETTER” SEMINARS

By: CDT Casin Buckmeier



This semester, the Fighting Hawks Battalion Cadets were actively exploring innovative avenues to elevate their program and establish meaningful connections within the community. Taking the lead in this endeavor was MSIII Cadet Buckmeier, who introduced a compelling initiative known as the "Do Better" seminar series. During these seminars, distinguished and influential members from the community contributed their insights on a range of topics, providing valuable perspectives for the cadets. These seminars not only enriched cadets' understanding on crucial topics but they also created a platform for dialogue and clarification on misleading subjects. The "Do Better" seminars have served as a bridge between the UND Army ROTC program and the broader community, fostering connections that extend beyond the traditional boundaries. This approach reflects the battalion's commitment to continuous improvement and community engagement, making this semester a dynamic and enriching experience for all involved.





By: CDT Joshua Seibel

Hockey is a staple of the University of North Dakota. After last year's huge success, Cadet Seibel made it his mission to continue the new tradition of delivering the game puck at a UND Hockey game by rappelling from the rafters of the arena. MSIV Cadets Kennedy and Seibel were selected for the rappel while Cadet Hogetvedt and Felch were selected to belay. These four Cadets rehearsed the event before execution under the supervision of Rappel Master MSG Carpenter. The event was conducted at the University's Military Appreciation game played against West Point Military Academy. High praise from hockey fans was received during the Cadets' descent onto the ice. This rappelling event was the highlight of the year for all who participated and was the perfect method of recruitment for college student fans who may be on the fence about joining ROTC.



Photo courtesy of Russell Hons

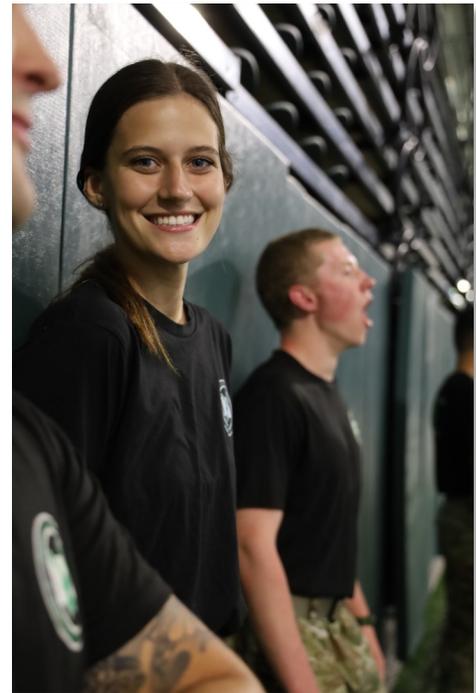


PUSH - UP CREW

By: CDT Benjamin Jacobs



During this football season the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks' Battalion Push-up Team performed push-ups at all regular season football games. The Push-up Team would do push-ups after every score that the Fighting Hawks football team scored. During the games the Push-up Team had between six and fourteen people depending on the number of Cadets that were able to attend. When the Football team scored the Push-up team would run out carrying a board that was made so that four cadets could lift another cadet on the board and then have the cadet on the board do push-ups. The Push-up Team would run out to the two-yard line do the number of push-ups necessary and then run back to the sideline before kickoff. From there the Cadets were able to watch the football game from the sideline and cheer on the Football team. Cheering especially loud for the NDSU and UND game that was won by UND!





By: CDT Jacob Whitsitt



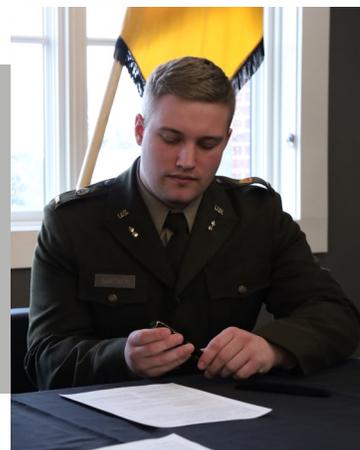
Cadet Morrison is an MSII here at the Fighting Hawks battalion, he grew up in Pequot Lakes Minnesota, and came to UND for the Flight Training Program. Cadet Morrison was one of the only cadets selected from 3rd Brigade to attend Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He will leave Grand Forks on 01JAN23 and return on 19JAN23. We wish Cadet Morrison the best of luck and hope to see him return with a new pin!

Lieutenant Dack is currently at Fort Novosel and is complete with BOLC and SERE. He is currently waiting for a slot for common core at flight school. In the mean time, Lieutenant Dack has been working in the student leader's office managing 750 lieutenants. Keep up the hard work Sir!



Lieutenant Lundstrom is currently attending Infantry BOLC at Fort Moore. He reported 12NOV23 and is expected to graduate 10APR24. His outstanding performance at IBOLC thus far brings pride to the UND Fighting Hawks Battalion. Lieutenant Lundstrom plans on attending Ranger Training Assessment Course and then Ranger School upon graduation from IBOLC in May.

Lieutenant Gartner plans to attend Ordnance BOLC at Fort Gregg-Adam's, VA on 25FEB-13JUN. Post BOLC, he plans to teach Social Studies in the Bismarck Public Schools (BPS) district, as well as fulfill his role as platoon leader for the 452nd OD Co. A1. Until BOLC, LT Gartner plans to work and substitute teach throughout BPS.





By: Mrs. Trudy Soli

Hello all Alumni – We ended Fall 23 semester with one being commissioned into the Reserves, 2LT Bryce Gartner and most of the cadets are now back home for much time deserved with family and friends. I am sure they will come back refreshed and ready to “rock and roll” again for the upcoming semester.

They have been extremely busy as they planned and executed New Freshman Orientation, Fall FTX, Awards and Commissioning Ceremonies along with planning the upcoming Annual Dining Out in Feb to be held at the Gorecki Alumni Center here on UND campus. They have done a great job on all the activities so far.

Good news: In July our new PMS arrived, MAJ Jared Budenski; he has already made some great changes and looking forward to the other ideas he has. Bad news: We have been down an HRA since June and our ROO since Sep; however, we are trying to stay above water as we are all picking up “bits and pieces of their responsibilities” until the new replacements arrive; hoping sometime Spring Semester.

I have chosen two Military Ball pictures, one from 2018 and one from 1994. Can you find yourselves in these? So much fun to reminisce and choose pictures for the newsletter. I also have chosen a picture of a cadre member from the 1980’s, SFC Timothy Trask, whom I have lost track of - if anyone knows his whereabouts, any information would be greatly appreciated.

If you are on deployment overseas, email or instant message me with your complete address and I will be sure to send out a small care package to you. If you have a new email address or would like to update me on the happenings in your life, please drop me an email – I love to hear from “my” alumni. MAJ Budenski has also enlarged the alumni picture board, so send me pictures as I would love to get you on there.

If you would like to be highlighted in our alumni newsletter, email me a couple of pictures and the happenings in your life and I will be sure to highlight you in one of the newsletters.

I am always thrilled every time I get an email or phone call from you with career and/or family updates, so please keep them coming. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year –Take care and God Speed my friends. ts





By: CDT Jacob Whitsitt



CDTs Messer (left) and Owens (right) push themselves in the Sprint Drag Carry during the ACFT.



CDT Severance (center) teaches the MSIII Cadets how to give a WARNORD



CDTs Whitsitt, Buckmeier, Morrison, and Archilla (left to right) are presented with their respective Top MS Cadets for Fall 2023 awards.



CDT Archilla presents himself to the board in order to prove his ROTC knowledge and receive his Fighting Hawks Unit Patch.



CDT Ihry (left) helps CDT Sveum (right) square away his helmet at the PCC/PCI Leadership Lab,



By: CDT Jacob Whitsitt



CDT Marshall rappels down the rappel tower at Camp Grafton over Fall FTX



CDT Seibel (front left) coaches CDT Wickstrom (front right) on the different shooting positions for rifle qualification.



Major General Dohrman (left) and Master Sergeant Carpenter (right) recognize Cadet Novack (center) for his hard work and dedication to the Fighting Hawks BN.



CDT Seibel teaches the MSIII Cadets about formations and order of movement at Leadership Lab.



CDTs Novack, Buckmeier, Jacobs, and Hallberg (left to right) present the Colors at a UND Football game for the National Anthem.



By: CDT Jacob Whitsitt



CDT Miles (right) practices briefing a tactical mission OPORD to CDT Khalifa (left).



The entire MSIV Class and Major Budenski jump into the Hyslop Pool together after the completion of CWST.



CDT Sip (left) and CDT Dossou (right) help keep Grand Forks clean during the High Way Clean-Up.



The UND Army ROTC football team celebrates their victory over UND Air Force ROTC in the annual ROTC Turkey Bowl. CDT Coach Sean Kennedy pictured front right.



CDT Odon (left) and CDT Scott (right) practice programming and using an ASIP radio.



CDT Dryden rappels down on Veteran's Day to deliver the game coin at the UND Football Game.

SPRING 2023 UPCOMING EVENTS



By: CDT Jacob Whitsitt

New Cadet Orientation	08 January
PCC/PCI Lab	11 January
Battle Drill 1A	18 January
ACFT	24-25 January
Movement To Contact Lab	25 January
Platoon Attack Lab	01 February
Defense Lab	08 February
Recon Lab	15 February
Cadet ROTC Ball	17 February
Northern Warfare Challenge	23-24 February
Raid Lab	29 February
Ambush Lab	14 March
Land Navigation Lab	28 March
PCC/PCI/PMI Lab	04 April
Ranger Buddy Challenge	06 April
Super Saturday	13 April
Combined Field Training Exercise	18-20 April
ACFT	24-25 April
Cadet Awards Ceremony	25 April
Spring Commissioning	10 May





**University of North Dakota Army
ROTC**

Fighting Hawks Strong!

Follow us on Social Media

facebook.com/UNDARMYROTC

Instagram: @undarmyrotc

Visit us on the Web

https://und.edu/student-life/armyrotc/index.html

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 North Dakota! We have great opportunities for high school and in-college scholarships. Current enlisted Army National Guard and Reserves enrolled at the University of North Dakota are also eligible to participate in Army ROTC and may be eligible for additional scholarship and DoD programs.

Call (701) 777-3498 or email Trudy.soli@UND.edu for more information

Fall 2023 Edition

This issue was compiled by:

Cadet Jacob Whitsitt

If you are interested in making a **donation** to help support our UND Army ROTC Battalion, you can make a check out to the Raiders Club and mail it to "UND Army ROTC, Raiders Club (Trudy Soli), 255 Centennial Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58202-8360) or the Raiders Club. You may also electronically send donations through the UND Foundation Website below:

(<https://undalumni.org/schools-and-colleges>)

We are so grateful for your continued support of the UND Army ROTC program.

Go Hawks!!!