

SHIPPENSBURG
UNIVERSITY

RAIDER BATTALION

NEWSLETTER FALL 2022

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Greetings from the Raider Battalion



WRITTEN BY THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY
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It is an absolute honor to join the esteemed Raider Battalion! Since my arrival at Shippensburg University in August, I have continually been impressed by this program and our remarkable Cadets.

Over the summer, our Cadets graduated from the Air Assault, Basic Military Mountaineering, and Master Fitness Trainer courses; participated in Project Global Officer, Sage Eagle, Cadet Troop Leader Training, and multiple Army internship programs; and absolutely dominated at Advanced Camp, with the overwhelming majority receiving "excellent" assessments. Of note, Cadet Nequwan Ali earned Recondo status, and Cadet Maria Maresca achieved Distinguished Military Graduate honors!

Our Cadets carried that momentum into the Fall semester, welcoming over 30 new MSIs during the Raider Cadet Orientation Program & running our new MSIII's through the gauntlet of Mungadai Warrior. We contracted eight Cadets at a Shippensburg home football game and commissioned four new Second Lieutenants: 2LT Savannah Fisher (Ordnance, Active Duty); 2LT Renee Sahli (Armor, Active Duty); 2LT Zachary Zarkowski (Chemical, USAR); and 2LT Dior Edmonds (Military Police, PAARNG). Taking full advantage of our proximity to the US Army War College, we implemented a Senior Leader mentorship program for our MSIV Cadets, helping to better prepare them for their future Army careers. We also established a new partnership with Penn State Mont Alto, welcoming our first nursing student (Cadet Aidan Brenize) into the MSI class.

At the annual Ranger Challenge competition, our Cadets performed exceptionally, bringing home two streamers (1st place in Hand Grenades & 3rd place for the Burden)! Throughout the semester, our cannon crew rendered honors at every home football game, and our color guard was high in demand, performing at numerous university and community events. Under the leadership of MSIV Cadet Kristen Harding, our Cadets hosted an extremely successful 5K/10K race, with proceeds benefitting the Boulder Crest Foundation. Our Cadets also held numerous mentorship and volunteer engagements with local elementary schools and high school JROTC programs.

On Veterans Day, MSIV Cadets Bradley Cole and Benjamin Delozier traveled to Hellimer, France, where they represented both the US Army and our University during a memorial dedication to Shippensburg Army ROTC Hall of Fame member and WWII hero, CPT Joseph Giacobello. We are also incredibly proud of another Shippensburg ROTC alumnus and Hall of Fame member, MG Antonio Munera. In September, MG Munera assumed command as the Commanding General of US Army Cadet Command!

These accomplishments are simply a small snapshot of our program's success; our Cadets and Alumni continuously represent Shippensburg Army ROTC with honor and distinction. If you would like to stay up-to-date with Shippensburg Army ROTC's activities and achievements, please follow us on social media:

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Thank you for your support...Raiders lead the way!



From the Cadet Battalion Commander, Maria Maresca

Holding the position as Battalion Commander has been an honor and I was privileged to have served this Battalion and my fellow Cadets this semester alongside my command team.

It would be impossible to sum up all the incredible accomplishments that the Raider Battalion cadets have achieved this fall. This semester was filled with new opportunities for our Cadets and allowed the Raider Battalion as a whole to come together as one unit. One key goal was to design PT to make improvements on the ACFT and by the end of the semester, we accomplished an increase in average scores for every MS class. Eight of our Cadets from both the MSI and MSII classes were officially contracted before a home football game in front of parents, friends, peers, and Cadre. We had the honor of being visited by LTG (Retired) Leslie Smith who offered advice about leadership and motivation. For the first time, 2 Cadets traveled to France to honor World War II hero and Ship graduate, CPT Joseph Giacobello. A few of our most noteworthy events held each year includes our 5K/10K run which was attended by over 70 runners and Shippensburg alumnus, John Rovegno. In October, we welcomed JROTC students from around the region who had their first introduction to the Raider Battalion with a PT event, a campus tour, lunch, and a brief from Cadets and cadre. The Ranger Challenge team trained all semester long for the grueling Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Dix, NJ and placed in the top 3 for 2 events. Finally, we showed our dedication and honor to our veterans with the annual Veteran's Day parade in early November.

Throughout the semester, I came to learn many crucial lessons that will impact me for the rest of my career as a future Army Officer. The idea of finding your 'why', what motivates you to want to become an officer, and never losing that sense of purpose is what keeps each person striving even when the going gets tough. One individual cannot run an organization alone because it is a system, and all those parts need to function together in order for that system to work the way it is designed to. This is why the best leadership demands sacrifice and relentlessly chasing excellence and going above and beyond the standard in every way. Often, this means giving up your time and not for personal gain, but solely for the good of the people you are serving. Putting your people first is what true stewardship looks like. The culture of a group and the health of that organization are tied together intrinsically which is why it is vital to model the Army Values both in word AND action in and out of uniform.

I am very passionate about this program and am exhilarated to see the continued success of the Battalion under the new leadership for the spring. I believe that every single Cadet in this program has incredible potential, and I am excited to watch each of them grow in their development as leaders even after I commission. And of course, Raiders Lead the Way!

Air Assault School

WRITTEN BY NEQUWAN ALI

Graduating from Air Assault School is more than an accomplishment – it is a statement. Following directly after my thirty-five days at CST, I had the great opportunity to attend Air Assault School conducted at West Point, which is better known as the United States Military Academy. Air Assault School, also known as the Army's Ten Toughest Days, is made up of three important phases. Combat Assault, Sling-Load operations, and Rappelling. These phases are used to effectively train soldiers in Air Assault operations along with rigorous physical training to test their mental toughness and determination.



With the school technically being eleven days long, training is kicked into full gear starting on Day 0 where soldiers are faced with a 2-mile run, constant smoke sessions, and the obstacle course. Other assessed physical requirements include a 6-mile ruck, a 4-mile run, and a 12-mile ruck all to proper standard and regulation. Aside from the physical aspects, Air Assault School focuses on attention to detail and mental agility. Soldiers also receive lessons on information out of the Air Assault handbook and are given written exams regarding the material.

During phase two, Sling-Load Operations, soldiers are required to identify three deficiencies in various loads which is also unfortunately a leading cause of many soldiers getting dropped from Air Assault school. Speaking from experience, you learn very quickly the importance of attention to detail when it comes to anything at all during your time at Air Assault school. This mindset allowed me to not allow graduate and receive my Air Assault wings, but also achieve a greater mentality within myself. The lessons I learned from this experience will carry on with me forever. I know that I can always look back and remember that I conquered the Army's ten toughest days. "IT'S A TWO-COUNT MOVEMENT, AIR ASSAULT!"

Mountain Warfare School

WRITTEN BY RILEY GLADHILL

Army Mountain Warfare School is a two-week course designed to train soldiers in the specialized skills needed to operate in mountainous terrain. Graduates of the Basic Military Mountaineer course receive the Special Qualification Identifier (SQI) "E"- Military Mountaineer. This is also known as the Ram's head Device.



I attended the summer session of the school in early August of 2022. The training focused on high-angle tactical combat and several specialized rope systems: such as rock climbing, rappelling, hauling and casualty evacuation. In addition, I completed several practical exercises utilizing these different systems to simulate their real-world application. I was given several systems tests and a cumulative final exam at the end of the course in order to demonstrate my proficiency with the training throughout the course.

The Army Mountain Warfare school is designed to train individual soldiers, with the hope that they return to their units and share their experience and training with their fellow soldiers. I was the first cadet from the Shippensburg ROTC program to be slotted and attend the course. I must say I am looking forward to the new training and expertise I will be able to provide to the program!



"Ram's Head" Army National Guard Device



Cyber Internship

WRITTEN BY GARRETT ZARY

ROTC provides a wide variety of internships that can be completed over the summer. This past summer I got the opportunity to participate in a cyber internship with the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The internship consisted mostly of class time doing graduate level courses surrounding the topics of cyber-attacks, defensive, network engineering, cryptography, and integrated control systems. The internship ended with a week-long game called Hackfest.



The network engineering portion taught us the basics behind setting up a network and protecting it. The cryptography section focused on creating messages that are hard to understand unless you have the key to decipher it. Both of these segments were used as the building blocks for the cyber-attack and defense portions. The cyber-attack was broken up across an entire week. This included learning how to spy on a network, break into the network, and then finally get control of the systems on that network. Following learning how to attack the systems, we learned the defense side. This taught us how to not only defend our own network, but also how to control the networks we take over. The final topic we covered was integrated control systems. In this we learned how to attack and control systems such as garage doors.

Once we completed all of this in our first three weeks, we started Hackfest. Members were split up into teams of four or five people. We then had a day and a half to set up a Domain Name System (DNS) server, File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server, and multiple firewalls to defend our servers and attack computers. After the setup time was over, we were allowed to start going after a variety of networks to control different services on them such as FTP, Telnet, and Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) services. We were also given permission to then attack the networks that the other teams set up. At the end of the event, we ended up not controlling each other's networks, but every team was able to get control of services that were available to hack. This was a unique experience only possible through ROTC that I will not soon forget.



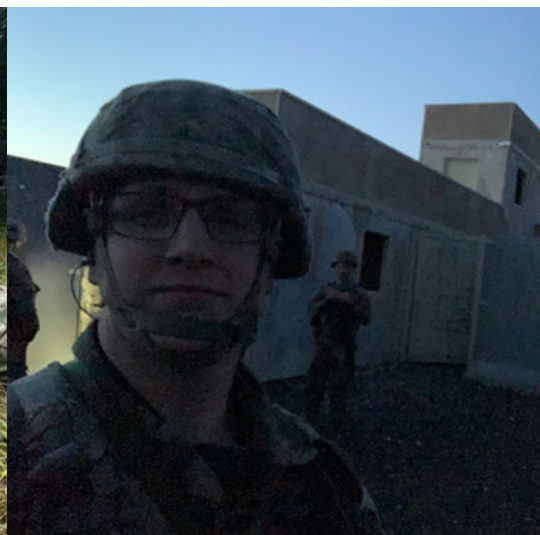
Sage Eagle

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY SHIRES

This previous summer I attended Sage Eagle at Joint base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington. At this event I was afforded the opportunity to work alongside Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) and First Group Green Berets. Sage Eagle is a training exercise that rotates between each Green Beret group every year. Cadets from across the country are sent to either act as unconventional forces working with the Green Berets or act as conventional forces to work mostly with SFAB.

My platoon of Cadets was assigned to work with SFAB as conventional forces. We spent two weeks in the forests of Washington State with rifles fitted with blank firing adaptors (BFAs) and blank rounds in order to give the most realistic simulation of combat possible. Before we left on our first mission, we spent time at JBLM training and learning about what we were about to do.

Once out in the forest, we spent most of our time at a compound that was a small makeshift town. From there we had security positions and would run almost daily missions out of our compound. For some missions we rode out in Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTVs), and for a few we were able to ride out in CH-47 Chinooks. Due to the Operational Security surrounding the event and the Army's special forces teams, I cannot go into much detail, but what I can say is it was a great opportunity, and I would recommend it to any Cadet looking for good training and adventure.



Project Global Officer

WRITTEN BY MASON SMITH

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend the University of North Georgia at Dahlonega to study the Russian language through their Summer Language Institute. This experience was made possible by the Project Global Officer Scholarship. Project Global Officer (GO) is a Department of Defense initiative aimed at ROTC students to attend domestic and overseas language and culture training in order to provide the skills needed for effective leadership in the 21st century.



This program paid for my flights to and from the university, room and board, as well as textbooks. After six weeks of accelerated classes, I earned eight college credits and was able to score well on the Oral Proficiency Interview Computer (OPIC) Test. I had many amazing opportunities but the most rewarding one had to have been networking with agents of the Central Intelligence Agency. They discussed how important it is to understand the culture and language of countries around the world and how Project Global Officer creates ideal candidates looking to serve in federal intelligence agencies and the military intelligence field.

Project Global Officer was an investment in my future. Now in both the civilian sector and the military, I have skills that build my resume, stand out to employers, and helps me look more competitive among my peers. I was grateful to help represent the Shippensburg University Raider Battalion at Project Global Officer, along with two of my fellow Cadets, Zach Eisenhardt and Drew Landis. Although it seemed intense at points, I know the many Cadets I befriended from across the country would say how rewarding and enriching the experience is.





Mungadai Warrior

WRITTEN BY BEN DELOZIER

A proud tradition here at the Shippensburg ROTC Raider Battalion is the annual Mungadai Warrior event for our MS3 class. Mungadai Warrior does not originate with the US Army but that of the great Mongol Empire in 1206 A.D. Developed originally by Genghis Khan, Mungadai Warrior originated in the 13th century as a process for Genghis Khan to select his legendary Mongolian cavalry. According to legend, the Munga-Dai were the special forces of Genghis Khan's Mongol army, but now the term "Mungadai" has become an adventure challenge that tests Cadets' endurance and warrior skills as a team.

On August 19th, 2022, Cadets from the MSIII class gathered before the sun had risen to conduct the Mungadai Warrior event. Wearing a 35-pound rucksack and full combat equipment, the Cadets formed up and were hungry to face any challenge ahead. It was a tough day full of rigorous tasks designed to bring the class together and to challenge them not only physically but also mentally. Each task was meant to develop the Cadets to become great leaders. The Cadets were tested on their attention to detail and instructions through Physical Readiness Training. After the Cadets were issued their equipment for the day, they moved to their first task. The Cadets were given an Operation Order (OPORD) and had to execute the mission listed. But just like any well thought out plan, it would not survive first contact. The Cadets took Indirect Fire (IDF) to simulate mortar rounds landing on their position. This was a test of mental agility on the squad leaders' part to see how he or she would react. Would they rise up and meet the Mungadai Warrior standards and uphold the legend? Or would they crumble into the chaos?

Proudly the Cadre and MS4 senior class watched as they persevered and accomplished the mission. Throughout the day the Cadets received a series of Fragmentation Orders (FRAGOs) that gave them a new mission. The Cadets faced multiple react to contacts, squad attack, react to IDF and even a deadly ambush put on by the Sophomore class. But being a leader, you're not always going to face the same set of problems. As such the MSIIIs were given a different kind of challenge, a logistical one. The cadets were to make a rope bridge across a creek and get all equipment across including a 300lb log without talking as the enemy was in the area and might hear them. The team worked together and accomplished the mission without losing any equipment to the depths of the creek.

We are extremely proud of our MSIII cadets and all they accomplished. They upheld the legend of the Mungadai Warrior, and we are excited to see them grow as they get ready for their Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox for the summer of 2023!



The Raider Battalion is privileged to have Shippensburg University athletes participate in Fall sports every year. Being a student and a Cadet is one thing but adding athletic responsibilities to the mix is no easy task. The Battalion supports and understands the importance of being an athlete in the Fall season and expects you to be fully committed to your respective sport the entire season.

The challenge with that however is to still be present for ROTC related activities and to find the time to learn what is taught in ROTC class as well as Lab. While some may see athletics as a hindrance to Cadet responsibilities, it is a privilege and another way to be able to develop oneself as a leader and offers another route to develop physically fit Officers in the United States Army.

Josiah Leonard, an MSI Cadet in the Raider Battalion and a running back on the Shippensburg Football Team shared his thoughts on being a Cadet as well as an athlete. "Being up at 5 A.M. most days of the week and being an hour late to practice on Thursdays (due to Lab) has been tough but I feel like being in ROTC and playing football is having a positive effect on the person I am and is setting me up for success in the future." Leadership Excellence is the motto for Army ROTC, and our athletes in Fall sports to live up to that motto day in and day out.

Cadets in Fall Sports: Our D2 Athletes

WRITTEN BY GEORGE DRIVAS



Pictured: Cadet Josiah Leonard



Pictured: Cadet Mitchell Brett



Pictured: Cadet Robert Lissner

Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX)

WRITTEN BY SAMUEL HACKER



This semester the Raider Battalion once again conducted the Fall FTX over the course of three days, 16 September to 18 September. Kicking off this year's Fall FTX Cadets got the opportunity to put their land navigation skills to the test. MSIs, many of whom learned land navigation techniques two weeks prior, were put into groups with their peers and a MSIV to assist and practice their newly learned skills during daylight and nighttime environments. In preparation for their upcoming summer training, MSIIIs tackled land navigation alone.

Following the first day of training, the Raider Battalion conducted a 3-mile road march to their next training area and proceeded to complete the Obstacle Course, Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), and Rappel Tower. Done every year, the Obstacle Course pushes Cadets to overcome their fears and gain more confidence in themselves. The Leadership Reaction Course took Cadets through different scenarios and allowed them to work together as a team to complete any objectives they were given. New to the Fall FTX, Cadets had the opportunity to run through the Rappel Tower. First, they learned how to tie Swiss Seats, practiced the basics on a smaller, angled wall, and then moved to the 50-foot rappel tower where they bounded down the straight wall. Next the Cadets moved to conduct Engagement Skills Training, or EST. Here they worked through multiple simulations using a smokeless range, some of these tasks consisting of zeroing their rifle, and a 40-target qualification range.

The final day of the FTX consisted of paintball lanes. Cadets were split into groups and put up against an Opposing Force (OPFOR) throughout different missions. Ending the final day, Cadets engaged in large groups during an iteration of Capture the Flag, with Cadre making a surprise appearance on the field.

Contracting Ceremony

WRITTEN BY TYLER DICKOVER

On October 1st, 2022, the Raider battalion contracted eight new cadets into the United States Army. During the home football game vs. Shepard University, the Raider Battalion's Color Guard Team presented the colors for the national anthem and then brought up Cadets along with Lieutenant Colonel Nicole Jepsen to the field to recite the oath of enlistment that every member of the United States Army must recite before becoming a Soldier.



Cadets Eisenhart, Domby, Landis, Scully, C. Smith, M. Smith, Ott, and Lazar were all contracted during the ceremony. These Cadets were medically qualified by the United States Army and had signed a contract stating that they will serve an 8-year term as United States Army Officer. They are now mandated to complete the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and go to training during the summer of their junior year at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Once their degree is completed, they will Commission into the United States Army as Second Lieutenants. This is a huge leap for incoming Cadets and we at the Raider Battalion wish them great luck in their journey as United States Army Officers.

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

~Oath of Enlistment



106 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE

Major General Antonio (Andy) Munera is the Commanding General of the United States Army Cadet Command.

MG Munera received a Regular Army commission in May of 1991 as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. His military education includes the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, the School for Advanced Military Studies and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in history and masters degrees in theater operations and strategic studies.

In his 26 years of service to our nation, MG Munera has served in a variety of command and staff positions.



MG Antonio Munera Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command

Cadet David Pollak had the opportunity to speak with MG Munera, Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command, shortly after his appointment to discuss the future of the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

CDT Pollak: As a Shippensburg graduate yourself, what was it like when you initially joined ROTC?

MG Munera: If you can envision the 80s, with all the music and big hair going on, besides that I think its probably very similar to what you are experiencing today. I think the big difference was the technology. We didn't have cell phones, everything back then was landlines so you'd have one landline in your dorm that you would take outside to have a conversation. We didn't have any computers to work off of really so there was no PowerPoint CONOPs. It was all sand tables, writing orders down and talking through things. In many cases it was probably a little bit easier as you just had to stick to your basic troop leading procedures. For example, Ranger Challenge today you go on road marches and play a little music to get everybody pumped up. The way I did it was with a 1980s boombox strapped to a rucksack playing Guns N' Roses! Overarchingly as I look at the things you all focusing on today, basics of leadership and small unit tactics, I don't think that has changed a lot. Of course back then many of our NCOs were coming out of the Vietnam era, so very much small units in the woods type tactics was what we focused on. So I think technology was

definitely the main difference between now and then but as far as what we are teaching you, not much has changed.

CDT Pollak: You've spent time now as a Cadet, the Deputy CG of ROTC, and now the Commanding General of ROTC. How would you say the program has evolved in that time?

MG Munera: As I think about how ROTC has evolved, like the Army it has changed over time but it really has changed with the environment. When I was a Cadet, everybody was still coming out of Vietnam and Desert Storm had just kicked off. So, we were very much focused on large scale combat operations. But when I think of your Professor of Military Science going through ROTC, you saw a real focus on counterinsurgency. So we had shifted the focus then and now we are focusing again on those large scale combat operations. But at the heart of it, it all starts with these basic leadership skills and small unit leadership. And I think that's the constant over time, even though the environment and how we are conducting operations has changed, what we are focused on at the basic leadership level has stayed the same.



MG Munera with the Shippensburg ROTC Ranger Challenge Team at the 2nd Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Dix, NJ.

CDT Pollak: What is your personal command philosophy and how do you plan to apply that now as Commanding General of United States Army Cadet Command?

MG Munera: For me, we always talk about people first and mission always. The Army as a whole is shifting back and focusing its priority on people. From my philosophy and what I learned over the years, it started at Shippensburg but probably didn't get honed until later in life. It was this realization that the Army is absolutely a people business. That's my overarching philosophy. Those leaders that are successful are those that invest in their soldiers, believe in selfless service and believe in making their soldiers better than they thought they could be. You could say boots on the ground leadership, you could say engaged leadership, you could say leadership is a contact sport. Whatever phrase you use, it's true. As a leader you've got to understand things like the golden triangle, this is my squad, and what it really means to understand your soldiers. If we can get really good at leadership at the lower levels, platoon and below, and really harness our skills at that level, we can do anything. Company, battalion, and brigade levels are all important but if you don't have those fundamentals at the small unit level you will never be able to aggregate to those higher levels. And as a young Lieutenant you had the opportunity to go to Shippensburg University and get a great degree there, but your Privates are just as smart as you, in most cases they just haven't had that opportunity yet. You can trust them; you don't need to have all the answers.

CDT Pollak: What would you say sets ROTC Cadets apart from other students on campus?

MG Munera: I remember walking through Shippensburg, of course I had six roommates and of course none of them had ever been around the military, and every time

I'd wear my uniform I'd hear "Hey Andy, we can't see you, where are you?" But I think really the number one difference is the leadership aspect. You are learning the basics of leadership, of how to lead teams and bring a collective group together to complete an objective. Other students probably don't get as many touchpoints on this or even just how to deal with people. One of the things I think Cadets often don't understand is that, when some of you get to your first unit, some of you won't be as confident as you should be. What you don't realize is that, you are doing one of the hardest things you can do in life. Even though we give you a rank structure in ROTC, you're all on a first name basis, and the hardest thing to do is lead your peers. That's what you are developing in ROTC, the ability to lead your peers. I don't think the rest of the campus gets that opportunity. The other piece you are getting through the various projects you participate in is the idea of selfless service and serving something bigger than yourself. They may be more focused on more individual goals, while you are thinking of something bigger than yourself.

CDT Pollak: Earlier you mentioned the Army's concept of people first, mission always. How can we as future Lieutenants work to embody this concept?

MG Munera: It absolutely goes back to engaged leadership and what I mean by that is getting to know your soldiers. One of the examples I always use with Cadets I got from LTG Smith which is that trust is the bedrock of our profession. There will be folks out there that are impressed that you came out of Shippensburg University but they won't be truly impressed with what you know until they know how much you care about them. Once you do that you start building that trust. When you get out to your first formation, you are going to ask your soldiers to do lots of things. And lots of those tasks are pretty crappy tasks. Whatever you are asking them to do though, you should also be able to do. You tell them to go out there and dig a foxhole you better be right out there digging a foxhole right beside them. And they don't care how good you are at those tasks, they just care that you are out there doing it with them. Once you build that trust by being an engaged leader, then whatever the mission is, they are going to help you accomplish that mission. You don't have to have all the answers, you just have to set the conditions for them to help you. To balance that then, your job as a leader is being able to understand the risks of the mission, articulate that risk back to your leaders, and then make the hard decision to take that risk. That's the balance between people first and mission always. Too often folks will get the mission and just take it at face value, but you to know how to provide that feedback so that your senior leaders can either underwrite the risk or find that you've highlighted a risk that they hadn't thought about.

CDT Pollak: Shippensburg recently hosted several JROTC programs from the local area during a tour of the campus. How does JROTC tie in with ROTC to produce citizens with leadership knowledge and skills?

MG Munera: Absolutely I want you all to embrace those Junior ROTC Cadets and mentor them. Overarchingly if you look at the Army right now, we are struggling to meet our recruiting mission on the enlisted side. So far, we are doing alright on the officer side, but taking a look at the Sophomores and Freshmen, that's the same age that is lacking in enlistment right now. So what I want you all to do with the junior programs is to set the example for them and show that that this is what its like if you choose to go on to ROTC. You are very close in age and so they are wondering "Hey, what do I want to do in life?" You can provide them with a positive example. Junior ROTC in of itself is not a recruiting tool but we certainly want to educate them on the different paths they can go. One of those paths is being an Officer, and you show them what it is like to be in ROTC and how it can help them break down those firewalls that may be preventing them from getting to higher education. All of you as ROTC Cadets are recruiters, so you have to embrace the JROTC programs and give them a positive example even as you go back to your home towns. There's lots of places in the United States that know nothing about the military so that's why that relationship with JROTC is so important. As you look at JORTC and folks trying to join the military, a lot of them are struggling with ASVABs and other things and the more you can do mentor them within your bandwidth, the better.

CDT Pollak: You bring up recruiting new members to the force as an issue facing the Army today. With the Reserve Officer Training Corps celebrating its 106th anniversary this year, would you say that recruiting would be the biggest challenge ahead?

MG Munera: That's certainly where I am. You have an awesome PMS and SMIs there at Shippensburg so I'm confident with what they are doing to develop you as the next generation of leaders. But over 106 years as you look across the United States, where our ROTC programs are, they are very static in their locations. Looking at where populations are growing, especially where we can get more diversity because diversity is absolutely important in whatever we do, we can see that we are not posturing in the right places. So as we look to the future, how can we adjust our footprint given our current resources to get to those population areas? I think where you are in Pennsylvania recruiting wise, we will be good. But we take all the ROTC programs in Pennsylvania and all of the possible undergraduate population, they don't even come close to just LA and Orange County California. So we are



MG Munera begins his tenure as Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command in Fort Knox, KY.

looking at how we can adjust to hit some of those markets. And as we look at diversity, because we need diversity of thought, we want the Army to represent what society looks like. So that's where my focus is, and I can only focus it there because your PMS and your program is so successful that I don't have to focus on what is happening there.

CDT Pollak: Drawing from your career experiences, what advice would you give to our future lieutenants?

MG Munera: I think I hit most of it when I talked about my philosophy of taking care of people but the other thing I will tell you is to have confidence in yourself. I know it's a little bit easier when you are sitting there at school, but as you go off to your first units, trust in the education you received at Shippensburg, combined with what you got from ROTC and BOLC has set you up really well to go to your first duty assignment. We all struggle with believing in ourselves at our first unit. Part of gaining the confidence when you are assigned a task, is grabbing you NCOs and telling them that you don't really know how to do it. Then laying out your initial thoughts and working through it together so that when you are out in front of your soldiers, you have that confidence. The other piece being able to transition from being a college student to becoming a part a profession where you will be asked to take care of America's sons and daughters. That is an awesome responsibility, so as soon as you can realize that the better off you will be.

CDT Pollak: In many ways the Army is in the process of modernization and expansion. What does the future look like for ROTC?

MG Munera: I can say what is certainly not going to change is the teachings that have remained the same the past 34 years. In ROTC we are focused on the basics of leadership, and basics small unit tactics. I don't think that should ever change. What is absolutely going to change is



MG Munera with his staff as he begins his tenure as Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command in Fort Knox, KY.

the technology that you are going to be able to harness. Of course it takes a little bit with over 274 ROTC programs we can't always keep up with the changes in technology. But I think that as we modernize, the big changes will be in the tactical equipment that you will be utilizing to impact things at greater distances and smaller unit levels. If you go back to when I was a Cadet and you look at the firepower a platoon had, it was pretty small. If you look at what a platoon or company can bring to the fight today, it is equivalent to what a division could have brought to the fight when I was a Cadet. So I think that's going to continue to evolve and what you in small units can bring to the fight by harnessing all this different technology will change how we fight. So when you are a Major General years from now it will be a completely different Army in the way we employ our capabilities. But at the end of the day, it will always be about people first.



The Cadet Cannon Crew fires the cannon at the end of the National Anthem to mark the beginning of a Shippensburg home game.

"As I take command, I look forward to building on to Cadet Command's legacy; a people first, Cadet-centric culture consisting of engaged leaders who are focused on building cohesive teams and producing lieutenants that are not only representatives of our country, but they possess the knowledge, skills and behaviors to successfully lead their first formations," Munera said. "Not only that, but a model junior leader program that develops citizens with the skills and desires to be of service to the United States."

~MG Munera at the Cadet Command Change of Command ceremony



Cadets Maria Maresca and Kristen Harding tackle the "Tough One" obstacle at the Air Assault obstacle course at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.



43rd Annual 5K/10K Race

WRITTEN BY KRISTEN HARDING

This year on October 15th, The Raider Battalion hosted its 43rd Annual 5K/10K Race to benefit the Military Science Department as well as the Boulder Crest Foundation. Boulder Crest is a nonprofit foundation that aids in the well-being of Veterans and their families. Boulder Crest Foundation was founded back in 2010 to help work through the stress and trauma Veterans face and turn it into strength. The foundation has programs such as Progressive and Alternative Training for Helping Heroes and family rest and reconnection stays to assist in helping with posttraumatic growth. This allows not only the veteran or first responder to be a part of the growth, but also the family members who support them.

This year our 5k10k was on Homecoming Day, embracing the cheerful mood and morale of the Shippensburg community. Participants received T-shirts designed by Cadets as well as goodie bags provided by sponsors. President Charles Patterson started the race by firing the Raider Battalion's own cannon with the help of the Cadet Cannon Crew. There was a total of 72 runners during the event and the Battalion raised over \$3,500 for our program and the Boulder Crest Foundation. Thank you to all the sponsors, runners, and community support for making this event possible!





Honoring Captain Giacobello

WRITTEN BY MEGAN SILVERSTRIM

ROTC Cadets Brad Cole and Ben Delozier and LTC Nicole Jepsen, professor of Military Science, are on their way to Hellimer, France this week to honor CPT Joseph Giacobello, a former student of the Shippensburg State Teachers College and World War II veteran.

Giacobello was a junior in good standing at Shippensburg State Teachers College when he answered the call of duty to serve his country in 1942, commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned to the 35th Infantry Division, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment. He was a standout football and basketball player and served as vice president of the college's Men's Athletic Association.

Giacobello became one of the most decorated soldiers in Central Pennsylvania, earning the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts and the Combat Infantry Badge.

While serving, he heroically led his company in an attack on the French village of Hellimer, where he and two others stopped a machine gun attack and knocked out a Panther tank.

His courageous efforts will be recognized on November 11 in Hellimer, as the town dedicates a sculpture to Giacobello and one of his soldiers PVT Julian Osborne.

Giacobello's children and grandchildren will be present for the dedication and invited Shippensburg University ROTC to attend. In 2017, the ROTC Raider Battalion inducted Giacobello into the ROTC Hall of Fame.

Giacobello passed away in 2019, but the town of Hellimer and ROTC cadets are determined to continue to honor and tell his story.

"I wanted to take part in this ceremony for two important reasons. The first reason is to give thanks. I am going to Hellimer, France to give thanks for the heroic actions that Joseph Giacobello did to defend the town. The second reason I wanted to go to France was to remember him. I want to ensure that the sacrifices that not only Giacobello made but all the soldiers made that day would not be forgotten," said Delozier.

While attending the ceremony, the cadets and Jepsen will present Giacobello's family with a certificate issuing Giacobello honorary alumni status, in recognition of his service and his contributions during his time as a student.

"CPT Giacobello is a great example to strive towards when it comes to selfless service. I hope to carry on his spirit and be able to serve my country the way he did," added Cole.



Combat Water Survival Training

WRITTEN BY KIERSTEN MELDER

On the week of October 2nd, The Raider Battalion conducted Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) to test Cadets and their abilities on survival techniques in the event of an emergency in a body of water. Our Cadets enjoyed a change of pace from the normal physical training routine with a series of water-based events hosted at Heiges Field House. Cadets performed each event in the full utility uniform with the PT uniform underneath. The events included an unassisted 10-minute swim, a 5-minute water tread, and an equipment ditch with a Fighting Load Carrier (FLC) while jumping off the edge of the pool. During this training the battalion was split into three equal groups, the training took place over the course of three days for a more personalized experience and focused aspects. Thanks to this training, we can be sure that our Cadets will be prepared to the standard, whether on land or sea.

Veterans Day

WRITTEN BY NATHAN DANIELS

Veterans Day is a national holiday dedicated to all members of the US Armed Services. The Shippensburg University ROTC program is invited every year to take part in the Shippensburg Veterans Day Parade. This year, on November 6th, 2022, our Cadets marched down King Street in an expression of our gratitude for the men and women that served before us. We take the day to thank our Cadre for working to prepare us for what is to come, as well as our cadets that have spent time in service before joining our program. The Shippensburg Raider Battalion would like to extend our thanks to all Veterans who have served our nation.





Ranger Challenge Competition

WRITTEN BY BEN HAVENS

On the weekend of October 21-23, 2022, thirteen Cadets traveled to Fort Dix, New Jersey to compete in the annual Ranger Challenge competition. Prior to the competition the team trained physically, mentally, and tactically five days a week from 0530-0700 over a span of nine weeks. Over the course of the weekend, each team would be graded in nine different events to test each competing school's physical and technical capabilities.

Upon arriving at Fort Dix on Friday, the 45 schools in attendance competed in a modified Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) event to test the overall team's physical endurance. The following day started with an 0400 wake up to conduct a team land navigation event. Upon completion started the round robin of six different events consisting of the Burden event, Hand Grenade event, One Rope Bridge, Weapons disassembly and knowledge exam, Obstacle Course, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).

The final day consisted of an 0500 wake up with the completion of a six-mile ruck march while carrying a 35-pound rucksack, full kit, 4 quarts of water, and a weapon. Our team was excited to finish top 3 in two events, first place in hand grenades and third place in the burden event. Shippensburg University placed 19/45 overall and brought home two top three event banners to hang on our guidon.





2nd Annual Turkey Bowl

WRITTEN BY LUCA FACCHINE

Shippensburg's annual Turkey Bowl match against Dickinson ROTC took place on November 19, 2022. These annual custom aims to foster rivalry as well as comradery between the Dickinson College Blue Mountain Battalion and the Shippensburg University Raider Battalion. This matchup was a 7-on-7 flag football battle. This was a home game for Dickinson, taking place at Herman Bosler Biddle Athletic Field, which is located on West High Street in Carlisle.

The game began with a formation and a contracting ceremony for Dickinson, during which three Dickinson Cadets, Besc, Swope, and Adihikari, signed up to join the US Army. This was followed by a breakdown of the rules and the coin toss. Despite losing the coin toss, the Blue Mountain Battalion still gave Shippensburg the choice. Slowly but surely, the game developed into a heated battle. Blue Mountain Battalion battled back this year with a vengeance after losing in 2021. They didn't just seem better prepared; this year they were also sporting brand-new camouflage jerseys to match their bloodthirsty attitude.

This match ended in a heartbreaking loss for Shippensburg with a final score of 21 for the Shippensburg Raiders to 35 for the Blue Mountain Battalion. In order to reclaim our title from the Blue Mountain Battalion, the Shippensburg Raider Battalion will work hard in preparation for a comeback game the following season!

Community Service

WRITTEN BY CONNER CRAWFORD

Throughout the school year the Raider Battalion participates in many community service events throughout the local area. The largest event this semester was the semi-annual Raider Car Wash. During this event students from the Military Science Department come together to offer their time and effort to the local Shippensburg community. Under the leadership of the program's fundraising officer, Cadet Eisenhart, the program serviced over 50 cars in one day, leaving them clean and polished. With the car wash being purely donation based, the Raider Battalion was able to raise over \$1,000 from the generous community. We at Shippensburg ROTC strive to embody the Army values of selfless service and will always be ready to lead the way in serving our community!



Holiday Social

WRITTEN BY ZACH FUHRMANECK

For our final lab of the fall semester, the Raider Battalion held its annual holiday social! Each MS class was tasked with bringing in different sides and snacks for the social. The uniform for the day was an ugly Christmas sweater and other holiday apparel! Cadets ate, socialized, then participated in multiple games and competitions. These games stretched from "Pin the horn on the Unicorn", to a mustache competition that began at the beginning of November (under proper regulation), to musical chairs. The winners of the games got to pie the incoming Spring Leadership as their reward. The lab was a good time to unwind and prepare for finals week, and a final chance to bond before winter break takes us into the next semester!

Highlights from our Fall 2022 FTX



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