

MOHAWK ARMY ROTC



Cadet Battalion Commander Maltz's Vision



Cadet Battalion
Commander
Jake Maltz

Dear Fellow Cadets,

First, I am honored to serve as your Cadet Battalion Commander, and I look forward to what we can achieve together this semester. To the new cadets, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the best Battalion in the 2nd Brigade, the Mohawk Battalion. In the Mohawk Battalion, newcomers are welcome and we are committed to being exemplary leaders of integrity. During your time as a member of the Mohawk Battalion you will be taught invaluable military and leadership skills which will prepare you to become the leaders of tomorrow. To the returning cadets, welcome back from summer break and prepare to have another strong year. Our Battalion strives to always improve and surpass the standard. To reach the next tier of achievement, we will need all cadets, new and returning, to be the leaders which will promote excellence and professionalism in and out of the program. This semester the Mohawk Battalion will conduct training focused on individual and squad level skills which will be introduced in the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). These skills will continue to be improved upon until the end of the semester. The Fall FTX will provide opportunities for cadets to receive training in Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) with the M4 weapon system, land navigation, squad leadership roles, dynamic tactical scenarios involving paintball markers, and potentially the opportunity to fly in a Blackhawk. Training, while focusing on promoting and teaching important skills, will be fun! I look forward to the opportunity of working and training with, and getting to know all of you through this upcoming year.



The Mohawk Battalion and The Catamounts of the University of Vermont posing with yellow smoke grenades at their Joint Field Training Exercise, April, 2017.

History of the Mohawk Battalion

In 1947, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) began an ROTC program affiliated with the Corps of Engineers, Transportation Corps, and the Signal Corps. Siena College later formed its own ROTC program in September of 1950 as a Field Artillery program. The intent of focusing programs on certain branches was to align Cadets with branches that closely matched their academic backgrounds, a practice that was discontinued in the 1960s. ROTC Cadets today compete for slots in all of the Army's basic branches. In 1981, the State University at Albany (UAlbany) established an extension center of the RPI program to allow students to take ROTC courses on the UAlbany campus. As part of the Army's downsizing in the early 1990s the separate RPI ROTC program was discontinued, and Siena College became the host institution for Army ROTC in the New York Capital District. RPI and UAlbany are now part of Cadet Command's partnership schools program.

Mountain Warfare School

Soldier climbs up rock face in Mountain Warfare School, Jericho, VT



By: Cadet Joseph Ruf

Army Mountain Warfare School, located near Jericho Vermont, trains and certifies soldiers as military mountaineers. The training focuses on land navigation, rock climbing, repelling, and marksmanship in mountainous terrain. The Army Warfare School is the world's best military mountaineering school. Cadets of the Mohawk Battalion are eligible to compete to attend this prestigious school during the summer break. Cadet Emese Dunn, a sophomore cadet from Union, is the Mohawk Battalion's most recent graduate. She pointed out that *"an important part of Mountaineering is the ability to move in mountainous terrain with the same proficiency of non-mountain troops through normal terrain. So every day, with the exception of graduation day, we rucked"*. Of course, climbing is also important, so upon arrival, students of Mountain Warfare School immediately receive a handbook and their climbing gear and are told to dive into learning, practicing and perfecting the knots they will trust their safety to when climbing. Cadet Dunn recalls it as *"the most important basic skill of using ropes, a skill that must become second nature to a mountaineer. We also learned climbing and rappelling, hauling and evacuation of loads and casualties"*. Students learn and master the use of various kinds of ropes, knots, rappelling devices and techniques surrounding them before finally getting the chance to climb. Mountain Warfare School also includes other skills such as training on the Ethan Allen Firing Range, a High Angle Shooting range to train soldiers to engage targets in a mountainous environment. Soldiers who graduate receive the Ram's Head Device, a badge worn on their uniform that recognizes their demonstrated acumen as military mountaineers.



Airborne School

Photo Courtesy of 82nd Airborne Facebook Page: Soldiers photoshopped in front of recent Solar Eclipse



By: Cadet Michael Pepe

Airborne School is the Army's training program for paratroopers. The training is an intensive three week course during which soldiers develop mentally and physically into effective parachutists. Those that graduate earn the "Silver Wings" device and be Airborne Qualified. The first two weeks of Airborne School are Ground Week and Tower Week and consist of physical training and preparation for the students for the final week; Jump Week. In Ground Week, students must pass an Army Physical Fitness Test and learn basic parachuting skills such as entering and exiting the aircraft and using their jump gear. In Tower Week students must master exiting the aircraft, manipulating the parachute and pass all physical requirements of Airborne School. Finally, students come to Jump Week. This final week of training consists of the first jump for the students, as well as other following jumps, including one in full combat gear and one night jump. Cadet Rhys Jacobson, now a junior-year cadet at Siena, went to Airborne School this past summer and recalls the feeling of that jump. *"My group stood up, hooked our static lines in, and when the aircraft doors opened up, everyone's eyes grew wide, then I heard "Green Light GO!" and we began moving towards the door, I saw soldiers exit the aircraft and then it was my turn. I took one big step and the feeling of jumping out of that aircraft for the first time is nearly indescribable... definitely a total adrenaline rush... Nothing in my life has compared to the experience of Airborne School"*.



Mohawk Battalion Ranger Team

"Part of becoming an Army Officer is challenging oneself beyond limits. Cadets that wish to extend their Army knowledge and training may try out for the Ranger Challenge Team. Ranger Challenge is similar to a fall season varsity sport; cuts must be made and only the best Cadets remain. The mission is to push Cadets mentally and physically all the while developing their leadership capabilities. The Mohawk Battalion Ranger Challenge Team tryouts consist of an Army Physical Fitness Test, a time trial circuit workout, a ten kilometer ruck march, a strength test, and lastly a written test consisting of Army knowledge. Tryouts are designed to test the mental and physical toughness of each Cadet. The team trains relentlessly for eight weeks to represent the Mohawk Battalion at the Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition located at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The makeup of the team is nine Cadets with at least one Cadet from each military science class level. Also, each team must have at minimum of two female Cadets and two substitute Cadets. These elite Mohawks promote esprit-de-corps while working toward a common goal; winning the Competition. The 2016-17 Mohawk Ranger Challenge team placed sixteenth in the past competition and have aspirations to place first in the upcoming season. The highly competitive two-day Competition consists of forty-two schools from Second Brigade. Various events such as rappelling, hand grenade lanes, crew drill lanes, land navigation, tug of war, one rope bridge, tactical combat casualty care, weapons assembly checks, and ruck marches break down the Competition. Upon conclusion of the competition the brigade conducts an awards ceremony to recognize the hard earned victories among the teams. Participating in Ranger Challenge is open to any Cadet offering adventurous activities that most do not get to do. At its heart the Mohawk Battalion Ranger challenge team promotes an infectious passion, drive, and ambition to succeed in any aspect of life." **By: Cadet Devon Wentworth, Ranger Challenge Captain '17-'18**



'16-'17 Ranger Challenge Team

Top Row L/R: LTC Beal, CPT Perrier, CDT Wentworth, CDT Valenza, CDT Quinde, CDT Demild, CDT Futia, CDT Stanton, CDT Clemente, SFC Hurtado

Bottom Row L/R: CDT Cerrato, CDT Maio, CDT Urban, CDT Shoop

September 2017 Ranger Challenge Training Calendar

4 LABOR DAY NO PRACTICE	5 Mohawk Trail Tryouts Begin (Freshman Join) APFT & Tactic practice -SMT/IMT practice -Goal: 300 APFT score	6 UAlbany Circuit Workout -400-meter run -50 burpees -200-meter fireman's carry -50 dips -100 push-ups -50 bicycle crunches -100 sit-ups -400-meter run Goal: Timed event, aim for an hour or less.	7 Mohawk Trail Ruck March (Recorded) -6.2 Mile release -Goal: Ruck time at an hour or less, roughly a 10min/mile pace	8 Siena Strength/written Test (Recorded) -Bench/Squat/Dead lift -Tactic practical test -Peer Evaluation -Goal: Bench body weight, deadlift/squat body weight and a half TEAM SELECTED	11 Siena Team announced -Final team executes campus distance run -Cut CDTs get counseled	12 Union Upper Body Strength Training -Chest -Shoulders -Biceps/Triceps	13 UAlbany Campus Run/Strength Circuit Training -3.1 Mile lap -2x Ab focused smoke circle -Romanian Squats -Deadlift -Dumbbell Lunges	14 Siena Sprint Intervals with Flak Jackets -30/60's (45min) -suicides on turf (45min) -Hill Suicides (30min)	15 Mohawk Trail Ruck March -8 Mile non-release -Goal: Sustain a 10-12min/mile pace
18 RPI Stair Workout With Weight Training -Stair reps -Deadlifts -Squats -lunges with weight	19 Union Upper Body Strength Training -Chest -Shoulders -Biceps/Triceps	20 UAlbany Distance/Sprint Intervals Serpentine 5x -800m -400m -200m -100m	21 Siena Sprint Intervals with Flak Jackets -30/60's (45min) -suicides on turf (45min) -Hill Suicides (30min)	22 Mohawk Trail Ruck March with logs -8 Mile non-release -Carry logs as addition weight	25 Siena Sprint Intervals with Flak Jackets -30/60's (45min) -suicides on turf (45min) -Hill Suicides (30min)	26 Union Upper Body Strength Training -Chest -Shoulders -Biceps/Triceps	27 UAlbany Campus Run/Strength Circuit Training -3.1 Mile lap -2x Ab focused smoke circle -Squats -Deadlift -Dumbbell Lunges	28 Siena Tactics/Hakka -SMT/IMT -Crew Drills -General Competition overview	29 Mohawk Trail Ruck March with logs -10 Mile non-release -Litter Carry for additional weight. -Goal: Sustain a 14-15 minute mile pace.

Basic Camp

Cadet Steidle takes aim with a paintball gun at a Spring training exercise

Advanced Camp

By: Cadet Brandon Watt

Basic Camp is the culmination of two years worth of training, to include: drill and ceremony, customs and courtesies, and squad level tactics. Primarily, it is for select individuals who join a Reserve Officer Training Corps program later in their academic career or those who feel that they need more practice.

Basic Camp, hosted in Fort Knox, Kentucky, lasts for 30 days ranging from the months of May to August. Cadets will be placed among 9 or 10 regiments, where they will be united with peers from around the United States and its Territories; with such diversity, cadets begin to mold their own style of leadership and work with individuals who may or may not have the same way of doing things.

During their time at Basic Camp, cadets learn and develop basic soldiering skills both in the classroom and out in the field. Cadets are taught and tested on land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship, and their leadership skills. While in the field, cadets receive the opportunity to utilize their training by leading fellow cadets in a tactical environment; conducting attacks, ambushes, react to contact and break contact scenarios. Here cadets are taught to be a leader and a better follower as they and their peers are chosen to take on new leadership roles and missions each day.

"The second FTX was the tactics training. All the tactics we did were at the squad level. We spent two days at a forward operating base in tents like before while we did an assault course and classes. The second day we went into the woods and did classes and walk throughs of the basic battle drills, such as react to contact, hasty attack, deliberate attack, and ambushes. The training was fun and everyone got a chance to be a squad leader." Cadet Colin Murphy



Cadets graduate from Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY



Army ROTC cadet runs through yellow smoke during a training exercise



"During the first ten days of Advanced Camp, cadets are expected to pass a variety of tests based on the training that cadets receive from their freshman through junior years. Some of the most critical of these tests from my point of view include the land navigation test and the Army Physical Fitness Test.

In the second half of Advance Camp, cadets tactical and leadership skills are put to the test in a series of Field Training Exercises (FTXs). Throughout the first FTX, cadets are cycled through leadership positions and given a new mission to complete from their platoon cadre. Cadets are evaluated on their abilities to complete each mission using the TLPs and knowledge of Army Battle Drills. The second FTX is very similar to the first FTX in terms of the way the missions are carried out, with the exception of the mission planning. Each new mission builds off from the intelligence received from the prior mission. Platoon leaders have to be able to properly assess that intelligence and plan follow on missions with little guidance from cadre. Although tactics are important, the most important thing that cadets can do to prepare themselves is focus on their leadership skills. Completion of Advanced Camp is a critical milestone for all cadets looking to commission as U.S. Army officers. It tests your physical and mental capabilities, and develops your leadership and tactical skills that are critical to being a successful cadet and future officer. If you are planning on attending Advance Camp, and are searching for a couple of key pieces of advice, I would articulate that maintaining a positive attitude and professional bearing that sustains the moral and discipline of your peers, complemented with the mental strength to never quit at any point during training are the keys to success." **By: Cadet Hunter Tuttle**

Class of 2017 Commissionee's



From L/R: 2LT Tian Yi Wang, 2LT Thomas McGann, 2LT Jesse Futia, 2LT Alex Urban, 2LT Alec Cummings, 2LT Michael Cerrato, 2LT Colleen Oulahan, 2LT Charles Carrillo, 2LT Kevin Mulvey, 2LT William Doynow, 2LT Michael Betts, 2LT John Standish, 2LT Kevin Merrihue, 2LT Nicholas Maio

By: Cadet Joseph Steidle

The Reserve Officer Training Corps offers opportunities for cadets in the program to receive Army scholarships while they are attending their university. These scholarships are given to cadets to assist them through school and provide them with a contract from the Army, providing them monthly pay and an assured commission after graduation. These scholarships are first offered for high school students, with applications for four-year scholarships available to high school seniors preparing to go to college. Once in the program, cadets are able to apply for Line, GRFD and Minutemen scholarships. Line scholarships offer cadets the opportunity to choose to compete for Active Duty or work towards a Reserve Duty slot when they commission. The GRFD, the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship, ensures that the cadet receiving it will be in the Reserves or National Guard after they commission. It also requires the recipient to become part of the Simultaneous Membership Program; to be part of a Reserve unit while also in ROTC. A Minuteman scholarship is similar to a GRFD scholarship, but guarantees entrance only to the National Guard when the cadet receives their commission. Each provides coverage for the recipient in regards to tuition, book allowance and room and board, and monthly pay to the cadet is based on the year they are in. Often these scholarships come as three or two year scholarships awarded to freshmen or sophomores who meet physical fitness and academic standards.

For more information, follow the links below.

ROTC Scholarships:

<https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html>

National Guard Scholarships:

<https://www.nationalguard.com/tools/guard-scholarships>

Minutemen Scholarship:

<http://www.usar.army.mil/Featured/Resources/Educational-Benefits/Minuteman-Scholarship/>

Simultaneous Membership Program:

<https://www.nationalguard.com/simultaneous-membership-program>

Cadet Chevez plans a route for one of the land navigation labs at the 42nd ID Troy, NY



MSIII's prepare to zero-in their M4 rifles, prior to qualification



Cadets receive an in-brief prior to taking their Army Physical Fitness Test



Mohawk Battalion Cadets/Cadre pose after completing a 26.2 mile ruck march



Cadets tread water during the semi-annual combat water survival test at RPI



Cadets pose for a picture at the annual joint-military ball



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