



Summer, 2018



# The Warrior Battalion SITREP

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps

Volume 1, Issue 2

## CONGRATULATIONS! 2018 Commissionees



*The newly pinned 2nd lieutenants of the Class of 2018 pose with the IUP ROTC cadre in front of Waller Hall*

On May 11th, family and friends of the commissionees of the Class of 2018 convened in Fisher Hall Auditorium to celebrate the pinning of the new lieutenants.

Following the opening of the ceremony, Colonel (Retired) Wendy G. Leland, mother of commissionee Victoria Leland, addressed the graduates and their guests. In her remarks, she im

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### Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

- Over 185 cadets in the Battalion (approximately 100 new cadets this Fall)
- At Advance Camp this summer, our rising senior class achieved 89% 'Excellent' rating (limited to top 49% nationwide) with 31% ranked "Outstanding" (limited to the top 15%)
- 40% of the Class of 2018 were Distinguished Military Graduates
- Added Mount Aloysius College and University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to the Warrior Battalion family

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## From the Desk of the Professor of Military Science (PMS)

Family, Friends, Allies, and members of the Warrior Battalion,

First, I want to wish a fond farewell to our departed Senior Enlisted Advisor MSG(P) Jake Wilson and his wife Amy and Assistant Professor of Military Science MAJ Dale Dunlevy and his wife Mary; thank you for all you have done for the program. You will surely be missed. Secondly, welcome MSG Sam Alter and his wife Michaele who just joined the team. We look forward to working together to make the program even better.

I am pleased to report that in all aspects of the program we have met or exceeded expectations and the upcoming year looks like another banner year. We have successfully commissioned 22 new lieutenants into the Army and by all standards we have added a tremendous cohort that is sure to continue the exceptional reputation of IUP and the Warrior BN. Our incoming freshman class will come in right at the 100 mark. This is a historically high number for the program and we are excited to continue to grow. This year we have added two new colleges to the Warrior BN with Mount Aloysius and University of Pittsburgh at John-

stown, and we are paving the way for continued growth at those institutions.

Some new events that you will see referred to in this newsletter include our State of the ROTC event. This is a special event that we are partnering with the Theta Chi fraternity to highlight the achievements of our Cadets and the program while honoring our fallen comrades that laid the foundation for IUP ROTC. We are excited to make this a quality event for all involved. We have also revitalized the IUP Rifle Club, thanks to generous contributions and the focused efforts of our Cadet leadership. We will be expanding the activities of this club and have established a more deliberate association between the IUP Rifle Club and the ROTC program.

Lastly, I want to encourage all of you that have any affiliation with the program to reach out to us here and let us help to strengthen that tie. My wife Lori has joined the team as the Alumni Engagement Coordinator and will be more than happy to assist in finding a way to get involved that is right for you. She can be reached through our social media sites or at [lori.faulkner@iup.edu](mailto:lori.faulkner@iup.edu). Thank you to all



those that have contributed either time or money to the program we would not be able to achieve the success we have without your help.

I look forward to meeting all the new members of the team as we start the next semester and a tremendous 2018/19 school year.

Warriors First!

-Warrior 6

## From the Desk of the Senior Military Science Instructor (SMSI)

IUP ROTC is pleased to introduce our new Senior Military Science Instructor (SMSI), MSG Samuel J. Alter. MSG Alter is originally from Florence, CO. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August, 2001. Following his enlistment he attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Knox, KY where he earned the MOS of Cavalry Scout (19D).

Throughout his career, he has been stationed in Hohenfels, Germany, Ft. Carson, CO, Ft. Hood, TX, Ft. Jackson, SC, and Ft. Campbell, KY. Most recently, he served as First Sergeant at The Sabalauski Air Assault School at Ft. Campbell. He deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (2005-2006), Operation Enduring Freedom (2008-2009), and Operation Inherent Resolve (2016).

MSG Alter has attended numerous military schools including Combat Life Saver Course, Basic Leader Course, Ad-

vanced Leader Course, Senior Leader Course, Drill Sergeant School, Master Resilience Trainer Course, Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program, Armor Reconnaissance Course, Joint Firepower Course, Commander and First Sergeant's Course, Air Assault School, Rappel Master Course and Army Pathfinder School. He has earned an Associate Degree in General Studies and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and sports medicine.

He is also well decorated and has been awarded the Bronze Star (2 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, and the Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), in addition to numerous service medals and awards. He holds the Drill Sergeant Badge, Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Torch, Driver's Badge, and the Order of St. George Medallion in Bronze.



MSG Alter is married, and he and his wife have three children, a boy and two girls.

Please join us in giving MSG Alter and his family a warm welcome to the IUP ROTC family.

Warriors First!

## Cadet Summer Training: Advanced Camp

Advanced Camp is the most significant event in an ROTC cadet's experience. Here they are evaluated on how well they demonstrate leadership proficiency at the squad and platoon level. At the end of each rotation, the cadets are scored with the top 15% in each platoon receiving Outstanding, the next 34% Excellent, the following 36% Proficient, and the lowest 15% Competent. These evaluations are significant in that they are a major criteria used to determine whether a cadet will get their choice of component and branch so doing well at camp is important. This was an extremely successful year for IUP at Advanced Camp. Nearly 90% of our cadets received an Excellent or better rating.

The cadets go through several phases while at camp. During the initial 5-day period in garrison, cadets receive briefings and training, draw equipment, undergo a medical evaluation, take the Army Physical Fitness Test, and complete the Field Leaders



Reaction Course. This is followed by 20 days in the field. The first third of the field is filled with additional training and testing such as first aid, cross-cultural awareness, individual weapons qualification, the confidence course,

the land navigation course, and a series of ruck marches, starting with 4 miles and working up to 10 miles. It's also during this time that cadets transition from squad-level leadership to platoon-level. Cadets begin a series of three field training exercises (FTX) which occupy the other two-thirds of their field time. The first exercise is cadre led, demonstrating what is expected of the cadets when they take over the leadership responsibilities in the second and third. Following the exercises, the cadets return to garrison for their final 12-mile ruck, the rappel tower, branch briefings, parents' day, and the long anticipated graduation.

CDTs Stephen DeMarco, Meredith Drosnock and Jonah Strenski all successfully completed Advanced Camp this summer. Each went into the camp experience with confidence. CDT DeMarco stated he "came in very confident that IUP had me ready to do my best and be one of the best there." CDT Drosnock had already experienced several difficult programs. "I assumed that Advanced Camp would be an easy training for me. . . However, I was mistaken." She explained that "Advanced Camp involves complex, challenging, and rigorous tasks for each cadet to maneuver through in a stressful training environment." CDT Strenski added to this theme. "Advanced Camp is designed to test you in uncomfortable conditions. The weather is hot and humid, the terrain can be unforgiving at times, and you are living out of your ruck for 20 days. While that seems terrible, IUP's ROTC program prepared us

all for camp."

CDT Strenski recognized that "the most

critical lesson Advanced Camp teaches all cadets is how to work with a platoon of diverse strangers to accomplish the mission." His platoon had a difficult time forming cohesiveness.



However, their initial blunders propelled them forward. His cadre, CPT Ziegler, ingrained in them the saying, "You will either succeed in the field as a group, or fail as individuals." CDT DeMarco had almost the opposite experience. "The first few days can be a little overwhelming because you are with forty other people that you never met and you need to start working with as a team as fast as possible." Fortunately, his platoon benefitted from quickly becoming cohesive.

Through this and other experiences, CDT Strenski learned another valuable lesson: "Being a good follower is paramount to performing well at camp. I learned that when you are in charge, you need to be in charge. But when you are not in a leadership role, you need to be the type of follower you would want if you were in command."

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## Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP)

By CDT Sarah Davis, MS IV

The Nurse Summer Training Program is available to all Nursing Cadets between their Junior and Senior year. Through an application process, you can be selected to spend one month in an Army Hospital and get hands on experience in a specialty that you may be interested in. The available units are Medical Surgical, Emergency Room, Intensive Care Unit, Labor and Delivery, Pediatrics, Operating Room, and Psychiatric Ward.

This summer, I was lucky enough to be placed at Fort Stewart, Georgia in a Labor and Delivery unit at Winn Army Community Hospital. My experience there was far more than I expected to get. I feel that Saint Francis University prepared me well for this internship. I would say that compared to other students in the Labor and Delivery unit, I knew more about the process of labor and monitoring fetal heart rates. The nursing staff was very helpful and really let me help them with patients. One challenge with going to clinicals through your college or



university is that there are times when you are limited with opportunities to practice your skill simply because not everything can be done by a student nurse. However, when you go to an Army hospital you get the opportunity to practice real life nursing skills. For example, I was able to do numerous IV starts and blood draws which helped me gain confidence for this upcoming school year. I also got better

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## Commissioning

(Continued from page 1)

pressed upon the soon-to-be 2nd lieutenants the most valuable lessons she had learned throughout her nearly 30-year career in the Army Reserve and National Guard.

After the conclusion of COL Leland's remarks, family members and friends pinned the graduates with the single gold bar of a 2nd lieutenant. As each commissionee was pinned, they received their First Salute from a designated family member or friend (or cadre member) who had served in the U.S. military, past or present. This is a time-honored tradition recognizing their rank and authority for the first time. When all were pinned, they then took the Oath of Office.

At this time, the IUP ROTC department honored LTs Parker and Coppella with the Colonel Willard L. Robinson Leadership Award for their exceptional leadership while serving as Cadet Battalion Commander (Parker in Fall 2017 and Coppella in Spring 2018).

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, the new lieutenants and their guests enjoyed a light luncheon in Pierce Hall,

giving family and friends an opportunity to tour the building and see the history and tradition displayed within and get to know each other a little. The lieutenants also inaugurated a new tradition at IUP ROTC—the signing of the Historic Ledger which will henceforth carry the name and signature of each 2nd lieutenant produced by the program, as well as distinguished guests.

We are pleased to present the Spring 2018 Commissionees: Payton Ambrose (Nurse Corps), Ryan Boley (Signal), Logan Brandis (Military Intelligence), Sierra Conley (Ordnance), Elizabeth Coppella (Medical Services), Benjamin Duppstadt (Medical Service), Alexandra Georgi (Unassigned), Brandon Hewitt (Field Artillery), Jordyn Johnson (Military Intelligence), Madison Kauffman (Nurse Corps), Dakota Keith (Military Intelligence), Victoria Leland (Field Artillery), Eric Lynn (Infantry), Logan McChesney (Military Intelligence), Aaron McClelland (Quartermaster), Christian McClure (Aviation), Adam Parker (Armor), Gabrielle Smith (Medical Service), Matthew Sukenik (Transportation), Dillon Sutton (Infantry)

And the Summer 2018 Commissionee: Megan Leach (Military Police)



*2LT Leach being pinned by her parents*

## Call for Fire!

The Warrior Battalion is actively looking for donations of photos, stories, and artifacts to help us showcase our legacy and help to inspire the next generation of future Army leaders. If you have any materials that you would like to share or potentially have displayed throughout Pierce Hall, please contact the Executive Officer, CPT Daniel Beckers.

Phone: 724-357-7682

E-mail: [dbeckers@iup.edu](mailto:dbeckers@iup.edu)

## Sponsorship Opportunities

We would like to build our program in the following areas and we are looking for support:

**Rifle Club:** We would like to turn this club into a marksmanship-centric club using military-style weapons. We are seeking six new 9mm Sig Sauer pistols as well as ammunition and equipment.

**Color Guard Club:** We would like to outfit our brand new club with everything they need to provide a list of services upon request. This team will raise and lower the flag daily to the sound of Reveille and Retreat, fire the historic cannon, conduct color guard drills, and all with a renewed discipline that gives chills to spectators.

**Ranger Challenge Team:** We would like to purchase equipment, uniforms, and training aids to make our Ranger Challenge Team truly a top contender.

**Squad Competition Incentives:** We would like to provide squads with incentives to be the best in the battalion. We would like to purchase rifleman kits to award to the top squad each semester as demonstrated through consistent attendance, academic excellence, and performance.

**Scholarship Incentives:** We have been truly honored by our current scholarship sponsors. We would like to provide additional scholarships to give Cadets with more incentive to excel. Scholarships will traditionally be presented at the Spring Military Ball.

For more information, or to sponsor a club or scholarship, please contact our Executive Officer, CPT Daniel Beckers at 724-357-7682,

or [dbeckers@iup.edu](mailto:dbeckers@iup.edu), or see Support IUP ROTC Students at [www.iup.edu/rotc](http://www.iup.edu/rotc).

## Airborne School

By CDT Stephen DeMarco

After classes ended in the spring I had a few days at home, and then I left for Airborne school. I was excited and nervous at the same time. I had complete faith in myself and that IUP prepared me to complete this school. The first week there I learned how to properly exit from the plane and how to do a proper parachute landing fall, or PLF. Once you are proficient in landing you move onto week two which is tower week. The first half of everyday during this week I learned how to control my parachute with more PLFs and during the second half we would jump out of the 34 foot towers. Although its not that high, jumping from these towers definitely calmed my nerves for when it came to jumping out of the plane. The third week is jump week, this is where you complete your 5 jumps to become Airborne qualified. It did not hit me that I was about to jump out of a plane until I was walking out and started to load up onto the plane. I was lucky enough to be on the first plane so I did not have to wait too long to jump. I was up in there air on my first jump and I was telling myself 'you just jump' over and over again. The green light came on to go and I just walked forward, turned toward the door, and jumped. I counted to 6 thousand and boom! my parachute opened. It was such a relief. I drifted down, landed softly and was ready to complete the rest of my jumps.

## Cultural Understanding & Leadership Program (CULP)

Several cadets participated in the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program (CULP). In CULP, cadets work with friendly foreign military forces, often their cadets or officer candidates, for up to three weeks. They are immersed in the local culture and language while learning about that country's military and what it means to be an officer there.

Four cadets shared their experiences from this amazing program and explained what it meant to them: CDT Ryan Redilla (Lithuania), CDT Katie Leary (Chile), CDT Ethan Blackie (Peru), and CDT Sarah Davis (Cabo Verde).

While they had very different experiences, communication was a major theme. "The hardest, yet most educational part of the trip was experiencing the language barrier," CDT Leary explained. "I am not the best at communicating in Spanish so speaking to [Chileans] who did not know any English was a little difficult." Despite this, "I loved having to use the Spanish I knew and learning more words from the conversations I had with others." Due to this experience, "My confidence in communicating to others improved. I was always told to be more confident in my knowledge, and actually having to use what I know proved to myself that I am capable."



*CDT Leary participating in a team building exercise of building a bridge*

go as planned. . . As leaders, officers need to adapt, overcome these obstacles, and learn from them." With a bit of humor, he stressed the value of CULP: "Where better to get hands-on experience than in a foreign country with strangers and a language barrier? CULP provides future leaders an opportunity to experience failure on an international scale."

CDT Davis thought that communication was much simpler for her. "Saying 'Bon Dia!' to everyone we passed while running in the morning was one of my favorite things to do on the trip. To see a smiling face on someone is one of the world's most priceless gifts. The joy I felt inside is what made me want to get up every morning and run past all the wonderful Cabo Verdeans."

CDT Leary learned from her Chilean counterparts. "Due to my sponsor being a first year, we had to treat all upperclassmen as officers." this taught her about the Chilean attitudes. She found the cadets to be very respectful and grateful for their opportunity, which she found "inspiring and really made me thankful for the opportunity I have to

join the U.S. Army. Observing how the cadets carry themselves and honor their country taught me how to improve my everyday actions to be more respectful and polite."

In comparing their experience abroad to the U.S. Army, there were two other areas that stuck out to CDTs Blackie and Leary.

CDT Blackie recognized the value of keeping an open mind in a military environment.

Through discussions with fellow cadets and officers, he learned that a lot of their training and military concepts have been stagnant for decades.

"The U.S. Army holds and stays true to its core values and beliefs, but training and ideas on training are always subject to change. This flexibility is expected of our officers and NCOs." However, "mental flexibility and open-mindedness were things I had not seen much of at the Chorrillos Military School." Training and military concepts "are solely mandated by tradition and the higher-ranking officers."



*CDT Redilla and friends—supporting Basketball Power*

CDT Leary noted that, while visiting Chilean special schools, her determination to branch combat arms increased, especially seeing the Special Forces and Airborne schools. "I learned that females are not given as many opportunities. . . Females are not treated as equal in Chile, and this made me much more thankful for the opportunities I have in our Army. . . Being aware of the disadvantage women have in other militaries will make me a better officer because I will not take what I have for granted."

Although he worked closely with Lithuanian soldiers in two military exercises, one of CDT Redilla's community outreach. "My team spent time at a day care center for disabled youth and focused our attention on building local relationships. . . We also worked with a local basketball organization, Basketball Power, that tries to connect underprivileged teens through a common goal or activity." In reflection, CDT Redilla said, "Personal relationships, civil engagements, and community presence are very important aspects of the overall mission. CULP provides

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*Cadets completed the Peruvian Combat Water Survival Test*

# CULP

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cadets a first-hand look at different cultures and environments. And a different look at people.”

CDT Davis focused more on the beauty and life of the islands than on the military training. Initially disappointed that she was not going to



*CDT Davis making new friends in Cabo Verde*

Angola as originally planned, the longer she was there, the more the islands captivated her. At first, it did not seem all that special. But once they went into the mountains with the Scouts, the uniqueness of the country unfolded before her. “I distinctly remember one day watching the clouds

roll over the mountains and thinking to myself that it was the most beautiful view I have ever seen. I sat in awe and wonder at how a place like this could exist. I wanted time to stop. I just wanted to capture every moment and never forget it.”

In closing, CDT Redilla said, “It was an incredible experience that made me a more culturally aware and experienced Soldier. I learned a lot about culture, language, communication, the military, and myself.” The other cadets agreed. CDT Leary said, “CULP helped me solidify my long-term Army goals and will make me more appreciative of my career field in the future.” CDT Blackie concluded his reflection saying, “I am very thankful for being part of CULP. I have a new perspective as a cadet and as an individual.” CDT Davis “challenged all of those who have read this to step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself in a new way. I am thankful that ROTC gave me this wonderful opportunity and I hope to see other cadets in our program apply for CULP.”

The following cadets also participated in CULP over the summer: CDT Ryan Daigle (Argentina), CDT Meredith Drosnock (Lithuania), CDT Audra Everitt (Latvia), CDT Cherish Smith (Morocco), and CDT Jonah Strenski (Chile).



*CDT Blackie preparing for the Pista de los Duros, a grueling obstacle course at the Peruvian Commando School.*



*Cadets completed the King Mindaugas Hussar Battalion's obstacle course in Lithuania*



*CDT Leary helped teach English to cadets at the Chilean Military Academy*

## Improving Our Fighting Position

There are big changes in the works here at IUP. With our dedication to growing the program and our commitment to commissioning thirty new second lieutenants per year by 2020, we have now partnered with Mount Aloysius College and University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown starting in the Fall 2018 semester.

We have made a number of physical changes as well. The Cadet Lounge has been revamped with a new paint job in IUP colors, new computers and a printer, a new lunch area (refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker), and a new R & R area (smart tv and couches). The Recruiting Office has received a new paint job in IUP colors and a new sitting area for meeting with prospective cadets. Classroom F5 has also received a new paint job in IUP colors. Each of these rooms will receive Warrior Battalion signage and the new logo (see the covers for the new logo). Each of the classrooms have new desks, projectors and computers, as well as video telephone conference ability in order to fully integrate SFU, MAC and UPJ more smoothly. Finally, We have mounted speakers that will be programmed to automatically play Reveille and Retreat every day.

We are reinventing the former Rifle Team and expanding it to become the IUP Rifle Club. In order to upgrade the club as well as make it an integral part of Army ROTC, we have purchased six new Colt M4 .22 caliber rifles. See more about the Rifle Club in Sponsorship Opportunities on page 4.

## Air Assault School

By CDT Kyle Kinter, MS III

Air assault school was very beneficial for me. It helped me grow personally in many ways. One of the major ways it helped me was by teaching me to work in a high stress environment. On days such as the sling load test and obstacle course, it was very stressful having to wait a long time to be able to attempt the test because if you failed you would be dropped from the school. The sling load test was also very stressful because of the short amount of time we had to find the deficiencies on the different sling loads. I became better at keeping my cool and calming myself to make sure I completed the task and did not panic.

Air Assault school also regularly pushed me out of my comfort zone. I experienced many new things with this opportunity, such as flying and travelling alone for the first time. During the rappelling phase I was pushed against my fear of heights to complete the many different rappels we had to perform. The first few times I rappelled it was very challenging for me to go when I was wearing all my gear, but each time I became increasingly more comfortable.

Another way I grew through this experience was being able to work with a lot of people who are active duty. It was interesting to talk to a lot of enlisted soldiers and commissioned officers about their experiences, the paths they took, and what they have learned through their many years in the military. I think it is useful to hear about the experiences that successful officers have had. I was also able to talk to many enlisted soldiers who gave me valuable advice as a future officer.

Air Assault was a great experience and I am very glad that I was able to attend and that I completed it successfully. I was able to grow in many different aspects of my life from the school by being pushed against my fears, and learning and hearing about many different experiences that I otherwise would not have known.

## Cadet Troop Leader Training

Five cadets participated in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), an opportunity to shadow a platoon leader and see firsthand what goes into being a good lieutenant. CDT Trastian Collins and CDT Zachary Rowe shared their experiences from this unique learning experience.

CDT Trastian Collins, MS IV: "I attended CTLT at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. I was attached to the 108<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, which is unique because it is the only Airborne and Air Assault MP company in the country. Once I arrived in Fort Bragg, I realized how vast and high tempo the military installation is. It became an eye-opener because the installation had a similar rush to New York City.

After in-processing, I was tasked to shadow 1LT Moritz. He is the platoon leader of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. During the introduction stage, he showed me around the installation and highlighted the duties of the Military Police. The brigade operates a complex mission. They must conduct police, security, civil affairs and detention operations across a full range of global missions in order to prevent and reduce irregular, terrorist, and criminal threats to the XVIII Airborne Corps readiness and mission effectiveness. So, on a daily basis, the brigade is conducting multiple missions. There are companies executing blue cycle, which is the law en-

forcement phase, and green cycle, which is the field training phase. I had the opportunity of seeing the Special Reaction Team (SRT) conduct an urban operation. I was also introduced to the Provost Marshal's Office (PMO). Their duties are to assist members of the Fort Bragg community by providing guidance on law enforcement and security issues. Finally, I got to experience a brigade-sized FTX which lasted for a week in the field.

In shadowing 1LT Moritz I observed certain good leadership characteristics. He displayed a strong sense of compassion for his platoon. Thus, you could see that his soldiers were willing to put in extra work on a tough day to complete their mission. His presence was also very strong. He led PT from the front and embodied the overall qualities of a good leader. Overall, I had a great experience at Fort Bragg and being there improved my perspective on leadership. "

CDT Zachary Rowe, MS IV: "For my summer 2018 Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) I went to Fort Stewart, Georgia to train at Winn Army Community Hospital. While there I worked with many different positions within the hospital including Medical Logistics, the S3 shop, Information Management, the Division Surgeon, and a hospital psychiatrist. Learning about each one of these positions taught me something different and how they all work together to achieve the goals of the hospital.

In Information Management, I followed CPT Nixon. He taught me about how information in the hospital is processed and encrypted within the hospital, and how critical it is that they are ready at any point to defend against a possible cyber-attack. Also, while in Information Management I was able to attend a change-of-command ceremony where I had the chance to see a new colonel take command of Winn Hospital. In Medical Logistics I followed a couple of different NCOs and learned about some of the things they do in their daily routine, including performing their bi-annual checks on the emergency room's heartrate monitors and on the transfusion pumps. In the S3 shop I was with MAJ Brown, who taught me a lot about the hospital's chain of command and how their structure as a medical unit is quite different from the typical units I as a cadet was used to seeing. In the Division Surgeon's office, I got the chance to follow MAJ Gordon, who is the Division Physician's Assistant. He showed us around division headquarters, and explained what each part of the building does and how each piece works together to complete their mission. Lastly, I had the chance to shadow a hospital psychiatrist for a day during which she talked to me about the different things I could come across if I were to pursue the same path one day.

I found that even though it was just for a day, being able to follow a psychiatrist was the most interesting position I had the chance to shadow. Being a psychology major and being able to hear about real daily types of problems that happen to people in the military was a real eye-opener. Although I still want to pursue a combat-arms career, this experience has opened my eyes to the possibility furthering my education down the line and eventually becoming a psychiatrist or psychologist myself, switching from combat arms.

Overall, this experience was beneficial because it showed me a side of the military I had never seen before and it gave me the opportunity to not only make new friends with the other cadets who were there, but

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## CST: Advanced Camp

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In closing, each cadet summed up their experience in superlatives. “All the trials and tribulations I faced at Advanced Camp helped hone my basic soldier skills, grow my confidence, and allowed me to test my leadership style in stressful situations,” CDT Strenski reflected. CDT Drosnock had gone in with the plan “to not only improve myself, but those around me. . . to do everything I could to develop my own and my peers’ leadership skills, learn from mistakes, and work effectively with my platoon.” In the end, she found that this “was the most rewarding training I have received. . . I was challenged physically and mentally, and this training has shown me both the strengths and weaknesses of my leadership. I appreciate being challenged and that is exactly what Advanced Camp did. Overall, I feel more confident and prepared to be an Army officer.” CDT DeMarco was pleased. “I was very happy with how I performed at Advanced Camp. After two months of training it felt great to head home. But I can’t wait to start the new semester as a senior in the ROTC program here at IUP.”

In addition to CDTs Stephen DeMarco, Meredith Drosnock and Jonah Strenski, CDTs Trastian Collins, Colin Everett, Audra Everitt, Jordan Fisher, Amanda Goodwin, Ali Ippoliti, William Kliefoth, Kathleen Leary, Walter Lober, Kristi Newlen, Joshua Piatt, Tristain Pilch, Zachary Raible, Ronald Reighard, Zachary Rowe, and Anyssa Sanchez also completed Advanced Camp this summer.

## NSTP

*(Continued from page 3)*

at putting on fetal monitors and contraction (TOCO) monitors, assessing patients when they come into triage, and reading fetal monitor strips.

Not only did I learn a lot about Labor and Delivery, but I also learned a lot about what it is like to become an Army Nurse. For me, this was just as beneficial. My preceptor, CPT Richardson, shared valuable information about Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC), what to expect at your first duty station, and all about going to the different courses to specialize in one aspect in nursing. I also got to know the Head Nurse, LTC Owen. Both of these ladies taught me so much about Army life and how to become a better 2nd Lieutenant. With meeting them, I now have two mentors who I can go to in the future as my career as an Army Officer begins next year.

NSTP is an important program that is vital to our Nursing Cadets. I encourage you to try to participate in NSTP. It was one of the best months of my life and I am grateful for my experience.

## CTLT

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to also learn things from the officers in the hospital that I might not be able to learn from officers outside of the hospital. This experience has definitely helped me to realize that even though from the outside it may not seem as complicated as some of the other jobs in the Army, the medical side of the Army is just as complex as any other branch and has just as many different gears turning all at once. It has given me a greater appreciation for those in those positions.”

In addition to CDT Trastian Collins and CDT Zachary Rowe, CDT Colin Everett (Ft. Lewis, WA), CDT William Kliefoth (Ft. Bliss, TX), and CDT Joshua Piatt (Schofield Barracks, HI) also completed Cadet Troop Leader Training.

## Alumni Corner



*We are proud to celebrate COL Kenneth L. Cypher's retirement after nearly 30 years of service in the U.S. Army. He is a 1989 graduate of the IUP ROTC program.*



*IUP alumni at Adjutant General School: Left to right are 2LT Brooke Ritenour (2017) BOLC, 1LT Taylor Vlastic (2015) and CPT Daniel Joestlein (2012) Captain's Career Course, and instructor MAJ Derrick Lucarelli (2004)*

## Future Operations (FUOPS)

State of the ROTC: 21 SEP

Fall Scholarship Board: 28-29 SEP

Ranger Challenge Competition: 19-21 OCT

Dining-In: 30 NOV

Staff Ride—Antietam: TBD

Dining-Out: 26 APR 2019

Editor: Mr. Meryl Rutz, MSI

“Warriors First!”