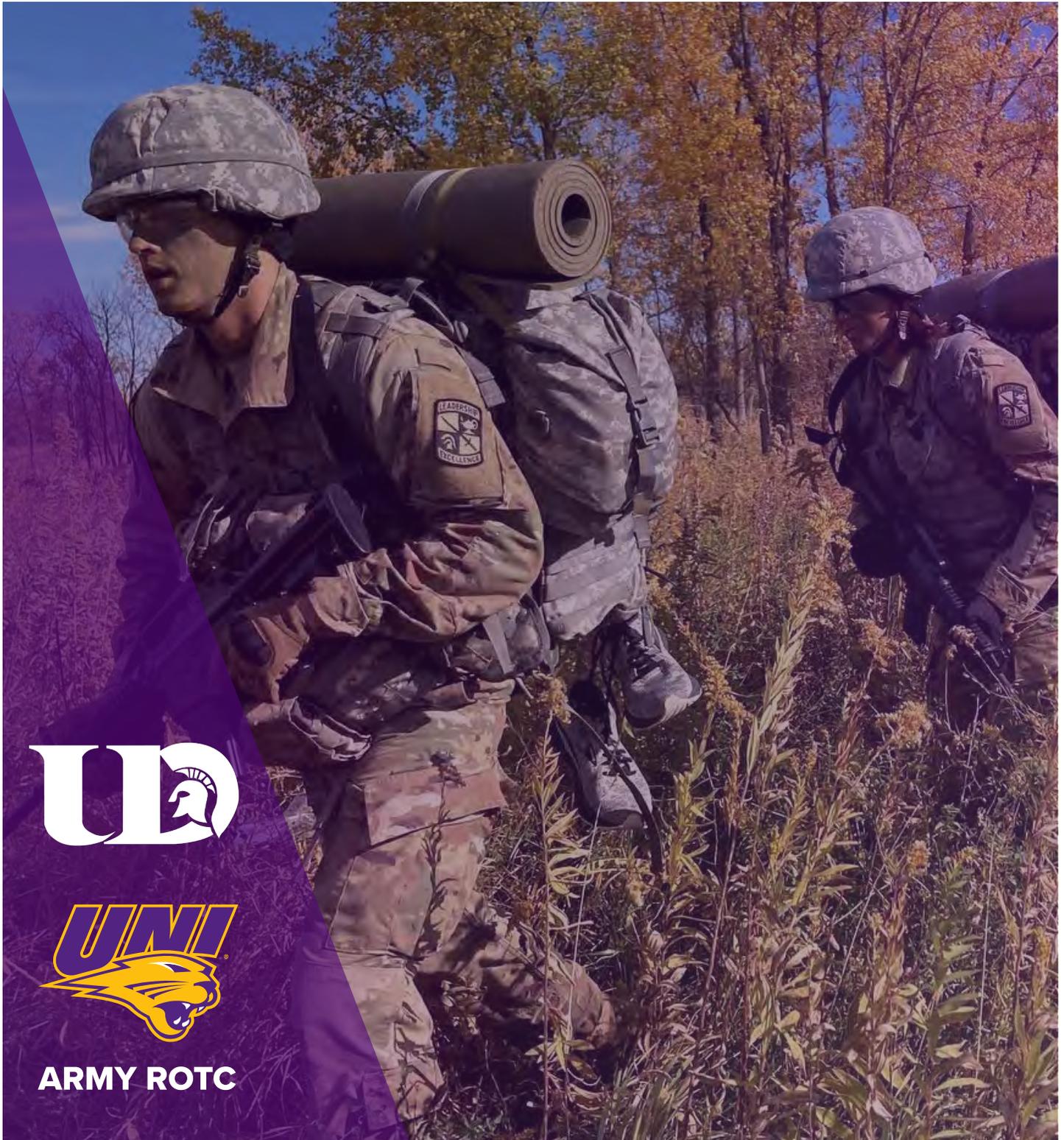


Panther Press

A PUBLICATION OF THE PANTHER BATTALION // FALL 2022



ARMY ROTC



From LTC Dean Ray



Panthers,

Happy holidays as we wrap up what has been a very busy and successful fall semester.

The past semester kicked off with zero week which occurred a week before fall classes began. This was a success for setting the conditions and allowing the seamless transition into fall semester. The attendance was outstanding and it really was beneficial for the new cadets to integrate and spend time with the older cadets prior to the beginning of normal classes. The semester has also brought us a full slate of classes, tactical labs, fall FTX, Ranger Challenge, branch selections and multiple opportunities to showcase the program through color guard and push-up crew. Nevertheless the cadets, cadre and staff have been able to navigate the busy semester while continuing to grow in knowledge and presence of the program.

Moving into spring we will continue the full court press with classroom and tactical lab instruction to assure that the MSIII's will be best prepared for Cadet Summer Training 23 (CST23). Spring semester will also keep the Panthers busy with the annual Military Ball / HOF induction,

Branch Day, Northern Warfare, Joint Combined Spring FTX with Iowa and ISU, super lab CST preparation and commissioning. A full plate of events, activities and opportunities to provide the best in training and experiences all while growing these young leaders.

I always have to give thanks to my cadre and staff who are the reason the program continues to be successful. The fall semester brought in two new cadre members, **CPT Isra Hendon** (UNI) and **CPT AJ Mans** (UD). Both of these individuals have hit the ground running and have been a tremendous addition to the team. **Mr. Willie Jones**, Recruiting Operations Officer, has cast a wide net across the state and the program numbers for the next few years will reflect his success. The team is strong and, again, I cannot say enough about what this group does to make the program and these future leaders successful.

For the alumni and friends of the program, the door is always open around here and the cadets, cadre and staff would love to see you and spend some time with you. I look forward to the next update in the spring as we have a couple big announcements in the early planning stages. Until then we wish you and yours a very happy holiday season, stay safe and thank you.

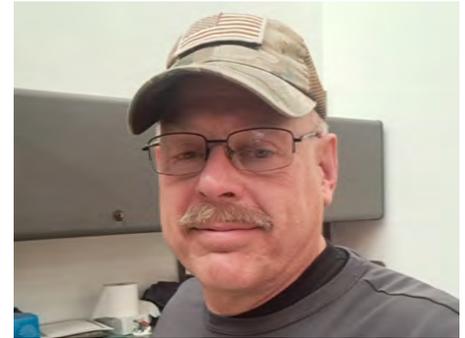
PANTHER BATTALION // NEW ADDITIONS & RETIREMENT



CPT Isra Hendon arrived on campus in May 2022, joining the department as assistant professor of military science. CPT Hendon enlisted in 2005, enrolled into the Green to Gold program in 2011, attended ROTC at the University of Notre Dame, commissioned in 2015 and graduated from Indiana University of South Bend. Following graduation from Ordnance Basic Officer Leaders Course at FLVA, CPT Hendon was assigned to E (as a platoon leader and executive officer) and HHC (assistant S3), 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-3 ADA), and 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade at FSOK from 2015-2018. After the Logistics Captains Career Course, he served as the S2/S3 for HHC, 10th Special Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade from 2019-2020 and from 2020-2022 as the company commander for HSC, 227th Aviation Support Battalion, and 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, FDNY. CPT Hendon currently teaches Firearms Awareness & Safety along with the Military Survival Skills classes at UNI.



CPT AJ Mans also joined us this semester as assistant professor of military science at the University of Dubuque. CPT Mans has held various positions in the Military Police Corps, including Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, Company Commander and Operations Officer. He is an ROTC graduate ('12), holds a bachelor's degree in politics and government from Ripon College and is currently pursuing a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Dubuque. He teaches freshman, or MS1 students, at both the University of Dubuque and University of Northern Iowa.



Mr. Jeff Anderlik will retire from UNI's Department of Military Science in January of 2023. He is the Supply/Logistics Technician for the ROTC program and Department of the Army (DA) Civilian, whose Army career has spanned more than 33 years, with 11 years on Active Duty. Jeff came to the program in December of 2019, from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has served in multiple overseas and stateside assignments throughout his career in the equipment maintenance and logistics fields. Assignments include mechanic, Fleet Manager and Logistics Manager for the Army's Engineer School, and instructor/writer for the Counter-Explosive Hazards Center, and finally as the Supply Technician for the University's ROTC program. Jeff looks forward to retiring in northeast Iowa and returning to his family's roots in agriculture. Jeff has three children: sons Rory (33, Army); Garrett (26, USAF) and daughter Randi (25, pursuing a B.S. in Environmental Science).

Zero Week Returns

Cadets in the ROTC program kicked off the school year before classes even started, returning to campus on 15 Aug. The Panther Battalion welcomed new cadets and their families to a brunch the first day of zero week along with a tour of the facilities.

LTC Dean Ray, cadre and staff met with contracted cadets and those students that were interested in contracting. Expectations were established for the school year. Students were given their leadership assignment for the semester.

Throughout zero week, cadets participated in the diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), worked on administrative tasks and received their gear. They also focused on developing relationships with peers by working in staff sections to begin planning for the fall semester. We concluded our zero week with team building activities and a cadet led barbecue to further build comradery between the cadets in the program.



A Bar of Gold

On Friday, 16 Sept. 2022, **Cadet Holly Rigel** commissioned into the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Guest speaker for the ceremony was **Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Glen Keith** who worked with Holly while a cadet supporting the JROTC program at East High School in Waterloo, Iowa. Giving 2LT Rigel her first salute was her grandfather, former Army Sergeant Dennis Rigel. 2LT Rigel commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer on active duty branch detailing into Adjutant General Corps. Her first duty assignment will be at University of Northern Iowa as a Gold Bar Recruiter for the UNI-UD program. Holly will attend Basic Officer Leadership Course in Feb. 2023.



Homecoming 2022

This year, UNI ROTC along with support from 1-133 Infantry Battalion, led from the front during the annual homecoming parade. Immediately following the parade, our program hosted the return of the tailgate only in our new facilities, bringing together cadets, families, friends, cadre and alumni. This event consisted of yard games, children activities, live streaming of football and great food. Our facilities allowed us all to get together and celebrate during UNI's homecoming and prepare to watch some UNI Football!



Military Appreciation Open House & Football Game

University officials, family and friends of cadets and alumni attended the Military Appreciation Open House on 5 November. Color Guard and push-up crew were a few of the game highlights.



Contracting Ceremony - Fall 2022

Four cadets took the oath at the Festival of Trees/Veteran's Brunch in the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center: **Dylan Carlsen**, **Dani Danielson**, **Wyatt Fitzgerald** and **Colin Spies**. These cadets have sworn their time and efforts to join not only the ROTC program, but to serve as officers in the United States Army once they graduate from UNI.



Panther Pantry Ruck for Hunger

UNI Army ROTC organized the inaugural, "Panther Pantry Ruck for Hunger," on Tuesday, 13 Dec. 2022. The event worked with volunteers across the University of Northern Iowa to collect donated non-perishable items for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Donations were secured in rucksacks and marched to Maucker Union to prepare the delivery to the food pantry.



Norwegian Foot March

by Cadet Cordova

Looking back at the Norwegian Foot March, I get very vivid moments of the three times I wanted to quit. Even though I knew my body could keep going, for some reason I was giving up on myself mentally because I didn't want to keep doing it. This challenge helped me to learn that I have a lot of willpower. No one was getting punished for not finishing. It was a choice to complete all 18.6 miles.

I was putting myself down because, in my head, I believed that I was going to be one of the last people to get to the finish line. To my surprise, it was a complete lie. I surprised myself when I noticed I was within the top 25.

Sometimes beating ourselves up because we're letting our minds control us is not the best thing to do. Determination is the code we should follow, along with motivation.

My post-back-pain told me that I wasn't going to do this ever again, but now I can't wait to. I'm very thankful I had the opportunity to participate in this event. The bonding and motivation that other soldiers had was incredible. My favorite part was to watch people cheer for other soldiers at the finish line. I applaud every single participant for having the willingness to do a challenge like this.



SAVE
— THE —
DATE

Military Ball & Hall of Fame

18 February 2023

Edgewood Event Center
Edgewood, IA

Alumna to be inducted:
Col. (retired) Carol K. Olson

Key Contributor:
BG (retired) Ron (Curly) Albrecht

Should I Give ROTC a Chance?

by Patrick T. O'Regan, Major, USA RET

It was the fall of 1984, and I had been out of the active Army since the previous spring. I was a SGT E-5, 19D20 Cavalry Scout, currently enlisted in the 1/194th Iowa Army National Guard. I was an Aero Scout in the unit and loved the job.

I was also enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa, pursuing my undergraduate degree. Nothing quite set in stone, but I wanted to continue to see and do worldly things. I set forth a path in International Business and Foreign Affairs.

While sitting in Maucker Union, I was approached by a **Master Sergeant Regan**, no relation. He asked if I was prior-service. I said that I was, and was active in the Guard. This Sergeant explained that he was assigned to UNI as an ROTC instructor. I acknowledged and wished him well.

At that time in my life, I had been approached several times about several Army Officer programs, from West Point Prep School to Officer Candidate School. None of them really appealed to me, as they were quite restrictive in scope.

MSG Reagan saw me in the union over the next several weeks and explained that I should "give ROTC a chance." I wouldn't regret it. There were no immediate obligations, and a world of opportunities awaited me. Hesitant, I signed up for an Advanced Course Class. Since it was mid-year, and I wouldn't be

going to camp that coming summer, I was enrolled as an MS IV, second semester. I was going to class with the young men and women who were about to be commissioned!

I had already attended Army primary and secondary non-commissioned officer class, so I was pretty much up to snuff with tactics and primary leadership training. What I learned over the next semester really opened my eyes. I learned that officers truly cared about their soldiers and preparing them for the duties to come. I also learned that the quality of the young cadets was second to none. These young people exuded confidence and a swagger that was to be admired. Not only did they talk a good game, but they were dedicated to being the very best at their craft.

I can remember many of those first peers: Tracy Wickham, Tony Layton, Rob Moser, the Kirschbaum sisters, Chris and Barb, Rob Goodman, Troy VanHauen, Mike Cambell, Blake Bannon and many more. And, even though I haven't seen some of them for over 35 years, they still impress the daylight out of me.

As I sat in class with those seniors, all I could think was, "They are going to be fine young officers." I would be glad to have them as my Platoon Leader or Company Commander.

As I stated, I had not yet committed to a contract. As the spring semester closed, and I watched the under-

classmen preparing for Advance Camp or Basic Camp and schools like Air Assault and Airborne, I knew that I too wanted to be part of something big. I knew that what I was preparing to join would be challenging, eventful and rewarding. I was going to "give ROTC a chance," and hoped that I could be granted a chance to belong.

Needless to say, I contracted and was commissioned in 1987. I served until 2001 and was an instructor at UNI from 1995 through 1999.

The number of exceptional people the University of Northern Iowa Army ROTC program has developed and trained continues to amaze me.

I still get calls from ROTC alumni who have run into other alumni, asking about each other. As recently as last month, one of the MS III's I trained, ran into **Tony Layton** at a business meeting in Georgia. **Corey Schoengerdt, LTC**, retired Special Forces, called me while I was in Italy to give me the good news. And good news it was!

What can I pass on to those who are committed to the program and to those who are on the fence about joining? Do your due diligence, prepare yourselves mentally and physically. Be prepared for some of the toughest challenges and greatest rewards of your lives. Relish all of the many relationships that you are about to have and "give ROTC a chance!"



ARMY ROTC

Contact

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