

# SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY RAIDER BATTALION



## FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



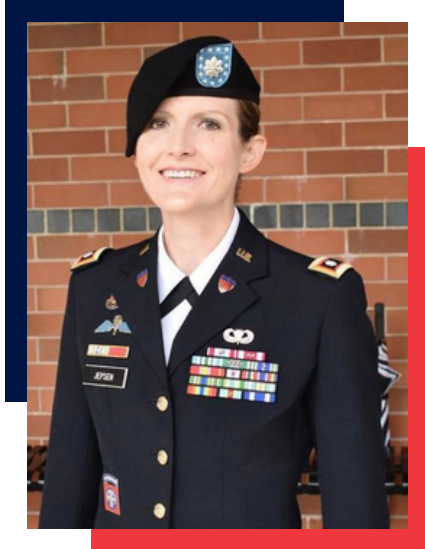
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# Greetings from the Raider Battalion



## Opening Remarks from the Professor of Military Science, LTC Nicole Jepsen

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The Raider Battalion continues to excel, with our Cadets absolutely dominating at Cadet Summer Training (CST) and truly leading the way throughout the fall semester. Over the summer:

- George Drivas was named #1 of over 600 Cadets in his Regiment at Advanced Camp, earning the Association of the United States Army's prestigious "Leadership Excellence Award".
- George Drivas & Robert Lissner earned Reconnaissance Commando (RECONDO) honors at Advanced Camp. Fewer than 12% of Cadets nationwide accomplished this impressive feat.
- Grace Thomas was selected above her peers to serve as the Commander of Troops at her Basic Camp graduation.
- Mike Ardise served as a Basic Camp Leader Trainer at Fort Knox, Kentucky, allowing him to mentor and share his expertise with new Cadets attending Basic Camp.
- Three Cadets attended Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT), where they served in Lieutenant-level positions with Active Duty Army units. Hannah Culp traveled to Hawaii, where she joined the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Camryn Cerminaro also visited Hawaii and participated in military intelligence operations with the 25th Infantry Division. In addition, Anthony Shires traveled to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he joined the 3-69 Armor Battalion.
- Mason Smith graduated from the US Army Airborne School.
- George Drivas & Zachary Eisenhart graduated from Air Assault School.
- Aidan Brenize attended Robin Sage, where he served as the resistance force for Soldiers training to join US Army Special Forces.
- Six Cadets participated in Project Global Officer, a Department of Defense initiative that provides intensive foreign language & cultural training. Aidan Brenize traveled to Taiwan, where he studied Mandarin Chinese. Noah Stern studied Arabic in Morocco, and Drew Landis studied Arabic in Jordan. Raymond Lazar learned Russian at the College of William & Mary. Owen Shelson went to the University of Florida to study Turkish, and Collin Stouffer also studied Turkish at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Following successful completion of Advanced Camp, four of our seniors (Left to Right: Robert Lissner, Hannah Culp, Riley Gladhill, & George Drivas) earned Distinguished Military Graduate honors, ranking them among the top 20% of all Cadets nationwide. Shippensburg University highlighted them on the Ship Now news site: <https://news.ship.edu/2023/10/18/top-cadets-honored-as-distinguished-military-graduates-by-us-army-command/>.





Impressively, on 22 October 2023, senior Cadet Rylie Traxler received the ROTC Medal for Heroism during a ceremony at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. This medal is the highest, most prestigious award a Cadet can earn. Cadet Traxler earned this recognition based upon her personal courage, selflessness, and warrior ethos when responding to a horrific vehicle accident. Shippensburg University also highlighted her on the Ship Now news site: <https://news.ship.edu/2023/11/16/rotc-cadet-rylie-traxler-awarded-rotc-medal-of-heroism/>

Numerous Cadets extended their influence by representing Shippensburg within the community. Highlights include:

- Senior Cadet Hannah Culp served as the keynote speaker during the Pennsylvania State System for Higher Education (PASSHE) Veterans Day Ceremony, a high-visibility event attended by higher education administrators and professors from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Junior Cadet Mason Smith participated in a panel discussion at the US Army War College's Army Expo in Carlisle, PA. The panel was chaired by Brigadier General Amanda Azubuike, Deputy Commanding General for US Army Cadet Command (USACC), and also included representatives from US Army Recruiting Command and the United States Military Academy.
- Junior Cadet Caleb Smith served as a keynote speaker at the Shippensburg College of Education & Human Services' Fall Advisory Board.
- Freshman Cadet and varsity swimmer Mason Koeth earned recognition as the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Athlete of the Week for earning four top 10 times at Shippensburg, including the second fastest 100 fly time in school history and fastest mark by a Raider in 30 years. Numerous other Cadets also excelled in intercollegiate athletics, including Breeanna Smith-Geisbert (Volleyball), Josiah Leonard (Football), Mitchell Brett (Track), Jonathan Hunter (Soccer), Loren Ferguson (Cheerleading), Rylie Traxler (Rugby), and Robert Lissner (Track) – who tied for 6th All Time in men's indoor pole vault and 4th All Time in men's heptathlon. In addition, junior Cadets Drew Landis and Caleb Smith continued to excel in Shippensburg's marching band, which traveled to the Czech Republic for a performance tour.

This fall, our graduating seniors received their long-awaited branches, and everyone earned their top choices! In a few short months, they'll commission as follows:

- Mike Ardise – Adjutant General, Branch Detail Infantry (Active Duty)
- Camryn Cerminaro – Military Intelligence (Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG))
- Hannah Culp – Military Intelligence (Active Duty)
- George Drivas – Military Intelligence, Branch Detail Armor (Active Duty)
- Riley Gladhill – Ordnance (PAARNG)
- Robert Lissner – Infantry (Active Duty)
- Anthony Shires – Armor (Active Duty)
- Jack Sweigart – Medical Service (PAARNG)
- Rylie Traxler – Air Defense Artillery (Active Duty)



We were also extremely proud to have an impressive two Cadets earn Brigade “Cadet of the Month” honors this semester. Cadet Rylie Traxler earned this title in September, and she was also selected as the USACC Cadet of the Month for October. In addition, Cadet Hannah Culp earned Brigade honors in November. With 42 ROTC programs in our Brigade, it’s incredibly inspiring to see our Cadets earn half of this semester’s honors.

And that’s only a small highlight of everything our Cadets have accomplished! Throughout this newsletter, you’ll read about how they tackled rigorous training, engaged the community, and stewarded the profession. If you’d like to stay up-to-date with Shippensburg Army ROTC’s activities and achievements, be sure to follow us on the social media accounts listed above.

Thank you for your support! Raiders lead the way!



## From the Cadet Battalion Commander, Hannah Culp

As Battalion Commander this Fall 2023 semester, I was privileged to have served this program. I am very proud of my fellow Cadets and our command team for our great work and many achievements!

This semester, the Raider Battalion worked to achieve many great accomplishments. Our Cadets were given plenty of opportunities to grow and develop their leadership skills with our busy semester. In October, we completed our Fall FTX and worked on land navigation, EST, and marksmanship basics. We held our annual 5K/10K and were joined by many runners, including Shippensburg Alumni. We also welcomed JROTC programs to Shippensburg to teach them about our program. These Cadets were given tours, presentations, and completed a PT event. At the end of October, our Ranger Challenge team attended Fort Dix, NJ to compete in the Ranger Challenge Competition. In November, I had the honor of giving a Veterans Day speech at the Diversity Summit for the state of Pennsylvania. Following this, our Cadets volunteered their time at the Grace B. Luhrs Elementary School for their ceremony to honor Veterans and their families. Our Battalion also marched in the Shippensburg Veterans Day Parade, showing support to our community’s Veterans. We ended our semester by participating in Wreaths Across America. Our Cadets helped place flags, wreaths, and presented our Nation’s colors during a ceremony for this organization. We were honored to be able to show our respect to our Veterans, and we remember them this December.

I look forward to experiencing the continued success of this Battalion next Spring and I am extremely proud of what each Cadet has done for this program. I am excited to move forward with our new command team this upcoming semester and look forward to accomplishing our new goals. As always, Raiders Lead the Way!

# Raider Cadet Orientation Program

WRITTEN BY JACK SWEIGART

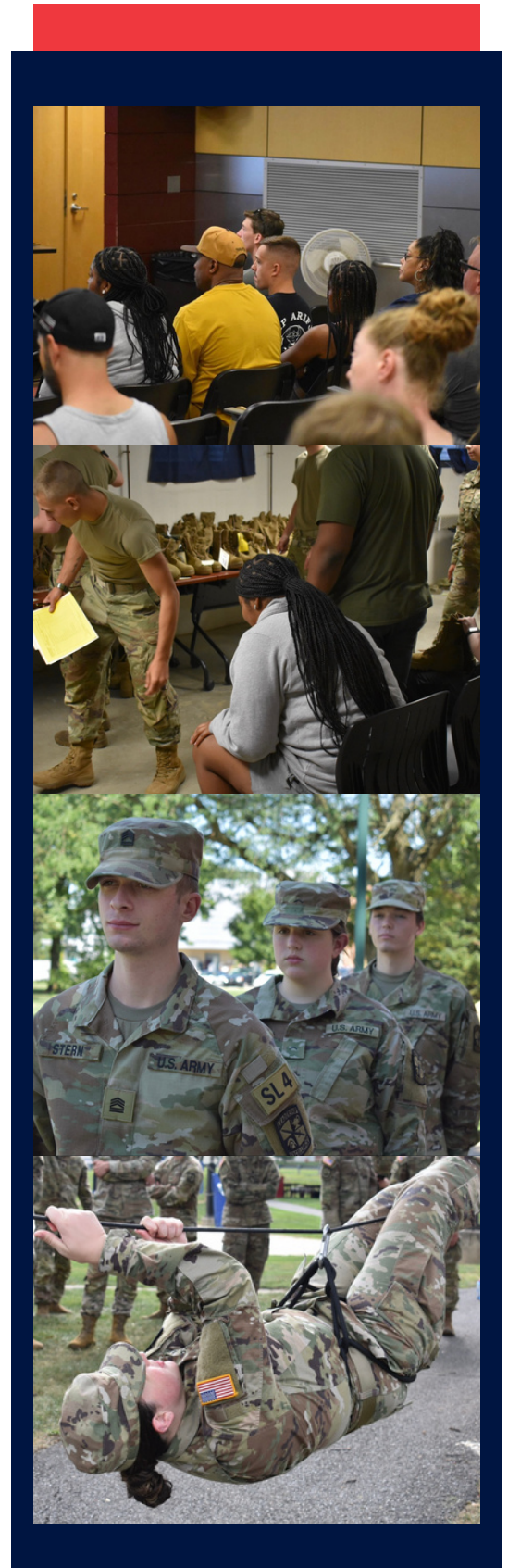
The Raider Cadet Orientation Program (RCOP) stands as a cornerstone of our institution's commitment to nurturing the next generation of military leaders. It serves as a critical bridge between the civilian world and the disciplined, structured environment of military college life. RCOP is designed to prepare incoming Cadets for the multifaceted challenges they'll encounter, focusing on both the academic and physical rigors of military training.

One of the central objectives of RCOP is to help incoming Cadets adjust to the demanding academic expectations of college life. During this program, Cadets are immersed in a curriculum tailored to sharpen their study skills, time management, and organizational abilities. These essential skills are invaluable for success not only in their coursework but also in the wider military context where precision, discipline, and efficiency are paramount. Cadets are introduced to their academic advisors, mentors, and resources, providing them with the support network necessary to excel in their studies.

Beyond academics, RCOP places a strong emphasis on physical fitness and leadership development. Cadets participate in a rigorous physical training regimen that not only prepares them for the demanding physical standards of the military but also instills discipline, teamwork, and resilience. They engage in team-building exercises, leadership simulations, and other activities that foster camaraderie and esprit de corps among the incoming class, setting the foundation for a cohesive and motivated unit.

One of the pivotal moments of RCOP is the gear issuing session, where incoming Cadets are provided with the uniforms, equipment, and supplies essential for their Cadet experience. This is more than just the distribution of gear; it's a symbolic step that transforms young civilians into the embodiment of military discipline. Cadets learn how to maintain and care for their gear, instilling the values of responsibility and attention to detail.

RCOP also creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie within the incoming class. The shared experiences, challenges, and achievements during the program forge strong bonds among the Cadets, who will rely on each other throughout their Cadet and military careers. In essence, the Raider Cadet Orientation Program equips incoming Cadets with the necessary skills, knowledge, and mindset to transition smoothly into college life and military training. By addressing the academic, physical, and leadership aspects, RCOP ensures that Cadets are well-prepared to thrive academically and excel as future military leaders. It not only imparts the essential skills and knowledge but also fosters a sense of unity and purpose that is fundamental to the military ethos.



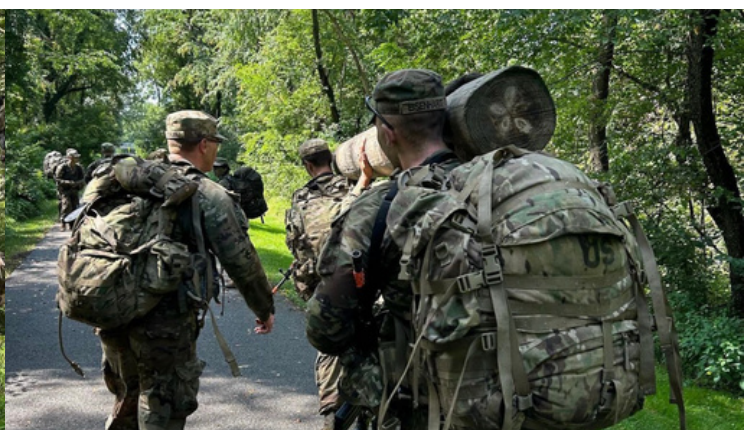


# Mungadai Warrior

WRITTEN BY MIKE ARDISE

Originating in the 13th century as a way for Genghis Khan to select the elite soldiers of his Mongolian Cavalry, the Munga-dai were the best of the best warriors. Today, "Mungadai" serves as a grueling adventure challenge that tests Soldiers' endurance and warrior skills as a team. It promotes esprit de corps and offers a chance to build a potential leader's resiliency and adaptability.

For the Raider Battalion, Operation Mungadai Warrior has become an annual event that is meant to serve as a test for the junior (MS3) class. Each MS3 Cadet is employed into different leadership roles that they have not experienced before. For our Cadets, Mungadai Warrior is a 6-mile ruck with missions in which a different Cadet is chosen to become a Platoon Leader or a Platoon Sergeant. Missions this year included a wall climb, an attack, and multiple movements to contact. To supplement this test, some of the sophomore (MS2) class acted as opposing forces (OPFOR), and the senior (MS4) class served as lane walkers. Overall, the event was a great leadership and team building exercise, and it has shown amongst the great leaders we have in the MS3 class.



# 9/11 Remembrance

WRITTEN BY HANNAH CULP

This year, the Raider Battalion remembered September 11th by placing flags on campus and setting up a table in the Ceddia Union Building (CUB). Our Cadets volunteered their time to place the flags and retrieve them after 9/11. They also gave their time in the CUB at our remembrance table, which displayed flags and a plaque with names of Shippensburg Veterans who fought in the wars following 9/11. We strive to continue to honor those whose lives were lost and remember them as the years go on. Remembering 9/11 helps to ensure that the experiences from that tragic day continue to shape our actions and policies, with the aim of creating a more secure, tolerant, and resilient world. It is also a way to pay respect to the nearly 3,000 innocent people who lost their lives in the attacks. As time passes, it becomes increasingly important to preserve the collective memory of such significant events. This ensures that future generations understand the impact of 9/11 and its ongoing effects on society. This is why the Raider Battalion is committed to remembering September 11th and the lives lost that day.



# Contracting Ceremony

WRITTEN BY ROBERT LISSNER

A contracting ceremony is a celebratory event that demonstrates the dedication and commitment to continue Cadets' training with the intent on becoming an Officer in the U.S. Army. This semester, the Raider Battalion contracted an additional 14 Cadets. The newest contracted Cadets in our home program include Cadets Colin Arnold, Brayden Crawford, Liam Dupler, Jack Devlin, Loren Ferguson, Joseph Kunsman, Josiah Leonard, Ty Livelsberger, Logan Miscannon, Daniel Prachthauer, Owen Shelton, Asher Stein, Noah Stern, and Grace Thomas. The first contracting ceremony was held at the beginning of a rainy home football game on the 23rd of September. Families and spectators watched as the Cadets marched in their dress blues onto the field led by LTC Jepsen. LTC Jepsen gave the new Cadets the oath while the color guard posted behind them, providing a remarkable scene to be witnessed by everyone in the stadium. The second ceremony was held on the 16th of November after one of our Cadet led labs. Cadets posted at the front of the formation where they recited the oath also given by LTC Jepsen. Part of this ceremony was also the patching of the newly contracted Cadets, where upper class Cadets place the contracted patch on the right arm of the younger Cadets. We are immensely proud of all of these Cadets and hope others will follow in their path to contract.



# Staff Ride: Battle of Gettysburg

WRITTEN BY RYLIE TRAXLER

Every year, the Military History students must complete a battle analysis and staff ride to Gettysburg. This year that remained the same, with seven of our Cadets riding along to and visiting the Gettysburg Battlefield to run through the pivotal three-day span that occurred in July of 1863. The hope of this analysis is that our cadets can gain insight into the human condition during combat through real situations as they occurred nearby.

The Gettysburg campaign is arguably one of the most important engagements of the Civil War. It could have gone either way; had the Union Army lost, the Confederate Army could have gained a major foothold in the North, forcing an end to the war in their favor. When we arrived in Gettysburg on a rainy Friday in September, we started with day one of events and General Buford's movement. We then moved on to what occurred on day two at Devil's Den, Little Round Top, and the Wheatfield and Peach Orchard. Following that, our Cadets enjoyed lunch at the Dobbin House Tavern, before completing the day with Culp's Hill and Pickett's Charge.

Overall, it was an informative day where our Cadets gained new insight into just how important the history of Gettysburg is, and how the actions and inactions of the leaders led to the outcome of the war.

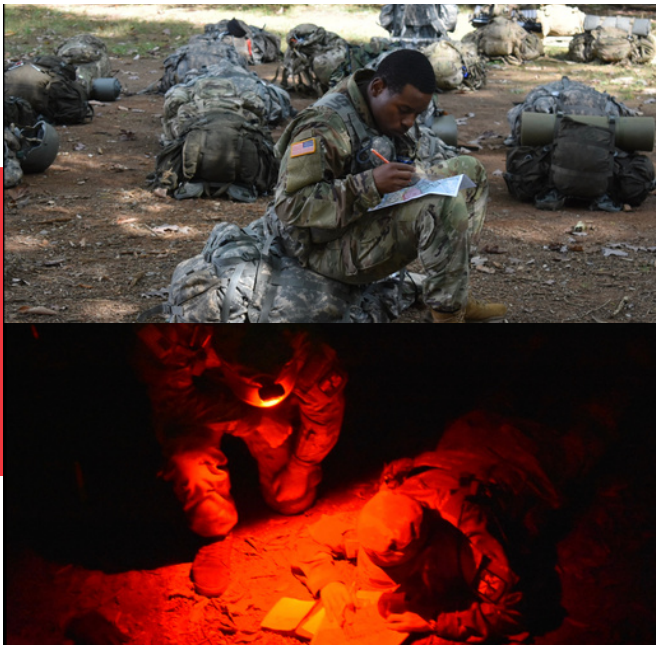




# Field Training Exercise (FTX: Fall Edition)

WRITTEN BY GEORGE DRIVAS

The Raider Battalion had its annual Fall field training exercise (FTX) at Fort Indiantown Gap this past October. This is one of the biggest training events of the semester and requires a lot of coordination between the Cadets and Cadre, as well as with the personnel at Fort Indiantown Gap. On the agenda for training was the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST), night and day land navigation on Friday, the Field Leader's Reaction Course (FLRC), rappel tower on Saturday, and tactical paintball on Sunday.



Unfortunately, the weather did not permit the Raider Battalion to do the FLRC or the rappel tower on Saturday due to severe rain that particular weekend. However, with quick thinking, senior leaders and trainers set up a grenade familiarization and throwing lane to get training in that austere environment. Also, paintball was pushed up to Saturday, where both Alpha and Bravo companies of the Battalion went head-to-head in a capture the flag style game. Alpha company was able to get Bravo company's flag, naming them winners.

Despite the weather, Cadets had valuable training and exposure to Army doctrine and standards. The dedication and desire to learn and be the best they can be was shown all weekend with the Raider Battalion.



The first event on Friday was the EST, where Cadets were able to hone in their craft with practice behind the M4 weapon system, and gaining familiarity with the zero and qualifications process with the most common weapon a Soldier will use. This event was key to the junior class, who will be utilizing this school year to get ready for Cadet Summer Training (CST). Following EST, the Raider Battalion moved to the land navigation site, where they had two iterations of day land navigation and an iteration of night land navigation. The woody and hilly terrain will expose Cadets' weaknesses in land navigation, making them have to adapt and become better at land navigation.





# Ranger Challenge

WRITTEN BY ZACHARY EISENHART

On the weekend of 20-22 October 2023, thirteen Cadets traveled to Fort Dix, New Jersey to compete in the annual Ranger Challenge competition. Prior to the competition, the team trained rigorously to achieve mastery of all technical and physical aspects of the competition five days a week from 0530-0700 over a span of eight weeks. Over the course of the weekend, each team would be graded in eight different events to test each competing school's physical and technical capabilities.

Upon arriving at Fort Dix on Friday, the 49 schools in attendance competed in what is called "the Burden", which is a CrossFit-style event encompassing running with your kit on, and gear movement. The following day started with a 0400 wake up to conduct a team land navigation event. Completion started the round robin of five different events consisting of tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), grenade assault course, weapons assembly/functions test, obstacle course, and the one rope bridge.



The final day consisted of a 0530 wake up to complete the 6-mile ruck march while carrying a 35-pound rucksack, fighting load carrier (FLC), 2 quarts of water, and a weapon. Our team was able to place 32nd in the competition with high rankings on the land navigation and obstacle course.



# 5K/10K RACE

WRITTEN BY JACK SWEIGART

The Shippensburg Military Science Program proudly hosted their 44th Annual 5k/10k Run and Walk, a vibrant event that brought together communities and supporters in a shared commitment to both physical wellness and philanthropy. Held amidst the picturesque landscapes of Shippensburg, this event wasn't just a testament to athleticism but also a demonstration of collective generosity and support for a noble cause.

The event, meticulously organized and executed by dedicated volunteers, drew participants from various walks of life, including military personnel, students, families, and fitness enthusiasts. The atmosphere buzzed with energy and enthusiasm as runners and walkers prepared to embark on their journey through scenic routes, aiming not just to conquer the distance, but also contribute towards a larger charitable goal.

One of the defining aspects of this year's run was the collaboration with the Boulder Crest Foundation; a renowned nonprofit organization committed to improving the mental health and well-being of military veterans and their families. Partnering with such a reputable institution resonated deeply with the ethos of the Military Science Program, emphasizing the importance of mental health support within the armed forces community.

Through the collective efforts of participants, sponsors, and generous donors, the event exceeded all expectations, both in terms of participation and fundraising. Every step taken during the 5k/10k was a stride towards raising funds for the Boulder Crest Foundation's impactful programs, aimed at providing wellness retreats, post-traumatic growth training, and other crucial resources for veterans.

The spirit of camaraderie and support was palpable throughout the event, fostering a sense of unity and purpose among all involved. Participants not only pushed their physical limits but also collectively embraced the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who've served their country.

Numerous local businesses and sponsors rallied behind the cause, offering their support through donations, volunteerism, and enthusiastic participation. Their contributions, alongside the unwavering dedication of the organizing committee, were instrumental in the success of this event, amplifying its impact and reach.

The 44th Annual 5k/10k Run and Walk by the Shippensburg Military Science Program stands as a testament to the power of community, determination, and philanthropy. As the finish line was crossed, cheers resonated, not just for the remarkable athletic achievements but for the substantial impact made in supporting the mental health and well-being of veterans and their families through Boulder Crest.

In summary, this event epitomized the ethos of service, unity, and support—an embodiment of the noble values upheld by the Military Science Program at Shippensburg University. The resounding success of this event isn't merely measured by the miles covered but by the lives positively impacted, fostering hope, healing, and resilience among those who've bravely served our nation.



# Navy JROTC Visit

WRITTEN BY RILEY GLADHILL



The Navy JROTC visit is always a fantastic outreach program for the Military Science Department and the University as a whole. This year, we had high school JROTC programs visiting from Chambersburg, Allentown and Elizabethtown, with about fifty visiting Cadets here to participate. This year, the visiting JROTC cadets got to participate in a physical training (PT) event, a campus tour, lunch with the university's ROTC Cadets, and an informational brief about ROTC at the collegiate level and what scholarships and opportunities they have available to them. The JROTC Cadets got a glimpse of what a college campus looks like, and had their questions answered about their potential upcoming college and military careers. Overall, the Cadets had a fantastic time and were highly impressed with their visit. A handful of the visiting Cadets expressed great interest in attending Shippensburg and applying to be a part of our admirable Raider Battalion!



# Veterans Day Ceremony

WRITTEN BY ROBERT MCCLURE

On 9 November 2023, the Raider Battalion was given the opportunity to help facilitate Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School's Veterans Day ceremony. The Cadets participating in the ceremony met at Grace B Luhrs at 0900 to practice with Mr. Kirkpatrick, a retired paratrooper who was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The ceremony consisted of the Cadets and Mr. Kirkpatrick marching out to the flagpole, and then proceeding to lower the old flag and raise a new flag. The old flag was then presented to a veteran from the audience by Mr. Kirkpatrick. The participating Cadets were invited to attend a ceremony in the Memorial Auditorium to honor Veteran family members from the students of Grace B. Luhrs. Cadets were also recognized and thanked, concluding with the students of Grace B. Luhrs signing "thank you, Soldiers."



# Halloween Parade

WRITTEN BY ANTHONY SHIRES

On a crisp and festive Halloween afternoon, the spirited efforts of Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets shone brightly as they played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth and safe execution of the annual Halloween parade. Dressed in their military uniforms and fueled by a sense of duty, these dedicated Cadets collaborated seamlessly with local law enforcement to block off roads along the parade route. With precision and discipline, they strategically positioned barriers and directed traffic to create a secure environment for the parade participants and spectators alike. Their commitment to serve and community engagement was not only evident in their tactical execution but also in the smiles and gratitude exchanged with community members. The ROTC Cadets' contribution added a layer of order and security to the Halloween festivities, reinforcing the notion that their training goes beyond the confines of the military setting and directly benefits the community they serve.

# Best Squad Competition

WRITTEN BY MASON SMITH

On November 16th, the Raider Battalion conducted a squad competition during our Thursday afternoon lab. The squad competition lab is designed to evaluate Cadets on the many skills they have been taught throughout the semester. For each Cadet, these skills will be evaluated at Cadet Summer Training (CST), also known as Advanced Camp, at Fort Knox during the summer of junior year.



As such, it is important that every Cadet has the opportunity to partake in the squad competition lab at the end of the semester to refresh their knowledge and sharpen their skills. The Cadets were separated into eight randomized groups to compete against each other. These stations include Drill and Ceremony, one lap around the recreation field carrying weights and gear, calling an emergency medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) on a 9-line card, squad tactics, land navigation, throwing dummy grenades, tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), and making Swiss seats used in mountaineering operations.



An MS4 was in charge of each station and was chosen based on their strengths in that particular event, ensuring that the grading standard was fair and could offer advice if there was confusion. Each group was allocated twelve minutes to conduct the tasks before the whistle was blown to alternate to the next station. When every station was completed, the totals were added, and a winning team was selected. Each team member was given a Shippensburg Raider Battalion challenge coin, symbolizing excellence and expertise.



# The Turkey Bowl

WRITTEN BY GEORGE DRIVAS



This year, the Raider Battalion hosted the Annual Turkey Bowl against the Blue Mountain Battalion at Seth Grove Stadium. The Blue Mountain Battalion consists of Dickinson University, Gettysburg College, Millersville University, Messiah University, Franklin & Marshall, and Penn State Harrisburg. With beautiful weather, both teams arrived and said their greetings to friends made from previous field training exercises and events. A brief warmup took place with both teams occupying a half of the field to get ready. The Blue Mountain Battalion won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball. Both Battalions played hard, competitively, and with as much teamwork as they could muster. Ultimately, the Blue Mountain Battalion won the game after the Raiders fell short in a heated game with a final score of 55-52. The Blue Mountain Battalion took home the Annual Turkey Bowl engraved wooden plaque and the game ball for the most valuable player of their choosing.





# Holiday Social and Awards Ceremony

WRITTEN BY RYLIE TRAXLER

In previous years, the Raider Battalion has held their annual holiday social party and awards ceremony on two different occasions. The holiday social would be the last lab of the semester, and the awards ceremony would mix with the change of command on the week prior's lab. Given how wasteful it seemed for the two to be separate, the idea evolved to conduct the ceremony during the social party and replace the open lab with a 12-mile ruck. This would be to introduce our freshmen to a longer ruck, and to train more for the one in the spring.



Starting with the ceremony, a selection of Cadets received different awards for their efforts during the fall semester. This ranged from participation in cannon crew and color guard, to fundraising and recruiting, and athleticism; some Cadets even received awards from our Cadet Battalion Commander, and our Professor of Military Science. Following this ceremony, our Cadets lined up for the potluck of food brought by peers, and upon filling bellies, games were savored by the masses to relieve the stresses of the semester and build camaraderie. Overall, this was a great end to the fall semester and start to the holiday season.







# Commissioning Ceremony

WRITTEN BY CAMRYN CERMINARO

The Army Commissioning Ceremony stands as a dignified event, marking the transition of individuals from Cadets to Officers within the United States Army. This ceremony is a time-honored tradition that exemplifies the military accomplishments of the individuals involved and their commitment to a higher calling of leadership, duty, and service. On Saturday December 16th, the Raider Battalion had the privilege of commissioning another extraordinary individual, 2nd Lieutenant Garrett Zary.

His friends and family gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion at Shippensburg University's Stewart Hall. During this ceremony, 2nd Lieutenant Kristen Harding administered the Oath of Office. This oath signifies the leaders who have committed their lives to the defense of their nation, and along with the pinning of the rank insignia, it is a pivotal moment. Family members had the honor of putting the new rank on the Officer's uniform. This act represents the transfer of responsibility and authority, which the newly commissioned Officer is now entrusted with.

As the ceremony concludes, the newly commissioned Officers are often presented with their first salute. This tradition, known as the Silver Dollar Salute, involves the Officer giving a silver dollar to the first enlisted service member who renders a salute to them. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kevin Zary administered 2nd Lieutenant Zary's salute. It symbolizes the gratitude of Officers and enlisted personnel in the execution of the Army's purpose. Second Lieutenant Zary will begin his Army career as a Signal Corps Officer.



Thank you for supporting our program and keeping up with our Raiders.

Remember to stay in touch!

Ship.edu/ROTC

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RAIDERS LEAD THE WAY!



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