Introducing LTC Dean Ray

As your new head of the Department of Military Science at UNI, I want to extend a warm welcome and hello from the current cadre and cadets of the mighty Panther Battalion.

The future of the current cadets and leaders is built upon a foundation of success. That success, in my viewpoint, is understanding the historical makeup and accomplishments that the Panther Battalion alumni have accomplished across the years.

To execute this, we need you, our alumni, to be part of the future of this program and these young leaders.

This will be one of many touch points I have planned so the current cadets and cadre can build upon the foundation of success that you, the Panther Battalion alumni, have established. I look forward to talking and meeting with you.

GO PANTHERS!!!!!

Warm Welcome

Willie Jones
Battalion Recruiting Operations Officer, Military Science

Maria Lawson
Asst. Professor, Military Science

Henry Uribe
Senior Instructor, Military Science

Watch Rededication
bit.ly/NielsenDedication
Nielsen Field House Rededication

The historic building was rededicated last month in a ceremony that featured Sen. Chuck Grassley, a performance by the Panther Marching Band and a celebration of the value of the two programs that call the field house home - UNI’s Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Child Development Center.

LTC Harris was also present – retiring in July – heading up the Nielsen Field House renovation project from start to completion.

After the opening remarks, the ceremony highlighted the ROTC program’s unique impact on its students and the benefits of its facility in the field house.

“The rededication of this building is a major milestone for the UNI ROTC battalion,” said Brenda Bass, CSBS dean. “UNI and the ROTC have a shared vision of training the next generation of leaders to serve their communities. The renovated field house provides a training facility that will better prepare our students for their future leadership positions.”

FULL LIST OF SPEAKERS: President Nook, U.S. Senator Grassley, Dean Brenda Bass, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, LTC Dean Ray, ROTC Alumni Brigadier General Steven J. Kremer, ROTC Brigade Colonel Adam Lewis and ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander Nicole M. Miller.
On 24 September the Panther Battalion embarked on their 2021 Fall FTX at Camp Dodge in Johnston, IA. Cadets from both the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), University of Dubuque (UD), and even Loras College gathering in the morning of the 24th to draw their weapons and start a full weekend of Army training. This year started off with a bang, beginning with the Senior class leading the underclassmen through the US Army's new Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) Qualification. This is not your Daddy’s BRM! The Army has taken a new approach to BRM in Training Circular (TC) 3-20.40 "Training and Qualification – Individual Weapons". The Army now treats BRM more like a tank or machine gunnery table. These tables are progressive and require Soldiers to complete every step prior to qualification. The Cadet’s executed Tables I—III at Iowa Army National Guard Armories near their respective campuses in Cedar Falls and Dubuque. This included Cadets getting their hands on the weapons to understand how they work, running through the Army’s new firing position drills (more on that later), and completing a virtual simulation of the qualification using each Armories’ virtual training equipment. We appreciate our Iowa Army National Guard Partners in the 1-33 Infantry Battalion allowing us to train with their rifles and equipment.

Once the Cadets assembled and drew their weapons, it was time to shoot some live rounds! The Cadets zeroed their weapons (this is part of Table IV) first then marched to the qualification range. From there they started the Table V iteration, and that’s where BRM looks wildly different from what most of you are familiar with. Cadets start Table V standing and receiving a platoon fire command along the lines of “dismounts, near to far, when ready, weapons free, weapons free!” The first 50 meter target pops up, then Cadets have to shoot it while standing and then drop to the prone. The Cadets then engage targets starting from the prone unsupported position and then “fight up” to kneeling and eventually the standing position, supporting their rifle against a low wall. They execute this portion twice, the first being a practice (Table V) and the second being the qualification for record (Table VI). The new BRM “Dot 40” tables offer far more realistic way to train based on our recent experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

From there the Cadets made the journey to the land navigation course many of you remember fondly (or not) at Camp Dodge. Cadet’s executed day and night land nav. If you are wondering Cadets do NOT get to use any navigational aids during the training like phones or GPS devices. Some Cadets were more successful than others... Easy access to Google Maps has not done our youth any favors! The Cadet’s spent the night at the land nav site in a patrol base, in preparation for Saturday’s missions. And here was the “meat” of the training, squad level patrols. Cadets from UNI, UD, and Loras were all mixed together to execute squad training. The squad missions included Attacks, Raids, Ambushes, and Movements to Contact. The Seniors chose to use the dense terrain along the river bank which challenged the Cadets’ ability to move tactically with a full rucksack. By the end of the day the Cadets were exhausted but in high spirits after multiple successful missions.

After that, it was every Cadets’ favorite activity, weapons cleaning! Our ammunition NCO was “kind enough” to request 8,000 blank linked rounds and about 6,000 blanks for the M4’s. The weapons were quite dirty by the end of the day. In the end the Cadets were successful and learned much about where they stand in preparation for Cadet Summer Training 2022. Two schools, one mission!
Cadet Kyle Gross (MS III) conducts firing drills as a part of the preliminary marksmanship instruction and evaluation at the Iowa Army National Guard Waterloo Armory.

Freshman (MS I) and Sophomore (MS II) Cadets were paired together during Day and Night Land Navigation to offset their inexperience in navigating with only a map and compass.

Underclass Cadets prepare to conduct Tables V and VI for BRM while Senior Cadets and Cadre evaluate and act as lane safeties.

Cadets spot a possible enemy in the distance and drop to the ground during the Movement to Contact lane at the Panther Battalion Fall FTX 2021 at Camp Dodge, IA.

Cadets prepare a support by fire position while their MS IV evaluator looks on during the Attack lane at the Panther Battalion Fall FTX 2021 at Camp Dodge, IA.

Cadets low crawl across an open field using smoke to obscure their movement during the Attack lane at the Panther Battalion Fall FTX 2021 at Camp Dodge, IA.

— Photos by CDT Lindsey Fuller (MS IV)
ROTC’s Newest Cadets

Along with the Open House & Military Appreciation Game we would like to officially congratulate the newest members of the University of Northern Iowa ROTC program. These young men have taken an oath to commission as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army: **Cadets Trinton Robinson; Shafik Beshoy; Auston Surber; Jean Mukiza; and Brady Shook.**

- CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you Panther Battalion Alumni!

We were delighted to see many alumni return to see our new facility during the summer/fall semester, including but not limited to:

**Ben Biver, ‘00,** and family toured the building.


**Ward Zischke, ‘87,** has spent hours helping to organize the Jon Hall Library and preserve UNI-ROTC history.

**Daniel Yehieli, ‘15,** and family stopped by while home from California.

**Bobbie Williams, ‘86, John Gallagher, ‘83, and John Rutt, ‘84,** stopped by during Homecoming.

**COL Duncan, ‘91,** spoke to the MSIV’s at both UNI & UD during the fall 2021 semester.

Several Alumni and former Cadre came to the Rededication of the Nielsen Field House – a big thank you!
Annual Giving

Panther alumni and supporters of the program, I would like to extend a heartfelt request about the opportunity for a one time or annual giving. What you may be able to provide back to the program with a year-end donation or option for annual giving allows the cadets to experience some of our most time-honored events such as the Military Ball and Senior Cadet Staff Ride. Donations also help the cadets participate in some of the more memorable esprit corps events such as the Bataan Death March and Army 10 Miler / AUSA Conference. These events, along with many more, continue to provide the cadets the opportunity to be a part of and understand the history and professionalism of this sought-after career choice. From all of the current and future cadets and cadre we want to thank you in advance for any and all monetary help you may be able to provide.

— LTC Dean Ray