

Mighty Hawkeye News

The Official Newsletter of the University of Iowa Army ROTC



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Spring Field Training Exercise

The Mighty Hawkeye Battalion recently participated in an invigorating joint Field Training Exercise (FTX) alongside Iowa State University, Creighton University, University of Northern Iowa, University of Dubuque, and Buena Vista University. This collaborative JFTX took place from March 21st to March 24th. The immersive training provided an essential platform for our cadets to refine their military skills and bolster their leadership capabilities.

The FTX commenced with a concentrated focus on marksmanship, with MSIII's dedicating Thursday to zeroing and qualifying on M4 rifles. This preparation not only ensures their proficiency with the M4 but also gives them confidence before their attendance at Cadet Summer Training (CST) this summer. The exceptional qualification rate of our cadets with their M4 rifles showcased their readiness for the challenges ahead.

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Over the ensuing three days, our cadets transitioned into platoon Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes, where they encountered simulated combat scenarios designed to assess their leadership and tactical knowledge. Each lane presented different challenges, requiring adaptation and drawing upon the cadets' training and experience. From executing defensive missions to conducting ambushes, our cadets navigated through various scenarios with poise and agility, demonstrating their ability to lead effectively under pressure.

The Spring FTX serves as a pivotal time in our cadets' training journey, providing a dynamic environment to apply the skills and principles instilled in them throughout their ROTC classes and leadership laboratories. By immersing themselves in realistic combat simulations, the MSIII's gained invaluable hands-on experience, bolstering their preparedness for the challenges they will encounter at CST and beyond.

Furthermore, this FTX offered an opportunity for MSIII's to mentor and impart their experiences to the next generation of MSI and MSII cadets. Through this mentorship, they ensure the continuity of excellence within the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion, nurturing a culture of continuous growth and improvement. Our underclassmen embraced this training opportunity, honing their individual soldiering skills.

In essence, the Spring FTX symbolized more than just a training exercise; it embodied the dedication and perseverance that define the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion. With each cadet embracing the challenges and opportunities presented during the FTX, they emerge stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to tackle the complexities of future leadership roles in the United States Army. As they progress, the cadets carry with them the lessons learned and memories forged, embodying the ethos of excellence that characterizes the future leaders of our Army.



PHOTO BY CADET JON GUALTIERI

Ranger Buddy

On April 5th and 6th, the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion showcased our excellent cadets at the 27th annual Ranger Buddy Competition hosted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This rigorous event featured a series of challenges including a demanding ruck run and various warrior skills tests. Representing our battalion, six teams participated alongside a lineup of 170 teams that represented 43 different universities.

CDT Joseph Junker was our team captain this year and enjoyed his experience. "For a month and a half, our Ranger Buddy teams were committed and devoted to learning the skills, getting physically prepared, and mentally prepared. We utilized lots of classroom time to teach the skills that would be required at the competition. At Ranger Buddy, all our teams and specifically underclassmen exceeded expectations.

All three underclassmen teams placed top 10 in their respective divisions. Our upperclassmen did very well too, with one team placing 6th overall in the Coed division. The team's commitment, motivation, and capacity to learn translated into lots of success at Ranger Buddy."

Cadet of the Month

Amatya (Krishna) Venkatapur

Originally from India, I moved to Georgia in 2001 when I was eight. Although Georgia is my home of record, my wife and I fully embrace the Army adventure- home is wherever we end up. Our latest chapter brought us to Iowa, coinciding with my acceptance into the Army's Green to Gold commissioning program and my wife's entry into the dental program at the University of Iowa. I enlisted in the Army in 2012 as a Unit Supply Specialist (MOS 92Y). I've had the privilege of working in a diverse selection of units, including Light Infantry, Air Defense Artillery, and Special Operations (Civil Affairs). The leadership, community, and mentorship I gained through these units have molded me into who I am today and are direct attributes to all the successes I've enjoyed over my last 11 years of service. Becoming a commissioned officer has always been a career-long goal of mine, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to earn my MBA and commission through the University of Iowa.

Joining the University of Iowa's ROTC program was an unexpected turn in my journey, yet one for which I am profoundly thankful for. The cadre's depth of knowledge and genuine concern for cadet development have been standout features that create a cohesive environment for both professional and personal growth. The training I've received has served as an invaluable refresher on basic soldier tasks while also introducing me to new tactics and concepts that didn't apply to my previous roles. The ROTC community, in general, has exceeded all of my expectations. It's a cohesive and motivated group embodying the spirit of teamwork and dedication to our trade. This combination of expert guidance and a dynamic peer group has made my time with the University of Iowa Army ROTC program genuinely rewarding.



PHOTO BY CADET AMATYA (KRISHNA) VENKATAPUR

Combat Water Survival Test

On April 3rd, the Mighty Hawkeye Battalion engaged in their annual Combat Water Survival Test (CWST). The CWST, comprises of a series of challenging tasks, including a 15-meter equipment swim, underwater equipment removal, and a 3-meter drop event. This rigorous assessment not only fulfills a commissioning requirement for our cadets but also serves as a vital platform for instilling invaluable water survival techniques essential for their future endeavors.

Contact us!

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