



# The Patriot Pride

19 December 2018

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The Patriot Pride is published three times a year in order to inform members, alumni, and supporters of the Patriot Battalion while strengthening community ties



Patriot Battalion cadets on the Obstacle Course at Joint Base Cape Cod during the Fall 2018 Field Training Exercise

# Notes from the Professor of Military Science

## Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wingate



At 6:00 on a Saturday morning last month, 75 cadets and the cadre gathered in the Bryant University woods for Squad and Platoon tactics and leadership training. It was cold with several inches of ice and snow on the ground. After an hour or two of tramping through the snow and swamps, our feet were wet and cold and I wondered how our new cadets were going to react to an all day exercise in those conditions. 12 hours later, as we prepared to call it quits after lots of dry sock sharing and a culminating platoon attack in the dark, I had my answer. Excited faces, a stronger sense of brotherhood and sisterhood after doing something a little hard together, and a sense of confidence in the senior and junior cadets for managing a tough training environment safely without sacrificing the rigor and stress that is part of leadership development. In that little exercise, I was reminded of the profound goodness of being part of a team committed to excellence and shared sacrifices in pursuit of a cause bigger than self. That is why it is an honor to be part of the United States Army. And that is why I am proud of the patriotism and the desire to serve selflessly that is behind many of our cadets' desire to lead American Soldiers.

The senior cadets have done a fantastic job in leading the program this last semester. I am proud of them and am excited for the class as their commissioning fast approaches. Our younger cadets are doing well and our freshman class approached 40 cadets – a significant increase. We were fortunate to swear in over ten new contracted cadets this semester. It is always an honor to do those swearing in ceremonies. When conducting them, I am often struck by the power of their families' example and support. Watching the pride between cadet and parent at those ceremonies is a joy to see. I am grateful for families' support of the cadets and our program and am also grateful for the continued support of alumni and friends. It was great to see many at our Veterans Day Ceremony and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Military Ball on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and a great start to the new year!

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Wingate

Providence College Professor of Military Science



**Patriot Battalion cadets salute during the 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony at PC**

# Notes from the Cadet Battalion Commander

**Ryan Cristiano (Providence College 2019)**

The Fall 2018 semester was a great one for the Patriot Battalion. In August, cadets returned from summer break excited for the new school year. This past summer, cadets went all across the country and the world for training. The seniors all passed Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, while other cadets went to Air Assault School, Airborne School, and on multi-cultural missions to places like Vietnam and Nepal. At the end of October, the battalion went to Camp Edwards for the semester Field Training Exercise. Although the weather did not cooperate with us, we were able to pack various effective training events into the shortened time frame. Cadets gained valuable experience while having fun on the land navigation course, obstacle course and the field leader reaction course. As the semester ends, it is great to see a motivated group of individuals all working towards a common goal, and I have great confidence that we will continue to be successful as a battalion.



## Ranger Challenge 2018

**Ranger Challenge Captain Ryan Warneke (Bryant University 2019)**

The Ranger Challenge Competition occurs every year in the fall. Each school in the New England Brigade sends a cadet team to compete against one another for pride and the title of this year's winner. The Patriot Battalion holds tryouts starting the first week of school. After selection, the team that goes through a grueling six-week train-up, focusing on applicable skills like the one-rope bridge. This year, we had a great turnout and were able to field two teams. This made training for the competition a lot more fun and competitive because it allowed these two teams to compete in practice. This year's squad was mostly experienced cadets who had already competed in this



**The Patriot Battalion's 2018 Ranger Challenge Team  
at the Fort Dix, NJ Competition**

competition before so there was as strong feeling that we were going to achieve a high placing amongst the other schools. Venturing out to Fort Dix, New Jersey, we arrived to a PT test. The starting nine began carrying a first aid litter and cattle bells, performing workouts at various stations. It took the team only an hour to complete this event; a good start for our team. The following day we began to compete in such challenges as the one rope bridge, orienteering, tactical casualty care and the obstacle course. Completing the events in the day, we then moved on to the tug-o-war event. The next day, we were in the first heat for the final event which was the 6-mile road march. We pushed hard on the ruck because we knew we could place well and we did. The Patriot Battalion finished first in our heat and eighth overall on the ruck and among the top half of schools overall. This year's competition was one of the best!

# Class of 2019 Component and Branch Assignments

By Christofer Casswell (Providence College 2020)

On November 14, the Patriot Battalion seniors received their future assignments. Patriot Battalion cadets have consistently scored at the top of their commissioning year. The class of 2019 did not disappoint. Of the Battalion's nineteen Cadets, six received the Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG) award for being in the top 20 percent nationwide. Four of those six cadets graduated in the top ten percent of cadets nationwide. These cadets have worked extremely hard and deserve a great deal of credit for their accomplishments!

**Congratulations to all the seniors on receiving their branches, and we wish them luck in their future careers as Army Officers!**

Justin Bergner (Top 10% nationally, Distinguished Military Graduate): Active Duty Infantry  
Ryan Cristiano (Top 10% nationally, Distinguished Military Graduate): Active Duty Aviation  
Kaela Lynch (Top 10% nationally, Distinguished Military Graduate): Active Duty Aviation  
William Summers (Top 10% nationally, Distinguished Military Graduate): Active Duty Infantry  
Dakota Coleman (Distinguished Military Graduate): United States Army Reserve (USAR) Chemical Corps  
John Ibrahim (Distinguished Military Graduate): MA ARNG Military Intelligence  
Mark Davis: Active Duty Military Intelligence,  
detailed to Field Artillery for first tour  
Zachary Ellis: RI ARNG Military Intelligence  
Aaron Gattinoni: USAR Transportation Corps  
Kyle Griffin: MA ARNG Military Intelligence  
Sangmoon Han: USAR Military Intelligence  
James Kitt: CT ARNG Engineer  
Shawn McElligott: Active Duty Engineer  
Thaddeus McKeon: MA ARNG Engineer  
Harrison Moran: Active Duty Field Artillery  
Jacob Mota: RI ARNG Field Artillery  
Melanie Muzyka: Active Duty Nurse Corps  
Ryan Warneke: RI Army National Guard Aviation  
Tyler Gargano: Judge Advocate Corps, with  
Educational Delay to attend Law School



The Class of 2019 received their future branch insignia from LTC Wingate and MSG Foist

# Battalion Operations Update

By Cadet Operations Officer John Ibrahim



**Cadet Ibrahim (Bryant 2019) served as the Battalion Operations Officer this semester**

This fall, cadets of the Patriot Battalion participated in a wide variety of tactical training exercises that were designed to develop each cadet's individual abilities, as well as assess their leadership abilities. Throughout this semester, cadets participated in their weekly ROTC leadership labs and classes in which they have learned the basic principles of leadership and Army life, or have learned how to operate as a member of a small unit infantry squad in a variety of different situations.

The semester began with instruction on basic soldiering skills like land navigation, marksmanship instruction, individual and squad movement techniques, communication techniques, and tactical combat casualty care. The senior and junior cadets instructed the freshman and sophomore cadets on these basic soldiering skills in order to help each individual become more of an asset to their squad.



**A cadet climbs the ropes at the Joint Base Cape Cod Obstacle Course**

Once the cadets gained a deeper understanding of how they can become better individual Soldiers, the training shifted towards enhanced team performance. Cadets participated in several squad situational training exercises at Bryant University. In these squad training exercises, junior cadets were assessed on their leadership abilities and on the successes or failures of their squads across a variety of different missions. Each member had to work together to accomplish their assigned tactical mission.

After the Patriot Battalion gained sufficient training on their individual and squad techniques, they participated in a weekend-long field training exercise at Joint Base Cape Cod, MA. This event consisted of day and night land navigation training, squad tactical mission training, platoon patrol base camping, small unit leadership development on a Leader Reaction Course, and physical fitness and confidence training on the base's Obstacle Course. Nearly 80 cadets participated in this year's FTX.

Throughout the semester, cadets led and participated in physical fitness sessions three times a week. Two of the three weekly sessions were conducted at Providence College while one was held on the individual home campus. The end of semester physical fitness test helped cadets to see their fitness development over the semester; most improved a lot!



**The MSIII class celebrate their 2018 Turkey Bowl championship**

Training in the fall semester prepared all for the spring semester to come. The cadets are ready to continue their development and preparation for commissioning or summer camps!

# Campus Focus: UMASS Dartmouth

By Cadet Jacob Olson (UMASS Dartmouth 2020)

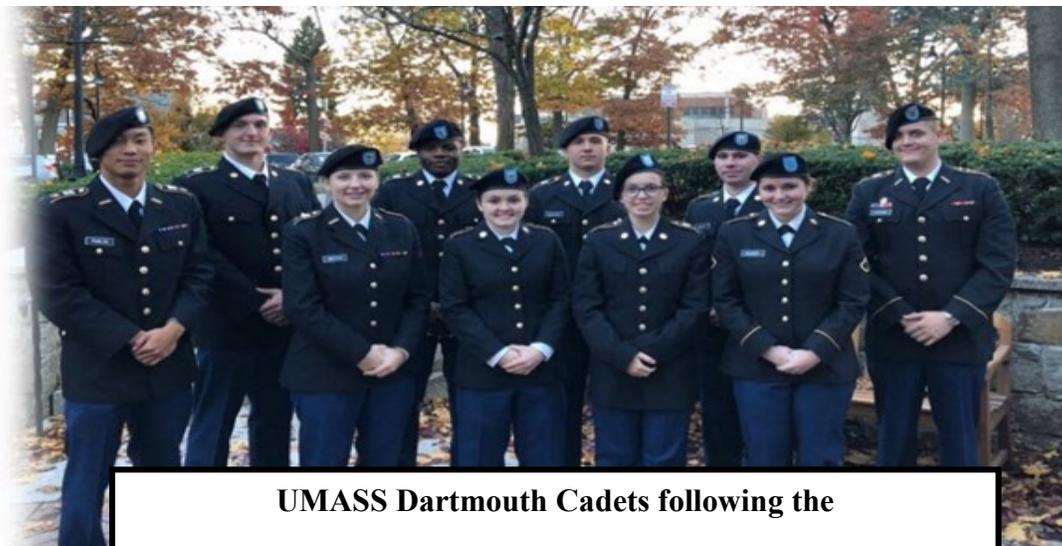


**Cadet Jacob Olson at the FTX**



**UMASSD Cadet Elliott Pawlak leads his squad during the FTX**

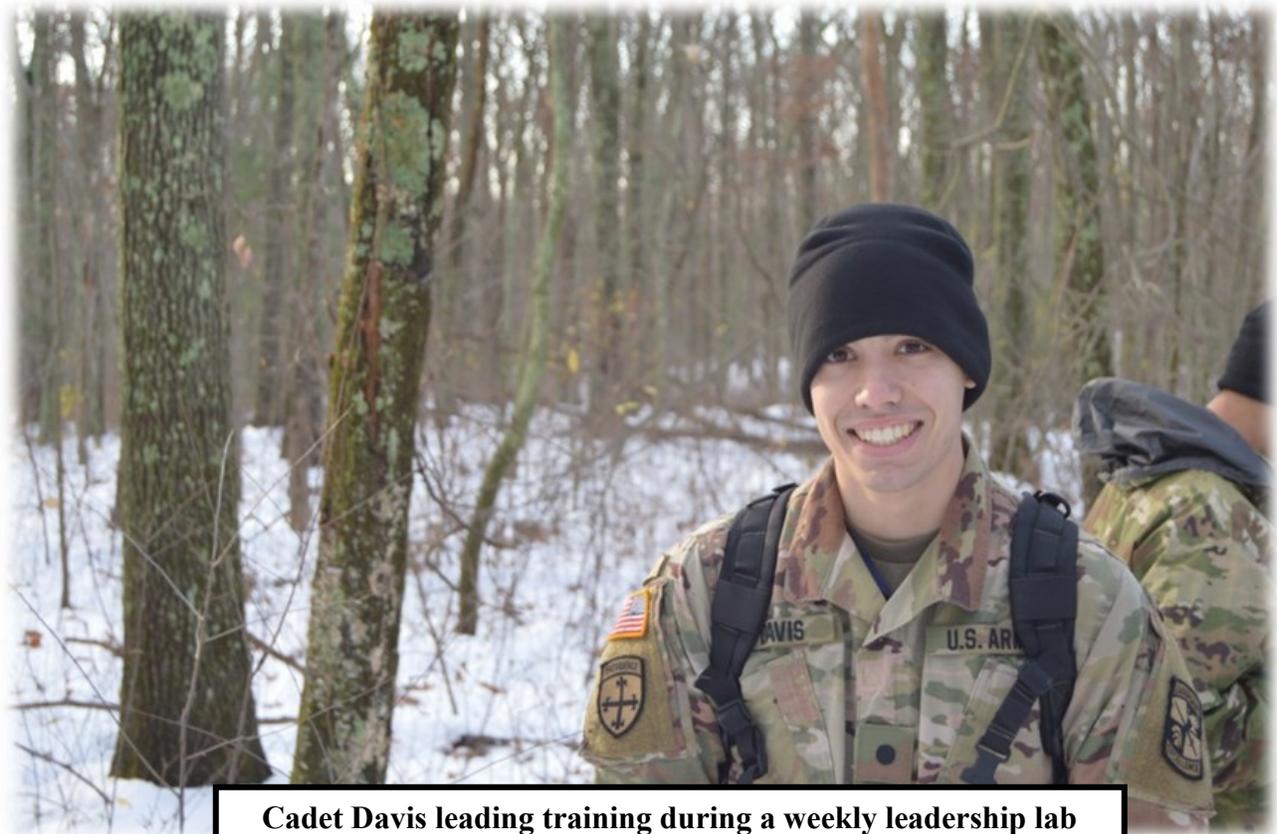
The Army ROTC program at UMASS Dartmouth is a little different than that of our sister schools. We still do PT every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the morning and join the other Cadets for Military Science class on Wednesday. However, we must govern ourselves more so than the rest of the battalion since we are nearly an hour away from our host. The program itself has been small up until this year. However, this year we have broken double digits with 10 cadets! Most of the growth in the program is due to the recruiting we do at the school's club fair and various open houses. This year the cadets themselves have really come together as a team; this has brought many improvements to the program, especially when dealing with carpools and the various commutes that the UMD cadets are required to do. Our growth has broadened our campus profile, helping the administration and our professors understand the commitment Army ROTC cadets must make to be successful. We are happy to say that they have been very supportive and we would like to extend a hearty thank you to the UMASS Dartmouth Community! Though we are the most geographically separated school, we continue to make strides in our leadership presence in the battalion. UMASS Dartmouth cadets may face unique challenges as ROTC cadets, but our involvement and enthusiasm is a demonstration of our commitment to becoming Army Officers. We look forward to continued growth and in building a top rated ROTC program with the rest of our sister schools!



**UMASS Dartmouth Cadets following the  
2018 Veterans Day Ceremony**

## Summer Cadet Profile: Marc Davis (Providence College 2019)

Over the summer, I attended two Army training events. The first event was the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program. This is a program that sends groups of cadets from around the nation to foreign countries to participate in military to military engagements, humanitarian missions, and cultural enrichment. I was lucky enough to be sent to Vietnam, along with another cadet from the program — Cadet Kyle Newton. In Vietnam we went to their military history museum, infantry officer school, and military medical academy. Outside of military engagements, we learned a lot about the history of Vietnam and Vietnamese culture, visiting heritage sites such as Ha Long Bay and the ancient Buddhist temple at the summit of Mount Fan Si Pan. Lastly, in the northern part of the country, we participated in humanitarian missions in the province of Sapa, distributing educational supplies to local students. Then, I attended Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY. This is a commissioning requirement for all cadets and is a capstone event after the junior year. It consists of a series of graded events that one must complete in order to become a second lieutenant in the Army. After completing my Army training, I returned to my family home in Newburyport. There, I began coaching the Mount Saint Charles Catholic high school volleyball team. I'm now focused on completing my senior year at Providence College and receiving my degree in psychology and the certificate of Neuroscience Studies. I will be commissioning as an Active Duty field artillery second lieutenant, and upon completion of my first tour, will transfer to the military intelligence branch. I hope to eventually become a foreign area officer and serve the army in that diplomatic role.



**Cadet Davis leading training during a weekly leadership lab**

# Cadre Corner

We are excited to welcome two new cadre: **Major Jarred Rickey and Mr. Gerrick Johnson.** We are also very happy to have our full-time **Recruiting Officer** back . . . **Mr. Dan Girouard** returned from a nine month deployment to Iraq with the RI ARNG's 126th Aviation Regiment. In the picture to the right, **MAJ Rickey and CPT Girouard** pose during their deployment with fellow officers and program alumni **1LT Spenser Carlin, 1LT Jack Cresci, and 1LT Tyler Donovan.**



## MAJ Jarred Rickey (APMS)

Major Rickey is the program's new Assistant Professor of Military Science. He enlisted in the Army in 1998 and served as an enlisted Infantryman until he graduated from Rhode Island College and was commissioned from the Patriot Battalion in 2007. He is an Active Guard Reserve Aviation Officer and a UH-60 Blackhawk Instructor Pilot. MAJ Rickey has had multiple combat deployments and just returned from a yearlong deployment to Iraq in September. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal. He is a Senior Army Aviator, a graduate of the Airborne and Air Assault Schools and has earned the Combat and Expert Infantryman's Badges. He is proud to be returning to the Patriot Battalion and looks forward to giving back to this great program. MAJ Rickey will serve as an APMS, the unit's Operations Officer (S3) and an assistant classroom instructor starting in the spring semester.



**MAJ Rickey in his  
UH-60 Blackhawk**



**Mr. Johnson as an NCO prior  
to his retirement**

## Mr. Gerrick Johnson (Supply Technician)

Mr. Gerrick Johnson joins the Patriot Battalion as the program's Supply Technician. He began his Army career in 1995, as an AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST (92A). He has multiple deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He retired after twenty years of service and looks forwards to supporting the Patriot Battalion in the years ahead.

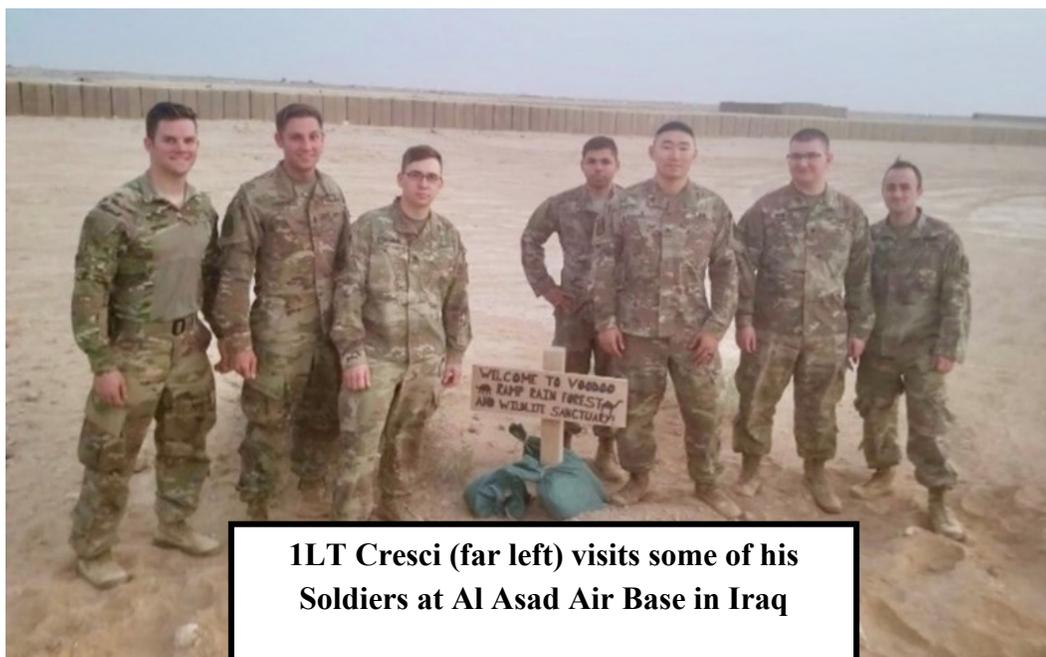
## Alumni Spotlight: 1LT Jack Cresci (Providence College 2015)

First Lieutenant Jack Cresci is a 2015 graduate of Providence College with a BS in Business Management. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Rhode Island Army National Guard, branching into the Signal Corps. After completing Signal Basic Officer Leaders Course (SBOLC) in Fort Gordon, GA, he was assigned as the Battalion S6 for the 1-103d Field Artillery.

In April 2017, he transferred to the 1-126<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion out of North Kingstown, RI to deploy with the unit in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. The 1-126<sup>th</sup> is a General Support Aviation Battalion with primary responsibilities including troop and cargo transport, aerial response force, and medical evacuation. During this deployment, the 1-126<sup>th</sup> was spread across five different countries, providing aviation support for the mission. They were headquartered out of Camp Taji, Iraq for 9 months as ‘Task Force Liberty’ which was assembled from seven different states.

“I was very fortunate not only to deploy with the 1-126<sup>th</sup>, but to join four other famous Patriot Battalion alumni: CPT Jarred Rickey (Rhode Island College ’07), CPT Dan Girouard (Bryant ’08, PC ’16G), 1LT Spencer Carlin (Bryant ’14), and 1LT Tyler Donovan (Bryant ’15). I was new to the unit, only months before heading to Fort Hood for pre-mobilization training, but I knew I could look to my ‘Pat Bat’ brethren to see what right looked like. For Spencer, Tyler, and myself being first time deployers, it paid dividends to be under the guidance and mentorship of CPT Rickey and CPT Girouard; both having a wealth of diverse knowledge stemming from previous deployments and experience holding different leadership positions.

The Patriot Battalion is such a special place where, for most people, it’s the first time you are pulled out of your comfort zone and are forced to overcome immediate and unfamiliar challenges. The trust and camaraderie built during ROTC training is nearly identical to the connection you have with your fellow soldiers and leaders. Being in Iraq was certainly new to me, but so were the daily duties of a Signal Officer. Without having a background in IT, I was forced to not only learn on-the-go in a complex environment, but to learn from the soldiers in the S6 section. Just as it is taught at the Patriot Battalion, listening to and learning from your Soldiers is perhaps the most crucial factor in becoming a successful Lieutenant. Good luck to the current cadets and especially to the Class of 2019. *Train to Fight, Fight to Win!*”



**1LT Cresci (far left) visits some of his Soldiers at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq**

*Jack is currently working at Dell EMC in the greater Boston area as a Sales Analyst and continues his service in the Rhode Island National Guard. He looks forward to joining his former classmates at the Military Ball in February. Go Friars!*

# SMP Unit Spotlight: 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Norwich CT

By Cadet James Kitt (Bryant 2019)



**The 248<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company Unit Patch**

The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) is a great training program that many cadets all over the country take part in every year. SMPing allows cadets to temporarily enlist into the National Guard or Army Reserves as a non deployable participant. The cadet will be able to choose not only the branch but also the unit they desire to be a part of for that temporary period. Cadets are paid at the rank of Sergeant (E-5) during training with these units and are exposed to how the Army truly functions and gives cadets a full immersion into the life of a National Guardsman or Reservist.

I personally have been SMPing in the 248th Engineering Company out of Norwich, CT. The unit specifically focuses on horizontal engineering which drew me to it in the first place over the sister company that specializes in bridging activities. So what do cadets do while at these units for drill? The typical life of an SMP cadet revolves around the officer that you are tasked with following. Considering the cadet is interested in the perspective of being an officer in that type of unit, it makes sense they would follow them. At drill, I tend to float around between a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander in order to get the best understanding of their role and thought process. Cadets get the opportunity to not only witness many activities that occur at the unit but also partake in many

of them. For example, in my unit I have helped extensively with environmental reports, risk assessments, route planning for logistical operations, closing reports for drill weekends and more. Aside from the paperwork side of the officer's role, cadets also get to take part in the enlisted activities such as NVG training, drivers training of large military vehicles, qualifying on weapon systems like the M4A1 carbine, 9mm Beretta and an assortment of crew served weapon systems such as the .50 cal and M19 grenade launcher and more all while being paid. Overall, the SMP is a great program that pays cadets while they make lasting connections and gain experience and knowledge of their future role.



**An Army Engineer unit at work**



**Cadet James Kitt**

# Upcoming Events



HOST:  
Patriot Battalion 401-865-2471

## PATRIOT BATTALION MILITARY BALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 6:00 PM

Providence Biltmore  
11 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

If interested in attending our annual Military Ball, please contact Ms. Lorraine Ciorlano at 401 865-2471 or [lorraine.ciorlano@providence.edu](mailto:lorraine.ciorlano@providence.edu). We look forward to seeing many of you there!

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### Parting Photo by Justin Bergner (Providence College 2019)

We've come a long way since the photo below was taken in front of Ruane Hall on the Providence College campus in early September, during Cadet Orientation. Many of those you see in this picture have since taken the oath to pursue a career as an Army Officer. Some have gotten haircuts in order to wear the uniform, some have run two miles for the first time in their lives, some have enjoyed their time this semester but have decided the Army is not for them. Regardless, every single one of these cadets contributed to a successful fall semester. We look forward to returning from break, ready to start the spring semester off strong. In the meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

