

# SCARLET KNIGHT BATTALION

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## FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER

*By C/LTC Mariana Quezada*

When I joined the Scarlet Knight Battalion 3 years ago I could not have imagined being honored with the opportunity to serve as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the program. It has been truly an honor and privilege to be able to work alongside each and every member of the program, regardless of MS class level. As I move forward in my career as a

Second Lieutenant in the Active Duty Component, I cannot explain how proud I am of what the SKBN has been able to accomplish just within this past semester alone. Hard work, dedication, professionalism, and character does not go unnoticed within the program. Our Scarlet Knights continue to balance their everyday lives; whether it be school, work, ROTC, or even just a

regular social life with family and friends, our Cadets manage to do this all and still excel. We hope you enjoy what you are about to read about some of our recent training events we have taken on this Spring semester and remember once a Scarlet Knight, always a Scarlet Knight. GO KNIGHTS!

### Inside this Issue:

Force on Force Lab	2
Spring FTX & Arctic Challenge	3
Rutgers ROTC Alumni Council & Military Ball	4
Commissioning Ceremony & Senior Branches	5-6
Alumni Interview & Upcoming Events	7-8

## FROM THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

*By LTC Kevin W. Siegrist*

It's been a fantastic opportunity to watch the Scarlet Knight Cadets develop over these past two years. There's been tremendous effort this year in support and changes on multiple levels, mainly the earning of a Military Science Minor for AROTC studies now, and the rise of split labs and separate MSIII platoons from the MS I and IIs.

All through this, the Cadets adapted to the

changes, applied effort where needed, excelled in academics and extra-curricular activities, and lead their own battalion preparing themselves for the future. Be proud of them, continue providing support, and I look forward to working with each and every one of them in their future careers. - "RU Motivated!"





## FORCE ON FORCE LAB

*By C/ISG Kory Hatton*

On March 29th, my peers and I conducted a Force on Force lab at Kilmer Woods right here in Piscataway right off of Livingston Campus. The lab focused on enforcing key fundamentals learned in our Military Science classes such as our knowledge in platoon sized level operations, troop leading procedures, and battle drill 1 alpha. For a portion of the lab, we got to put away the “rubber ducks” and were given the opportunity to carry paintball guns in order to conduct and accomplish our missions. The Scarlet Knight Battalion was split into two platoons and were pitted against each other. The paintball guns added a sense of realism to the training as it forced myself as well as my peers to be conscious of the importance of cover and concealment



which we talk about so often but tend to disregard during our usual labs. Another take

away from this lab was the importance of varying rates of fire and sustaining enough ammunition to last you through a mission. This lab concluded with a MS (military science) class vs class paintball tournament in which the MS III (Junior) class took the win. This semester was the first in which the upper and lower classmen have been conducting separate labs, but this week we got to congregate and conduct the platoon size operation which was truly a boost for battalion comradery, especially right before our annual combined field training exercise with Seton Hall and Princeton University next week. This lab helped instill the realism for all of my peers as well as helped to reinforce the key learning objectives as we all get ready for our assessment at Fort Knox, Kentucky during the summer of our Junior year.





## SPRING FTX

*By C/SSG Nicholas Incollingo*

During the days of April 5-7, 2019, the Scarlet Knight Battalion completed a Combined Field Training Exercise with other Cadets from Princeton and Seton Hall. During the exercise Cadets from all schools rotated through leadership positions preparing them for their responsibilities as officers after they graduate. This exercise took place in West Point, NY at Camp Buckner. The purpose of the training was to prepare all the cadets for their culmination exercise during the summer of their junior year where they will be training with cadets from all over the country. This is the



chance for each cadet to showcase their training, but at the same time build comradery with the other schools. This was my first time participating in the training and I found it extremely beneficial for my future as an Army officer. It enabled cadets to practice peer to peer feedback in a manner that was well constructed and aimed at improving everyone's understanding of what it takes to be a leader. At the completion of the training the cadets were able to enjoy pizza with time to socialize prior to head home. This was an effective way to combine training and esprit-de-corp.



## ARCTIC CHALLENGE

*By C/SSG Madelyn Gagliardi*



The Arctic Challenge event, which took place on 12 April 2019 was an opportunity for cadets in their MSI year through MSIII year to push themselves to their physical and mental limits along the length of the 12 mile canal course. Arctic Challenge is a continuation of Ranger Challenge into the Spring semester to prep for next semester's competition. The cadets who rose to the challenge were split into two teams of seven and pinned up against each other to race for the fastest time and the least amount of penalties. The course consisted of a six mile ruck march in full gear and with a thirty-five pound pack. At the three mile mark there was a "KIM" test, or keep in memory test. The cadets were given one minute to memorize thirty items and recall as many as they could. At the end of the ruck, there was a medical lane where one teammate was made a casualty and the rest of the team was tasked to

perform care under fire and tactical field care. The casualty was then evacuated on a Skedco about two miles back where members of the team set up radios and called up a nine line medevac. This event began the tactical lane which consisted of grenade throws, low crawls, and buddy team rushes. The teams then ran about another mile until reaching the physical lane which consisted of hand-release push ups and farmer carries.

## RUTGERS ARMY ROTC ALUMNI COUNCIL

*By C/2LT Jonathan Veliz-Caicedo*

Looking at other Universities and their ROTC programs, often they have an alumni council that reconnects and supports the activities of the Battalion and their graduates. Recently, we have taken the initial steps to create the Rutgers Army ROTC Alumni Council! After communication

with various alumni, we've setup and had a successful first meeting at the Rutgers Club between cadet leadership and various alumni. Those in attendance included COL Timothy McLaughlin, Michael Hrycak (LTC Ret.), 1LT Garrett Kohn, LTC Stacy Enyeart, Dan Yang, Lou Luzco (CPT Ret.), and our PMS LTC Kevin Siegrist. The intent of the

council is to provide support not only for the Battalion, but the surrounding Rutgers Community while also serving to reconnect graduates. As we build the council, we would appreciate any other support from Alumni and if at all interested feel free to contact the program!



*By C/MAJ Megan Harrison*

On the 25th of April, the Scarlet Knight Battalion held their annual Military Ball. The guests in attendance included members of the AUSA, Rutgers deans and distinguished faculty, as well as the friends and family members of the SKBN cadets. Among the faculty, was Professor Richard Grippaldi, a long-time favorite history professor of the SKBN cadets who was presented an appreciation award for all of his support. Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Siegrist was the speaker of the evening and MSIV Cadet Alexander Baran presented a farewell slideshow containing pictures of all the graduating MSIV cadets. The night ended

with great music and dancing.

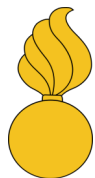
Captain Mark Lewis showed off his salsa dance moves and by the closing of the event, cadets begged for the DJ to play one last song. Overall, this was a Military Ball to never forget. The Scarlet Knight Battalion cadets will carry these memories made from this special night with them long after their careers in the U.S. Army are over.

## MILITARY BALL





## SENIOR BRANCHES



## Ordnance:

James Burke (Active)

Cindy Cortes (NJ Guard)



## Corps of Engineers:

Adam Swierksi (NJ Guard)



## Aviation:

Edward White (Active)

Jonathan Veliz (Active)

Joshua Moore (Active)



## Military Intelligence:

Marianela Quezada (Active)

Erik Ko (NJ Guard)

Megan Harrison (NJ Guard)



## Infantry (Signal Corps):

Alexander Baran (Active)



## Army Nurse Corps:

Sarah Hager (Active)



## Field Artillery:

Nathaniel Onorato (Active)

Edgard Sanchez (NJ Guard)



## Medical Service Corps:

Sierra Melnick (FL Guard)



## Military Police:

Joseph Niece (Active)

Ricardo Roman (NJ Guard)



## Quartermaster Corps:

Edward Malley (Active)

Ryan Onoshko (Active)



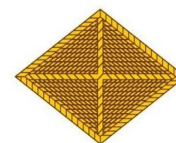
## Transportation Corps:

Kashief Harrison (NJ Guard)



## Adjutant General Corps:

Julian Malile (Active)



## Finance Corps:

Akhil Chakka (NJ Guard)

## COMMISSIONING CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

On the morning of 21 May 2019, the Scarlet Knight Battalion class of 2019 commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the College Ave Student Center. The distinguished guest for the ceremony was 39th Chief of Staff GEN Mark A. Milley who delivered a keynote speech and conducted the oath of office for the commissioned class.





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## ALUMNI INTERVIEW: CPT LONDON D. NAGAI

*By C/2LT Jonathan Veliz-Caicedo*

An exciting new feature that will appear in our semesterly newsletters is an interview with past Rutgers Army ROTC graduates! It will describe their timeline and career progression since graduating the University and past experiences within the program. For this semester, we have selected CPT London D. Nagai, the current commander of C/ 1-102 CAV in the New Jersey National Guard. Below is a transcript of the interview.

**What year did you graduate?** A: 2012

**What major were you?** A: Political science and Philosophy

**What cadre were in the program at the time?** A: PMS was LTC Ken Paterson, CPT Grillo was the MS3 Instructor, 1SG Chris Smith was the senior NCO and former Ranger Instructor, SFC Watts was also the MS3 instructor, and Major Fidderman was the MS1 Instructor

**Any memorable experiences in ROTC?** A: I did CULP (Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program) in Morocco for a summer. We also had lab every Friday from 0600-1800. We had STX lanes every week in Kilmer, they were intense but paid off in the end of the day. I did Ranger Challenge and I remember doing a log carry across all of the Rutgers Campuses, 1SG Smith made the team drink all this milk and years later he asked why'd he make them do that and he said he just wanted to see if they threw up.

**How do you think ROTC prepared you for the real army?** A: I branched Infantry. I went down to Benning, along with one of my best friends Mike Polanski, we went through all through Rutgers together, same fraternity, same platoon in LDAC and IBOLC together. In terms of how it prepared me going through IBOLC, going through Ranger school, the biggest thing I fell back on was those STX lanes and those labs. In terms of the OPORD process, squad level tactics, which is obviously huge in Ranger School, I constantly thought back on what would CPT Grillo want from an OPORD, what would SFC Watts want. 1SG Smith and SFC Watts were both former RIs so we took the OPORD very serious. In terms of what it set me up for in the real army, it's the best foundation I've gotten even thus far.

**What did you go through after ROTC?** A: First IBOLC, Ranger school, then took a platoon and did Platoon time for a while, but my career progression was a little different. Took a platoon down to NTC, after NTC went to airborne, then deployed to the North Sinai in Egypt, and after that took command of C/1-102 CAV. I deployed 8 months ago, and when I got off the plane, my squadron commander asked me to take command. Fast forward to February 2019, now we are at Fort Bliss preparing to deploy to the Horn of Africa. Back to back deployments, one as a operations officer and now as a commander.

**As a National Guardsman, you also have another career? Can you explain that side?** A: I own a real estate technology company. One of the benefits of being an Army leader is that you get a lot more experience quicker than most. After IBOLC and Ranger School, I got a job at a techstart-up company called Foursquare which took me to many places around the country for a bit, ex. San Francisco, California. Worked the start-up route, then a few years ago I opened up my own business. I have an office in NYC commuting from Jersey City but currently the past 2 years I have been full time with back to back deployments. Venture Commercial is the business name.

**Any advice you have for current Cadets?** A: Soak up as much as you can, from not only the military side but talk to your cadre. Understand and dig into what they're trying to say. What you're going to realize once you get out into the big army is that everyone commissions whether its West Point, Rutgers, Penn State, etc. and there is a completely different baseline as to what everyone learns but the Army standard is still the Army standard. Do some professional development on your own because when you get in front of that platoon or company, they're gonna expect you to know it. They see officers as all the same doesn't matter if you're National Guard, graduated from West Point/Rutgers, or where ever they are going to expect you to be the subject matter expert. At the same time, listen to your NCOs, be confident in yourself, but also enjoy college.

## FALL UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TRAINING EVENT MS 1/2S LAB	TRAINING EVENT MS 3/4S LAB
28-29 Aug 2019	Early Move-In	Early Move-In
30-Aug-19	Tri-Service Event	Tri-Service Event
6-Sep-19	Admin Lab	Admin Lab
13-Sep-19	Basic Military Instruction	Branch Orientation
20-Sep-19	Rappel Tower	Battle Drill Intro
27-29 Sep 19	Fall FTX	Fall FTX
11-Oct-19	SQD MNVR w/Paint Ball	Land Navigation(MSIII)/Staff Ride (MSIV)
18-Oct-19	Land Navigation(Classroom)	Land Navigation (FT. Dix)
25-Oct-19	Land Navigation	SQD STX I
1-Nov-19	Urban Orienteering	SQD STX II
8-Nov-19	Veterans Day Weekend	Veterans Day Weekend
15-Nov-19	Roles and Responsibilities of Tm Ldr	SQD STX III
22-Nov-19	Battle Lab(EST)	Battle Lab (CFF)
25-26 Nov 19	Turkey Bowl	Turkey Bowl
5-Dec-19	Dining In	Dining In
TBD	Homecoming/Alumni BBQ	Mil Appreciation Game



# RUTGERS

## THE SCARLET KNIGHT BATTALION

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A special thanks to our Alumni and Supporters for their continual support of the Scarlet Knight Battalion!

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>

The Rutgers University Scarlet Knight Army ROTC Battalion inherits a rich military history dating back to the defense of the Raritan River banks and the Jersey Shore during the Revolutionary War. Since then, Rutgers students have served in the Civil War, World War I (to include a Student Army Training Corps on campus), and World War II, where an Army Training Program was established at Camp Kilmer, now known as Livingston Campus.

Since Army ROTC's national inception in 1916, the Scarlet Knight Battalion has commissioned thousands of officers in defense of our nation. Notable graduates include General (Retired) Frederick Kroesen, Lieutenant General (Retired) Patricia Frost, Brigadier General (Retired) Bruce Bingham, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Colonel (Retired) Jack Jacobs.

SKBN Cadets comes from a variety of backgrounds and academic majors—from Musical Theater to Financial Accounting—and are active student leaders in the Rutgers community.