UNI ROTC SUPPORTS JAFROTC DRILL AND CEREMONY

The University of Northern Iowa Army ROTC holds a proud tradition of partnership with local area schools in order to better prepare young high school students for careers in the military. This partnership was modeled during an Air Force Junior ROTC drill and ceremony competition where the cadets of the Panther Battalion volunteered as judges for the event. The event brought together high school students from all over the state of Iowa in a culminating event that exemplifies the hard work and dedication from these students.

The events measured training in single and dual performances, regulation drill, color guard and in-ranks inspections. All of these events brought forth the results of the student’s hard work.

The UNI ROTC cadets serving as judges enjoyed spending the day with the future of the military as they move forward in their own Army futures.

Above: A Cadet awaits inspection from an APMS from UNI.
Below: Presentation of the colors.
UNI PARTICIPATES IN JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

The members of the Panther Battalion joined hundreds of their peers from all over the Black Hawk Brigade in a culminating Field Training Exercise. The event is designed and executed fully by seniors within the program to test the leadership capabilities of the various Military Science levels under them. The events of excursive have various key tasks from land navigation, key leader engagements, and basic platoon and squad level leadership tactics. The assessments measured the readiness of the cadets as they move towards their individual summer trainings.

Students from the various schools were put in situations that combined the experience and knowledge from various programs. These events fully tested the capabilities and readiness of the program and were evaluated by not only cadre, but also their cadet peers, in an effort to better prepare the cadets for the newly reformed Cadet Initial Entry Training and Cadet Leadership Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

UNI ROTC SLEEPS OUT TO BUILD HOPE

Homelessness is a major problem that affects thousands of people every year. Veterans, people with disabilities and mothers who are victims of abuse are only a few of the groups that are affected every day.

The UNI ROTC program made it a group mission during the semester to bring awareness and build hope for those affected. The seniors of the program partnered with the Waterloo Iowa organization the House of Hope, which provides shelters for mothers who are victims of domestic abuse in the Waterloo area.

The UNI ROTC cadets and cadre worked countless hours to develop an event that brought awareness to the area. Over 75 people from the community participated in the event, including members of local fire departments, police, National Guard, girl and Boy Scout troops, and other volunteers.

The sleep out itself occurred in the Waterloo Bucks stadium where the volunteers spent the night outdoors to bring awareness to the issue in almost freezing temperatures. Overall, the event helped raise awareness of homelessness in the area!
UNI SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH APRIL 2017

Cadre and cadets from both University of Northern Iowa and University of Dubuque supported the Army, campus and community by bringing awareness to sexual assault, domestic violence and homelessness throughout April.

The UNI Center for Violence Prevention and ROTC partnered to train the Iowa National Guard SARCs using Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) at Camp Dodge on April 21.

Cadets from the University of Dubuque “Took Back the Night” on April 19 in Dubuque. The gathering welcomed survivors as well as the friends and family of survivors to tell their stories.

On April 28, UNI cadets sponsored “Sleep Out to Build Hope,” as highlighted in a separate article.

GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES TOP ROTC CADETS

Gov. Branstad recognized the top ROTC Cadets and Midshipmen from Iowa’s ROTC programs on April 25, 2017.

The UNI ROTC program had two cadets recognized, one from UNI and another cadet from the University of Dubuque, the UNI ROTC program’s partnership school.

UNI’s Cadet Jayme Edmund, a history graduate student, was recognized by Gov. Branstad with the Governor’s Cup. Cadet Edmund is a Distinguished Military Graduate, top 20 percent cadet in the nation, who will commission as an active duty Military Intelligence Officer.

UD’s Cadet Kaitlyn Velsvaag, a criminal justice and psychology major, was also awarded the Governor’s Cup for outstanding achievement. Cadet Velsvaag is a Distinguished Military Graduate who will commission as an active duty officer.

Cadet Jayme Edmund recognized by Gov. Branstad.

Cadet Kaitlyn Velsvaag recognized by Gov. Branstad and Major General Orr.

Top: Dr. Alan Heisterkamp & LTC Glen Keith train Iowa National Guard SARCs using Mentors in Violence Prevention.
Middle: Cadets set up activities for the Sleep Out to Build Hope event.
Bottom: University of Dubuque cadets Take Back the Night in Dubuque.
UNI ROTC COMMISSIONING

On Saturday, May 6, the UN ROTC program proudly commissioned four new officers into the United States Army. These four bring the total number of officers commissioned through the Panther Battalion to 503.

The Officers are 2LT Jayme Edmund of Washington, Iowa, completed his masters degree in history and will join the active duty Army as a Military Intelligence Officer. During 2LT Edmund’s time in ROTC, he held the position of S1 Personnel Officer and S-3 Operations officer. 2LT Edmund is also a Distinguished Military Graduate for being one of the top 20 percent cadets nationwide.

2LT Curtis Ege of Cherokee, Iowa, completed his undergraduate study in criminology and will join the active duty Army as a Field Artillery Officer. During 2LT Ege’s time in ROTC he served as Cadet Battalion Executive Officer and S-1 Personnel Officer. Along with his cadet positions, 2LT Ege also served as a Platoon Leader in the Iowa Army National Guard as a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet.

2LT Cody Nolan of Clinton, Iowa, completed his undergraduate study in criminology and will join the Iowa National Guard as an Army Aviator and Platoon Leader with Bravo Company 2/211th in Davenport, Iowa. During 2LT Nolan’s time in ROTC, he held the position of Assistant S-3 Operations Officer and S-4 Supply officer.

2LT Trey Roosa of Webster City, Iowa, completed his undergraduate studies in public relations and political science and will join the Iowa National Guard as a Transportation Corps Officer and Platoon Leader with Gulf Company 334 BSB in Waterloo. During 2LT Roosa’s time in ROTC, he held the position of S-2 Recruitment and Public Affairs Officer, serving as the voice of UNI ROTC at many functions.

PROFESSOR MILITARY SCIENCE FINAL COMMENTS

We had an incredible year at UNI and UD. Our cadets continue to excel in every facet of scholar, athlete and leader. The program was honored with 1st place for Recruiting and Retention out of 42 other programs in the Midwest in our Brigade. This is after receiving 2nd place the previous two years.

This summer, we are sending 33 cadets all over the United States and the world for training; 23 are attending Advance or Basic Camp at Fort Knox; three cadets were selected for culture immersion trips to Tanzania, Lithuania, and Vietnam; two cadets were selected for internships, one with NASA and one with the National Forensics Lab; and we have four cadets earning their Airborne or Air Assault Wings.

We commissioned 16 new 2nd Lieutenants this May and will commission three more later this summer. This group of fine officers includes three Distinguished Military Graduates (top 20 percent in the nation), with every officer receiving their component of choice (Active, Guard or Reserve) and all receiving one of their top two branch choices.

Over the past three years, UNI ROTC has raised the bar in every metric: our average GPA has grown from 2.89 to 3.33 with a projection of 3.59 at the end of this year. We have had some of the highest number of Distinguished Military Graduates (DMG) in recent years with an average of 3-4 DMGs every academic year. In three years we went from 41 percent to 61 percent of our commissioning classes being in the top half of national order of merit list.

Finally, I bid farewell to the Panther Battalion and the US Army this summer after 25 incredible years in the military, 20 of those in the Army. We plan to settle down in Cedar Falls, so we will continue to wear our UNI colors proudly. This assignment has been one of the top two most rewarding jobs I have had in the Army. The Panther Battalion is in good hands with LTC Michael Harris and MSG Kristopher Verrett arriving this summer. Leadership Excellence, Molon Labe, Panther 6...out.

Save the Date

2017 Homecoming weekend is October 6-7. Please join us at 0930 in the West Gym Room 204 for the next UNI ROTC Hall of Fame induction. We will recognize one of our fallen comrades, Captain Matthew Nielson, as the 2017 inductee.