

THE REVERE RECORDER



FALL 2023

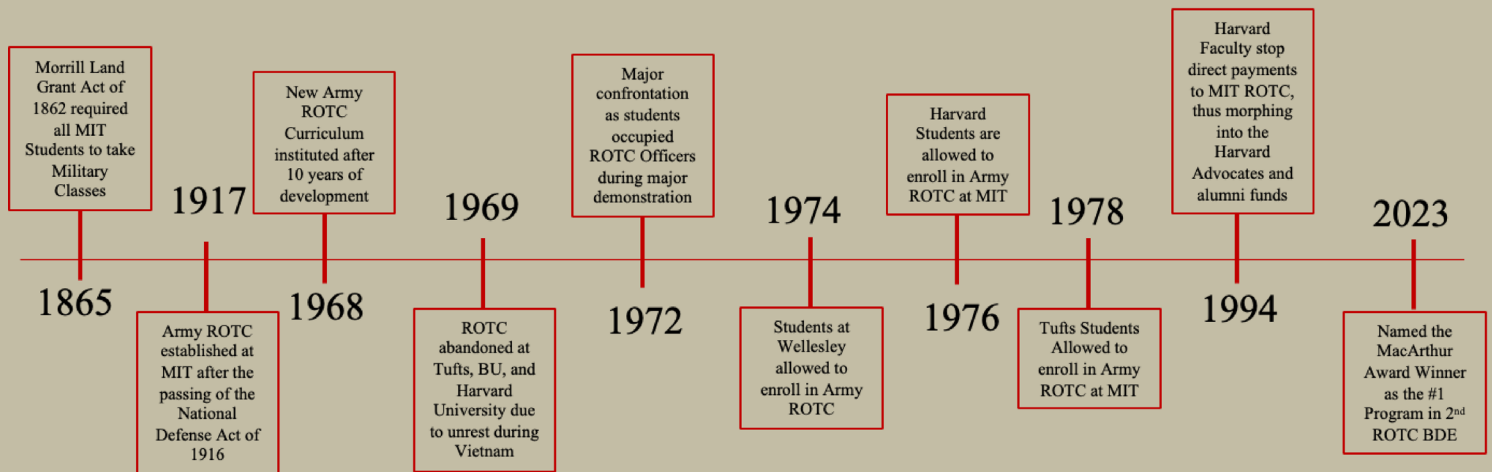
THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
MIT ARMY ROTC



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History of the Military at MIT

From the first day of classes in 1865, military training has existed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Originally, MIT students were required to take part in compulsory military instruction, including drill, under the terms of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. Students were to receive instruction in "military tactics." The objective of the Morrill Act, passed in the midst of the Civil War, was to provide a "means by which a democratic people could gain a competent officer corps for a military reserve without endangering basic liberties." Since it was feared that the war might establish a large, centrally-controlled standing army, responsibility for creating such an officer corps would be assigned, not to a military agency of the federal government, but rather to at least one college in each state and under the jurisdiction of that state. MIT was designated a Land Grant College and so established a Department of Military Science and Tactics at its inception, as specified in its state charter. Since this time, MIT has built a military heritage second only to West Point, the United States Military Academy.

Today, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology hosts the best leadership development program in the nation. Through the Army, Air Force and Naval ROTC programs at the Institute, more than 12,000 officers have been commissioned from MIT, of whom 150 have reached the rank of general or admiral.

The Paul Revere Battalion, an Army ROTC unit, was established at MIT in 1917, shortly after the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. This is believed to be the first ROTC unit in the Nation. During World War I, there were more Regular Army Officers serving in the Army from MIT than from any other school except West Point. Of the 1538 military participants in World War I from the Institute, 1335 were commissioned officers. The battalion now consists of students from MIT, Tufts University, Harvard University, Lesley University, Endicott College, Gordon College, Salem State College, Wellesley College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



THE EDITORS NOTE

Dear Reader,

The Revere Recorder serves to highlight the big events of the semester. It is a macroscopic view of the events that were held and the experiences that were had. However, there are moments and memories that are not captured in it's pages. Moments like the overwhelming feeling of pride when you see your peers besting hundreds of contestants at the Fenway Spartan Race, the exhilaration of being accepted to your top choice branch or leading your first platoon mission on a Field Training Exercise. The moments of laughter shared at post PT breakfast and the stories shared on long car rides to MIT.

The thumbs up, the fist bumps, and the best friend handshakes. These microscopic moments may not be explicitly listed in these pages, but they fill in the gaps of the words and images in this semester's Revere Recorder. We hope that as you read the following stories, you take the time to remember the small moments too. We would also like to thank all of those who have donated to our program. Please visit the back cover if you are interested in helping fund similar opportunities for our cadets in the future.

The views expressed in this journal are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Army, Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

Best Regards,
CDT Spain
Harvard '24





LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER

Battalion,

With the fall semester ending, I want to thank everyone in the battalion for all the hard work, dedication, and motivation throughout the semester! We accomplished our Fall FTX, where cadets from each year group could train on the range, on the land navigation course, and out in the field for an entire weekend. We also completed our annual STX training this year at Boston Paintball. The MS3s practiced their skills in TLPs and writing rudimentary OPORDs. Finally, our amazing MS4 team was able to put together in-depth lesson plans for our LLABs consistently each week.

Aside from just business, the Paul Revere Battalion also came together outside LLABs and field training. We sponsored a tailgate at Harvard's Football Stadium, where cadets from multiple schools came out to share food and camaraderie. Additionally, we hosted our first battalion-wide dinner at MIT. Cadets of all age groups bonded in a more relaxed setting and fostered the tight-knit community that we love in our battalion.

I thank my entire staff for never pumping the breaks this semester and allowing this battalion to reach its fullest potential. The tireless work of the staff and the battalion's junior leaders made all the events this semester possible. Our Paul Revere family would not be what it is today if it weren't for you all. Being your Battalion Commander has been an honor, and I wish you all the best in your future careers as wonderful army officers.

CDT Cogbill

Harvard '24





LETTER FROM THE CADET CSM

Dear PRB,

It was my honor to serve as the Fall 2023 Command Sergeant Major for the Paul Revere Battalion. I would like to thank my fellow cadets as well as our incredible cadre and staff for their hard work throughout the semester. It is the people within the Paul Revere Battalion that truly make our program the best in the entire country. These cadets are capable of achievements such as the highest average OML score within USACC Second Brigade as well as scoring within the top 10 teams in this semester's Ranger Challenge Competition, the highest standing we have achieved in more than six years. Every day our cadets showed up motivated and ready to crush whatever tasks we had planned for them. Whether it was trying to stay dry during our FTX or attempting to achieve the maximum score on the ACFT, I am proud to say that each and every one of you gave it your all and that your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

To the MS1s and new cadets, I was inspired by how much you all grew this past semester. Although you have only just begun your journey to becoming an officer in the U.S. Army, I was incredibly impressed by your commitment and eagerness to learn. You all demonstrated the ability to work together and push through adversity. I know that events such as CST and commissioning might appear distant, but time flies by and those events will be here sooner than you think.

My very first LLAB feels as if it was only yesterday and I was being called upon by the CSM to recite new cadet knowledge. Soon enough, you too will be the leaders of this battalion and I have no doubt that you will continue to do great things both within and outside of ROTC and the Army.

All of us should feel incredibly proud of our battalion's growth this semester as we pursue our joint goal of developing into better leaders. From the company First Sergeants to the team members, you all play a critical role in keeping this battalion functioning and I couldn't have succeeded in this job without you. I am grateful to have been your CSM this past semester and look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

Best regards,

CDT Lotwin

Tufts '25





FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

CDT Dasariraju
Harvard '27

Leading up to the fall semester, I did not fully know what my college life would look like. I was more than excited to start at Harvard and join the Paul Revere Battalion, but I was definitely apprehensive of taking on so much “newness” at once. What would it take to show up for my various responsibilities to be the best student, cadet, and person I could be?

From the get go, the program’s welcoming spirit calmed my nerves and provided me with a sense of direction. Before the start of classes, I got to participate in a meet and greet Zoom over the summer, an inter-branch ROTC barbeque event, and a dinner organized by my team leader. These cadet-led events helped me quickly get to know my fellow cadets, PRB’s lingo, and what my day-to-day life would look like going forward. It was a steep learning curve for sure, but older cadets who had gone through the same process were right there to support us MS1s and offer not only tips for ROTC but also school-specific guidance.

A constant throughout the semester was PT, our thrice-weekly physical training. Starting with a “stadium” (running up and down the big concrete steps of Harvard Stadium), we got together bright and early to train. I’ve come to really enjoy the opportunity to push myself and improve in both endurance and strength – there’s no better way to start the day, and the positive momentum really gives me an edge as I walk into the classes and other commitments I have for the rest of the day. A personal highlight was our touch football PT, which was probably the most fun I’ve had since 2017. In addition to improving our physical fitness, we furthered our knowledge in weekly military science classes at MIT and trained our skills in leadership, communication, tactics, and more during Leadership Labs every Wednesday evening. LLAB was a fantastic way to get to know the older cadets and learn from their experiences as they guided us through hands-on exercises.

In my first semester, three of my main learning opportunities were our field training exercise (FTX), the Army Ten Miler, and the Ranger Challenge Competition. As we practiced land navigation and got in some time at the range, my biggest takeaway from FTX was the importance of the little things – our cadet leaders always were prepared, had made a plan in advance, and had everything equipment-related squared away.



CDT Dasariraju at the Army 10 Miler, 2023

They had their stuff together, and their readiness and precision set a great example, and it’s something I want to try to emulate going forward. The Army Ten Miler was a super fun event in D.C., and running alongside thousands of veterans, soldiers, and military supporters felt really powerful. Going into the race I thought I’d be happy with running the ten miles at a 7 minute mile pace (1:10:00 total), so I was really pleased with my time of 1:06:59. I’m aiming for under 1:03:30 next year and sub-6 minute pace by the time I graduate and commission. Finally, the Ranger Challenge Competition was a really unique opportunity to challenge myself mentally and physically. I learned a lot from the skills, mindset, and fortitude of the upperclassmen on PRB’s team.

Overall, I’m really grateful to be a part of the Paul Revere Battalion, an incredibly strong and uplifting community. I’ve learned more than in any other four months of my life, and the environment cultivated by the cadets and cadre have given me a deep sense of drive and purpose. I have a lot to learn and get better at going forward, and I can’t wait to see what next semester has in store.



BRANCH NIGHT

CDT Eddy
Harvard '24



MS4 class opening their Army Branch envelopes | Cambridge, MA, 2023

From a simple phone call to a celebratory event with family and friends, branch night at the Paul Revere Battalion has come a long way. This year on November 30, 2023, the families of the Class of 2024 were invited to the ROTC unit to take part in a special event honoring the senior class and their accomplishments. In front of the entire Battalion, seniors opened their letters containing their branch and had their branch insignias pinned on by their family and friends. For MS4s headed to Active Duty, branch night is a long anticipated and emotional event.

It's the pivotal moment when they discover their assigned location and responsibilities for the upcoming four years. Among this year's cohort, every MS4 received one of their top 5 branch choices, and many received either their first or second choice. After the ceremony, cadets and their families gathered in the lobby, indulging in cakes and desserts while sharing their excitement with both cadre and the younger cadets.



CDT Parsons of Salem State University being pinned as Quartermaster by MSG VanDerWaal



MS4 class cutting their celebratory cake | Cambridge, MA, 2023



PAUL REVERE CHALLENGE

CDT Esteva Sueiro
Harvard '24

The Paul Revere Challenge is one of the landmark traditions of the Paul Revere Battalion. At the beginning of every fall semester, the entire battalion splits into teams of MS1s, 2s, and 3s, and embarks on a timed scavenger hunt across Boston and Cambridge. The typical allotted time is 5 hours, from 7 am to 12 pm on one of the first Saturdays of the semester. Some of the scavenger hunt points they are given include historical sites such as the Old North Church where Paul Revere began his midnight ride, and the site where George Washington mustered the Continental Army in the Cambridge Common. These sites tie our battalion to its history and namesake, and remind us of the legacy we represent as future U.S. Army officers.

However, these are not the only tasks cadets encounter. MS4s are posted at some of the stations in order to run challenges for the teams to compete in feats of military skill, physical fitness, and general knowledge.

These stations include challenges such as the rope climb, grenade throwing, timed ACFT exercises in the Boston Common, and trivia in front of Faneuil Hall. To decide the winner of the challenge, the MS4s tally the scores from the competitive events and from reaching the scavenger hunt sides.

Regardless of who wins, the battalion celebrates with a large lunch at the unit to conclude the morning of bonding, and preparation to launch into a busy semester of LLABs, FTxs, and PT, among other things. The Paul Revere Challenge is truly a key piece of the culture of the Paul Revere Battalion, and I look forward to seeing it wake cadets up bright and early on Saturdays for years to come.





FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

CDT O'Connor
Harvard '24

This semester the Paul Revere Battalion had the opportunity to conduct two field training exercises (FTX). The first FTX was a three-day exercise held at Joint Base Cape where our cadets trained a variety of skill sets. Cadets received training in weapon safety and marksmanship where they grouped and zeroed with M4s and completed the “Table 5” and “Table 6” rifle qualifications on the range. Cadets also participated in day and night land navigation training in addition to tactical training. Despite the cold and rainy weather, Paul Revere Cadets once again proved their perseverance and determination to better themselves and the Army Team.

The second FTX the PRB conducted was a day-long exercise packed with squad-level paintball missions to simulate real world situations in a tactical environment. Cadets ran squad attacks, defenses, raids, and movement to contacts in preparation for the tactical challenges that the MS3 cadets will face this upcoming summer at the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s annual Advanced Camp. These two events served as excellent training opportunities for our cadets, allowing them to acquire crucial Army skills while also fostering a stronger sense of unity within the PRB.



CADET EXTRACURRICULARS



RANGER CHALLENGE

CDT Merlo

Tufts University '25

The Army ROTC Ranger Challenge is an annual military competition that brings together cadets from various universities and colleges to test and enhance participants' military skills, physical fitness, teamwork, and leadership abilities. The expectations for our Ranger Challenge team have always been high, and rightfully so.

As the battalion's "Varsity Team," we've always been tasked to operate at a higher standard: better physical fitness and a more substantial grasp of Army skills. Despite limited practice time and other challenges, the team went above and beyond this year with a top 10 finish at the annual ROTC 2nd "Freedom" Brigade competition.

To the Ranger Challenge team, I want to thank you for giving it your all this year and continuing to make this event one of the most enjoyable parts of my ROTC experience.

I'd also like to give a special shoutout to some of the team members:

Our MS1 cadets Dasariraju and Kim came out swinging. Their fitness, quick learning, and positive attitude made them not only up to par with the veteran team but a force to be reckoned with. MS3 cadet Lotwin, my co-captain, led training during the 2023 spring semester and gave us a strong foundation to build upon leading up to the competition.

Our MS4 Cadets Eddy, Cogbill, and O'Connor brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the table. They filled the gaps in our technical skills and taught me many leadership lessons.

MS2 cadets Martin and Greenway will be next year's co-captains. I couldn't think of two individuals better suited to lead the team. Over the past two years, both have consistently given their best, inspiring the rest of the team to push their limits. I have full confidence that you will continue to do so in the upcoming semester and the following year.

As we move into the spring semester, I am encouraged by the training plan laid out by the new leadership as well as the proficiency and experience retained by the team. Watch out for the energy and intensity that will be on full display throughout 2024.



CADET EXTRACURRICULARS



HACKATHON

CDT Sau
Harvard '25

The MIT Hackathon program, now labeled Special Operations Command (SOCOM) Ignite, was founded to utilize the incredible STEM talent that cadets in the Paul Revere Battalion and West Point could provide to the SOCOM community. Started as a joint project between United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and MIT Lincoln Laboratory, members of both communities thought that cadets, who have been exposed to modern technology from a young age, could provide valuable perspectives and unique solutions to real problems that operators were facing on missions. The expectation was that cadets would conduct initial research and/or produce a minimum viable product that approached problems related to drones, software, and communications technologies which could be passed off to Lincoln Laboratory or other Department of Defense research labs for further development.

While the central idea of technology development has remained consistent, the mission and scale of SOCOM Ignite have evolved over the last three years. The mission has now evolved to develop future technologically adept military officers who are “at the nexus of acquisitions, policy, and finance” and identify promising cadets who could bolster the ranks of SOCOM. Engaging in technology projects for SOCOM personnel enables cadets to develop into technologically adept military officers, positioning them as leaders well-equipped to navigate and lead the military in a future dominated by technological advancements. Through hands-on experience in designing and implementing tech solutions, cadets gain practical skills and insights that are essential for effective leadership in an increasingly tech-savvy military landscape. This immersive approach ensures that future officers not only understand the complexities of emerging technologies but also possess the capability to strategically integrate and leverage these advancements to enhance military operations and decision-making.

Each year our annual program first starts during the SOCOM Ignite kick-off weekend in September where cadets are introduced to the challenges offered by SOCOM sponsors. This year we had 80 cadets from the Army, Navy, and Air Force officer commissioning programs from over 20 schools including the United States Air Force Academy, United States Naval Academy, Texas Tech, and much more.

After the kickoff cadets continue to work on their projects, often remotely with cadets from other schools, while engaging in constant communication from their challenge sponsors.

The fall semester culminates in a mid-point brief where cadets with significant progress on their projects are offered the opportunity to travel to Fort Liberty and Coronado to brief in-person to USASOC and Naval Special Warfare personnel. This year was the first time Lincoln Laboratory introduced the Coronado trip as there was significant interest from NSW in the SOCOM Ignite program.





MILITARY STRATEGY INITIATIVE

CDT Clyde
Harvard '25

The objective of the Paul Revere Battalion's Military Strategy Initiative, or MSI, is twofold: first and foremost, to hone the analysis and presentation skills of the Army's future leaders so that they may face the challenges of their careers with confidence. Second, MSI aims to provide key Army leaders, usually a General Officer (GO), with novel, well-researched, and actionable insights to either improve the Army at large or to operate more effectively in the strategic environment. In the past, the team has looked to the Key Strategic Issues List, or KSIL, to select a question to address. This semester, we elected to address the Army's present recruiting crisis.

Compared to other issues we have addressed in the past, this semester's problem felt more accessible and personal for much of the team. The Army has recruited most of its members relatively recently, and as such, we felt that we had a unique perspective to offer as members of Generation Z ourselves. The team took this problem and ran with it, preparing analysis and recommendations ranging from leveraging military influencers to new education incentives that would appeal to young recruits.

At the end of the semester, we had the extraordinary opportunity to present to the commander of US Army Recruiting Command, Major General Johnny Davis. Year after year, MSI has received opportunity after opportunity to engage with General Officers. For many team members, engagement with GOs through the Military Strategy Initiative has become routine, and I take this as evidence that we have created a truly exceptional program.



MSI team at Natick Labs

Without the intellect and tireless work ethic of every single member of this team, MSI would be a shell of what it has become. In particular, I want to highlight CDT Carly Lehman's extraordinary leadership as the team's captain; she has set a new standard for excellence, and I'm certain that moving forward, that bar will only get higher. Finally, I want to highlight the growth and contributions of each of the MS1s who have joined the team: CDT Otto Beall, CDT William Boo, CDT Satvik Dasariraju, CDT Nellie Fitzpatrick, CDT Lauren Kim, CDT Mary Korab, and CDT Malachi Miller. These cadets will eventually steward the program after our departure, and after seeing them in action, I'm eager to see their leadership.

CADET EXTRACURRICULARS



STEAM AHEAD

CDT Rankin
Harvard '26



Our chapter of STEAM Ahead is a strategic partner with the broader, Boston-based non-profit STEAM Ahead parent organization whose mission is to close the education gap for underrepresented and underserved youth. Through this partnership, we implement STEAM programs and initiatives that focus on technical skill development, social-emotional learning, and community building. This upcoming semester, we are hosting two STEM Leadership Symposiums at the home of the Paul Revere Battalion, 201 Vassar Street, for local high school students. These symposiums will include a College Panel, STEM Workshop, and Leadership Lesson. YOU can help run these symposiums for underserved, high-potential youth by joining the MIT ROTC Chapter of STEAM Ahead! No Fear!

SEMESTER ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT



HARVARD WOMEN'S RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

CDT Lehman
Harvard '25

As we entered the final weekend of the season, we found ourselves in a familiar place. The previous season, we had blown past our semi-final opponent only to lose 15-10 to Dartmouth in the national championship. Losing hurt, but losing to Dartmouth, our biggest rival, hurt even more. The end of the season is always hard, feeling the wear and tear of three months balancing academics with hours upon hours of practice, all culminating in one weekend. Where this end of season exhaustion has pulled our team down in the past, this year we used it as fuel to our fire. Similar to the Army, the women's rugby team has set values that it lives for. As we near the culmination of our season, one value always stands out above the rest: Radlove.

There is no exact definition of Radlove, it means something different to everyone on the team, but it is the value everything comes back to. It is both an ode to our history, before there was Harvard Women's Rugby there was Radcliffe Women's Rugby, and to the team's everyday mission. For a group of girls who literally hit each other every day, I've never been in an environment with as much love as Harvard Women's Rugby. Whether it be the early morning conditioning, long bus rides, or battles on a rainy field in Hanover, New Hampshire, everything on this team seems worth it because we're with each other. Similar to the Paul Revere Battalion, the women's rugby team is full of achievers who have high expectations for themselves and those around them. Balancing these expectations and personalities, from players who plan on being Olympians to walk-ons who are still learning the rules, is not an easy task. This is where our values are so important, creating trust and connection across barriers that can be insurmountable. Whether it's your tenth year playing rugby or your first, you can still buy into the values, the Radlove, of the team.

This varying experiences and background is reflected in the diversity of the military, as is the importance of values in connecting each other. In many of our military science classes, we've touched on the importance of value in leadership and creating efficient teams, but it's on the rugby pitch where I've learned this best. It is these values, this Radlove for each other, that carried us in our final game of the season.



HARVARD WOMEN'S RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The national championship was not an easy game, but there was no way any of us were going to pull our hands out of the fire. Walking off that field, National Champions, Ivy champions, and the first undefeated team in Harvard Women's Rugby history was amazing, but it was all the moments with our best friends that led up to the final game that made everything we do worth it.

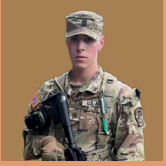
For Rankin and I, who both arrived at school having never touched a rugby ball, it made our decisions to walk-on even more gratifying. We haven't just learned to be resilient, jumping into a new sport at the highest level, but also found a community we could have never imagined being a part of. The lessons rugby has taught us, of the importance of values, persistence, and community, have not only made us better cadets but will hopefully make us better officers. Conversely, the leadership reps provided by ROTC have helped us to best make an impact on the rugby team. This upcoming 2024 season, I'll have the honor of serving as one of the team captains, a position I've only earned because of the opportunities ROTC has provided for me to grow and strengthen my leadership skills. As I move forward into future semesters and challenges, the 2023 rugby season will always remind me that with the right people and values, even things you couldn't even dream of can be achieved



FALL 2023 CADET STAFF



BATTALION COMMANDER
CDT COGBILL



BATTALION COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CDT LOTWIN



EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CDT SCHULTZ



S1 — ADJUTANT
CDT EDDY



CADET SUMMER TRAINER
CDT MOSSER



S4 - LOGISTICS
CDT PIOTTE



S6 - SIGNAL
CDT BRISTER



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
CDT SPAIN

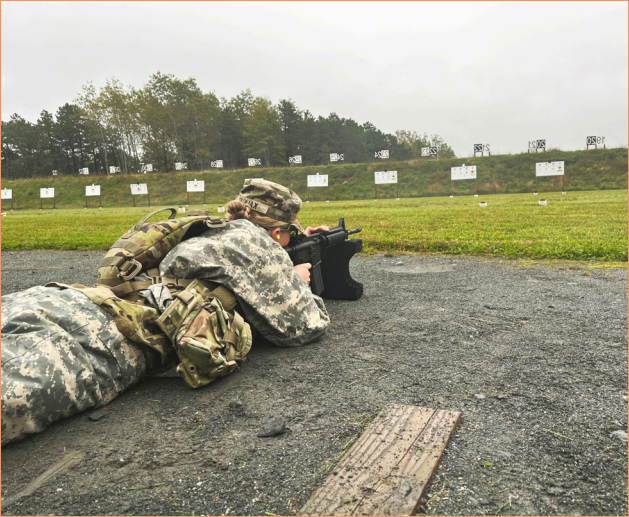


WEBSITE ENGINEER
CDT JAMES

SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS



SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS





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