

THE PATRIOT PRIDE

2019-2020 Newsletter



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Notes from the Professor of Military Science

LTC Tyler L. Jones



Happy Spring to the Cadets, Cadre, alumni, family and friends of the Patriot Battalion! I feel incredibly blessed to serve as the PMS of this organization. Honestly, I didn't know what to expect coming in, but our team (cadet, cadre, alumni, family, etc.) continually impressed me this year and made my transition smooth and easy. Kudos and congratulations to my predecessor, LTC (Retired) Christopher Wingate for his remarkable performance in his job here and for setting me up for success as we transitioned. Chris is missed and he certainly left big shoes to fill – I am doing my best!

Speaking of shoes to fill, we are all reeling in the wake of the death of our beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, SGM Gary Fortunato. SGM was a true servant leader and had become the epitome of all that this battalion stands for. His tragic passing has us grieving and reflecting on who he was and all that he did, the brevity of life, and the importance of loved ones in our lives. Gary's loss will be felt for years to come. We will never forget him and hope to honor him well. Since many of you may not know much about me, I thought a quick introduction would be helpful. I am a Military Intelligence officer and 2002 graduate of West Point. During my almost 18 years in the Army I have served in positions from Company through Army level, most recently as a Brigade Executive Officer at JBLM, WA and a NATO Exercise Planner in the Netherlands. My wife, Dana, and I have three awesome kids (11, 10 and 7) who are adapting well to life in Rhode Island. My family and I call the state of Michigan home, but we are already learning to love all that the Northeast has to offer.

The fall semester was exciting and full of noteworthy performances. The MS IV (seniors) led the way by planning and resourcing some outstanding training. The events of the semester are highlighted by seven lead labs, some tough physical Fitness training sessions, the new Army Combat Fitness Test and a great field training exercise (FTX) at Fort Devens, MA. We were blessed with some beautiful, though chilly, NE weather that allowed us to travel via Blackhawk helicopter to the FTX. The memorable air travel was followed by rifle marksmanship, land navigation training, tactical squad field training and capped off by a force on force paintball match with cadets from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). The paintball finished just before the skies opened up and drenched us as we waited for our bus transport back to PC! All in all, the FTX was an absolute success thanks to the efforts and dedication from all of the cadets in the program.

In a word, the spring semester has been unique. As we all deal with the response to COVID-19, ROTC programs nationwide cancelled all training and transitioned to preparing our future leaders via different collaboration platforms. I am thankful that we were able to conduct our Military Ball prior to these changes. It was truly top-notch event. Thanks to all who attended! Our Cadets had planned a superb Spring FTX and, unfortunately, we were unable to taste the fruits of their labor. Decision are still be made about the conduct of Cadet Summer Training. I am sure that the actions we are taking in preparation and the caliber of our program's Cadets will ensure their success regardless. As we look back on an incredible year, full of ups and downs, we still look forward to recognizing the hard work of our senior cadets during their commissioning ceremony. I wish them the best as they embark on the next chapter in their lives as leaders in our Nation's Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler L. Jones'.

Tyler L. Jones
Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence
Professor of Military Science



Notes from the Battalion Commander

CDT Catherine Carignan, Brown University 2020



Though our time in-person was cut short, I am proud to have served as this semester's Cadet Battalion Commander. Going into this semester, myself and the senior leadership focused our talents, time, and resources on preparing the MSIIIs for the challenges they would have faced at Fort Knox, while still building and maintaining a strong community of cadets across all MS classes. Now, our goals have shifted: We are finding ways to use technology to provide encouragement, share resources, and keep the battalion connected during this unprecedented time. Though it is difficult to measure our success in this new reality, I am proud of myself and my fellow seniors for continuing to find ways to engage underclassmen in the past weeks. I have learned more in this short time about the importance of leadership, empathy, and preparedness than at any other point in my life.

The loss of SGM Fortunato in a time marked by separation and isolation is heartbreaking, but the Patriot Battalion has rallied together digitally and in spirit to remember the lessons learned from such an invaluable instructor, mentor, and role model. He was going to be many of our first salutes—for him, we will better ourselves day in and day out. As we approach commissioning (in whatever form it may take), I feel prepared to take on the challenge of being a Second Lieutenant, thanks to the opportunities for growth provided to me by this program and cadre. This is not the end I or my fellow seniors envisioned for our Patriot Battalion or collegiate careers, but circumstances do not change how incredibly grateful I am for my time as a cadet in this program and as Battalion Commander this semester.

Ambiance and Panache: Remembering CSM (R) Gary P. Fortunato

CPT Daniel Girouard



While we all bear the pain of this tremendous loss, we all have the comfort of the bond that holds us all together. While we mourn the loss of a beloved friend, colleague, mentor and warrior, we will celebrate his life the way he lived it, with ambiance and panache.

For 53 years, Gary devoted his life to his friends, family and Country. A native of Union City and Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, CSM Fortunato was drafted into the United States Army in 1967. Thirty years later, in 1997, he retired as a Command Sergeant Major. During his 30-year military career, he served as a Team Chief for a Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol, a Platoon Sergeant, an Operations NCO, a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical NCO, a Senior Drill

Sergeant, a First Sergeant, and a Command Sergeant Major. His First Sergeant positions included tours in the 1/161st and 1/16th Infantry in Vietnam; the 1/38th Infantry in South Korea, the 2/36th Infantry in Germany, and USAG Fort Devens in Massachusetts. Following graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy, he served as Sergeant Major for NATO Land Forces and USAREUR in Germany; the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade, the 402nd SOD, and Combat & Combat Support Battalion III Corps at Fort Devens, MA; the Office of the Secretary of Defense NATO Nuclear Policy; and Cadet Command's Third Brigade.

During his tour in Vietnam, CSM Fortunato served along the demilitarized zone and in surrounding areas for over one year. During Operations Desert Shield/Storm, he deployed the largest Battalion Task Force to Saudi Arabia and Iraq and was designated Task Force Sergeant Major for ten Combat and 16 Combat Support/Service Support III Corps units.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with V Device; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal (six awards); the Army Commendations Medal (three awards); the Drill Sergeant Badge; Good Conduct Medal (ten awards); Rhode Island Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He held an associate degree in Business from Mount Wachusett College and a bachelor's degree in Business from Providence College.

Upon his retirement from Active Duty in 1997, CSM Fortunato joined the Patriot Battalion as an ROTC Instructor and Operations NCO. Forever changing the course of our lives, Gary touched the lives of countless students while serving as a life-long mentor and beloved friend to over 350 commissioned officers. Sitting through the Dragon's MS-II class was both a rite of passage and memory no Cadet will ever forget. Up until the day he passed, countless Patriot Battalion alumni stayed in regular contact with him for mentorship, advice, and friendship. For many of us, he is the reason we serve and continue to serve today.

No words can truly express how much he meant to us or the impact he had on our lives. While going through his personal binder as we prepared this post, we found something both ironic and seemingly deliberate. We believe this is Gary speaking to us all and we will let him have the last words:

"People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend and they are. They are there for a reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season!

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being part of my life, whether you were a reason, a season or a lifetime."

CSM (Ret) Gary P. Fortunato (1947-2020)



Featured Cadets

Cold Weather Operations Course

CDT Said Eljadidi, Bryant University Class of 2020



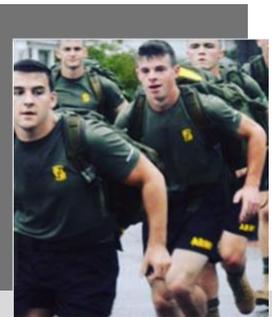
Over this past winter break, I had the privilege of returning to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin to be a Cadre member for the Cold Weather Operations Course. I graduated from CWOC in 2019 and wanted to return again to prepare for SERE school. The students of Class 20-02 were comprised of Marines and Soldiers of all ranks from around the country. The course teaches winter warfare tactics, arctic weather considerations for troops and equipment, military skiing, and cold-water immersion.

The first 7 days of the course are spent in a classroom with several labs taking place throughout the day. Some examples of classes include cold weather injury treatment, building fighting positions in the snow, cloud formation identification, and fire starting. The second week of CWOC is spent in a field training exercise. Students must ruck with their equipment and sleds to a bivouac site and begin preparing for the next day. Students then spend the next two nights in an Arctic tent and four nights in a thermal shelter they build themselves out of materials like snow, trees, and pine needles. The final exercise is a cold-water immersion in Big Sandy Lake. Students must stay in the water until they can coherently answer questions asked by the instructors.

It was an honor to return to Fort McCoy and teach others about surviving in harsh environments. It was entirely owing to the Cadre at Providence College and the instructors at the Winter Warfare Training Center that I was able to attend this event. Thank you to all of those who support the Patriot Battalion's cadets in all of their endeavors.

MSIII Cadet Spotlight

CDT Michael Casey, Providence College Class of 2021



My name is Michael Casey and I am a Junior at Providence College.

I am a Business Management major with a minor in Asian Studies. I am a member of the Entrepreneurship Society on campus and I enjoy playing intramural sports with my friends. I joined ROTC without a scholarship but earned one my sophomore year.

For the past two years, I have been a member of the Ranger Challenge team. Ranger Challenge is a physically and mentally demanding group which fosters a tight bond between everyone on the team. I am from Franklin, Massachusetts and I am the ninth of eleven children. As a member of a large family, I learned the importance of teamwork at an early age. I hope to translate what I have learned from the Battalion, Ranger Challenge, and my personal life into my military career.

Next year, I hope to commission and serve as an active duty Infantry officer.

Operations Update – S3

CDT Jacob Olson, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Class of 2020



The Cadets of the Patriot Battalion have continued to deliver and execute training to the best of their ability during this school year despite the global pandemic and its disruption to our daily lives. This past fall semester, MSIIIs and MSIV executed basic rifle marksmanship at Fort Devens. The following LLABs centered on squad tactics and leadership development, culminating in the Fall FTX in which the Patriot Battalion returned to Fort Devens to execute training. During this FTX, Cadets were able to get hands-on experience with aviation operations as they were transported to Fort Devens via UH-60 Blackhawks. MSIIIs then qualified on land navigation while MSIs got the chance to execute basic rifle marksmanship—for some, this was their very first time on the range. All Cadets then participated in four STX lanes. The weekend culminated with a joint exercise with the Bay State Battalion. Both Battalions joined together to execute a foot march competition totaling six miles with various stations and challenges along the route such as comms practice, CLS scenarios, and physical exercise. To round out the weekend, the battalions joined again to conduct a force-on-force paintball game that helped simulate a “real battle” for the Cadets.

In the spring semester, the Patriot Battalion shifted gears and began to focus on platoon operations. Prior to the global pandemic and halt in in-person training, the Patriot Battalion planned and executed several successful events, including CWST, the Iron Patriot, Warrior Skills Training, Artic Challenge, and an introductory LLAB to platoon operations. Even though in-person training has ceased, the Patriot Battalion continues to strive for excellence by conducting PRT through challenges and workouts of the day to keep motivation high and promote friendly competition. Video calls have also helped us to stay connected; we continue to make connections and advance our skills as we look forward to the return of the Cadets, Cadre, and all other members of the Patriot Battalion in the fall of 2020.

Ranger Challenge Recap

CDT Kyle Newton, Providence College Class of 2020

The Ranger Challenge Competition is held every October at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Every ROTC program in the 2nd Brigade, along with a few Navy and Air Force ROTC programs and the United States Coast Guard Academy, sends teams to compete against one another for a spot in the Sandhurst Competition at the U.S. Military Academy West Point. Tryouts were held in the first week of the fall semester; we searched for the right mixture of cadets that would help the team compete at the highest levels possible. Of the roughly 25 motivated cadets, CDT 1SG Jack Johnson and myself had the difficult task of picking 15 cadets for the team.



After establishing the team roster, CDT Johnson helped develop a training plan that we both felt would prepare the team for the competition 8 short weeks later. Rather than train Cadets to increase their overall fitness, CDT Johnson and myself focused training around the experiences that we and the returning team members had at previous competitions in order to effectively use the limited time we had to prepare. This strategy worked well for the development of the team as we felt exceedingly prepared to compete in the upcoming competition.

One of the many highlights of the competition weekend was the Ranger Challenge team placing fourth overall in the Grenade Assault Course. Last year, this event caused many problems for the team. After that learning experience, CDT Johnson and I specifically focused on improving this event. Developing training courses for the team to run through proved extremely helpful, as three of the team members, CDT Michael Casey (Providence College '21), CDT Nathan Charron (Bryant '22), and CDT Sean Harris (Providence College '23) all made grenade throws directly into a bunker subtracting three minutes off our final time.

This year's Ranger Challenge Competition tested every team member's mental and physical toughness. CDT Johnson and I are extremely proud of the determination and resilience the team showed over the 8 weeks of training and the three-day competition. It was a privilege to be the captain of this team—their comradery and accomplishments are like none other which made my job more enjoyable than I could have imagined.

A note for next year:

I am confident that the Ranger Challenge Team will be very competitive next year. CDT Johnson (next year's captain) and CDT Charron (next year's 1SG) planned and executed an Arctic Challenge event this past spring. Despite these uncertain times, the members of the Ranger Challenge Team are staying motivated and fit, all while excelling in their academic studies. I trust that the Patriot Battalion's Ranger Challenge Team is in good hands, and I am excited to see how well they all do in the competition this fall.

COVID-19 Training Update

CDT Jason Sullivan, Johnson and Wales University 2020
CDT Anthony Kolodziejczyk, Bryant University 2020



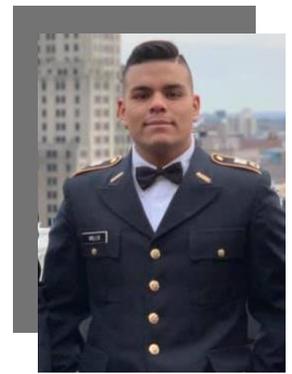
With campuses and dorms closed, the Patriot Battalion has been scattered across the globe, from Maine to California to South Korea. With these restrictions comes a host of new challenges for us to overcome. The MSIII class has been particularly affected as most of the spring semester events are geared towards sharpening their skills for Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, TN. Despite this geographic separation, we are focusing on staying close to our goals and preparing our cadets for success.

This is what the Army is all about: adapting and overcoming hardships. COVID-19 is just another obstacle. Unlike the rest of society, Alpha Co. (MSI & MSII) and Bravo Co. (MSIII) have remained focused on two things: First, continuous training and second, developing our Cadets as leaders. Since the government imposed social distancing practices, the cadets of Alpha Co. have put their brains together to develop daily workout routines that keep everyone fit and engaged. Not only has Alpha Co. focused on fitness, its Cadets have also participated in online learning and training that will prepare them for their future challenges in the fall.

Alumni Spotlight

LTC Ned Marsh, Providence College 2000

CDT Daniel Willis, Johnson and Wales University 2020



The year was 2000. The country saw one of the closest Presidential races in history, The NASDAQ peaked at 5,048 just before the dot-com bubble burst, and the Yankees were the World Series Champions. In all senses of the word, life was good (Not if you were a Sox fan). This was also when a young Ned Marsh was about to embark on his career. He graduated from Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, in Political Science. Branched Infantry, this newly minted Butter bar's career would not only extend well past the initial service obligation but eventually land himself as the Commander of the United States Army Parachuting Team, "The Golden Knights".

"Each assignment, every step was a phase of my life, my history so to speak." LTC Ned Marsh, Providence '00, has amassed a storied career as an Infantry and currently a Special Forces Officer. Just as in life, you need to lay a strong foundation in which you would build yourself off. For LTC Marsh, he laid his at Providence College. It is not by coincidence he decided to select Providence College, as his father was a 1963 graduate. Growing up, "we always rooted for the Friars and the Friars were always on the radar" stated LTC Marsh. Seeing that his father, uncles, and grandfather all who have served in the military, for the Army, you might say it's kind of the family business. While PC was the place that gave him the space to grow and mature, ROTC offered the "structure, goals, and a plan to help keep me on track during college." With little prior knowledge about the ROTC program before coming to college still, a young Ned Marsh approached and quickly signed up.

"Even before I contracted, I wanted to be a Special Forces Officer... My four years in the Infantry were great. But I was and still am best fit for the Special Forces, I truly believe it was where I was meant to be."



LTC Marsh said in the interview. Since you cannot branch into Special Forces as a new officer, LTC Marsh realized that he would have to branch infantry and volunteer to attend Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS). With his eye on the target, he knew what he needed to do to achieve his dream. The first step was to secure a contract. On September 2, 1997, he signed his contract, making it official that his future would be somewhere serving in Uncle Sam's Army. Throughout his time in the Battalion, he participated in Ranger Challenge, the Army 10 Miler, and in his free time ran a couple of marathons and still found time to devote to his studies. Although many Cadets might have never heard of him before reading this, Cadets since LTC Marsh share the same dreadful tone when they read the PT plan for the week and see "Telephone Pole Team Workout." We all have LTC Marsh and the group with him to thank who, "dragged it out of a ditch on the side of the road out near Scituate."

The common thread that all current and former Cadets from the PATBAT can attest to is the always helpful hand from the Cadre members. Both military and civilian. LTC Marsh is no exception. "All of the cadre Soldiers and Civilians were very memorable. Each left a strong and lasting impression on me. But it is most fitting to mention Gary Fortunato. I signed my contract on 2 September 1997 which was the first year SGM Fortunato was at PC. His leadership, wisdom and patience are something that I will always be grateful that I was exposed to. His long-term commitment to the development of leaders is remarkable, he impacted an entire generation of ROTC Cadets and Army Officers."

"Success begets success." As a newly minted Infantry Lieutenant, LTC Marsh reflects on his time as a junior officer, stating that the biggest mistake he made as a brand-new Butterbar was, "Thinking that I knew anything. Be quiet, work hard, ask questions, soak it up, trust the people around you and when in charge be in charge. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, junior grades are a time to learn and grow. BUT stay out of trouble."

Active duty or National Guard, upon commissioning we all have a service obligation to the Army as an Officer. After the initial obligation time is met, it is up to each person to decide to continue with the Army or retire and pursue another career field. Continuing his time in

service to senior Captain in Special Forces with around 7 years in service, LTC Marsh was close to getting out. "At the time I was transitioning from being a tactical leader into my first exposure into the operational world. I had achieved the goals I had set out to do and had lost my purpose... I was put into a job as a battalion assistant S3." For LTC Marsh, it was his Battalion Commander's influence and leadership that changed the entire trajectory of his career. Now being placed in more of an administrative role, it was a change for him. "Each phase of our lives requires purpose and goals; we must be ready to adapt and change."

For all future Lieutenants, we share the same theme of wanting to be the best. Serving in the best units and being the best Soldier we can become. LTC Marsh looks back on his time and the best piece of advice he has gotten. His Battalion Executive Officer at the time was Major Mark Meadows, the son of Special Forces legend Dick Meadows (definitely google him, you won't be disappointed). He told him, "Not to worry about serving in great units, but to make the unit that I am in great, He said I would not be remembered for what unit I served in nor would the unit ever remember me, but I would always remember and know how I had worked and how I served." In this day and age, we all need to be mindful and not let our thirst for success blind us to our first and foremost duty of being an Army Officer of integrity and sound moral character. LTC Marsh states, "He was right, my pride doesn't come from tabs, medals, or units, it comes from remembering how I served and the hardships I endured."

"Set goals, work hard, the years will go fast." Looking at LTC Marsh now, he currently serves as the Commander of the United States Army Parachuting Team, "The Golden Knights". Holding the Combat Infantry and Expert Infantry Badges, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Military Freefall Parachutist, Master Parachutist, and Air Assault Wings, he has challenged himself in virtually all of the available Army special schools. As a Battalion Commander, he has a unique view of leadership. "I am not a perfect leader; leadership is hard, and it requires hard work and learning every day... Set the example...Be the leader you want to be led by." He also further goes on and sheds light on one of the key aspects of military leadership. "Soldiers risk with their lives, leaders' risk with their careers, one is permanent one is not. Leaders must risk for their soldiers, do not transfer all of the risks down, shoulder as much risk as you can, that means sometimes you may be the casualty, that's okay you can get another job, your career is not more important than a life."

Looking to the future Officer corps of the Army, he explains that this new generation of incoming Officers that have been surrounded by technology for most of our life will also mean a higher standard that we are held to. Another large difference is the structure of the military. Marsh's Cadre came mostly from the Vietnam era. A culture difference in not only attitude but the ways and means of going about leadership and fighting battles have greatly changed. All of us are entering the military, not in peacetime for our country. Joining now, it is a fair chance that we all will see combat at least once throughout our careers. Although the military can be a stressful environment, it is important to stay grounded. For LTC Marsh, it includes hiking, climbing, and skiing. As a father and husband, his family is what keeps him whole. "My hobbies are whatever my kids are doing."

For LTC Marsh, his time with the Army Parachuting team is almost up as he prepares for his next Army assignment. For the current MSIV Cadets, our careers are just about to embark. The rank of Lieutenant Colonel feels like it is a lifetime away and though not all of us will make the Army a career, we will all grow up and always be striving for greatness. You could say it's just the nature of being a Patriot Battalion Cadet and never settling for anything less than your personal best. With the 2020 commissioning class marking 20 years since he himself got his gold bar, LTC Marsh leaves us with the advice, "Enjoy the moments, it seems like it takes forever but remember to take pictures along the way." The Patriot Battalion thanks LTC Ned Marsh for his continued service and wishes him the best of luck in his future. Veritas and Blue Skies!



Awards and Recognitions

2019-2020

The Senior Cadets of the Patriot Battalion met on Zoom to celebrate their accomplishments during the 2019-2020 school year. Congratulations to all awardees!



Distinguished Military Graduates

John Paul Bettinelli
Catherine Carignan
Said Eljadidi
Kyle Newton
Jason Sullivan

Association of the United States Army Award

Jacob Olson

American Legion Military Excellence Award

Said Eljadidi

American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award

Jason Sullivan

Military Order of Foreign Wars Award

Zachary Mason

Military Order of Foreign Wars Academic Excellence Award

Jared Getgano

Reserve Officers' Association Award

Caitlynn Almy

National Defense Industrial Association Award

Catherine Carignan

USAA Spirit Award

Anthony Kolodziejczyk

Sons of Italy Award

Daniel Willis

Providence College Class of '66 Award

Dennis Scannell

1LT Gregory Parades Memorial Award

Kyle Newton

1LT Brian McPhillips Memorial Award

John Koller

CPT John "Jay" Tobin Memorial Award

Christofer Casswell

Robert Reisman 1st Infantry Division Award

Elliot Pawlak

Providence College President's Trophy

Kyle Newton

Providence College J. Conway Saber

John Paul Bettinelli

Bryant University ROTC Achievement Saber

Said Eljadidi

Brown University ROTC Achievement Saber

Catherine Carignan

First Command Financial Saber

Madelyn Gonzalez

Rhode Island College Outstanding Cadet

Marvin Salazar

UMASS Dartmouth ROTC Leadership Award

Jacob Olson
Elliot Pawlak

Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award

Jacob Olson

George C. Marshall Award

John Paul Bettinelli

Thank You!

We would be entirely remiss if we did not take the time to thank Lorraine Ciorlano, our very own “Patriot Battalion Mom” for her INCREDIBLE 25 years of dedicated service to the program. Many Cadets and Cadre members have come and go, but Lorraine has been a rock for the PATBAT through it all. We will miss you and good luck in all that you do!



We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to MAJ Lawrence Jenkins, who has served with the Patriot Battalion for the last three years. In November, his 24-year career in the Army comes to an end. He will be moving to Arkansas to be near his family and pursue a career as a JROTC Instructor where he can continue to mentor future leaders. Thank you and good luck!