



SPRING 2024



ARMY ROTC

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HAWK EXPRESS

Fighting Hawks ROTC Battalion Newsletter

SECOND TO NONE, FLY AS ONE





TACTICS LAB

By: LT Whitsitt

The Fighting Hawks ROTC battalion places significant emphasis on conducting tactical labs as part of their training curriculum. These labs serve as crucial platforms for cadets to practice essential skills such as troop leading procedures, battle drills, and mission briefing. The hands-on experience gained through these exercises plays a pivotal role in preparing cadets for the challenges they will face during Cadet Summer



By engaging in realistic scenarios, cadets develop their leadership abilities, hone their decision-making skills, and enhance their understanding of tactical operations. This proactive approach ensures that cadets are better equipped to navigate the dynamic and demanding environments they may encounter during their summer training, contributing to their overall **mission to succeed.**





MILITARY BALL (17 FEB)

By: LT Whitsitt



The University of North Dakota Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) held its annual military ball, a longstanding tradition that commemorates the dedication and accomplishments of its cadets.

This year's event was made even more exceptional by the attendance of Commanding General Munera. During the ball, General Munera bestowed two prestigious scholarships to two deserving cadets, recognizing their academic prowess and commitment to service while highlighting that **Higher Education Matters**. He also awarded challenge coins to several cadets, symbolizing their dedication and accomplishments.



The event underscored the University of North Dakota's robust ROTC program and its dedication to producing future leaders of the United States Army.



PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

By: Major Jared Budenski



Major Budenski

Hawks,

This edition is bittersweet. As we congratulate our newest Second Lieutenants; Felch, Hogetvedt, Kennedy, Khalifa, Long, Lyons, Nelson, Owens, Porter, Rodriguez, Seibel, and Whitsitt into the United States Army, we are saying "Thank you for a job well done" to our Senior Military Science Instructor, Master Sergeant Carpenter. As Master Sergeant Carpenter and family departs the University of North Dakota for the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, you have left a lasting legacy. From all those early morning PT sessions, counseling sessions, countless hours coaching, mentoring, and training Cadets, your attributes and competencies are one to emulate. I want to say thank you on a job well done. You have been my battle buddy this past year and I appreciate all of those candid conversations we have had. Your input has made our organization better.

Our Cadets continue to improve not only in the classroom, but also within ROTC. Our overall Battalion ACFT average increased to a 530 this past spring. This was a 21-point increase from January.

Continue to improve every day. Our combined field training exercise culminated with our Cadets stepping out of their comfort zone to improve their leadership and marksmanship skills, throwing hand grenades, finding those land navigation points to other tasks at hand. I am proud of their ability not only to adapt to the weather to include blowing snow, to a high of 60 degrees, our Cadets continuously showcased their resilience.

I would like to thank Cadets Hill, Nelson, and Severance in planning and executing our Super Saturday. This event had Cadets throw hand grenades, conduct day land navigation, and various situational training exercise (STX) lanes. This training followed the Army's Eight Step Training Model and set the conditions for our junior Cadets to emulate.

As our MSIIIs continue to prepare for Cadet Summer Training24, we will set the conditions for them at our MSIII day at Camp Grafton, North Dakota. Our partnerships with the North Dakota Army National Guard continue to set the conditions for a successful training day. This training will allow them to tighten their shot group as they prepare for camp.

As this semester is coming to a close in the Fighting Hawk's legacy, we are opening up another. To our future Hawks, we welcome you as you start your flight to our program. Take one step at a time, continue to study and learn from one another. Before you know, your time to commission will come sooner than later.

Second to None, Fly as One!!





By: MSG Zachary Carpenter



Master Sergeant Carpenter

The Fighting Hawks Battalion at the University of North Dakota has had a busy and successful year as we approach the end of the school year. The MS III's and IV's have reached their own milestones and will move on to their next objectives. We bid farewell to the MS IV's who are graduating. The MS III's will move on to Cadet Summer Training where the USACC Cadre will continue to enhance their individual learning needs by teaching them skills such as teamwork and noise discipline.

Normally, these letters contain a list of labs and similar activities. However, I want to highlight some of the more memorable events of this semester. The Spring Semester started with the MS III's conducting a recruiting project before 1 May. They had to plan, resource, and coordinate when and where the project would take place. There were many good ideas and a few less successful ones. The projects ranged from setting up a table at the Wilkerson to visiting a JROTC at Devils Lake and teaching the stations of the ACFT. These projects promote ROTC awareness and often yield interesting responses on the contact cards. As always, the MS III's faced challenges, and the recruiting project is a valuable initiative that will continue.

This semester was eventful for the Cadets as we traveled extensively across the Midwest. The Northern Warfare Challenge was one of the first large competitions of the semester, and for the first time in three years, the interstate was open, allowing us to attend. The team performed well and gained valuable experience. The MS IV's had an educational trip to the World War One museum where they received a guided tour and each gave a presentation about a specific exhibit, discussing their battle analysis. Two weeks later, we attended the Ranger Buddy competition at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where KU hosted an excellent competition. UND achieved a significant victory when Cadets Seibel and Kennedy won first place in the upper-classmen male category. The following weekend was our Super Saturday tactical lab at Turtle River State Park. The MS III's executed one more tactical lane before our Combined FTX at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. The MS III Cadets found the Combined FTX valuable as they received consistent feedback from other Schools' Cadre. The semester ended with rappelling into the PBR at the Alerus Center and performing Color Guard for the Monster Trucks event.

The Fighting Hawks Battalion continues to produce capable leaders who are prepared for their future roles. I look forward to seeing these young leaders as I leave the program this summer. That's all I have to report from my fighting position.

Enjoy your summer break and always wear your face paint. Fighting Hawks!



By: LT Joel Owens & LT Jenna Hogetvedt



Cadet Owens

Battalion Commander

With the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year, we have ended on a high note. Our juniors worked hard to prepare not only to attend Cadet Summer Training but also to take over the battalion upon their return.

This semester, we focused on fine-tuning our leadership abilities during our tactics labs in preparation for our Super Saturday, Combined Field Training Exercise, and finally, CST.

Our Super Saturday was a great success with the help of our MS4 class. This one day of training helped prepare our juniors for their evaluation during their tactics lanes. The Combined FTX was the final event this semester, with the sole goal of giving our juniors the full experience they need for CST. Each of them successfully completed their tactical lane evaluation and a rifle range.

Without a doubt, I can say that we have prepared our juniors for their summer training and have prepped our sophomores to enter the program as juniors.

Our cadets have been hard at work this semester planning recruitment events. Each junior planned and executed an event, ranging from a recruitment table on campus to educating National Guard soldiers and high schoolers on the benefits of ROTC. Our final recruitment event was a rappelling demonstration at the local PBR.

Our special teams have been hard at work as well this year, focusing on our competitions. Cadets Siebel and Kennedy took first place and won the upperclassmen male category for the 2024 Ranger Buddy Competition.

Finally, it is an exciting conclusion to the semester as we commission twelve of our seniors into the Army as Second Lieutenants. *Overall, the Fighting Hawks Battalion stands ready to continue the development of the future leaders of the United States Army.*



Cadet Hogetvedt

Command Sergeant Major

After conducting R&R over winter break, the Fighting Hawks Battalion came back ready to train and be lethal in their academic studies. Cadets continued their physical fitness efforts over break and maintained the battalion 500+ overall ACFT score, which was a stellar baseline to kick off the semester. Through hard and consistent work, the battalion saw an increase of 29 points from the January ACFT to the April ACFT.

Our special teams were quick to get back to the grind through early morning physical fitness and skills training. Northern Warfare Challenge faced the elements and conquered the hardest challenge in ROTC. Following this, UND sent eight teams to Ranger Buddy Challenge where they won best upper-class male/male team.

Reflecting on this past semester, The Fighting Hawks take pride in our achievements and growth, both mentally and physically. Looking forward, we are confident that our MS3s will excel at Cadet Summer Training, returning to UND with new expertise and a renewed ambition to lead.

NORTHERN WARFARE (24 FEB)



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HAWK EXPRESS

By: LT Whatsitt



The Fighting Hawks Battalion showcased their grit and readiness by dispatching two formidable teams to tackle the daunting Northern Warfare Challenge. Amidst the unforgiving terrain and biting cold, these teams displayed their mettle in a grueling 14-mile ruck march, each step a testament to their endurance and camaraderie.

Beyond physical endurance, the competition demanded mental acuity as participants faced a rigorous written test on cold weather operations, demonstrating their expertise in navigating harsh environments. As the fire building and knot tying skill lanes tested their practical prowess, the Fighting Hawks exhibited not just strength, but also precision and adaptability.



With each challenge conquered, they proved themselves as a force to be reckoned with, embodying the spirit of resilience and excellence that defines the Fighting Hawks Battalion.



By: LT Whitsitt



The MSIV class of the Fighting Hawk Battalion conducted a staff ride at the Kansas City National WWI Museum and Memorial, focusing on enhancing their understanding of historical military tactics and leadership.

Immersed in the exhibits and artifacts, the cadets diligently analyzed the strategic decisions and battlefield outcomes of World War I. Cadets prepared briefs for each exhibit and presented to each other in a tour of the museum.



The visit not only provided a historical perspective but also reinforced the cadets' commitment to embodying the principles of honor, duty, and service as future leaders in the U.S. Army.



By: LT Whatsitt



The Fighting Hawks Battalion soared to victory at the Ranger Buddy Challenge, showcasing their prowess and teamwork amidst stiff competition. Sending a formidable contingent of eight teams from UND, the battalion left an indelible mark on the competition.

Amongst the standout performances, CDT Kennedy and CDT Seibel emerged triumphant, clinching first place in the male upper class division. The rigorous competition comprised a series of demanding tasks, including weapon familiarization, tactical combat casualty care, knot tying, call for fire, SPOT report, radio use, and three arduous 4.5-mile ruck marches.



Through unwavering determination and skillful execution, the Fighting Hawks demonstrated their excellence across various disciplines, reaffirming their status as leaders in military readiness and proficiency.



By: LT Whitsitt



UND Army ROTC demonstrated their dedication to honing tactical skills by conducting rigorous training at Turtle River State Park. Against the backdrop of nature's challenges, cadets immersed themselves in a comprehensive curriculum, refining their abilities in critical areas.

Land navigation exercises tested their ability to navigate unfamiliar terrain with precision and confidence, a vital skill in any operational environment. The implementation of hand grenades underscored their proficiency in employing essential weaponry effectively. Moreover, squad-level tactics were meticulously rehearsed, emphasizing teamwork, communication, and adaptability in dynamic scenarios.



Through simulated engagements cadets sharpened their ability to coordinate and execute missions seamlessly. Additionally, call for fire drills instilled in them the essential ability to effectively request artillery support, ensuring they are equipped with the tools necessary for success in the field. UND Army ROTC's commitment to excellence was palpable throughout, preparing Cadets to excel at Cadet Summer Training.



By: LT Whatsitt



This April the Fighting Hawks Battalion showcased the excellence of two of it's Air Assault qualified Cadets at the Professional Bull Riding event hosted by the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Cadet Owens, belayed by Cadet Dryden, rappelled down onto the dirt in front of thousands of PBR fans! This event allowed the UND Fighting Hawks Battalion to show the Grand Forks public that UND AROTC Cadets are **Fit For Duty**.



The large screen at the event displayed a Cadet Command Recruitment graphic and contributed to ROTC public outreach. UND Army ROTC continues to build and improve relationships with local organizations!



By: LT Whitsitt



Cadet Haamankuli is an MSII soon to be MSIII here at the Fighting Hawks battalion. Cadet Haamankuli was one of the only cadets selected from 3rd Brigade to attend Air Assault School at West Point. He will report 07JUL2024 and will complete the course 21JUL2024. We wish Cadet Haamankuli the best of luck and hope to see him return with a new pin!

Cadet Rutgers is from Mendota Heights, MN. Here at UND he studies aviation under the Flight Training Program. Cadet Rutgers has been selected to attend Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, KY this summer. He reports 11AUG2024 and we hope to see him back in the Fall



Lieutenant Whitsitt will be reporting 05JUL2024 to Fort Leonard Wood, MO. There he will attend Chemical BOLC. Upon completing CBOLC LT Whitsitt will report to his first assignment at Fort Stewart where he will serve as Chemical Officer in the 25th CBRN Co (TE).

Lieutenant Lundstrom has graduated IBOLC and will be reporting to Ranger School on 20MAY2024. We are proud of his performance at IBOLC and anticipate him making the Fighting Hawks Battalion proud at Ranger School.





By: Mrs. Trudy Soli

Hello all Alumni – I am super happy to share that we had 12 commission this May going Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard. That is a much larger group than we have had for the past few years. The commissioning ceremony went extremely well as we were honored with an alumnus from 1988 as our guest speaker, BG Steven Allen. We had about 180 in attendance and was held in the Henry Room of the Memorial Union here on UND Campus.

Good news: MAJ Jared Budenski has been our PMS for nearly a year and what an awesome year we all have had. Our numbers are growing, he has made several great connections on and off campus and even though without an HRA and ROO, we are doing great! Bad news: We still don't have an HRA nor ROO, but we all work together to keep us going. We are also losing our MS III instructor, MSG Zachary Carpenter, which will be a great loss for our program. He will truly be missed around here.

This time I have chosen two pictures, one from 2009 and one from 2016. Can you find yourselves in these? So much fun to reminisce and choose pictures for the newsletter.

Alumni News: CPT Derek DuHoux, best known as “Hoody” UND Army ROTC Class of May 2011, branched Aviation Active Duty and in 2020 he transitioned to the National Guard to be closer to family, which was extremely important to him. On 2 August 2023, sadly, he passed away from injuries sustained in a crop-dusting accident after a hospitalization stay of a little over a week. He was a donor giving his organs, eyes and tissues – breathing hope into the recipient's lives.

I am still sending out care packages if you are on deployment overseas, but to continue to do that, I need you to email or instant message me with your complete address and I will be sure to send you a little something. If you have a new email address or would like to up-date me on the happenings in your life, please drop me an email – I love to hear from “my” alumni. Remember, MAJ Budenski has enlarged the alumni picture board, and we would love to you on that board, so send me pictures!

I would love to highlight you in our alumni newsletter, so please email me a couple of pictures of you, your family, significant other or precious animals, 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. Until next time God Speed my friends. *ts*





By: CDT Ihry



General Munera meets and introduces himself to President Armacost of UND



CDT Dryden is tested at Camp Ripleys Grande range.



CDTs Whitsitt, Buckmeier, Severance, Schuster, Kennedy form up before competing in Northern Warfare challenge.



CDT Kennedy receives the battalion sword for his leadership excellence.



MS II Class take a field trip to Northrop Grumman, where they observe UAS operation and job opportunities.



By: CDT Ihry



CDT Weiss conducts the equipment swim during CWST.



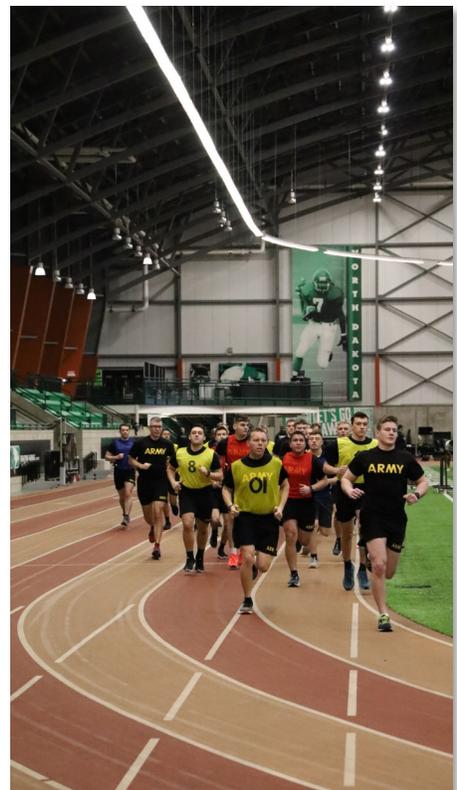
CDT Ficarella stomps through the brush of camp Ripley to get to his objective rally point.



CDT Gilbertson sets up his support by fire before conducting a Platoon attack.



CDT Hallberg conducts a short halt during training at spring C/FTX at Camp Ripley .



CDT Kennedy and Hanson led the way during the 2-mile iof the battalion ACFT.



By: CDT Ihry



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 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS



By: LT Whitsitt

New Cadet Orientation	22-23 August
ACFT	28-29 August
PCC/PCI Lab	29 August
Land Navigation Lab	05 September
9/11 Memorial	11 September
PMI Lab	12 September
Fall FTX	12-14 September
Field Skills Lab	19 September
Battle Drill 1A Lab	26 September
Movement To Contact Lab	03 October
Battle Drill 1 Lab	10 October
Task Force Ranger Challenge	TBD
Ditch Clean - Up	17 October
Ambush Lab	31 October
Super Saturday	TBD
CWST	06-07 November
Raid Lab	14 November
ACFT	20-21 November
Customs and Courtesies Lab	21 November
Awards/Change of Command Lab	05 December
Winter Commissioning	20 December



ARMY ROTC



University of North Dakota Army ROTC

Fighting Hawks Strong!

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https://und.edu/student-life/army-rotc/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

Spring 2024 Edition

This issue was compiled by:

Cadet Jack Ihry and Lieutenant 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!!!