

# THE PIRATE SCROLL

## PIRATE BATTALION ARMY ROTC NEWSLETTER



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### WELCOME BACK CADETS

Welcome to Pirate Battalion! This is the first installment of the Pirate Scroll Newsletter since 2016! Even though last spring was cut short Pirate Battalion returned back to campus excited for a new semester. This newsletter discusses summer training, the goals of the MS levels, and how Pirate Battalion is doing it all safely!

The mission this semester is as follows: Pirate Battalion trains and validates all MS classes in specific tasks, knowledge, and physical events in order to prepare for follow-on training and certifications. The Battalion fosters a culture of respect, inclusivity, and ownership, growing cadets as leaders of character and intellect in preparation for service to the nation. Can Do, Never Quit!

## A Quote from our BC

Cadet Battalion Commander Czarnogursky writes “This semester, my goal for all of us in the Pirate Battalion is ownership of mission, personal growth, and stewardship of the profession. Everyone's mission is important, from the simplest of tasks to the most complex! Without your commitment and full effort in your mission, we cannot reach our potential! We can each do so much to grow every day, from learning from each other, to reading and training, to asking for advice and mentorship. Every day we have an opportunity to get a little better, and we owe that to all whom we serve. Stewarding the profession means that we coach and mentor those around us, and we represent the Army and all it stands for in everything we do. We live by a code of ethics and values, and it calls us higher. We are driven by a life of service to each other, to our units, and our communities, both domestic and international. As future Army officers, I want us all to seek out ways to improve ourselves and our organization! It starts with self, but it ends with as far as we can reach.”



## COVID-19 MITIGATION

Pirate Battalion conducts temperature checks every morning before PT to ensure no cadet has a fever. Extra masks are passed out if needed and each cadet uses hand sanitizer before going to PT. Cadets maintain six foot spacing during preparatory drill and while exercising during PT. They are required to wear a mask unless more than six feet apart. Equipment is wiped down in between rotations during PT as well.

Cadet Command Sergeant Major Abass writes “Due to the heavy COVID-19 restrictions we have emplaced, Pirate Battalion has done a wonderful job in following certain guidelines to mitigate the risk of a cadet being exposed to COVID-19. Safety is our number one priority here at Pirate Battalion and we continue to emphasize the importance of wearing a mask and staying six feet apart when conducting strenuous activities. In addition, cadets have been able to perform with very high expectations during PT/labs sessions and it has not slowed our progression as a battalion. Can-Do Never quit is our motto here and that continues to be displayed week after week with cadets putting 110% effort to better themselves as future second lieutenants.”





# Summer Training

## Operation Agile Leader

Under normal circumstances, MSIII cadets attend Advanced Camp the summer before their MSIV at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This past summer this training was canceled due to COVID-19. Instead, Pirate Battalion MSIIIs executed Operation Agile Leader. Seton Hall cadets completed an eight-day training event at Fort Dix with Rutgers and Princeton battalion cadets this past August to get certified on field leadership with a 5-day field training exercise, land navigation course, and a range qualification.

Pirate Battalion did not disappoint during this training. We had several cadets recognized for outstanding performance. Cadets Czarnogursky and Zebrowski were each awarded 'Top Cadet' in their platoons for overall performance. Cadet Bobb was the first cadet to qualify on the pop-up range and awarded a Marksmanship coin. As the Marksmanship Officer in Charge (OIC) Cadet Bobb's priorities are "Improvement on sight picture and building an understanding on bullet elevation and decline over distance. I plan on equipping cadets with an understanding of where to aim at each target, and how to strategically prepare for the sequence of the pop-up targets." Cadet Howarth was awarded a Brigade Challenge Coin for excellent performance by the Brigade Commander COL Toti and Brigade CSM Caywood as well.

CPT Lain the MSIII instructor felt Operation Agile Leader was a success. "To ensure the safety of our cadets and their families, we had to do a different validation of our soon-to-be Second Lieutenants than the traditional Cadet Summer Training. We came together with Rutgers and Princeton and ran some good, hard training and our cadets are unequivocally better prepared to lead as a result of their efforts this summer. Our cadets demonstrated mental toughness, physical endurance, decision-making under stress, and most importantly, LEADERSHIP. I am proud to be part of this team, more so having seen our young



***CDT Zebrowski- Top Cadet 2PLT*** "With the ever evolving COVID-19 situation we sadly missed the opportunity to attend Cadet Summer Training (CST) this summer. However, we were granted the opportunity to demonstrate our knowledge during Operation Agile Leader which was a condensed 1-week course that occurred at Fort Dix. During this week we battled through minimal sleep, ever changing surroundings, and challenging mission objectives. Though this was only a weeklong certification course the relationships we made and the knowledge we attained is immeasurable. I am thankful for the opportunity I was granted, and I am excited to pass my experiences down to the other cadets in the battalion."



***CDT Czarnogursky- Top Cadet 1PLT***





## Operation Agile Leader Cont.

men and women put the skills they learned over the past three years to the test, alongside peers from across New Jersey."

MSII cadets got the opportunity to volunteer as the OPFOR enemy during this training event. Cadets Levi and Martinez volunteered for this task. When asked why he volunteered CDT Martinez replied: "I volunteered because a bunch of cadets I look to for help and guidance were going to be there so I figured it'd be fun to watch and learn from them as OPFOR, especially since as OPFOR we got to mess with them. I definitely learned a lot though from different cadre because of their different styles- like how to improve fighting positions, importance of defense in depth, and how important accountability can be." Overall, Pirate Battalion stood out from the other programs with excellent performance during this training event.



*CDT Howarth- Excellent Performance in the Brigade*



*CDT Bobb- Best Marksmanship*



## Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)

Selected cadets get attached to active duty or Army Reserve and National Guard units and serve in a leadership position during CTLT. The program is approximately three weeks in duration during the summer of CST for MSIIIs with overseas tours usually lasting four weeks. Upon completion of this assignment, cadets receive a performance evaluation by an officer in the assigned unit. This evaluation is used by the Professor of Military Science (PMS) when providing further counseling and leadership training. Pirate Battalion had several MSIIIs receive slots but like they were unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19.

### Honorable mentions:

CDT Dudziec- Military Intelligence unit at Ft. Bragg, NC  
 CDT Duffy- Armor unit at FT Carson, CO  
 CDT Howarth- Transportation unit at FT Riley, KS  
 CDT Lally- 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, HI  
 CDT Zebrowski- Infantry at Ft. Jackson, SC





## Internships

Each fall semester summer internships come down from US Army Cadet Command. Contracted Cadets (MSIIIs have priority) get an opportunity to exercise specialized language, technical or research skills within internship programs. Internships usually are four weeks long after successful completion of Advanced Camp (AC). Cadets receive a Cadet Officer Evaluation Report (COER) upon completion of their assigned internship. Last year thirty plus internships came out that covered a variety of disciplines from STEM to history majors. The opportunities are endless. Cadets are selected out of the slots available in the brigade. The program had four cadets awarded internships but unfortunately, due to COVID-19, three internships were canceled. CDT Martin luckily participated in the National Security Agency (NSA) internship online this summer.

CDT Martin wrote the following about his internship "I'm an MS4 attending Saint Peter's University. I currently serve as a Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) cadet in a Military Intelligence unit in the NJ National Guard. I'm hoping to branch either Military Intelligence, Cyber, or Signal this May. This past summer I was accepted into the National Security Agency's (NSA) first online internship: 'Monterey Phoenix: A Modeling Approach to Cyber & Cryptology.' In this pilot program, I learned how to create computer-assisted reasoning models using the Naval Postgraduate School's Monterey Phoenix modeling tool. This program focused on discovering emergent unexpected behaviors supporting Insider Threats.

This internship served as a pilot for the 'Emergent Behavior Analysis' discipline, a new cryptologic field of practice in which human analysts develop and deploy cognitive skills in ideation and reasoning. Automated tools allow analysts to work with the computationally intensive aspects of scenario generation and querying more easily. In other words, these tools allow the user of Monterey Phoenix to bridge the gap between human knowledge and the capabilities of the program. In this pilot, I briefed senior NSA leadership on the pilot program to influence the development of this new discipline. The instructors from both the NSA and the Naval Postgrad School provided both great mentorship and feedback especially to those who may not have had a background in coding or programming. We were also given the opportunity to stay on as interns for the Naval Postgraduate School and awarded letters of recommendations from our NSA instructors. Internships like this are a great opportunity for any cadets who are interested in MI or Cyber. This experience opened a lot of doors for all the students who took part in this internship. All of this was made possible by our amazing Cadre at the Pirate Battalion."

### Honorable mentions:

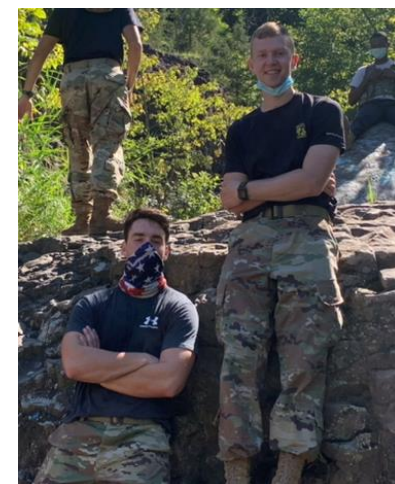
CDT Abass- Advanced Cyber Education- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

CDT Lloyd- Army Cyber Institute- West Point, NY

CDT Ricco- Nursing Summer Training Program- Eisenhower Army Medical Hospital in FT Gordon, GA



*CDT Martin- NSA Internship*



# Semester Training

## Labs for MS Levels

### MS1s/MS2s

Cadets focus on the personal development of life skills such as critical thinking, goal setting, time management, physical fitness, and stress management related to leadership (in both the civilian and military environment), officership, the Army profession, and daily life during their MSI and MSII year. They get certified on basic soldier skills during labs and field training exercises. MSIIIs serve as cadet leadership in positions of team leaders and MSIs are team members. The lead MSI/II trainer Cadet Gavin states "As the lead instructor for the MSIs and MSIIIs, it is my responsibility to plan and execute all training events for every first and second-year cadet in the battalion. This includes the planning and teaching of leadership lab every Friday as well as working with the S3 to plan our battalion FTXs. Throughout the semester, the MSIs and MSIIIs receive instruction on everything from basic army knowledge and basic rifle marksmanship to land navigation and squad-level tactics. I intend for every MSI and MSII within Pirate Battalion to have the basic soldier skills necessary to be an effective team leader and to continue on the path to becoming second lieutenants by the end of the academic year. I have seen some great things so far and am excited to continue working with the class for the duration of the semester."

### MS3s

Cadets train for Advanced Camp their MSIII year. Cadets are challenged to study, practice, and evaluate adaptive leadership skills as they are presented with complex scenarios related to the contemporary operating environment and across the full spectrum of military, corporate, and civic operations. MSIII's leadership qualities are evaluated in garrison positions of Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Leader, and First Sergeant. Leadership and tactics are also certified during lab and field training exercises.

Cadet Duffy, the lead MSIII trainer quotes "I'm very excited to be the MS3 trainer for this semester. I wanted this position because I felt that in years prior the focus was too much on how to do something and not why you're doing it. My goal is to set the MSIIIs up with the knowledge and confidence to adapt to any situation. I think confidence and adaptability are critical for their success at CST 2021. The class is doing really well so far. They are learning a lot during lab and want to learn more outside of lab hours. I am seeing individual growth in knowledge and leadership each week from the 3s. Seeing their growth makes me more motivated to give them everything I can and push them to make them better than myself. I am really looking forward to the FTXs where the 3s can put everything they have learned into practice."





## Transition to ACFT

As of 01OCT20, the Army will definitively transition to the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), from the old Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). According to army.mil, the ACFT will “improve soldier and unit readiness, transform the Army’s fitness culture, reduce preventable injuries and attrition, [and] enhance mental toughness and stamina.” It is designed to be a more complete and accurate assessment of a soldier’s fitness than the previous test. Whereas the APFT consisted of two-minute max pushups, two-minute max sit-ups, and a two-mile run, the ACFT is much more complex and thorough. Now, soldiers will have to perform a three-repetition max deadlift, a standing power throw, hand release pushups, the sprint-drag-carry, leg tucks, and a two-mile run. Each event is based on real world applications, such as carrying ammo, sprinting to cover, or carrying a litter. Due to COVID gym and training facilities being unavailable for some soldiers, Army brass has decided to allow a two-minute plank instead of the leg tucks for soldiers unable to complete them. Even so, many will find the ACFT to be quite a challenge.

In order to prepare for the upcoming ACFT, Pirate Battalion has been training these specific events continuously as far back as Spring 2020. Instead of the usual long runs interspersed with push up and sit up variations, Pirate Battalion leadership has implemented a more complete training system. While this varies, a typical week of PT focuses on each of the six events, with other movements designed to complement them. Each workout is a fast-paced circuit workout, keeping the intensity high. This mimics the actual intensity of the ACFT and teaches cadets how to deal with muscle fatigue and aerobic stress. In order to prepare cadets for the grueling two mile run at the end of the ACFT, leadership makes sure to conduct long runs often. The main difference between the APFT and the ACFT is the amount of training required. Passing the ACFT will take hard work and dedication, but Pirate Battalion is ensuring that it is up for the challenge.



# New Cadet Spotlight

## MSI

**Interviewer:** CDT Myer

**Interviewee:** CDT Munoz

**Myer:** CDT Munoz, thank you for doing this interview with me! Let's start off nice and simple, where do you go to school and what is your major?

**Munoz:** I am a freshman at Seton Hall University and I am a Bio major.

**Myer:** Wow! What do you like doing when you have some free time on your hands?

**Munoz:** I participate in competitive obstacle course races and I also have an interest in theatre.

**Myer:** Very cool, moving into something different let me ask you, have you ever considered the military alone as an option?

**Munoz:** The Army was my initial thought, a group of well rounded people working together I thought I would benefit from their training as well as forming the mindset that they acquire. With my future desire to be a Physical Therapist I thought it would be cool to maybe work with veterans and soldiers getting a new aspect of the career.

**Myer:** I definitely agree with you. The Army itself has a very large group of people who are always ready to work and try new things. I can already see that with you, you seem ready to jump on your feet at any moment which is great for your position with ROTC. With that being said what made you join ROTC.

**Munoz:** Going to school was still really important to me so I figured I could balance both learning and serving in the Army. I like challenges and this felt like one that was built for me. I did not really know much about ROTC prior to day 1 so it is becoming something I can talk about to others so they can consider it as an option as well.

**Myer:** Being in a similar position as you, I feel the same way. After high school many will either join the Military and disregard school while others choose just college but ROTC gives you the perfect balance of both. It should definitely be talked about more so people have these options beforehand and when it comes time NCO week really helps to ease the nerves of being a new cadet and sets the tone of Pirate Battalion with all of the other welcoming cadets. You may not have been exposed to too much yet but what has been your favorite part so far?

**Munoz:** I really like the fact that there is always something new going on whether that be in PT or during classes. Like I said before I enjoy a challenge and that is what PT does for me. But the best part with this is the fact that along with the challenge you still are welcomed no matter how experienced you are.

**Myer:** That is something that I noticed from the start as well, nobody puts each other down and it is very motivating to be around everybody. Is there something in particular that you are looking forward to?

**Munoz:** I wouldn't say anything specific but I am just excited to be part of something bigger, something that not everybody can say that they did. In ROTC we wake up ready to do anything so I am excited to start something new that I have yet to do and that many people cannot say that they have done.

**Myer:** Acquiring new skills and experiences is something that will come quickly and I am glad you are ready for that. Aside from being so up and ready with ROTC, are there other ways you have gotten involved?

**Munoz:** Club wise not yet, I want to further explore my options first and see where I would benefit and enjoy being. I am a little nervous about the balance between everything once I find my place.

**Myer:** That is understandable but ROTC is very flexible and open to helping you with anything. They want to keep you that well rounded cadet and student that you want to be so as long as you communicate with them things will be easy and you will be understood. One last thing, if somebody walked up to you saying they are considering ROTC what is something you would tell them?



## MSI Cont.

**Munoz:** I would definitely tell them to be ready for anything, whether it be something physical or mental. With that it is never necessary to be worried about anything, nerves are normal of course but the other cadets will not leave anyone behind. It is not about being the best but instead being better than you were yesterday. The pirate battalion in particular will ensure individual success if you keep your head up and keep an open mind and ears.

**Myer:** I couldn't have said it any better CDT Munoz, thank you for doing this interview with me.

**Munoz:** Thank you.

## MSII

**Interviewer:** CDT Kachler

**Interviewee:** CDT Castillo-Angelini

**Kachler:** CDT Castillo, thank you for agreeing to this interview. To kick things off, tell me a little about yourself. You've probably heard this a lot, but here goes: What's school do you go to and what are you majoring in?

**Castillo-Angelini:** I go to Kean University, and I am majoring in Criminal Justice.

**K:** Nice, are you a sophomore?

**CA:** Yes

**K:** Do you have any hobbies/sports?

**CA:** Yes, as far as hobbies go, drawing, skateboarding...sports, I used to play volleyball, but now not so much.

**K:** Now, let me ask you a bit of a different question; why did you join ROTC? You've probably heard this a lot from MS4s and maybe cadre, but did you ever consider the military beforehand?

**CA:** Yes, I did [consider joining the military]. I always thought that I wanted to do something bigger than myself, I wanted to be a part of something bigger, I wanted to do something positive. I also wanted to do something for my career, to have a military background, and advance myself personally.

**K:** Yes, I agree with you there. The military specifically offers great job security. So, what's your first impressions with Pirate Battalion? I take it you're not prior service, you didn't have any military experience, so is this your first time "getting your feet wet" in the military world?

**CA:** Yes it, is. So, I would say my first impressions of Pirate Battalion is very welcoming, I would say. Especially for cadets who do not have any prior knowledge or experience of anything military, like myself. Overall, I just like the environment, I would say. Because everyone is very welcoming, and they do all push you as if you already are part of that family.

**K:** I have to agree. I know for myself, ROTC is my first step into the military world, so to speak, and I came into ROTC not knowing a whole lot about the military. But after NCO week, you are accepted as a cadet, and you are treated the same as everyone else. I know that was very good for me. What is your favorite part so far? I know were only a couple weeks in, but...

## MSII

**CA:** My favorite part, I would have to say...I don't know, I kind of like everything. PT I enjoy a lot because it really challenges me, it really pushes me, but I also like classes because they're fun, you know, they're not very highschool-ish where its very strict, they try to get to know you as a person. They [cadre/instructors] try to know how you learn, and try to have a conversation with you.

**K:** I personally got the impression that ROTC classes treat you as an adult, as if you're already part of the Army. Is that kind of the gist you got?

**CA:** Yes, definitely.

**K:** So, what are you most excited for this year? Have you looked over what we might have in the works going forward?

**CA:** No, I haven't really gotten the chance to. I'm kind of just excited to see where this takes me. Like, physically and I guess socially. I'd really just like to get to know everyone and everything that can benefit me and my future. I'm excited to see what it has for me.

**K:** Kind of dovetailing off that; have you considered joining any clubs in ROTC? I know there have been a few announcements for different clubs usually during Final Formations.

**CA:** So yes actually I have. I've actually been added to the Ruck Club groupchat, but I have not been able to attend any of the "meetings" so far, because of work and family obligations. But, yes, Ruck Club is something I'm looking forward to and rucking is something I'm looking forward to learning about.

**K:** Yes, it's a very military-specific skill, and I highly recommend Ruck Club. I know a lot of people that have progressed in rucking by that [ruck club]. Are you in any clubs at your school?

**CA:** No, not at the moment. I'll have to look further at what clubs my school offers that I would be interested in.

**K:** Interesting. The great thing I've noticed about ROTC and pirate battalion in particular is that they strongly encourage to look into opportunities outside of ROTC, in order to get that well rounded experience. Have you considered what you would want to do in the army career wise/ branching?

**CA:** No, not at the moment...I know that I am considering wanting to branch Military Police as of right now. But I still want to keep my options open to see what else there is available that I can potentially move towards.

**K:** Yeah, it is a lot to think about especially your first few years in the program. But I will say that there are a ton of resources available in the battalion. In fact, we even have several National Guard MPs in the battalion, if you want to talk to them. But yeah, that's great. So, last question, and we've kind of touched on this before...so weekly PT is a big part of Army ROTC. So is it something new for you, is it easy, is it challenging? Is it what you expected? Because I know myself, you do PT for the first week and you're like "oh my gosh, this is pretty intense"...

**CA:** Yeah, so PT for me is very new, and it is very challenging, given that I have not been very physically active recently. But I do like it, there have been a lot of people who have told me that I would probably not like it or want to give up. But I enjoy PT because it pushes me so much to my limit and it does challenge me. But overall, yeah, I enjoy it. I thought it would be a little different, like I thought it would be people screaming in your face 24/7, but it's actually a very encouraging environment, which is probably what I like the most about it.

**K:** Well I'm glad you think that way, and I'll let you know that there's a lot more of that in store for you. Anyway, CDT Castillo, thank you for the interview.

**CA:** Thank you.



## MSIII

**Interviewer:** Cadet Bernier, William

**Interviewee:** Cadet Fitzpatrick, Michael

**B:** What school are you attending this Fall 2020?

**F:** Rutgers University - Newark

**B:** What are you majoring in?

**F:** Supply Chain Management Major- Business

**B:** Why did you join ROTC?

**F:** "I joined ROTC because I was very interested in a military career, but I also wanted to stay in school. So, I thought about enlisting, but I also still want to continue my education, so I found out [that ROTC] is a great way to do both."

**B:** What has been your favorite part of ROTC?

**F:** "My favorite part of ROTC has been the team atmosphere because usually in college, unless you're in a fraternity or a lot of clubs, you don't really get that. I remember that in high school, especially playing high school sports you really get a feel of what it's like to be part of a team and now since I'm not playing any sports in college I wanted to stay active and involved in a team setting. Everyone's together working out and training, so it really feels like a nice big team."

**B:** Are you part of any clubs within ROTC?

**F:** "I'm doing the ruck club and maybe Pershing Rifles."

**B:** What hobbies do you have outside of ROTC / Army?

**F:** "Outside of ROTC, I like playing basketball with my friends and go on runs from time to time. Generally, I just like to stay active."

**B:** What do you think about Pirate BN so far?

**F:** "I think it's great! I think it is a great way for people from other schools to make some friends. Since I go to Rutgers - Newark, it lets me meet people from other schools such as Drew University, Stevens, or Seton Hall. I've met a lot of people that are like-minded and want to do the same career path as me, so I feel like I fit right in."

**B:** How does ROTC work with your school schedule?

**F:** "I think it works fine. This semester, I was able to work my schedule to free up my Fridays so I could dedicate them to lab and PT. Other than that, the only other thing has been PT in the morning, so I never have to worry about missing classes or work."





*MSI CDT Munoz*



*MSII CDT Castillo-Angelini*



*MSIII CDT Fitzpatrick*



Special shout out to the cadets that helped make this newsletter happen! Thank you CDT Bernier, CDT Kachler, CDT Myer, and CDT Rogers! – c/S6 CDT Lloyd