

# MOHAWK ARMY ROTC



## 2019 Commissioning Ceremony

The following MSIV Cadets will be commissioning as 2nd Lieutenants on May 11th and May 18th respectively:

Rachel Billig, Medical Service  
Erin Besch, Medical Services  
Grant Cadenhead, Infantry  
Ryan Clemente, Military Intelligence  
Jacob Ferreira, Engineering Corps  
Rhys Jacobson, Ordnance Corps  
Christopher Howes, Ordnance Corps  
Michael Lynch, Finance Corps  
Kevin O'Connor, Armor  
Alexa Reilly, TBA  
Paul Serino, Chemical Corps  
Camille Valenza, Field Artillery  
Devon Wentworth, Infantry

Congratulations to our commissioning and graduating class!



Mohawk Cadet with UVM and UNH Cadets at a Joint Field Exercise in April, 2019

## Features:

- The Mohawk Experience
- Combat Water Survival Test Training
- Spring Joint Field Training Exercise
- MSIV Leadership Conferences
- Upcoming Events
- Contact Information



## The Mohawk BN Experience

**By: Cadet Rachel Billig**

The ROTC Mohawk Battalion experience revolves around dedicated cadets who are proud to be a part of something bigger than themselves. This program develops future officers of the United States Army and generates leadership skills valuable in all professional careers. Our current cadets display a strong sense of pride for the US Army by proudly wearing their uniform and being recognized across all our campuses. In the picture above you can see our cadets rucking at six o'clock on a Thursday morning, proudly carrying an American flag. This demonstrates our pride and reflects our commitment to our country. This also helps other students and parents acknowledge their own pride by supporting us. Alumni of the Mohawk Battalion remain in contact with our ROTC program and continue to motivate our current cadets by demonstrating their pride for their newly assigned units. These alumni continue to excel in their Army and civilian careers. Our senior class is preparing to commission as Second Lieutenants in either the Active duty, Reserves or National guard components. Regardless of your component all these cadets display their pride for the US Army in some form. They have been involved with color guard, recruiting, ROTC leadership conferences, and training exercises, all where they have displayed their pride for the Mohawk Battalion. These cadets have the great honor of being a member of the US Army and representing the profession across the world at various assignments. If you want to have the same honor and pride for your country, I encourage you to consider joining ROTC. See the last page for our recruiting and enrollment office contact information!

The picture to the right shows the Mohawk Battalion Cadet Executive Officer, CDT Howes (MSIV) displaying his pride during physical training. He motivated other cadets who were conducting high intensity interval training.



## Combat Water Survival Test

To the right, Cadet Sanford (MSI) executes the equipment drop while another cadet prepares for the unexpected entry



**By: Cadet Erin Besch**

The Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) is made up of five different events made to test a Cadet's water survival abilities. On March 12th, Mohawk Battalion cadets received an in-brief to explain all the standards and expectations of the cadets during the test. CDT Ferreira and MAJ Ryal clearly express these standards, take any questions for the cadets and demonstrate all events before cadets move to the pool to begin. The first event was the ten minute continuous swim. All cadets were wearing Army Combat uniforms (ACUs) and can swim however they like, as long as they are continuously swimming for the full ten minutes. Following this event was the five minute water tread. Both of these events test cadets stamina in water and help assess where their swimming abilities are. After these two events the cadets go to three separate stations to do the last three events: The unexpected entry, 15 meter rifle swim and the equipment drop. For the 15 meter rifle swim, cadets are given a rubber rifle and have to swim 15 meters holding the rifle out of the water the entire time, a difficult event for a swimmer for any level. In the deep end of the pool is the equipment drop. Cadets put on an Load Bearing Vest (LBV) and are given a rubber rifle. They then jump backwards into the pool and have to drop the rifle and remove the vest completely before rising to the surface. The last station at the diving board is for the unexpected entry. Each cadet is blindfolded and guided to the end of the diving board with a rubber rifle and must jump off into the water below while sounding off their branch of choice of course.

## Spring Joint Field Training Exercise

**By: Cadets Paul Serino & Chris Howes**

Mohawk Battalion Army ROTC is devoted to developing students into officers. Since there are leadership skills that cannot be taught in a classroom, once a semester we conduct a field training exercise (FTX). During this weekend, cadets are fully immersed in a tactical environment and learn to operate as a cohesive unit to complete missions. This spring from April 11th through April 14th, Mohawk Battalion teamed up with cadets from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Vermont to conduct a joint FTX at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site in Jericho, VT. This year, over 250 cadets, 71 of them from the Mohawk BN, attended. 21 of our first-year and second-year cadets rode in two UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters while the rest rode on coach buses. Over the course of the four-day exercise, cadet received training in a variety of subjects. During the first evening, cadets received a road to war brief on the tactical simulation for the weekend by CDT Valenza (MSIV) and trained on M4s, M249 SAWs, M240Bs, and ASIP radios. Cadets use real M4s, M249s, and M240s with blank rounds to develop weapon familiarization, learn weapon safety, and add realism to training.

The next day, cadets completed 4 missions, a raid, an ambush, an attack, and a movement to contact. Freshman and sophomore cadets reinforce their fundamentals in small unit tactics while juniors are placed in positions of leadership similar to how they will be tested during their upcoming summer training. Third-year cadets lead each mission as platoon leaders, platoon sergeants, and squad leaders while fourth-year cadets and cadre evaluate their performance. After each mission, cadets rotated leadership so that by the end of the weekend, all cadets got multiple squad leader rotations, and at least one coveted platoon leader or platoon sergeant rotation.

Cadets finished the day with hot chow and formed defensive positions in the woods to sleep. On the third morning, cadets woke up before dawn to prepare for an expected enemy attack. After successfully defending against the enemy fourth-year cadets, they had morning chow and prepared for their next day of missions. Cadets completed two longer platoon missions and finished the day with a company attack on Objective Olympus. 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> platoons laid down a base of fire while 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> platoons assaulted up the hill under the cover of smoke, eventually destroying the enemy platoon at the top.

Afterward, cadets joined together to take a group photo, marched to barracks, ate hot chow, and cleaned their equipment. The next day, the three battalions held a closing ceremony where several cadets were recognized for their outstanding work over the weekend, including 2 cadets from the Mohawk Battalion, cadet Joseph Nazzaro and cadet Gwendolyn Jackson. At FTX the days are long, physically demanding, and force you out of your comfort zone. That difficulty is why it is immensely satisfying to complete this training. Each cadet comes back from FTX with knowledge about the Army and, more importantly, confidence in their ability to overcome any challenges they face.



# Leadership Conferences

By: Cadets Alexa Reilly & Camille Valenza

Cadets in the Mohawk Battalion have several opportunities to enhance their personal and professional growth. From their entrance into the program, cadets can travel for development over the summer and during the academic year. Some of these include cultural understand programs in other countries (CULP), shadowing Lieutenants in active duty units (CTLT) or leadership conferences. Cadets Reilly and Valenza (MSIVs) both attended leadership conferences during this Spring Semester. Here's what they have to say about their experiences,

CDT Reilly:

"I was one of only 24 Army Cadets chosen to attend the National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS) at the Air Force Academy in Colorado from 20-23 FEB 2019. During Day 1, I was able to have a one-on-one discussion with GEN (Ret.) McDew about the characteristics of leadership. I also learned about overcoming adversity from US Paralympian Dartanyon Crockett, the tenets of leadership from University of Houston professor, Dr. Brené Brown, and making the hard choice over the easy from the founder of EthicsGame, Catharyn Baird. I was also privileged to hear the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, CMSAF Wright, share his story of going from a young Airman with a hefty disciplinary record to the highest-ranking enlisted member of the Air Force. Finally, courtesy of my cadet host, we finished off a long day with dinner and golf with my "honorary element," C1, Squadron 18. Day 2 began with a discussion by CPT (Ret.) Mike McGrath on his 6-year experience as a prisoner of war in Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War. I then heard from the VP of Corporate Responsibility of Chick-fil-A, Rodney Bullard, about the power of one person's actions to bring about change in an organization. I also worked with cadets from the Air Force Academy, Air Force ROTC, Navy ROTC, and Army ROTC to collaborate, creating a list of leadership qualities to focus on and bring back to our respective programs. Finally, former Army Green Beret and long snapper for the Seattle Seahawks Nate Boyer discussed the necessity of refusing to fail and possessing the "I will" instead of "I can't" mindset. As he discussed, resiliency and having a "never quit" attitude is something that is vital in the military profession and has been applied to my own leadership philosophy. Overall, my experience at NCLS was unparalleled and every moment exceeded expectations. Entering a new environment and interacting with those from other services created a shared experience and understanding that will aid in my competence in future joint service operations. If there is one thing that the symposium affirmed, it is that leadership comes in all shapes and sizes and from all walks of life. Your rank or the uniform you wear isn't what makes you a leader, it's your drive to serve both the people of the United States and the men and women next to you."



CDT Valenza:

"I was fortunate enough to attend the George C. Marshall Leadership conference at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The Conference was four days with a focus on the future of warfare. The conference panelists, keynote speakers and small group discussion leaders emphasized the impact of social media, enhanced, smart technology and multi-domain operations to include the new domains of space and cyberspace. Attending the conference was an honor as the selection criteria was quite specific. Each program's cadre recognized the top MSIV cadet. The first day consisted of an introduction by MG Evan, Cadet Command Commanding General, guest speaker address by Dr. P.W. Singer, a small group discussion and a junior leadership panel. Dr. P.W. Singer, a strategist, introduced the cadets to his book, "Like War: the Weaponization of Social Media", in which he discusses the positive and negative outcomes of social media in the battlespace. In the small group discussion, cadets were introduced to the Army Strategy and how General Milley (Chief of Staff) and Dr. Esper (Secretary of the Army) plan to make necessary changes to the Army's functionality to better integrate all domains (land, air, sea, space and cyberspace) onto the battlefield as functional and cooperative units. As I met and discussed strategy and tactics with other cadets I made connections with other programs and enhanced my own professional and personal development with knowledge and skills I will use in my military and civilian career."

- Siena/ RPI Commissioning Saturday May 11, 2019 1430 @ Siena Sarazen Student Union
- Siena Graduation Ceremony Sunday May 12, 2019 0930 @ The Times Union Center
- RPI Graduation Ceremony Saturday May 18, 2019 @ 0815
- UAlbany Commissioning Ceremony Saturday May 18, 2019 @ 1200
- UAlbany Graduation Sunday May 19, 2019 1000 @ Entry Plaza Lawn

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