

THE PIRATE SCROLL

PIRATE BATTALION ARMY ROTC NEWSLETTER



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WELCOME TO THE PIRATE SCROLL

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the Pirate Scroll! This newsletter provides an inside look at Pirate Battalion's hard work and training during the Spring semester. This edition also includes highlights from the Fall semester as well as cadet spotlights.

The mission for this semester is as follows: Pirate Battalion trains and certifies all MS classes in soldiering tasks, garrison leadership, and ACFT events in order to prepare for Cadet Summer Training and post-commissioning duties as a 2LT. The Battalion maintains the culture that was fostered in the Fall semester and builds upon "owning the mission" to work towards MS class team building and working as a cohesive unit that focuses on respect, inclusivity, and the development of peers during the Spring semester. Can Do, Never Quit!

A Quote from our BC

Cadet Battalion Commander Dudziec writes “This semester my goal for the Pirate Battalion was to build off of the successes of last semester while building a more cohesive and united environment within classes. To accomplish any mission, the unit must work together as a team and learn how to motivate each other to get the job done. Each class has varying levels of skills and strengths, and this semester it was my goal to encourage cadets to teach each other along the way and to leave no one behind. Although navigating COVID-19 this semester was a challenge, we managed to problem solve and work together to create COAs that would keep the BN training in a socially distanced environment. As we transition to the ACFT, it was also a part of my mission to train the new events to better prepare the battalion for fitness testing moving forward. Even with COVID restrictions, we still managed to train from home and also in smaller groups to mitigate risk. Through tough times during the pandemic, Pirate Battalion still came out strong!



COVID-19 MITIGATION

A major focus of Pirate Battalion during the Spring semester has been conducting quality training in a safe environment. As such, we have added extra force protection protocols to our daily training routines in addition to employing innovative training methods because force health and wellbeing remains a top priority for cadet and cadre leadership.

Cadet Command Sergeant Major Zebrowski writes, “the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the daily routine of the world. At the Pirate Battalion, we have had to adapt to the guidelines set forth by not only our respective universities, but those emplaced by the State of New Jersey, and the CDC. Firstly, we have mandated the wear of masks during all in person events. We have also created our own contact tracing unit headed by our S2/S5 CDT Martin. His job is to track all positive and negative tests and notify cadre in the case of a positive test. To mitigate the risk among cadets at PT we have broken platoons down into squads to reduce the exposure rate among the rest of Pirate Battalion. In the instance of positive tests, we have seen how this has allowed us to continue training in a safe environment. In the event of a major spread our S3 CDT Verdile has come up with a plan to utilize Zoom to conduct virtual workouts. We at the Pirate Battalion understand that these have been trying times with much uncertainty, however amongst all of that uncertainty we can ensure that we are taking every necessary precaution and coming up with new mitigations methods to keep everyone safe.”



Fall Semester Highlights

Field Training Exercises (FTXs):

In the Fall semester, Pirate Battalion successfully conducted two FTXs at South Mountain Reservation. During the first FTX, cadets had the opportunity to improve and test their land navigation skills, all while barring inclement weather. The second FTX challenged MS3s on their ability to act as squad leaders during tactical missions while the MS1s and MS2s rotated through stations, led by MS4s, where they learned how to properly pack a ruck sack, radio etiquette, land navigation, how to properly carry a litter, and how to call a 9-Line MEDEVAC.



Kickball Tournament:

At the midpoint of the Fall semester, Pirate Battalion executed a kickball tournament after a long day of training to boost morale and improve cohesion of the MS classes. The tournament included three safe, fun, and competitive games of kickball in which the different MS classes competed against each other to be crowned tournament champions. In a close final game between the MS3s and MS4s, the MS3 class edged out the 4s to win the 2020 Pirate Battalion Kickball Tournament!

Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill:

Near the end of the Fall Semester, the MS4 class successfully conducted an in-depth ROC drill to brief Cadre on their plan to execute Operation Jolly Roger- the overnight FTX. Although the semester came to an early end and impeded the Battalion's ability to conduct the overnight FTX, the ROC drill made MS4's high level of planning and preparation for the event very evident. With multiple detailed terrain models and well-rehearsed script briefings, the MS4 class utilized the ROC drill as an opportunity to display hard work and dedication to planning safe and effective training for the Pirate Battalion.



Community Outreach

Community outreach is an important part of Pirate Battalion and our long-term mission to promote positive and enduring relationships with the Seton Hall and greater South Orange communities. In the Fall semester, Pirate Battalion began sending cadets to the local Our Lady of Sorrows churches to support their bi-monthly food pantry distributions. At these distributions, cadets helped pack and hand out approximately 350 to 400 bags of food to local community members in need. In the Spring semester, Pirate Battalion built upon the strong sense of volunteerism that was fostered in the Fall by growing our partnership with Our Lady of Sorrows. We continued to support their distributions by sending a group of 11 cadets to help bring food out to the street for distribution and direct traffic all while barring inclement weather.

In addition, this semester Pirate Battalion teamed up with Campus Ministry to plan and execute a very successful large-scale food drive. Both programs turned the food drive into a friendly competition to see who could collect the most amount of goods to be donated to the OLS food pantry. Together, the two organizations collected over 1,000 donated items for the food pantry. At the conclusion of the drive, a small group of cadets and a few members of Campus Ministry were able to come together and collectively drop off and sort through all of the donations at the food pantry so that they would be ready to be given out and enjoyed by members of the community during the next scheduled distributions. Spring semester Battalion XO, CDT Lloyd, notes: "As the previous c/S6 in charge of community outreach it's been really awesome to see the program continue volunteering at OLS. This semester we've been able to build a stronger relationship with the local community and coordinate a joint event with campus ministry. I'm super proud of the turnout we got for the food drive collecting over 350 cans and all of the hard work that has gone into making these events happen."



Semester Training

Labs for MS Levels

MS1s/MS2s

The MS1 and MS2 labs provide cadets with an interactive environment to practice the skills learned in the classroom. The cadets get hands-on instruction and learn to work through the challenges of leading and working together as a team. The MS2 cadets are given the opportunity to practice leading squad-sized and platoon-sized elements through real world mission sets and scenarios. The purpose of this training is to give cadets experience in leadership positions on both the squad level and the platoon level as well as to give them a visual representation of what military operations look like. The lead MS1/MS2 trainer, CDT Bobb, claims: “The MS1 and MS2 class has moved forward into platoon tactics and shown a general understanding and competence on squad level tactics displayed in the curriculum. The MS1 class has accepted their role in the mission as team and squad members with the MS2 class leading the way as team leaders and squad leaders, creating a cohesive unit. I have high hopes in the MS1’s and MS2’s future leadership assignments and look forward to seeing their growth.”



MS3s

The MS3 cadets are challenged to develop their skills in decision making, persuading, and motivating team members across a full spectrum of military, corporate, and civic operations. They are also challenged on oral and written communication. The purpose of this training is to prepare the cadets for Cadet Summer Training 2021. The lead MS3 trainer, CDT Lally, states: “As MS3 Trainer it is my responsibility to prepare the MS3s for Advanced Camp this summer. We are attempting to do so by providing realistic training with a focus on OPORDs and defensive operations this semester. We have sought to do this with more practical labs and less classroom time.”

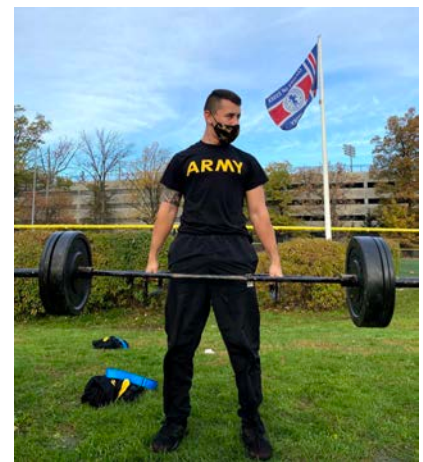


Physical Readiness Training

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has created numerous setbacks and restrictions for ROTC programs across the nation, Pirate Battalion has been able to prevail by adapting a new system for physical training. In order to maintain safety and efficiency, Pirate Battalion has split cadets into three platoons for physical training sessions. There are two platoons that consist of underclassmen- MS1 and MS2 cadets, as well as an MS3 platoon which consists of cadets preparing for CST21. For each PT session, platoons are separated into different locations to minimize interaction between cadets to impede the spread of COVID-19. At the platoon level, squads are led through PT sessions by their respective squad leaders and train with their squads for the remainder of PT. These positions are rotated every two weeks so that every cadet is given an opportunity to lead others.

Physical training this semester has been tailored to help cadets improve on the newly established Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) 3.0. The ACFT 3.0 consists of the three-repetition max deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release pushups, sprint drag carry, leg tucks, with the option to conduct a plank in lieu of leg tucks as an alternative event, and the two-mile run. The ACFT 3.0 is a more accurate measure of a Soldier's fitness as each event is applicable to the work a Soldier does on a day-to-day basis. For instance, the sprint-drag-carry and deadlift events translate into carrying a litter or sprinting to take cover.

To prepare for the ACFT, Pirate Battalion has included a mixture of these events within each PT session along with supplementary exercises that compliment them. Each session includes a high-intensity circuit workout, which is meant to emulate the ACFT. The ACFT events are cumulative and can become fatiguing towards the end of the test. However, Pirate Battalion is ensuring that each and every cadet is prepared to tackle it.



CFTX

From 09APR21-11APR21, Pirate Battalion conducted a weekend training event at Fort Dix with cadets and cadre from two other local New Jersey programs. Professor of Military Science and MSIII Instructor, CPT Lain identified the immense value that this training experience provided, “The Task Force Jersey Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) is a three-day annual exercise where Princeton, Rutgers, and Seton Hall University stress and test our MSIII class’ leadership skills, tactical knowledge, and critical thinking under pressure. We create platoons of MSIIIs so that our cadets are forced to lead an infantry platoon’s number of peers who they do not already know. The seniors (MSIVs) help with planning, serve as OPFOR, and assist in grading and providing feedback to the MSIII leaders.

This year it consisted of three platoons of cadets, with each platoon conducting 8 missions which rotated through ambush, raid, attack-to-seize, movement-to-contact, and perimeter defense. This created ample opportunity to both assess our MSIIIs leadership training, and further prepare them for advanced camp this summer. I am proud to say that our cadets represented Seton Hall well. In addition to their assigned and graded platoon leader, platoon sergeant, squad leader and team leader positions, Pirate Battalion cadets volunteered to serve in difficult, ungraded positions essential to the functioning of each platoon such as compass-man and radio operator.

At CFTX, Seton Hall cadets proved that they are more ready for advanced camp than most of them realized, while also identifying the areas we can continue to improve on. We tested their ability to plan in a time-constrained environment and adaptability to changing circumstances, and they responded by preparing and briefing tactically complete and actionable plans within their allotted hour of mission preparation, and then leading their platoons’ execution through a variety of cadre-injected stressors, changing mission circumstances, casualties, indirect fire, and unique terrain challenges. I look forward to seeing and hearing how they perform at Advanced Camp.”



Ranger Challenge

The Ranger Challenge competition tests a group of cadets each year on team building and soldiering skills. This year's competition was held at Fort Dix, New Jersey from 26 to 28MAR. Pirate Battalion's Ranger Challenge team was led by OIC CDT Dudziec and NCOIC CDT Velcamp. Events included: a PT smoker, land navigation, one rope bridge, a burden event, grenade assault course, weapons proficiency, tactical combat casualty care, obstacle course, tug of war, and a timed ruck march.

Leading up to the competition, Pirate Battalion's Ranger Challenge team had a roughly five-week training cycle. The team drilled one rope bridge, rucked, and practiced grenades and IMTs weekly. Additionally, the team's resident 68W, CDT Dotzman, gave instruction on TCCC. The team was incredibly fortunate to train at the West Orange Armory two times a week on weapons assembly/disassembly. OIC Dudziec remarked; "With new rules and COVID-19 restrictions, we were forced to train and prepare differently than what we were used to, but our team worked together to overcome the limited training schedule and excel at the competition". This constant training paid off and despite wrestling with COVID, the team made it to the competition.

During the competition, the team worked very well together and kept the good vibes going. Despite a strenuous PT smoker, challenging events, and carrying a 35+ pound ruck everywhere, the team faced every challenge with a smile and a can-do attitude. Unit cohesion, good leadership, and quality training all factored in to put the team in 15th place overall. This is a significant improvement from last year, made even more impressive by the fact that the team had to overcome some obstacles that were out of their control. According to OIC Dudziec, "Although we weren't the biggest team out there, we managed to outperform the expectations due to the incredible chemistry and cohesion we built..." However, the crowning achievement during the competition was the weapons proficiency event. Here, the team placed first, assembling five M-4s, two M-9s and two M-249s in a blazing fast two minutes and fourteen seconds. CDT Lukowski cemented the win by correctly performing a functions check on the M-4, even when the event cadre threw a curveball his way. At the bivouac each night, the team was supported by SFC Padilla, MSG Laws, and CPT Lain. Much to the enjoyment of everyone present, SFC Padilla broke out his grill and gave the team something to look forward to besides MREs.

Through unexpected 80-degree heat and high humidity, blisters and broken rucks, rain and ruck marches, Pirate Battalion's Ranger Challenge team overcame obstacles and performed impressively during competition. This success is mainly credited to the positive team environment, good leadership by CDTs Dudziec and Velcamp, and the technical and tactical proficiency of the team. NCOIC Velcamp commented; "CDT Dudziec did a great job fostering a positive team environment throughout the entire training stage of Ranger Challenge. I am very fortunate I was able to learn from her leading abilities and I'm super excited for Ranger Challenge in the fall!" Through it all, everyone displayed a true "Can Do, Never Quit" attitude and of course, good vibes.



Cadet Experience Spotlights

Air Assault School

U.S. Army Air Assault School is a 10-day course designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters. Air Assault training focuses on the mastery of rappelling techniques and sling load procedures, skills that involve intense concentration and a commitment to safety and preparation. Most Air Assault Cadets, like myself, will attend The Sabalauski Air Assault School, located at Fort Campbell, KY. After passing Day 0 training is broken into three phases, each lasting three days: Combat Assault Phase, Sling Load Phase, and Rappel Phase. On graduation day, Cadets will undergo a 12-mile rucksack march. When they complete the march, they will earn their wings as official Air Assault Soldiers. Air Assault School is tremendously physically and mentally demanding, as Soldiers will be required to handle heavy equipment and perform dangerous tasks under extremely stressful conditions. Successful candidates must possess a keen eye for detail and a dedication to meticulous preparation.

Combat Assault Phase

Candidates will learn aircraft safety and orientation, along with the principles of aero-medical evacuation, pathfinder operations, and combat assault operations among several other topics.

Sling Load Operations Phase

Candidates will learn how to rig equipment onto rotary aircraft with a sling, an operation that generally requires the loading Soldier to hook a tether to the underbelly of a helicopter hovering just a few feet above the ground. Typical loads can range anywhere from 1,000 to 8,000 pounds. These operations are extremely precise and requires intense preparation and concentration from all Air Assault team members.

Rappelling Phase

Soldiers receive basic instruction on ground and aircraft repelling procedures. By the end of the phase, trainees must complete multiple repels from a 34-foot tower and a final repel from a UH-60 Blackhawk or CH-47 Chinook, hovering at 70-90 feet.

From my personal experience Air Assault School was my favorite of all the military schoolings I have been too even though it was tough. I met a lot of great peers and was extremely excited to get my wing at graduation. Just remember, it's all about attention to detail and motivation when it comes to Air Assault School. If you have the drive to be there and put forth your max effort you will be successful. Focus on the smallest details and follow instructions given by the Air Assault Cadre. If you do these things any Soldier can succeed at Air Assault School. I'll never forget the memories and friends I made while there. It was a truly blessing experience.

-CDT Bailey



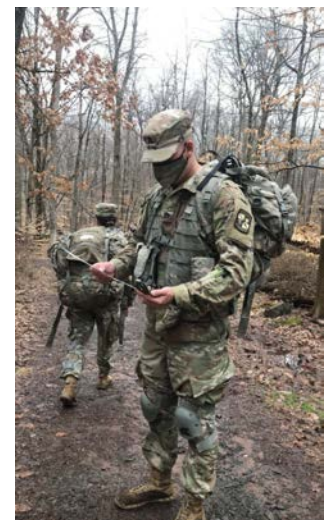
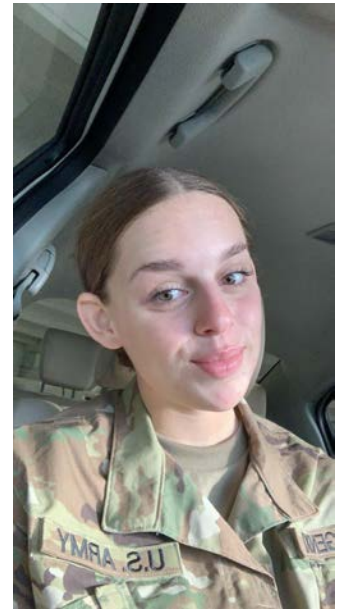
ROTC and NCAA Athletics

Being a student-athlete in the ROTC program is a challenge to begin with. Adding the COVID-19 pandemic into the mix added a little bit of spice to my challenging college life. My entire life I have always been one to keep busy, adding things to my schedule constantly. When I decided to play a collegiate sport, I never imagined how drastic my life would change. Softball has been my favorite sport for as long as I can remember. This spring is my 16th consecutive year of playing softball, which is practically my entire life! Coming into college, I was super stoked to be continuing my love for the game by playing at Montclair State University. At the beginning of the pandemic, my Freshman season was unfortunately cut short, along with my MSI year of the ROTC program. Eager to return to school, this semester has been quite difficult. Each week, I attend PT sessions with my platoon Monday, Wednesday, and Friday along with my classes and labs on Fridays as well. While handling these commitments, I also have a three-hour softball practice 6 days a week, and currently taking six classes as well. Having all of these commitments to attend is quite tiring and difficult to handle, but at the same time is very rewarding. I have learned a great deal of time management skills, while also learning communication skills as well. Throughout this entire process, I have gained and created amazing friendships and relationships by being a part of a collegiate team, but also with the ROTC program. Being able to maintain good grades and my physical fitness levels has also become a positive aspect of being a part of many different activities. Even though we are still amidst the pandemic, I continue to practice the correct protocols in order to protect myself and those I work with from my softball team and ROTC. Things have been incredibly difficult, but I am enjoying every second that I have here at MSU and Seton Hall. Playing softball while being able to train in becoming an officer in the Army has been an incredible privilege, and I would never change a thing!

-CDT Legenski

The Spring 2021 semester has been quite different than years past. With nearly all classes meeting virtually, this semester has lacked the learning-connection students normally develop with professors. In order to succeed, college students are forced to adapt to this new style of learning. Through ROTC training, I've developed a fundamental skill set where adaptation is second nature. Our training instills in us the determination that forges the essential changes necessary for completing the mission. This habit has directly translated into my life as a college athlete. Being a college athlete is a mentally challenging role; between [lacrosse] practice, meetings, and workouts, you still have to make time for schoolwork. During today's climate, juggling these responsibilities has become a daunting task that often leaves me isolated from my peers. Having the support of my fellow cadets and teammates inspires me to remain focused and handle life one task at a time. As the Pirate Battalion motto goes, "Can Do, Never Quit!"

-CDT Scarlatella



MSIV Commissioning

On May 29, 2021, the Pirate Battalion will commission 15 MS4s as the Army's newest Second Lieutenants. The commissioning ceremony signifies the culmination of four years of hard work in ROTC, and it will be a day that no commissionee will ever forget. The ceremony will consist of the soon-to-be Second Lieutenants taking the sacred oath of commissioned officers, pinning of the 2LT epaulettes by family, and the traditional silver dollar salute. Within the MS4 class, nine cadets will commission into the active duty component, one in the reserves, and five in the national guard. Below is a list of the new Second Lieutenants as well as the branches each will be commissioned into.

Active Duty:

Melissa Czarnogursky- Ordnance/Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Madison Dudziec- Military Intelligence

Paul Duffy- Armor

Camryn Howarth- Military Intelligence

Jake Lally- Military Intelligence/Branch Detail Armor

Jennifer Lloyd- Cyber

Alyssa Thomson- Air Defense Artillery

Vincent Verdile- Military Intelligence/Branch Detail Field Artillery

Jonathan Zebrowski- Infantry

Reserves:

Aisha Abass- Signal

National Guard:

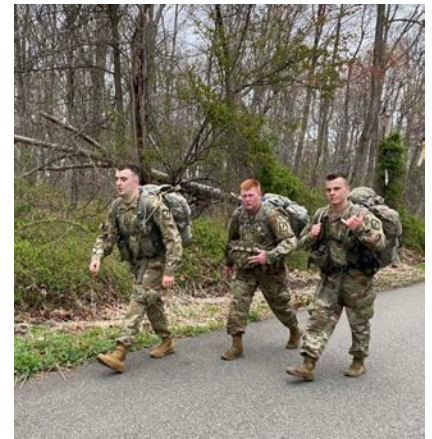
Kevin Bobb- Infantry

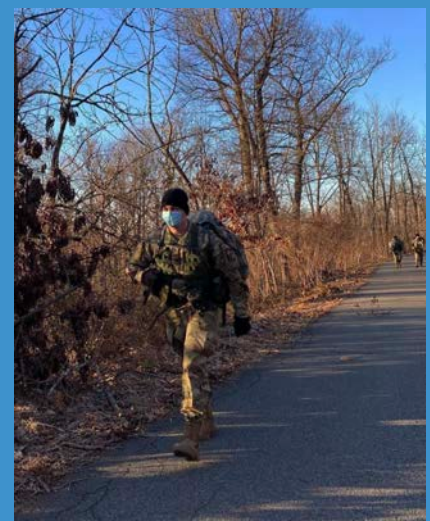
Tyler Gavin- Transportation

Tyasia Harris- Adjutant General

Ashley Kuglin- Adjutant General

Robert Martin- Military Intelligence





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