



WILDCAT QUARTERLY CWU ARMY ROTC SPRING 2021



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I would be lying if I told you I was not overwhelmed with joy to be selected as a Professor of Military Science. My entire career has been spent in leadership and staff positions from the platoon through the Division level. Having the opportunity to develop future leaders is a dream come true.

Being a graduate of an ROTC program myself, I'm excited to help sustain the success of the Wildcat Battalion. We are the most diverse ROTC program in Washington State, we are also one of the few programs in our Brigade and the nation that has made our required mission the last 3 years, and is on track to make our commissioning mission the next 3 years, and likely beyond. While I have been in the position for only a matter of weeks, as we continue to focus on training and leader development, there are a number of new initiatives I look forward to beginning.

We are excited to see our Ranger Challenge team training again and I look forward to watching them win this years competition. I also look forward to building relationships with units on JBLM to help create new experiences and training opportunities for our cadets. We are close to completing two obstacles for our new obstacle course. With a recent additional commitment of a \$10K donation, we are now developing plans for an additional leadership reaction course that we plan on using during new student orientation and throughout the year. With regard to recruiting and retention, we are working on a proposal for a Yakama Warrior Scholarship for Native American students from the nearby Yakama Nation. We are also

looking to create a new scholarship with the College of Education and Professional Studies to help future and current cadets. The latter scholarship was a recommendation from our colleges Dean based on the programs past commissioning success and strong outlook for the future. For community and morale events we plan on volunteering more in the community, with local veteran associations and working to expand the alumni network to help create mentorship opportunities across the Army.

My wife Tammi, boys Michael and Jonathon (with one on the way) are excited to be members of the team. Please do not hesitate to reach out to help the Wildcat Battalion family, to guide us and provide advice, ideas, or a better way to train and develop our wildcats.



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Letter from the Cadet Battalion Commander

Wildcat BN,

First off, I want to say thank you to everyone involved with the Wildcat Battalion and making this program possible. I did not expect to become Battalion Commander for the last quarter of my senior year, but now that I have served in this role I have a much deeper appreciation for all the things our Cadre and staff members do in developing us as Army leaders.

To the Cadets, you are what make this Battalion special. The Cadre and MSIV's could plan training until we are blue in the face, but without your desire to better yourselves and become Army leaders what would be the point? This quarter was the first time in a year that we have been in person, and while we had some ups and downs, there is no question that I am extremely proud of the quality of individuals that we have in our ranks.

I feel extremely lucky to have been put in this position. From the weekly PT, occasional super lab, and FTX, you all endured hard, memorable training and have grown leaps and bounds throughout this quarter and year.

I feel more confident than ever that you are all ready to run this Battalion when we leave. MSIIIs, we spent a year preparing you for CST, be confident in yourself, your leadership, and your knowledge as you head to Fort Knox. You are more ready than you think you are, I promise you.

For the MSI and MSII's, thank you for showing up week in and week out to training with positive attitudes. I know it is not the most fun to lay in the dirt lab after lab, but your time is coming. All the details and habits you are forming now will pay off immensely when you become MSIII's. Lastly, take advantage of the quality of Cadre we have here in the Wildcat Battalion. They are here to develop you and have forgotten more about the Army than we even think we know. Never be afraid to ask questions, reach out, or seek help from any of them. I wish you all nothing but the best in your careers and in your lives. Remember, no matter where we end up or how many years pass us by, we are and always will be a part of the Wildcat Battalion.

Wildcat 6 Out.
c/LTC Connor Wonderly



Changing of the Guard

Farewell to LTC Bonnie Kovatch

We bid farewell to LTC Kovatch, her husband Ryan, and children Lincoln and Charlotte as they depart to Belgium for their next assignment. She shepherded the Wildcat Battalion through one of its most challenging times in the programs history. From the loss of two cadets, a pandemic, teaching remotely, and executing officer accessions without the traditional cadet summer camp, she met challenge after challenge with courage, compassion, and creativity. We will miss her leadership, her stewardship of the profession of arms, and her focus on the development of us as future leaders who can think, speak, and write critically. Her passion to make us better leaders made the Wildcat Battalion better as a whole. LTC Kovatch was selected to take command of a unit in NATO. We all look forward to serving with her again.



Stories from Cadets

Camaraderie by Andrew Pruitt, MS1

Spring FTX was a great experience for me coming into Army ROTC as a transfer from Air Force ROTC, it really gave me a chance to learn a lot about combat situations and roles such as a team leader, gave me a chance to go on recon missions, and even showed me how security is setup at night when everyone is asleep. The biggest thing that stood out to me was the teamwork, getting to know the other Cadets really made me feel welcome and happy to be around them, we all pushed each other to do better as well as motivate one another over the 4 days of being in the woods. Although FTX contained a lot of nonstop running around as well as objectives needing to be met, it wouldn't have been possible to accomplish the mission without everyone working together. Each person in the Platoon plays an important role in accomplishing the mission which I felt was a big morale booster within the Platoon and really drew a bigger picture on the meaning of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Winter STX – by Wil Bafaro, MS3

Our Winter training opportunity was a solid event and a really unique opportunity to get to learn and train alongside some great Army leaders. Because of the nature of training in the COVID era, we haven't had as many opportunities to train as in previous years, but the 5th Security Forces Assistance Brigade members made our training incredibly memorable and valuable. Learning from direct level Army experts was great because they were able to offer their knowledge and experience in many broad and niche areas of our training that we do in ROTC. A lot of what they passed on to us had a very creative, "thinking outside of the box" element to it that we likely wouldn't have otherwise gotten, had they not made the time to come train with us. Not many of our cadets have had the opportunity to learn from Army personnel that were on the level of the SFAB soldiers, so needless to say we have been left with some great wisdom and lessons in our toolbox as we transition into senior leadership positions here in ROTC and on into our service as officers.



Story – by Calvin Sprouse, MS1



Land navigation at the YTC was for many of us, myself included, the first opportunity to turn some of our theoretical skills into practice. At the start of our event, we all learned how to keep and find pace. We all had the choice to try navigation alone or in a group, I was in a group with another freshman and a more experienced cadet. Our group was then given the positions of five points and three hours to plot and locate them. It was a great experience and gave us time to make some mistakes and learn some lessons. The biggest takeaway for me was that a lot of navigation could be done with terrain features and that by just looking at the compass I was making it harder for myself and my team. It was very exciting to find the first target, and with my mistakes made and subsequent lessons learned I feel more confident and am ready to get all five points next year. the box" element to it that we likely wouldn't have otherwise gotten, had they not made the time to come train with us. Not many of our cadets have had the opportunity to learn from Army personnel that were on the level of the SFAB soldiers, so needless to say

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Fundraising - #GiveCentral

This Spring the Wildcat Battalion held a fundraiser for the construction of our new obstacle course, and we raised \$2170! This obstacle course will provide Cadets an opportunity to challenge their physical and mental agility, as well as some enjoyable variety to training. Watch our social media and future news letters for updates on this project. To donate, go here and select "ROTC Obstacle and Physical Fitness Course" <https://givecentral.cwu.edu/giving-day/37496/donate>

Volunteering

Being a wildcat is more than just doing PT and wearing a uniform executing movement to contact lanes at the challenge field. Recently we volunteered with the CWU equestrian Team to clean up Durr Field, 66 hours of work and over 2500 lbs of trash was removed from the area. Selfless service is a fundamental we strive to attain as leaders and we plan on continued service to CWU, but also the greater Ellensburg community.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day is an important holiday for members of the military. In honor of those who have made that sacrifice, each year Cadets place flags at the graves of service members buried at Brick Road Memorial Park in Ellensburg.



Congratulations to our Program Coordinator, Sigrid Welker!

She was this year's recipient of the College of Education and Professional Studies "Outstanding Staff Award" beating out faculty and staff from all the other departments within the college. The criteria for the award: "Recognizes a staff member who consistently demonstrates exceptional performance, excellent service to others, and demonstrates a passion for what they do in their role"


Upcoming Events

Recondo Week

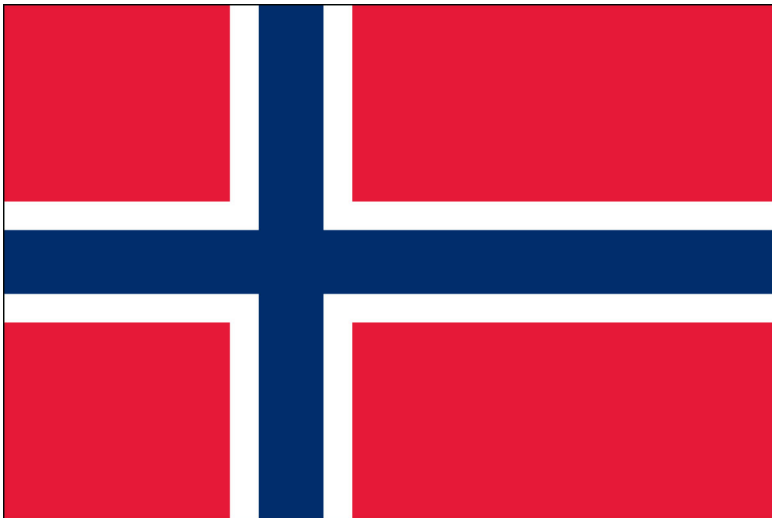
From June 1-4 prospective Cadets competing for the Recondo Badge will participate in events to demonstrate their worthiness.

- Day 1 – ACFT
- Day 2 – Manastash Hike
- Day 3 – 5mi Run
- Day 4 – 12mi Ruck

Do you Meet the Wildcat Recondo Standard



- 12 Mile Footmarch in 3 Hours with 40 Pound Assault Pack
- 290 or Above on APFT
- Manastash Hike in 50 Minutes or Less with FTX Packing List
- Pass Combat Swim Test as a First Time Go
- 5 Mile OCP Run in 45 Minutes
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA (No "F" Grades)
- No Negative Spot Reports or Disciplinary Action
- 90% score on Written Land Navigation Test and 4/5 Points on Practical
- 3.0 GPA In MS Level Class
- Climb Alpine Tower and Climb the "Ranger" Rope



Norwegian Foot March – June 4

Cadets will march 18.6 miles with 25lb packs within the required time to earn the Norwegian Foot March Badge

Males - 4 hours and 30 minutes
Females – 4 hours and 50 minutes

We will be joined by ROTC, Guard, and Reserve Units from across Washington and Oregon!

Cadet Summer Training 2021

Throughout this summer MS3 Cadets will go to Fort Knox, Kentucky in order to train and be evaluated on what they have learned throughout their time in ROTC.



Class of 2021 Commissioning – June 11th

On the 11th of June, 15 Cadets will graduate from Central Washington University and commission as officers into the United States Army. We are immensely proud of these young men and women and their accomplishments so far. We will be holding a limited ceremony on campus for Cadets and a small number of guests. For all others who wish to see the ceremony it will be streamed live on Zoom.

<https://cwu.zoom.us/j/89215641811?pwd=RFhCUmxvV2M5OUh6U08vN3lqRVBTdz09> Passcode: 768551



Nana Adugyamfi Jr – Signal Corps, Active Duty, Fort Hood, TX
Gwendolyn Cavalier – Adjutant General's Corps, Active Duty, Korea
Kai Covey – Aviation, Active Duty, TBD
Madison Chinco – Adjutant General's Corps, Reserve, JBLM, WA
Mason Cooper – Engineer, Active Duty, TBD
Mitchell Crowley – Infantry, Active Duty, TBD
Sherice Fraser – AG 50TH, Homestead FL
Brady King – Transportation Corps. National Guard. Seattle Armory, Seattle, WA
Sage Lohman – Ordnance: EOD Candidate , Active Duty, TBD
Calvin Maher – Ordnance, Active Duty, Fort Carson, CO
Jerrod Mahoney – Engineer, National Guard, Snohomish, WA
Mark Melendrez – Quartermaster, Reserve, Marysville, WA
Mitchel Moberg – Field Artillery, Active Duty, TBD
Hannah Taylor – Quartermaster, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina
Connor Wonderly – Ordnance: EOD Candidate , Active Duty, TBD



Battalion Swag

Battalion clothing is coming back! Check out our new online shop for sweatshirts, t-shirts, and other Wildcat Battalion apparel!

Link: https://www.zazzle.com/store/cwu_army_rotc

Become a Wildcat!

Recruiting Officer Corner by Andrew Van Den Hoek '05 – Recruiting Operations Officer

Greetings Wildcat Battalion alumni, family and former instructors. As we work to revamp our newsletter I'm excited to add this section on recruiting. Alumni, parents, and former ROTC instructors are some of our best recruiters. I often say that the greatest challenge we are facing in ROTC recruiting is a general decrease in the number of people in the U.S. who know what Army ROTC is and what we have to offer. Army ROTC is a complicated program that is best socialized face-to-face from a trusted source in a young persons life.

In the future, I hope to include information, dates and upcoming key events relating to recruiting and applying for the Army ROTC Scholarships in this section.

State of CWU Army ROTC Recruiting

I am excited and proud to say that, after a short period of under producing, we have been able to make or exceed our mission (the number of 2nd Lieutenants the Army needs from us for the last 3 years). That being said, as other programs around the country struggle, the Army needs us to "row harder" and continue to find great young people to become Army Officers.

"How you can help?"

One area that we have struggled in the last few years might surprise you. Though the number of sophomore, junior and graduate students joining the program has risen dramatically in recent years, we have seen a general decrease in freshman enrollment. This is a great opportunity for CWU alumni, family and former instructors to help. If you know of a great high school senior planning to come to CWU who might be interested in Army ROTC, please pass on my contact info.

If you know of a great high school student entering their junior year, starting June 12th, have them apply for the 4 Year National High School Scholarship by going to:

<https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students/four-year-scholarship.html>

Andrew Van Den Hoek '05 – Recruiting Operations Officer

UPCOMING DATES

June 12 – National High School Scholarship Application Opens

June 12 – Green to Gold Application Window Opens

October 19 – 1st High School Scholarship Selection Board

December 7 – Green to Gold Selection Board

January 25 – 2nd High School Scholarship Selection Board

February 4 – National High School Scholarship Application Deadline

March 15 – Final National High School Scholarship Board



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