

NDSU ARMY ROTC



ARMY ROTC

BISON BATTALION



Dec 2018

A message from the Cadet Battalion Commander

NDSU Army ROTC has been on campus since 1892, but it is constantly changing, evolving, and improving. The number of cadets enrolled in the program has grown steadily every year since 2009 to a total of 79 student cadets in the 2018 fall semester. During this semester, the Bison Battalion has worked to improve the PT program and diversify the incentive PT program. New to this year, the senior MS4 class has a designated cadet solely dedicated to planning and coordinating cadet physical training. This has allowed the PT program to grow in effectiveness and diversity. In addition to morning PT, there are a variety of workout classes, offered weekly in the FM community for cadets to attend for free, such as hot yoga, sculpt, trampoline workouts, gymnastics obstacle course, and more. The attendance at these events has been a hit and the cadets are working out outside of regular morning PT while enjoying it more. PT test scores have been rising steadily and our goal for the spring of 2019 is to continue this positive trend.

The goals of Bison Battalion moving into the spring semester are to continue growing in number of cadets, work at familiarizing cadets with the new APFT called the ACFT, plan and prepare for the Spring FTX, and raise funds for the ranger challenge team.

Being a cadet in NDSU's Army ROTC program means that we represent many people: the Dean of NDSU, the cadre of Bison Battalion, the student body of our university, the community of Fargo, and the future of the United States Army. NDSU Army ROTC is part of a historic and proud tradition, and will continue to be for many years to come. We thrive with the support of alumni and family and we will continue to represent with strength and honor.

-Cadet Hannah Olson

Leadership

Every semester, senior cadets are personally selected by NDSU Cadre to mentor and guide their junior cadets. Our current leadership took over operations on January 1st, 2018 and have done a phenomenal job this year planning for labs, FTX, and other training events.

CDT BN CDR: Hannah Olson

CDT S2: Sierra Schlenker

CDT SMG: Kurt Fritze

CDT S3: Adam Wiczek

CDT XO: Nash Bettenhausen

CDT S4: Jeremy Weslow

CDT S1: Kendall Erickson

Fall Commissioning Ceremony (14 DEC 2018)

This semester NDSU ROTC will commission four cadets into the United States Army.

Jenna Folkema

Nurse Corps

Active duty

Fort Lewis, WA

Gregory Groesbeck

Adjutant General

Utah National Guard

Camp Williams, UT

Andrew Walton

Engineer Corp

North Dakota National Guard

Camp Grafton, ND

The Army ROTC Experience

Anyone looking around a college campus cannot help but notice every student experiencing college in their own unique way. For an Army ROTC Cadet, that couldn't be truer. While their fellow students lay comfortably in their beds, ROTC Cadets are waking up at 0500 to do PT. Life continues to differ in many ways. They extend the normal college experience by running marathons they never thought themselves capable of, building lifelong friendships through rigorous training, and competing as a cohesive team. Many get their first taste of Army life through ROTC and historical customs like the Military Ball. For cadets, these enrichment opportunities support personal and professional development while on the road to becoming Army Officers. On campus, cadets become students who are not only prepared for anything life throws at them, but are able to confidently lead others into that fray as well. As a Cadet, we are future leaders of character who are disciplined, resilient, and prepared for the future.



Cadets working the field goal nets at a Bison home football game



The Bison Battalion participates in the 2018 Homecoming Parade with WWII Willy's Jeep

Camp Grafton Fall FTX



On September 14th, the Bison Battalion conducted Field Training Exercises (FTX) at Camp Graton, ND. Throughout the weekend, Cadets were provided with the opportunity to prove or improve various skills. Our cadets took advantage of every training opportunity available and gained experience and knowledge needed to ensure future success as leaders. Highlights from this year's fall FTX include a thirty-foot confidence tower where cadets challenged themselves and faced their fears to rappel off the tower. Another highlight was seen during Team Building events, where cadets worked to develop team cohesion and conquer various challenges in the allotted time. We are grateful to the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) for their continued support and efforts to ensure we have the best training opportunities available. This past year the NDNG opened their Essential Skills Trainer or EST to us. This computer simulation system enables our cadets to become familiar with various weapons systems across multiple programs. New cadets learned basic marksmanship and then qualified on the weapon systems.

Alumni Involvement

Over the past year, we have had several NDSU ROTC Alumni stop in and provide leadership lessons or send us inspirational thoughts from their time in the military. The Cadets love to hear from alumni and learn applied leadership lessons from the real world. Please continue to send us your leadership memoirs and lessons learned; we may utilize them as part of our curriculum or discuss in our leadership forums on campus.

This year, we'll kick off a new initiative and invite all ROTC Alumni to remain involved with us by mentoring aspiring young officers. Alumnus mentors should be willing to discuss various Army branches, skills, and specialties. Additionally you may be asked to participate in monthly forums where you can share career advice and lessons learned while recapping your experiences and how ROTC impacted your life.

If you would like to participate as a guest speaker, mentor, or just want to catch up and tour the program, please do not hesitate to reach out with the contact information provided below. We greatly appreciate the continued support all alumni provide to the program.

Community Outreach

This past year the Bison Battalion Cadets reached out and helped out local community veterans and alumni as well as sponsored several blood drives at NDSU. Operation Snow Angel was a resounding success among the veterans who signed up to have our students come and assist with cleaning their driveways during major snow storms. Cadets also volunteered to assist multiple veteran or alumnus with local moves within our community. In addition, our cadets volunteered or worked with several veteran organizations this past year to include Honor Flight, ROA, and VFW.



Cadets shoveling a Veteran's driveway for Operation Snow Angel

Military Ball

This year the annual Bison Battalion Military Ball will take place on February 9th, 2019 at The Double Tree Hilton hotel in Fargo, ND. This formal event demonstrates appropriate military customs and courtesies to our future officers. All cadets, cadre, alumni, family members, and special guests are invited to attend this dinner with a distinguished guest speaker, award ceremony, and dance. During this event, cadre will take the time to recognize the hard work and dedication cadets have put forth throughout the semester. If you would like to attend or receive further details of this event, please contact or RSVP CDT Jeremy Wesloh at Jeremy.wesloh@ndsu.edu. You may also reach out to our NDSU ROTC office at 701-231-7575.



Fundraising

Currently our primary fundraising efforts have focused on Blue Book coupon sales, clothing sales or working at various NDSU events to raise club funds. We greatly appreciate everyone who has taken the opportunity to support our program via raffles, donations, or purchasing blue books from us.

Moving forward fundraising will become critical to our program as we continue to grow. Our current fundraising efforts primarily go to enable NDSU cadets to participate in events that challenge their leadership skills, technical expertise, and mental toughness. In addition our annual military ball is heavily subsidized via fundraising to ensure that all our cadets may participate.

Looking ahead our goal is to expand fundraising to enable our cadets to attend other events such as the “Bataan Death March” hosted at White Sands Missile Range or the “Northern Warfare Challenge” at the University of Wisconsin. In addition, we are working to establish an internal NDSU ROTC scholarship programs via the NDSU Alumni Center. The goal for this legacy program is to enable potential candidates to join our team when funds are not available at the national or state level.

If you are interested in supporting our program directly, please do not hesitate to reach out to the NDSU Foundation and Alumni Association located at the NDSU Alumni Center. They will be more than happy to discuss options for direct contributions to the Bison Battalion here at NDSU.

Contact and Social Media Information

Give us a call, email, or write us a letter, we'd love to hear from you!

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