

# *Mighty Hawkeye News*

*The Official Newsletter of the University of Iowa Army ROTC*



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## **Womens History Month**

March is not just a month of planting flowers and warmer weather; it is also a time when we celebrate Women's History Month, a commemoration dedicated to honoring the contributions of women throughout history. As we go through this month, the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion acknowledges and celebrates the profound impact women have had, and continue to have, in shaping our program, the military, and society at large.

In a pivotal moment in our Battalion's history, 1972 marked a significant milestone as the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion embraced change and progress by welcoming its first cohort of women participants. This groundbreaking year shattered age-old gender barriers within Army ROTC and began to pave the way for a more inclusive and diverse military community.

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## George C. Marshall Conference

Since then, women have become integral parts of our ranks, comprising nearly one-third of our cadets.

As we reflect on the journey of women within the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion and beyond, we recognize the countless barriers they have overcome and the extraordinary achievements they have accomplished. Their presence enriches our program, bringing forth diverse perspectives, experiences, and talents that strengthen our collective resolve and capabilities. Their perseverance inspires us to break down barriers and strive for equality, ensuring that every voice is heard and every opportunity is embraced within our ranks. Together, we champion inclusivity and empowerment, recognizing that our strength lies in the diversity and determination of all who serve.

As we commemorate Women's History Month and extend our reflections beyond, it is imperative to honor and celebrate the indelible contributions of women—those who have paved the way, those who stand among us today, and those who will shape the future. As we advance through this month and into the future, let us uphold and continue the legacy of women within the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion, fostering an environment where their leadership and achievements thrive.

Cadet Claire Hellman attended the George C. Marshall Leadership and Awards Seminar at Fort Knox, KY, on February 22nd and 23rd. She was joined by nearly 200 cadets, several senior leaders, and the Sergeant Major of the Army. Cadet Hellman engaged in seminars and discussions throughout the weekend as well as physical training opportunities.

Cadet Hellman enjoyed the opportunity, saying, "The GCM conference was a great experience. I got to interact with cadets from across the country, reconnecting with old friends and making new connections. The highlights included listening to SMA Weimer speak and participating in the urban assault course PT. The conference was incredibly rewarding, and I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity to attend!"

The seminar first began in 1978 and honors Gen. Marshall. The annual conference invites top cadets from the nation to participate.

## Northern Warfare Challenge

The Mighty Hawkeye Battalion recently took part in the annual Northern Warfare Challenge held on February 23rd and 24th. This competition serves as both a test of skill and physical endurance, with our cadets engaging in cold weather survival exercises and completing a grueling 14-mile ruck march through the bluffs of LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Renowned as "The Hardest Race in ROTC," this challenge pushes participants to their limits both mentally and physically. Members of the team included: CDT Duff, CDT Harber, CDT Krmarczyk, CDT Kuper, CDT Pipe, CDT Shetler, and CDT Jewell (Captain).



# Cadet of the Month

*CDT Connor Vicory*

I'm from Aurora, Illinois, studying mechanical engineering and math. I'm a second-year student and a Resident Assistant at Mayflower Residence Hall. I decided to contract with ROTC because I knew it would make my grandparents proud and it gave me a place to fit in. Contracting was an easy choice. In high school,

I wanted to be part of some aspect of the military, but I was always told by my family that I had to get an education first. ROTC gave me that pathway to do both. Now I can be both a student and a soldier. Another reason I decided to contract was to be self-sustainable and put myself in a better place financially. Growing up, my family never had that much money, so my goal was to find a way to pay for college by myself.

Once it came to the second semester of my senior year of high school, I started to lose hope in that idea. That was until I contacted the recruiter for ROTC at Iowa, Tony Wolf. He really helped me create a plan to come to Iowa and gave me all the resources and support to earn a 3-year scholarship. Without his help, I would not have been able to contract.

My favorite part of being in ROTC is the memories and bonds I've made with my peers. In high school, I never would have thought I would be doing any of the stuff I'm doing now. Being able to travel, meet new people, and experience a wide variety of new things is what makes ROTC amazing. I can say for certainty that I have not regretted my choice to contract at all.



PHOTO BY CADET CONNOR VICORY

## Staff Ride

The MHBN MSIVs and cadre embarked on a staff ride of the Battle of Wisconsin Heights on February 17th and 18th. Our cadets explored the historic battleground, immersing themselves in the terrain, weather, and conditions that influenced command decisions in 1832. They engaged in discussions on the tactical and logistical challenges confronted by both sides. Throughout the weekend, the cadets fostered camaraderie beyond formal settings. As the staff ride concluded, our cadets emerged with a profound grasp of military leadership, history, and the potential challenges they may encounter.

## Contact us!

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