

SCARLET KNIGHT BATTALION

ISSUE X VOLUME X MAY 2021

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COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATES

Rutgers University can now offer COVID-19 vaccination beginning Wednesday, May 5 to students, faculty, staff, and others who are part of the university community and have a Rutgers NetID. Please visit the Rutgers COVID-19 vaccine portal to register for an appointment at: <https://rtr.ipo.rutgers.edu/vaccines>.

Appointments will be available at three campus locations:

- Camden: Campus Center, Lower Level, South ABC, 326 Penn St., Camden
- Newark: Stonsby Commons, 91 Bleeker Street, Newark
- Piscataway: Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, 160 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway

Simply put, getting vaccinated is the safest and best way to bring us back together, and Rutgers is pleased to offer these vaccination opportunities to the community.

FROM THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

I could not be prouder of our Scarlet Knight Battalion Family – we were in uncharted waters and we have all had to take unprecedented steps as our personal and professional lives were dramatically affected by the outbreak. Our Cadets and Commissioned Second Lieutenants demonstrated the Scarlet Knight Battalion GRIT, resiliency, and tenacity during trying times. They planned, resourced, rehearsed, executed, and assessed all the training the Battalion conducted on a weekly basis. This includes daily physical training, 30+ LABs (to include a land navigation in below 20 degree weather with over two feet of snow in Kilmer Woods Ecological Preserve and a firing range under similar conditions at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst), competing at Ranger Challenge and placing 13th out of 33 other schools in 2nd BDE, and a combined Field Training Exercise with Princeton and Seton Hall Army ROTC programs.

The COVID pandemic gave rise to restrictions with in-person training, but I can honestly tell you our Cadets did not miss a beat and collectively came up with creative ways to stay engaged and in shape. As a testament to their leadership, they consistently encouraged their classmates to engage with the program in these adaptive ways. Despite the restrictions, 44 Cadets contracted, thereby taking the next step in their development and commitment to the Army. These Cadet volunteers took an oath to serve and defend our Nation against all its enemies.

Our goal for the Fall 2021 semester is to operate fully in-person: classes; daily physical fitness; and LABs for all Cadets. This is the final step for our ROTC program, University and Nation to return to normalcy. One thing that I am certain of, is that we will be more resilient, stronger and appreciative of the freedoms which we, at times, take for granted, and the simple things in life will have a more profound meaning. In times of adversity a person's true character becomes readily evident. Our Cadets have stepped-up and shown that they are men and women of high character, and are ready to lead our nation's sons and daughters against any future threats or challenges. Your compassion for one another speaks volumes about the values we hold so dear and the generosity that defines you as a person and future Army Officer.

Lastly, I want to thank our sponsors for their unwavering support in helping to develop and transform our Cadets into the future leaders of our great nation. Your support is what keeps our lineage and traditions going. MSI's you are the future of our Battalion, MSII's it's been a pleasure to watch you grow and develop, MSIII's you all are ready to take over the Battalion Cadet leadership. To our 13 Commissioned Second Lieutenants, I am going to miss you all, but I'm confident that you are ready to take the baton, enter the force structure and emerge as the future leaders of our great nation. Never forget your Rutgers University and Scarlet Knight Battalion roots.

Scarlet Knight – 6.

Producing Professional Leaders and Humble Winners with GRIT since 1916. Go Knights!



SEMESTER IN REVIEW

By CDT Stony Zhang

As the University approved our request for in-person labs and physical training, the ROTC program took extreme precaution in mitigating the spread of the virus throughout this semester. In order for Cadets to attend any in-person event, they are required to test negative in a COVID-19 test taken the week of. The extensive COVID-19 mitigation plan developed by the Cadre ultimately led the program to continue our operations, teaching and reinforcing Cadets in their knowledge and ability to conduct lanes in preparation for Cadet Summer Training.

Despite in-person training events being optional in light of the pandemic, most of the Cadets in the program have attended many, if not all, of the training events during the semester. The dedication of these Cadets does not go unnoticed by both the Cadre and the University. That is why all the Cadets and staff within the Scarlet Knight Battalion are looked up to as leaders of this University.



RANGER CHALLENGE

By CDT Joseph Hom

This year's 2020-2021 Ranger Challenge was an outstanding example to the rest of the Scarlet Knight Battalion and the ROTC program as a whole. Despite no in-person training during that Fall semester, cadets on the Ranger Challenge team met up on their own to conduct Ranger Challenge PT in order to be prepared for the competition, which had been moved to the Spring semester. Some cadets drove over an hour just to participate in this unofficial training because they felt that the training they received there was worth the trip. The motivation continued into the Spring semester and despite numerous delays due to the series of snow storms during the first half the semester, the Ranger Challenge team worked hard to be sure they were ready.



Spending more than double the amount of time typically asked of them a week, Ranger Challenge cadets went through extensive technical training in the weeks leading up to the competition. The team's commitment to go above and beyond the standard was overwhelmingly encouraging to see as a captain and the positive attitude continued throughout the event. Overall, it was a true honor to work with this year's Ranger Challenge team and grow with the group. I am proud of the work each of the cadets put into the competition and the program as a whole and I can't wait to see what next year's team has to offer. Go Knights!



SPRING CFTX

By CDT Aaron Tam

On April 9-11, the Scarlet Knight Battalion conducted our Spring Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX) with the Pirate Battalion (Seton Hall University) and the Tiger Battalion (Princeton University) at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL). The training population consisted of all FY2022 cadets from all three battalions. To train in a COVID environment, all cadets and cadre were required to show a negative COVID test from the week. The training population was also split into three platoons to create bubbles. From the 9th to the 11th, the three platoons rotated through cadet leadership conducting a platoon raid, attack, defense, ambush, and movement to contact. Every cadet was graded on their various leadership position based on their ability to conduct these missions in preparation for Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox. The MSIV cadets also gained valuable experience tasked to serve as platoon TAC's and OPFOR. The training event was a major success, allowing our MSIII cadets to gain more experience and greater understanding of platoon tactics.



SEMESTER IN REVIEW(CONT.)

Alumni Panel

Throughout this semester, our program had the privilege to invite many Alumni and current MBA students to speak to our Cadets about their experiences and service in the Army. These opportunities allow Cadets to gain insight on vast possibilities of their careers within the Army. As many of these professionals are in the process of transitioning or already transitioned out of the Army, they also give the Cadets advice on the process. Many of the leadership and technical skills obtained through their service in the Army allowed many of these professionals to be leaders in their work.

*Finishing out the Semester*

The Cadets in the Battalion were able to successfully complete all training events throughout the semester. The MSIII Cadets worked hard throughout the semester, reinforcing and polishing their leadership skills. This was extremely evident during the Combined Field Training Exercise.

To close out the year, all MSI and MSII Cadets finished with a six mile ruck, while the MSIII and MSIV Cadets successfully completed a twelve mile ruck. To celebrate the end of the ruck and the semester, the Cadets enjoyed a delicious barbeque. We are extremely proud of all of our Cadets for their excellent work and dedication to the program. Go Knights!

- Stony Zhang



ALUMNI INTERVIEW: MAJ SAMUEL WALTZER

A native of Southern New Jersey, MAJ Samuel Waltzer attended Rutgers University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, and Rutgers-Camden School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor degree. MAJ Waltzer earned his commission through the Rutgers University- New Brunswick Army ROTC program, Class of 2008, with Distinguished Military Graduate designation, and commissioned as a Transportation Officer. MAJ Waltzer's previous assignments include

Platoon Leader with the 253rd Transportation Company / Company Executive Officer with the 253rd Transportation Company / Transportation Officer for the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion / Company Commander of the 253rd Transportation Company and Operations Officer for the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. From June 2020 through March 2021, MAJ Waltzer served as the S3 and Operations OIC for the 42D Regional Support Group's Erbil Air Base, Iraq Base Operating Support – Integrator (BOS-I). In the civilian sector MAJ Waltzer has served as an associate attorney in a large law firm and as a project manager with a Fortune 50 company.

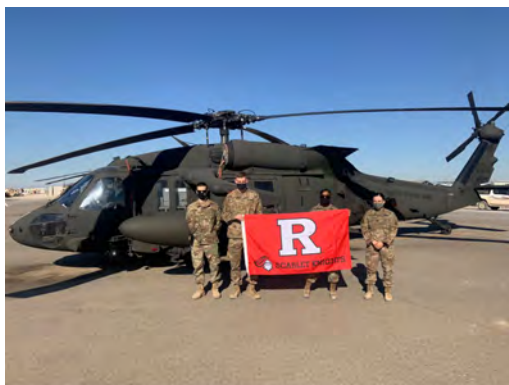


What is the best part about being an Army leader? What is the most difficult part?

Working with Soldiers and accomplishing missions that help to strengthen our State and Nation is the best part of being an Army leader. It has been rewarding to serve for so many years and see Soldiers I knew as very young Soldiers mature into more senior Officers and NCOs. One of the difficult things about leading can be working toward accomplishing the mission even in the case of limited resources, but we always find a way to accomplish our assigned tasks regardless.

How has the military affected you personally and professionally?

I have made many friends through the military, from both the military personnel and civilians I have been fortunate to work with over the years. From a professional standpoint, I have had the chance to lead large teams with a high amount of responsibility from a much younger age than my counterparts in the civilian world. This is also an asset when applying for positions in the civilian world. I have found that civilian employers look favorably on military experience.



From Left to Right:

MAJ Samuel Waltzer, 42D RSG, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2008
1LT Alexander Scott, 42D RSG, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2016
SSG Gisolette Ventura, 42D RSG, Rutgers University Class of 2020
1LT Katty Villeda, 82nd AD, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2017

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: MAJ SAMUEL WALTZER (CONT.)

What was ROTC like when you were in school?

The physical and military training was outstanding. Some things are probably still the same, like the early Friday morning leadership labs preceded by ruck marches to Kilmer Woods. We had a great cadre of experienced Officers and NCOs to train us and prepare us for service in the Army. We also had a great group of Cadets of many varied experiences, and we all learned from each other. I have found that our ROTC structure closely mirrored the Army units I have served with. The broader community was also very supportive of the ROTC program and military generally, as I think it still is today.

What was your favorite memory from Rutgers Army ROTC?

I very much enjoyed working the security for the Rutgers Football games at Rutgers Stadium. It was great being down on the field and contributing to the execution of a safe and fun event for the Rutgers community with my fellow Rutgers ROTC Cadets. And of course one of the perks was getting to be on the field during the games and seeing the game action up close.

What is it like connecting with fellow alumni while on missions across the globe?

It's rewarding to meet other alumni who have the same connection to Rutgers and the Rutgers ROTC program all around the world. It shows how small the world is, that despite being thousands of miles away from the United States, we are still able to meet fellow Scarlet Knights anywhere in the world and connect through our common shared formative experiences.

Every year, thousands of Cadets begin their transition into the Army as Second Lieutenants.

What is one piece of advice you would give them from your experience?

You should lead in a manner that fits your personality and individual style. Don't try to exactly copy anyone else, because everyone is different and circumstances are always different. You can always learn both good and bad from peers and from your leaders. Take those lessons and form your own leadership style. As long as Soldiers know you care about their well-being, they will work hard for you and you will lead effective teams.



From Left to Right:

MAJ Samuel Waltzer, 42D RSG, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2008
SSG Gisolette Ventura, 42D RSG, Rutgers University Class of 2020
1LT Katty Villeda, 82nd AD, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2017
1LT Alexander Scott, 42D RSG, Rutgers Army ROTC Class of 2016

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: 1LT KATTY VILLEDA**What is the best part about being an Army leader? What is the most difficult part?**

The best part of being an Army leader is the ability to lead and influence Soldiers. The most difficult part is not being able to solve all the issues your Soldiers face.

What was ROTC like when you were in school?

ROTC was fun yet challenging and evolved a lot from my MS2 -MS4 year. I'm excited to visit in the future and see how different it is from when I commissioned.

What was your favorite memory from Rutgers Army ROTC?

My favorite memories of ROTC are the FTXs. Although at the moment they seemed like they sucked, there are definitely a lot of memorable moments. Those moments in "the suck" really help build strong friendships some of which I still carry to this day. I couldn't be more grateful for my time at Rutgers Army ROTC.

What is it like connecting with fellow alumni while on missions across the globe?

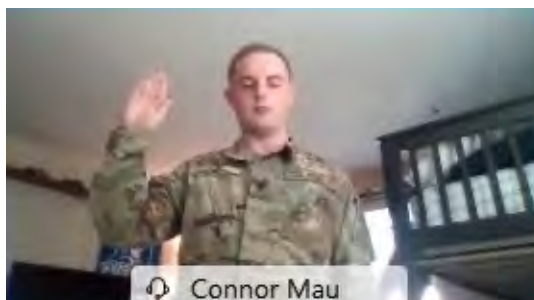
It was great connecting with Alumni while deployed! We were able to swap stories of what ROTC was like during our time at Rutgers. It really shows you how small the world is and how the Army/Military is even smaller. Another example of that is that my roommate downrange was a Rutgers Marine ROTC commissionee; she commissioned the same year I did but we hadn't met until we got to Iraq.

Every year, thousands of Cadets begin their transition into the Army as Second Lieutenants.**What is one piece of advice you would give them from your experience?**

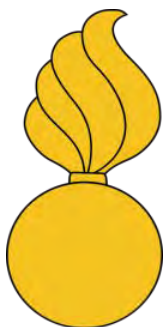
Word of advice to an incoming Junior Officers is never be afraid to ask questions. BOLC doesn't fully prepare you for everything you will face once you arrive to your Duty Station/Unit. Don't be afraid to turn to your NCOs and or even Junior Enlisted Soldiers for help. Most of your Soldiers will have been in the Army longer than you or served in multiple deployments. I did this quite a bit especially while deployed, I owe a lot of my success to my Enlisted Soldiers.

CONTRACTING CEREMONY

Throughout the Spring semester of 2021, the Scarlet Knight Battalion welcomed 8 new Cadets into the family. These Cadets have sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The newly contracted Cadets include: CDTs Armas, Bender, Edmonds, Ianni, King, Mau, Raginsky, and Quesada. We are extremely proud of our Cadets!



BRANCHES AND COMPONENT



Ordnance

Daniel Carton (NJ Guard)
Racheal Kim (Active)
Aaron Tam (EOD)(Active)



Field Artillery

Kory Hatton (Active)
Sanjana Tatke (Active)



Aviation

Joseph Hom (Active)
Mischa Legoff (NJ Guard)
Javier Nino (Active)



Medical Corps

Christopher Baldasano (NJ Guard)



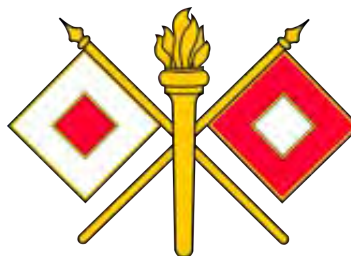
Transportation

Damian Morrone (NJ Guard)
Rebecca Szuminsky (Reserve)



Finance

Stony Zhang (NJ Guard)

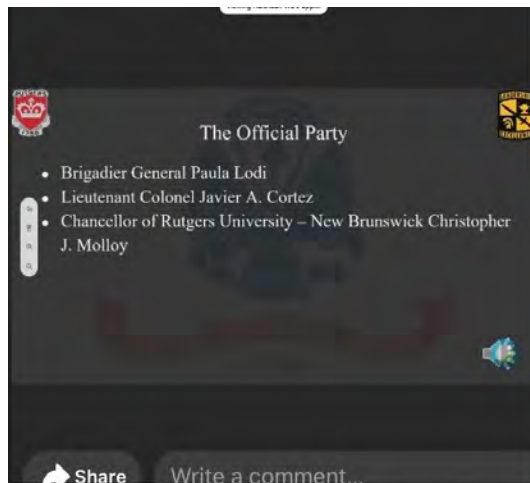
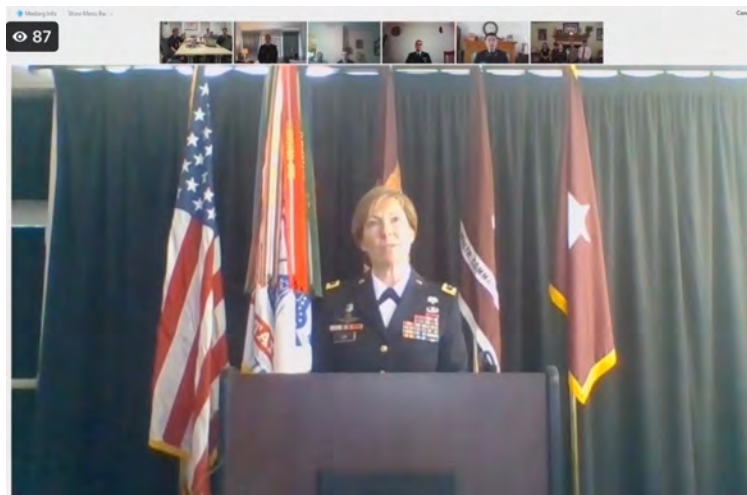


Signal

Kaitlynn Johnson (NJ Guard)

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

On 18 May 2021, the Scarlet Knight Battalion commissioned 13 2nd Lieutenants in a virtual ceremony. The Class of 2021 dedicated their Commissioning Ceremony to 2LT Ryan Rehill. 2LT Rehill served as a mentor and a role model to many of the recently commissioned 2LTs. He will be remembered as a Leader who embodied the Army Attributes.



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA



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ARMYROTC.RUTGERS.EDU

To stay up to date on our activities/events,
please follow the links below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersArmyRotcScarletKnightBattalion/>

Instagram: @rutgersarmyrotc

Website: <https://armyrotc.rutgers.edu/home>

Donations: <https://armyrotc.rutgers.edu/donate>



FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER

By CDT Mohammed Kharboutli

Serving as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the last 4 months has been an honor, a challenge, and an unparalleled learning and development opportunity. The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has introduced many diverse obstacles, but in-line with Scarlet Knight Battalion spirit, we adapted and overcame the obstacles as we faced them. Expanding our COVID test capabilities through the university and organizing distributed learning through digital means were key challenges to enable training through the Spring semester, but they were both challenges the Battalion overcame. Despite the pandemic, the Scarlet Knight Battalion had a valuable 4 months of training, and achieved a variety of goals. Our Ranger Challenge team's grit allowed them to continue training with maximum effort and motivation, placing 13 out of 33 teams in this year's competition. The Battalion adapted to the distanced environment by expanding our mentorship groups to facilitate integration of underclassmen into the Scarlet Knight Battalion. We introduced new programs, like the SOCOM Ignite team which is working with the DoD and MIT ROTC to develop innovative technological solutions to problems SOF face in the field. We increased our leadership development opportunities through digitally hosted mentorship panels, often inviting ROTC alumni. We expanded our digital capabilities by transitioning to Microsoft Teams as an integrated communications platform for the Battalion. And, as we always have, we had effective in-person training, such as morning PT, the CFTX, labs, and CST prep for our MSIII cadets. All-in-all, it was an awesome semester filled with great experiences. I want to applaud the graduating class for their dedication through the years and their resilience through the COVID pandemic, and I wish you all the best in BOLC and in your Army careers. I wish the cadets who will be attending CST in the coming months success, represent the SKBn's best! And to all the new cadets who joined us this last semester, I hope you gained something valuable and plan to continue your training. I am excited for what the Fall semester holds for the Battalion, as we return to campus and our usual traditions. I wish everyone a fun and safe summer, and I hope to see you all next semester! Scarlet Knights!

