The History of our Battalion

MIT established the Army ROTC Paul Revere Battalion in 1917, one year after the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. During World War I, more Army Officers came from MIT than from any other school (with the exception of West Point). Of the 1,538 military participants in World War II from MIT, 1,335 were Commissioned Officers. The battalion's history would go on to fill many pages with individual accounts of bravery on the battlefield as well as scientific and technical achievements in military laboratories. Today our battalion’s history is shaped by the wide variety of students from MIT, Harvard University, Tufts University, Lesley University, Salem State University, Endicott College, Gordon College, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Wellesley College, and the New England Conservatory. Yet our history does not stop here. Instead, it continues to be written by the men and women of our battalion who continue to answer our nation’s call to serve.
A Message from the Battalion Commander

To all Cadets, Cadre, Support Staff, Family, Friends, and all those associated with MIT Army ROTC’s Paul Revere Battalion:

I have had some amazing experiences over the past three years with the Paul Revere Battalion. The common theme connecting all these experiences is development. Experiencing both strife and success will shape you and your character. You will improve and build off of your achievements, but most importantly, you will let your failures drive your growth. At the beginning of the semester, I challenged our Cadets to have as many experiences with ROTC as possible. I informed them that they would all receive the exact same training with the program, but that they would all walk away with different levels of development.

All of our Cadets have accomplished and experienced so much this fall. Their countless hours of hard work, dedication, and selfless service have brought them incredibly far. They have some exciting stories from internships with the Department of Defense, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Ranger Challenge, the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program, Advanced Camp and more. The Paul Revere Battalion has so much to offer and it is awesome to see everyone taking full advantage!

This semester has definitely been one full of learning and I could not be more proud of every single one of our Cadets. To my fellow Cadets: don’t forget to make the most of your remaining time here in Cambridge, because it will go by much faster than you think. Always push yourself to develop into the great leaders that I know you all will be. It is an honor to work with and for you everyday, and I cannot wait to continue our hard work in this next spring semester. Roll Tech!

No Fear,

Cadet Christopher Forte
c/Battalion Commander (Endicott College, ’18)
A Message from the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Paul Revere Battalion,

Over the past two years that I’ve been in ROTC, I’ve had many opportunities to answer the question that, as a guy from a hippie town in Northern California, I get pretty often: “Why did you join ROTC?” At first, I really wasn’t sure what to say. Wanting to “serve my country,” while entirely true, somehow felt boastful and self-important. Wanting to “experience something new and different” sounded trite. Wanting to “gain leadership experience” didn’t seem serious enough to justify the magnitude of the decision.

The first time that answering that question became easier was after I went to Fort Knox for a month in 2016. Sure, it wasn’t much compared to actual basic training. But we took our licks, and the drill sergeants there made it their mission to break us down so they could rebuild us as Soldiers. The difficult training and every Cadet’s individual struggles did more than just teach our group about how to be in the Army. It made us better people in general. We went in skeptical of one another, questioning each other’s backgrounds, political and religious beliefs, physical or mental acumen. We came out a ragtag team, a group of people who would fight to defend one another, a group of people who accepted each other regardless of who we’d been when we arrived at Fort Knox. For my part, I came out understanding that the real reason I joined the Army was to find a purpose, but not one that belonged solely to me or benefited only me—I wanted a shared purpose with a group of people whom I would fight for, and who would fight for me.

As Battalion Commander, Cadet Forte has done everything he can to bring to this battalion the sort of challenging training and rigorous standards that will teach you the same lessons I learned at Fort Knox. He knows that we learn best – and that we learn how to trust each other – through shared experience. It’s been an honor for me to stand in front of you every week as your Command Sergeant Major. Your spirit, your hard work, and your generosity with me through a very difficult time have reinvigorated my love of this institution, and reminded me of the purpose that I pursue every day I put on the uniform.

Every Cadet in this Battalion knows that they’ll be a leader one day. That’s part of why we signed up. But I want to remind you that if you’re doing it right, you’re a leader today, a leader tomorrow, and a leader every day, whether you’re in uniform or not. Stand up for what’s right. Be compassionate, open-minded, and understanding. Pursue shared purpose with your peers, and build trust. None of it is easy, and you’ll make plenty of
mistakes. I certainly do. But when times are tough, remember that you’re a member of the Paul Revere Battalion—you’ll always have a team to fight for and a team that will fight for you.

No Fear,

Cadet Gabriel Gladstein c/Battalion Command Sergeant Major (Harvard University ‘17/New England Conservatory of Music ‘18)

Message from the Public Affairs Officer and Assistant:

Greetings from your PAO team.

This semester has been full of many great experiences and accomplishments from the Cadets here at the Paul Revere Battalion. Our Cadets have become adept at functioning as a team and looking out for each other. Our purpose for the Revere Recorder is to display the many different experiences our Cadets go through and how each has impacted their lives and allowed them to grown in their personal and ROTC life. We do this not just to acknowledge but to inspire others to take advantage of all opportunities available to them both through this and their respective school, and to know that we are all a team striving for that same goal of bettering ourselves and our leadership skills each and every day. With this publication we hope a piece of our combined experiences this fall 2017 semester can be remembered and reflected on. A big thanks from your PAO team for your contributed articles and to all our Cadets for all the hard work and growth they’ve accomplished this semester.

PAO team,

CDT Yan A. Agudelo (Salem State University ‘18) and CDT Grace Chao (Harvard University ‘19)
Learning to Fall from the Sky

CDT Emma Carter-LaMarche (Wellesley College, ’19)

The rumbling engine of the C-130 was no competition for my rapidly beating heart as I covered my reserve parachute with my left hand and desperately grasped the netted seat with my right. After two weeks of Airborne training, I was finally completing the task I came to do: jump straight out of a plane.

When I first arrived at Fort Benning, GA, I was overwhelmed to say the least. I was used to the familiarity of the MIT unit, my fellow friendly Cadets, and supportive cadre, but in Georgia I was truly on my own. I was no longer a cadet, but a Soldier standing in formation next to enlisted and active duty officers. I would either sink or swim and I was determined to do the latter.

The first week, ground week, was straightforward. Wake up at 0450, PT, chow at 0800, and then training until 1800. I learned the proper exit form as I jumped out a thirty-five foot tower with a pulley line. I practiced how to land so that I did not break limbs. The phrase “keep your feet and knees together” rang soundly in my head as I collapsed each day in bed exhausted.

Next came tower week. Fort Benning is famous for its staggering two hundred foot towers; the first thing Soldiers see upon arrival at the Airborne barracks. It was during this week that I would actually begin to practice what I learned. Between swinging from the Parachute Landing Fall (PLF) Simulator, a harness that suddenly dropped in order to test your parachute landing fall, and learning emergency landings each day was long, hot, and tiring.

Yet, I began to see small changes in myself. During the longer PT runs the other females in my platoon began to fall out. I yelled encouragements and made sure they stayed in formation. Each day I pushed myself during PT and volunteered for clean-up duty at night. And when my battle buddy failed the last day before jump week I made sure to check in. I began to see the tiny moments in which I could be a leader.

As I took on leadership I gained confidence, because I was no longer just focused on myself. Instead I put energy into making sure the entire team succeeded. So, as I looked out of the plane, saw the tiny trees, felt the rush of the wind and heard the rumbling of the engine I knew I could do it.

I jumped. Sure, my nerves were on edge, but I had already done the hard part. I had already taken the biggest jumps of all in the previous weeks throwing myself into leadership, responsibility, and continually working hard despite my original uncomfortableness.

The world fell under my feet, a complete blur as air zoomed past my face. I was falling, I WAS FALLING OUT OF A PLANE. I started laughing. It was by far the coolest experience of
my life. My parachute deployed. I looked down at the world and a feeling of pride washed over me. I was proud of myself, but I was even more proud to be part of the phenomenal life changing organization that is the Army.

No pain, No gain at Air Assault School

*CDT Patrick Murray (Harvard University, ’20)*

The rotor wash beneath the UH-60 Blackhawk nearly blew me over as I knelt on the ground below. Filled with anticipation, I awaited the helicopter’s descent. Once the bird landed, I would rise from my kneeling position and run directly towards the cabin doors. This was perhaps the hardest 50 meter sprint I have ever endured as I was fighting to stay upright amidst the wind surrounding the rotor blades. I entered the cabin and the rush of adrenaline took over as the UH-60 quickly ascended. I hooked into my freshly tied Swiss seat and awaited the order for my next movement. As I peered out the side of the Blackhawk, I filled with excitement. As a young boy, I dreamed of riding in an Army helicopter and soaring down a rope to the ground. Now here I was, 100 something feet above Fort Benning, Georgia hooked into a Swiss seat and hanging off the side of a UH-60 Blackhawk. I assumed the directed L-Seat rappelling position and readied myself for a quick descent. After conducting my four-point safety check, I leapt out and let my break hand loose and zipped down the rope. There was no way I was slowing my descent with a press of my brake hand to my lower back. I made it to the ground in what felt like an instant and with that successful rappel I was now one step closer to earning my Air Assault wings.

For the previous ten days, I found myself exhausted in Georgia’s July heat waking up each morning at 0300 and enduring both physical and mental rigors. To make these days’ worth it I would have to leave Fort Benning with my wings. Nothing would stop me from attaining this goal. Following our Blackhawk rappel, we were dismissed to our barracks where we would load our rucksacks and ready for our final requirement, a 12-mile foot march. This was the final obstacle that stood between myself and the Air Assault wings. The march must be completed within a 3-hour time standard and Georgia’s heat and humidity would make this walk a true test. We stepped off under the night sky, rucks on our backs and boots on our feet. The aches and pains of the previous ten days tried to stagger my movement but again, nothing would stop me. At each mile it seemed another toenail would fall off and a new body part would ache. I watched my watch closely ensuring I was on pace to complete the 12 miler. I stayed ahead of
pace and found myself within sight of the finish. I stepped it out to the finish and as I called out “Roster Number Six-Zero-Six” to the waiting Air Assault Sergeant. He responded “Congrats Air Assault.” At this moment I swelled with pride, I had completed perhaps the hardest ten days of my life and would return home Air Assault qualified with a pair of wings driven into my chest. Ten days of trials, a total of seven lost toenails, and one set of wings.

Senegal and its Lessons

*CDT Henry Hanlon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ’20)*

Though I had been overseas in the past, the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program was a radically different experience with a distinct mission, rigid timelines and executable tasks - a far cry from a vacation. During the course of our deployment to Senegal, we sought to learn about the culture of the nation and region, and about operating overseas. The experience has given me valuable skills as a future Second Lieutenant.

CULP teaches Cadets about the process and tasks required for deployment. From CTIP (Combating Trafficking in Persons) to AT1 (Anti-Terrorism Level 1), to homework courses, to immunizations, the experience was modeled after the real Army deployment process. Cadets even went through Fort Knox SRP (Soldier Readiness Processing). This type of practical knowledge about deployments is not taught or experienced in many other facets of Cadet training, so it was especially useful to get a taste here.

A big challenge in the overall experience was the language barrier. Unlike other French speaking nations, whose populations usually know English and French, there is very little English spoken at all in Senegal. For someone learning French, it was a really transformative trip because in many situations I was entrusted with ordering food or making sure that flights were correct for the entire group. The day to day language used in Senegal is Wolof, which was completely foreign to me. Even though I did not learn much Wolof, I did learn how much locals appreciate it when you try and learn their native tongue. It was humbling to have to find ways to converse other than spoken word. Sometimes we had access to interpreters, which was challenging to learn how to properly use them, but ultimately rewarding.
As someone from a Catholic background in a largely Christian area, I did not know much about Islam. Senegal is 95% Muslim, so I had to quickly adapt to this new environment. Many assumptions I had made about Islam and Islamic nations were wrong, and I welcomed the chance to learn something outside of textbooks and news. Should I ever go back to a Muslim nation, I now have a foundational level of understanding about their prayer times, taboos and other practices.

One of the most important lessons that I learned was restraint. There were many things that gave me pause during the mission, such as rampant littering, trash fires, incest, unsanitary conditions and unsafe traffic habits. In discussing with locals, I recognized that it was not my place, nor part of the mission to try and export my own culture. As wrong or uneducated as some of these behaviors might seem to us, it is important to respect a culture's habits for what they are.

Finally, one of the most important skills I learned was multi-national cooperation at the most personal level. During humanitarian aid missions, we worked with locals to mix concrete, paint, move rubble and a slew of other tasks. I learned to compromise when our methods differed, I learned how to overcome the language barrier, and I learned how to get things done with people I've never met before.

Sunny days in Rwanda

*CDT Kailash Sundaram (Harvard University, ’19)*

Americans tend to have an attitude that our way of life is superior to all others - our democracy, our values, and our culture. Traveling to Rwanda, however, showed me that no culture is better or worse. As future 2nd Lieutenants, it's our responsibility to put aside our biases and work within the culture of the area in which we operate.

I came into CULP with the belief that Rwanda and all third countries wanted to be like the US. To some extent, this was true. Rwandans appreciated our English-speaking abilities and tried to improve them with our help. They asked us for style advice and who our favorite hip-hop artists were.

But at the same time, Rwandans are quite proud of their culture. They find value in each other and were generally very proud of their President, often calling him "His Excellency." Although Rwanda doesn't have a true democracy, which the American Embassy implied they would like to see happen in Rwanda, Rwandans generally seem to be fine with leadership more akin to a benevolent dictatorship.
It's important for 2nd Lieutenants to remember that right and wrong - and good and bad - are perceived differently across the world. Although Rwanda's leadership and style of government wouldn't sit well in the US, it works for Rwanda, and we have to respect that. As 2nd Lieutenants, we will need to accomplish our missions without changing the cultural dynamics at play - dynamics that have deep roots, stories, and connections. As officers, we need to consider how our mission affects the environment as well. It's not enough to take out the bad guy or the terrorist; it's our responsibility to make sure the civilians around us understand our goals and that we're working with them, not against them.

Ultimately, I feel very lucky to have had this CULP experience. There were times when we were interacting with their military force or touring places or sites that I felt tired or wondered why we were doing what we were doing. But at the end I gained a significant appreciation for Rwandan culture, and an appreciation for human life everywhere. We all share the same goals, hopes, and aspirations - for our lives to be valued and for us to be appreciated. No one life is better or worse than another, and no life is more important than another. We are one race, humanity, and we have to work with the groups we operate with, not against them. That's where cultural understanding comes in handy.
My experience in Vietnam was transformative in expanding my worldview and in refining my perceptions of the Army. The external development that comes with traveling to a foreign country, especially one so ideologically and culturally different from my own, and the internal growth and change made my CULP experience extremely important. The experiences and observations of these 31 days will remain relevant for years to come as they will influence my approach to OCONUS work with the Army and my leadership choices moving forward.

Vietnam is not nearly as different from the U.S. as we would like to think, especially a city like Hanoi. Vietnam and the U.S. share a very similarly powerful unwavering national pride, such that most Vietnamese people think their way of life works very well for them and aren’t seeking the improvements and the knowledge that we thought we could bring them. We anticipated being met with an animalistic curiosity, fascination, and idolization but instead we were met by equals who were as interested in sharing their culture and their perceived superiorities with us, as we were ours with them.

Their method of transportation is a fascinating example of a cultural difference that can easily put off those of us who have specific ideas in mind of what a roadway and traffic patterns look like. I heard the expression "organized chaos" used quite frequently to describe the traffic patterns in Hanoi. To a Westerner with very different driving sensibilities, it seemed to be a miracle that there aren’t traffic accidents every second. But to the Vietnamese people, there is nothing chaotic about it. The second we assign a descriptor like "organized chaos", we project our own American norms and understandings onto it. We’ve effectively closed ourselves off to the reality that their way of doing things is not meant to rival ours, but rather they live under an entirely different set of rules and societal functions.

This is similarly applied to our concept of social norms and the legality of certain actions and behaviors. In our preparation for CULP and previously in my classes learning about culture, I’ve been briefed on the unusual behaviors to expect in country and common business practices or living behaviors that are inappropriate or unethical or even illegal. When information is presented in this way, we fail to consider the fact that these behaviors are only unusual to us, the outsiders, and they are only illegal or immoral by our definitions and our standards. These behaviors are the norm in country and should be thought of no differently than our practices of making business deals over email, shaking hands when we greet each other, or eating with a knife and fork. The concept of legality is relative, and until we broaden our perspectives and attempt to understand the value systems and ethical standards of the host country, we will fail to understand the cultural significance of behaviors that we deem illegal in the U.S. There is a difference between compromising the high ethical standards of the Army to engage in illegal behavior that is harmful to others, and putting ourselves in the shoes of our hosts to appreciate that in large part legislation is arbitrary and influenced by cultural norms and expectations.
unique to our country. We must also remember that many of our behaviors and common practices in the U.S. that we barely give a second glance are considered illegal or inappropriate in our host nation and would horrify the local people.

As far as the benefit of the CULP mission for my time as an officer, the cultural awareness and exposure gained was unrivaled by anything I could’ve learned in the States, but equally important were observations that will have a permanent influence on how I conduct myself as a leader. While in Vietnam we experienced all types of leadership from both Vietnamese and American cadre, NCOs and officers, and Cadets. We were able to see how different leaders responded positively or negatively to challenges faced in country, big and small, ranging from transportation snags, accountability problems, injuries and sickness, and disciplinary issues. It was especially important to observe how some cadre were able to appropriately handle the different personality types within the group and maintain fair and equal treatment despite personal biases, while some cadre struggled to maintain that level of professionalism. From a cultural perspective, it was helpful to observe the leaders who were able to move fluidly between cultures and adjust their behavior to work with the host nation, and learn from those who had difficulty respecting the nuances of Vietnamese culture and committing to cultural immersion.

**Interning in Defense**

CDT William Mitchell (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ’19)


These are the values upheld by Lockheed Martin, one of the largest and most far-reaching defense companies in the world, and one of the most important partners of the United States Armed Forces.

This past summer I seized an opportunity to complete a technical internship at Lockheed Martin. Over the course of June, July, and August, I was able to contribute to several projects for both commercial and government clients. My most interesting project, and one of the current top-priority national defense projects, involved writing simulation software for the Space Based Infra-Red System (SBIRS). SBIRS is a system comprised of several satellites in geostationary or elliptical orbits along with a ground-based data processing unit that is designed as an early detection system for missiles. When paired with Lockheed’s Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) program, an anti-ballistic missile system, SBIRS will provide signaling that will theoretically eliminate the threat of ICBMs from hostile nations.
I’ve been able to take advantage of both defense opportunities as well as other ROTC summer opportunities. During my freshman summer, I was able to intern at Draper and to complete a CULP mission from mid-June to mid-July. And they were totally cool with it! Defense companies typically have strong relationships with the military, and it can only help you to have ROTC on your resume. In fact, simply having a Secret Clearance can go a long way in the hiring process, since defense companies are often short-staffed in terms of their number of employees on hand with clearances. ROTC also provides ample experience for answering otherwise difficult behavioral interview questions. Overall, I had a very positive experience interning at Lockheed, and I would highly recommend seeking out a defense internship to any interested Cadets.

My New Normal

*CDT Jillian Sharples (Harvard University, ’21)*

The “normal” college student is plagued with many concerns, such as how to finish a seven-page essay that is due at 12am that you started writing at 10pm —even though you promised yourself and your bathroom mirror that this time would be different.

An Army ROTC Cadet is plagued with other unique concerns, such as securely duct-taping their feet for rucks, strategically storing food to eat for breakfast at 5:50 am before PT, or properly wearing the Army Combat Uniform every Wednesday.

I did anticipate these contrasting college experiences, but there are subtler differences between my Cadet life and my student life that I did not expect. I have a sense of purpose that is unparalleled by any other program on campus. I have the security of knowing what my immediate career will be after college. Most importantly, I have a family that is there for me on and off the battlefield.
Upon joining the Paul Revere Battalion, I radiated with excitement. We were welcomed with smiles and friendly speeches from cadre at the MIT offices. I was proud to wear a new uniform alongside my fellow Cadets. But when it came to physical training during the next couple weeks, my enthusiastic commitment would be tested. It was difficult to sustain my commitment in the face of adversity.

The ensuing physical training included the events like the Army low-crawl and a four-mile ruck. On paper, both objectives sounded manageable to complete within the same week. I never realized how truly short my legs are, though, until I had to walk at a 15 minute-per-mile pace for four miles. Nor did I realize how heavy I am until I had to drag myself across a football field, twice. Both were individually difficult, but together they felt practically impossible.

After losing a few layers of skin to my brand-new combat boots and the MIT football field that week, I felt an acute sense of dejection. My struggles were mainly internal but painfully visible: during the ruck march CDT Koch insisted on carrying my ruck the last mile because of the obvious difficulty I was having; after the low-crawl my hand was covered in scabs that invited commentary for the next three weeks. I was ashamed and frustrated by my self-perceived inabilities. I felt I was placing a burden on my fellow Cadets and I doubted my ability to endure four years of ROTC.

But my difficulties didn’t have to feel visible. I could have struggled during the ruck march without anyone taking a second glance. I could have injured my hand without anyone asking about it. The reason why this was not the case is because of the genuine camaraderie that is unique to ROTC. We all know that it can be challenging, but it’s just a matter of embracing the challenge and helping others who are dealing with more challenges than usual. This realization helped me see that although ROTC is physically and mentally challenging, it is worth every blister or scab.

Project Go-ing to San Diego

_CDT Jessica Schuyler (Wellesley College, ’19)_

Through ROTC, Cadets can take advantage of a wide range of opportunities. This summer, I attended civilian language courses at San Diego State University through ROTC Project GO. My summer consisted of intensive coursework in Mandarin Chinese, and it was some of the most difficult work I’ve done in my life. With a class of only four Cadets representing Army and Air Force ROTC units from across the country, I developed a deep and personal relationship with Mandarin and created long lasting friendships with my dedicated professors and supportive classmates.
Amidst learning a language that was entirely new to me, I learned a lot about how far I can push myself academically. I’ve realized that there truly aren’t any limits if you are dedicated to practicing for the things that matter most to you. This summer, I’ve carried the advice of an alum from MIT AROTC who told me to “foster my passions.” I intend to keep growing as a leader in the Army by developing my Mandarin skills, and extending beyond myself to teach my peers the joy in fostering passions.

Proudly Representing

CDT Lucy Lee (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ’21)

I went to Russia in September. Just as school started to pick up and I started settling into a schedule, I disrupted it all to go on my next big adventure. This wasn’t the first time; in fact, this was my third World Wushu Championships, and my seventh appearance representing the country at a world-caliber competition. Going into the competition as the most experienced member of the US Wushu Team while also being the second youngest (besides my sister) was definitely a mixed bag. On one hand, there was definitely pressure on me to improve from my silver medal from two years ago. On the other hand, there was noticeable doubt about how I would perform after being stuck at college for one and a half months, especially after I embarrassed myself at national team trials and lost to my sister.
Something I’ve taken away from ROTC is to never accept defeat, and to NEVER QUIT. Without a coach and any suitable training space, it was up to myself to find space and time, and most importantly, to find the motivation to push myself to the level I wanted to reach. Back home, there was always an unspoken obligation to push myself to the level I wanted to reach. Back home, there was always an unspoken obligation to go to practice and improve. Here, there was no such obligation. I could never train if I wanted to. I could eat ice cream everyday. At the end of the day, I knew my results would reflect the amount of effort I actually put into it.

At the competition I got a silver medal with my sister in the women’s duel event! I usually have a habit of psyching myself out for my first event. This time, I was mentally prepared. I knew exactly what I had to do, I knew it took me longer to warmup, I knew how to control my composure. Before college, I never would have imagined I could actually perform better at this world championship than the past ones. I discovered I now had the mental fortitude I was lacking before. I think a large part of this came from ROTC, whether it be waking up at insane hours in the morning to go to PT, or simply learning how to budget my time wisely (something I’m still working on).

Russia was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience. I got to see friends I only have the opportunity to see once every two years, and make new friends in the hopes of someday having the opportunity to interact with them again.

And to think I got all that just from losing a few hours of sleep? If I could, I would always trade sleep in for the opportunity to experience all of this, one more time.
This past summer I participated in OPFOR (opposition forces) training for Advanced Camp. I was at Fort Knox for about a month acting as an enemy in Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes for the MSIIIs being tested on platoon missions. At first, I was hesitant about signing up for this additional training, but it was a great experience in learning leadership and infantry tactics. Every day, five Cadets and I would go out into the woods, wearing enemy clothes and weapons. The cadre would explain our mission as the enemy, and the mission of the MSIII platoon. We had complete discretion to operate however we wanted as the enemy. I got to see in person how an MSIII platoon of Cadets from all across the country worked together to accomplish a mission.

While proper tactics played an important part for MSIII and enemy success, having a positive attitude and making decisive choices on the spot were significant for team success. The cadre were looking for MSIII Cadets who thrived under pressure and worked as a team. These MSIIIs were placed in high stress environments, with OPFOR often conducting counterattacks in the most unforeseen moments. After the missions were over, I listened to AARs led by MSIII Cadets and cadre. I took notes on everything that went well and poorly. After the STX lanes were over, Ranger instructors that were assigned to the OPFOR Cadet unit went over infantry tactics at night. I learned a ton of new information, not just about tactics but how to thrive under stress.

At Fort Knox, I learned what the Army is looking for in commissioned lieutenants. Being confident in your plan and adaptable to anything thrown in your direction are the two most important assets of becoming a leader. Some of the best MSIII Cadets at Advanced Camp in the STX lanes weren’t necessarily the smartest or most knowledgeable, yet they were willing to trust and look after their fellow teammates during missions. OPFOR has truly given me a valuable training advantage in my future ROTC endeavors.
Facing the Challenge

CDT Andrew Churchill (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ’21)

“Don’t be afraid to get raw.” That was the last advice the Ranger Challenge team got before our 6-hour van trek to New Jersey. As it turns out, “raw” was a perfect way to describe the weekend. It was Army fun at its finest. Dozens of schools from all over the North East Region came together in October to compete in an array of events with one simple goal: come out on top. Our team was made up of 9 Cadets, spanning all 4 years, as well as 3 alternates.

We were the first ones to arrive on Friday, and staked out a prime bivouac site close to the road and set up our stuff. Then we began practicing tying all kinds of knots quickly and to standard. We were allotted about 30 minutes to familiarize ourselves with automatic rifles, pistols, and Squad Automatic Weapons to learn how to assemble and disassemble the weapons. The team enjoyed a tasty MRE dinner, then went to bed early, in order to prepare for the 0345 wakeup on Saturday.

The first event on Saturday was land navigation. We were given a list of over 30 points and instructed to find as many as possible. Our team split in two and headed out to find our points. Both teams had some difficulty with our civilian map not matching the protractors we were provided. Nevertheless, we managed to get 5 points within the 2 hours.

Following land navigation came the rappelling event, where all Cadets had to tie Swiss seats and 3 were randomly chosen to rappel down a tower. Then the one-rope bridge event, and according to cadre, our bridge was one of the best they saw all day. Then it was on to weapons crew drill. Again we turned in a respectable time in this event, getting some momentum going to TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care) lanes. This event was the easiest of the day – it simply required carrying two dummies about 100 yards, taking under 2 minutes from start to finish. After that came the obstacle course, which required navigating some tricky rolling logs, as well as classics like the cargo net and the over-under logs, en route to yet another respectable time.

The team really started to gel and work together. The penultimate event of the day was weapons assembly, where Cadets lined up behind 5 boxes with 2 mystery weapons each, and had 10 minutes to fully assemble and perform a functions check on every weapon. This was the first time the team had ever laid hands on these weapons, and we did fairly well. Cadets all agreed that the opportunity to get hands on these weapons was a great experience, and one that most Cadets will never get prior to advanced camp.

We retired to our bivouac site and waited for tug-of-war, which started just as the sun was dropping, with bonfires and floodlights setting the mood. It was not a traditional tug-of-war event, and it was brutal and intense. Cadets Estrella, Forte, and Gallagher stepped
fearlessly into the ring, surrounded by Cadets from the other 40-odd schools. Despite valiant efforts we were eliminated in the first round, and soon after we went to sleep to get ready for the 7-plus mile ruck march on Sunday morning.

Everybody was ready to give it their all. We alternated walking and jogging, and CDT Abusch-Magder filled in superbly for an injured CDT Estrella, carrying a heavy ammo box by himself for over a mile without a single complaint. CDT Carter led the formation, and we completed the ruck in yet another highly respectable time. The end of the ruck meant the end of the events, and the relief and happiness was palpable: we had all done it, we had completed Ranger Challenge!

This was very exciting for the rookie Cadets. Ranger Challenge provided an opportunity to brush up on functional knowledge, a chance to test our limits, and a group of like-minded Cadets to bond with. Every Cadet contributed, and CDTs Carter, Estrella, Forte, Gallagher, Forte, Murray, and Hanlon deserve extra props for using their experience, leadership ability, good-spirited natures, and incredible level of fitness to lead the way and give the Paul Revere Battalion a solid overall performance. We can’t wait to see what the team will do next.

**Cadet Marden’s Many Mudding Mania Moments**

*CDT Christopher Marden (Endicott College, ’18)*

There is very little in the world today that emulates the brotherhood and camaraderie that is experienced between military members. Sure, you could join a college fraternity or go out for a night with your friends but, the bond that is created between Soldiers who’ve endured through some of the toughest moments in life simply doesn’t exist anywhere else. One thing that recreates these experiences is Spartan Races. It the mission and purpose that you have
along with your teammates that makes this experience bring you back to that unmatched level of camaraderie.

Throughout the summer, and into my first semester of my senior year of college, I sought out on a mission, to achieve the Trifecta. A Trifecta in the Spartan Race Community is where a “Spartan” completes 3 Spartan races within the calendar year. A sprint (3+ miles with 23+ obstacles), a beast (8+ miles with 25+ obstacles), and a super (12+ miles with 30+ obstacles). This wasn’t just a decision to run a few races here and there. It was a commitment to push my mind, body, and spirit to achieve the strongest, fastest and most resilient version of myself. And push my mind, body and spirit I did.

At the beginning of every race my friends and I marched up to the starting line jumped over a wall and into the starting pit. This wall was there to ensure we did not change our minds. It was the single test of mental commitment prior to the beginning of the race but set the stage for further mental fortitude. There were many seasoned “Spartans” that quickly passed by us but we stuck together until everyone had finished each obstacle. This method made us slower than many others but this was bigger than winning the race. There were several races where we hit exhaustion and still had miles to go but we pushed forward. It was at these moments when I smiled and thought “I need to get my myself up and go, it’s not about me anymore”. Not only were we in it together but all the “Spartans” were in it together, as I realized when fellow “Spartans” passed by and tossed us mustard packets (The acids in mustard help with cramps and fatigue).

ADRP 6-22 (Army Leadership) defines Leadership as a process of influencing others by providing purpose, direction, and motivation to accomplish a mission. Throughout these races we all experience informal means of leadership and motivation, the very essence of military life. It is this that draws me and thousands of others to these races. It is a single event that not only builds character but it tests almost every personal and professional attribute in ones’ arsenal. If anything these races develop the core of one’s character.
The Semester in Pictures:

Paul Revere Challenge:
First major event of the semester. Introducing new Cadets to their squads and building esprit de corps among all Cadets.

Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX): We started the semester running by getting Cadets out to the field to begin their first taste of conducting missions in a field setting.

Situational Training Exercise (STX): Tested the leadership and skills developed over the semester by providing a more chaotic environment for our Cadets to accomplish missions.
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Give to the Advocates for MIT Army ROTC Alumni fund at: https://giving.mit.edu/rotc

MIT Army ROTC Hall of Fame
The Hall of Fame honors the accomplishments and contributions of those who have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments and dedicated service to the MIT Army ROTC program.

View past recipients and submit new nominations for the MIT Army ROTC Hall of Fame at:
http://army-rotc.mit.edu/alumni/hall-fame

Combat Water Survival Training (CWST): A chance to test and develop aquatic survival skills.

Dining In: A formal dining event held at the end of the semester.

Class of 2018
Class of 2019
Class of 2020
Class of 2021