







# THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

March 2023

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## BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE

Group picture at the completion of PT with GEN Fenton (see page 4)

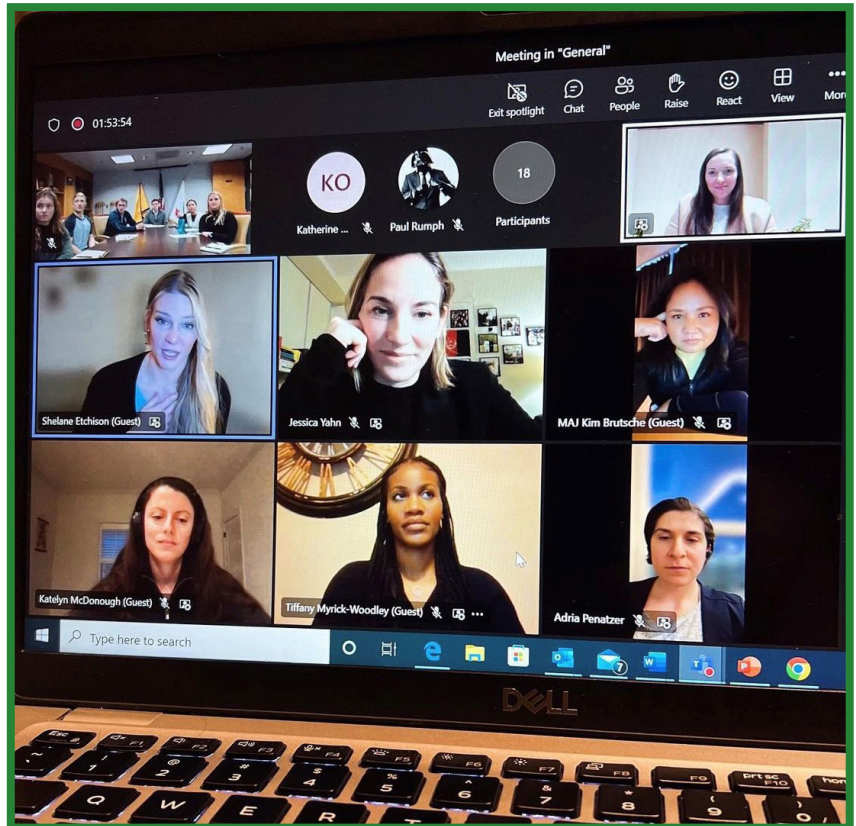




# AllTru Leadership and Professional Development

By CDT Lauren Crowe ('23)

On February 3, 2023, our cadets had the opportunity to engage in a great discussion with AllTru Role Models to gain insight into their experiences in unique roles within the Army. The event consisted of a Q&A in order to gain a deeper level of perspective into each role models' experience and breakout rooms for cadets to ask more catered questions. A few of the important takeaways included how to face and handle adversity, gaining a greater understanding for the individuals in your formation, and empowering women to be confident leaders. Overall, the event was motivating and educational for our cadets, as well as a great way to establish long-lasting mentorship connections. **The AllTru team is planning a trip to Notre Dame to further develop a lasting partnership.**



The AllTrue Role Models and Notre Dame cadets engaging in conversation over microsoft teams

## Summer Training Program

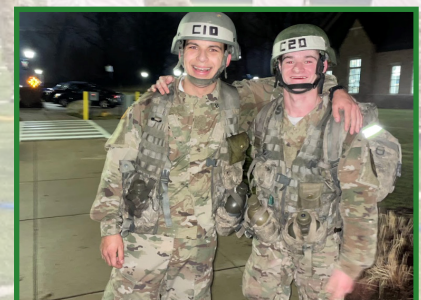
By CDT Tom Ellis ('23)

Each year the Fightin' Irish Battalion conducts the Summer Training Program (STP), which consists of ten days of challenging workouts to prepare Cadets for the different summer training opportunities that the Army has to offer. This year, twenty-five motivated Cadets completed the program from 30JAN23 through 10FEB23. During this time, first-years, sophomores, and juniors all participated under the guidance of "Black Shirt" seniors who have previously graduated from various Army schools.

Cadets pushed themselves incredibly hard, both mentally and physically, speaking volumes to their commitment and work-ethic. Several highlights included a Ranger physical assessment, Murph workout, animal day, stair day, and a knowledge test. Ultimately, the program culminated in a 12-mile ruck march and the allotment of several summer slots to the Army's "Air Assault" and "Airborne" schools. We are extremely proud of all those who gave their time and effort to better themselves through this incredible program!



CDTs during a PT using rucks



CDTs Bernard Childress ('26) and Ian Johnston ('26) after completing the 12 mile ruck march, the final event of STP



CDTs doing overhead arm claps to finish up a workout



# Combat Water Survival Training (CWST)

By CDT Lauren Crowe ('23)



*CDTs Katherine O'Neal ('24), Caitlin Bianco ('26), Jenna Braun ('25), and Timothy Weber ('25) using their waterproofed rucksacks as floatation devices*

Every year in the spring, the Fightin' Irish complete combat water survival training (CWST). A commissioning requirement, the events that cadets must pass include a 10 minute swim, 5 minutes of treading water, 3 meter drop and pool exit, equipment ditch, and a 15 meter rifle swim. Additional events that we completed included survival skills like turning your pants into a floatation device and waterproofing your rucksack. Lastly, we finished the lab with relay races!



*CDTs Nicole Quaglio ('26), Karina Savidge ('25), and Grace McKenna ('25) after completing the 15 meter swim with rifles*



*Alpha CO cadets treading water in Rockne Memorial pool*



# Junior Parent Weekend

By CDT Megan Hughes ('24)

On February 24th, members of the MSIII class welcomed their parents to campus for Notre Dame's annual Junior Parents Weekend. The Fightin' Irish Battalion hosted a fun and competitive PT session with parents featuring main components of the ACFT's Sprint-Drag-Carry event. Later in the afternoon, GEN Bryan Fenton (NDAROTC '87 and father of CDT Cecilia Fenton) held an LPD seminar for cadets from all three major branches of Notre Dame ROTC, where he shared insight into his distinguished military career, his experiences with Special Forces, and his current command of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). **GEN Fenton stressed the Army will always be a People first enterprise, we strive to know and care for our People.**

That evening, cadets and their parents enjoyed a social hour, introductions of their fellow classmates, a review of the most current happenings in the battalion, and meaningful engagement with the cadre. The memorable event gave cadets a special opportunity to connect with each other's families and to thank their parents for their unyielding love and support in guiding the trajectory of their young lives to the present.



Junior CDTs Jess Bianco ('24), Cece Fenton ('24), and Kat Hill ('24) with their dads (and sister, CDT Caitlin Bianco '26) at PT during JPW

## Army Judge Advocate General's Corps LPD

By CDTs Juliet Hare ('24) and Juliana Jorgensen ('24)

On Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 CDT Jorgensen and CDT Hare met with COL John J. Merriam, a 1996 graduate of Notre Dame's Army ROTC and the current Staff Judge Advocate for I Corp and JBLM. As cadets, they both went in with minimal knowledge of the JAG Corps, however, COL Merriam provided a wide variety of information and thoroughly explained intricacies of what the career path of being a JAG Officer entails. The cadets gained deeper insight and confidence regarding the responsibilities and benefits of the branch.

Learning about reserves, Education Delay, Student loan repayment, Yellow Ribbon, and what it looks like to go active duty into JAG, a myriad of bases were covered; the Fighting Irish Battalion now has two knowledgeable cadets at the disposal of their peers. Additionally, they learned what day-to-day life is like as a JAG officer – every day is completely different! One of the great things about being a member of the JAG Corps is that officers are thrown in the courtroom right away and gain trial experience within their first years on the job; it sets up lawyers and for future leaders for success in and out of the military.





# GEN Fenton Leadership and Professional Development

By CDT Lindsey Michie ('23)



Group picture at the completion of PT

On February 17, 2023, the Notre Dame Fightin' Irish had the privilege to welcome back '87 alumnus GEN Fenton. GEN Fenton currently serves as the Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command and has a daughter in the battalion. In the spirit of USSOCOM's and the Fightin' Irish priority of compete/win, the morning began with an ACFT style PT session.



GEN Fenton with CDTs Sean O'Gara ('25), Sadie Stinson ('25) and Lindsey Michie ('23) who received challenge coins

Later in the afternoon, GEN Fenton spoke with parents and members of the Tri-Military about USSOCOM and what it means to be a people's organization. GEN Fenton also recognized CDTs Sean O'Gara ('25), Sadie Stinson ('25), Lindsey Michie ('23), Ian Johnston ('26), Sullivan O'Hara ('24), and Ethan Barhydt ('24) for their determination and dedication to the team with challenge coins.



GEN Fenton with CDTs Ian Johnston ('26), Sullivan O'Hara ('24), and Ethan Barhydt ('24) who received challenge coins





# Study Abroad

By CDT Cece Fenton ('24)



CDTs Katherine O'Neal ('24), Cece Fenton ('24), Katie Sajer ('24), and Megan Hughes ('24) representing the battalion in Lenno on Lake Como

Six of our third year cadets—Megan Hughes, Katherine O'Neal, Katie Sajer, Jess Bianco, Juliet Hare, and Cece Fenton—spent the semester studying abroad in various locations. All were in Europe—three in Dublin, two in France, and one in London. CDT Fenton reflected on her experience for the Shamrock:

*“Studying abroad is one of the best decisions I’ve made in my time here at Notre Dame. I spent my semester in London, studying Artificial Intelligence, theater, theology, and economics. My classes took me all over London, from fringe theater performances to art galleries to history museums. I was also selected to be a part of the London Undergraduate Scholars program; throughout the semester, we developed and eventually hosted a discussion on Irish partition and the future of Northern Ireland after Brexit. However, as my parents like to say, I was really in the classroom of the world. On the weekends, I was able to travel all over Europe. A few of my favorite memories include zip lining in Croatia, hiking in Switzerland, cooking paella in Spain, and attending a national rugby match at Twickenham stadium in London. I feel incredibly lucky to have experienced so many different cultures. One of my favorite parts of being abroad was visiting other cadets on the weekends.*

*Throughout our time abroad, we continued our ROTC studies online, completing weekly assignments for our class instructor. Leadership also checked in on us over the course of the semester, which was reassuring especially being so far away. Jess Bianco, one of our cadets based in France, was able to spend Thanksgiving at the house of a Fighting Irish Battalion alumni. I am thankful for the time I’ve spent here in London and extremely thankful to our battalion for enabling this experience.”*





# Irish Ranger Company Range Day at Fort Custer

By CDT Will Barcena ('23)

As part of their train up for the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at West Point in April, the Irish Rangers have been putting in many extra hours and weekends to train physically, mentally, tactically, and technically. On the weekend of 24-25 February, the Irish Rangers braved the mid-20 degree temperatures and traveled to Ft. Custer, Michigan, to practice on the weapon systems that they will need to be familiar with come April. Friday, the Rangers kicked off the weekend with M17 marksmanship practice drills followed by the pop-up target range. Later, they zeroed their M4 rifles and received M320 grenade launcher training from MSG Guthrie. On Saturday morning, they went out to the M4 Qualification Range and endured the snow to qualify on the 300m qualification range. Overall, the team continues to progress, improving and sharpening their skills and getting ready to take on Sandhurst in April!



CDTs on the qualification range



CDTs policing for brass to clean up the range

# The Flyin' Irish Tournament

By CDT Katie Sajer ('24)

In February, the Fightin' Irish Battalion competed in the largest ROTC basketball tournament in the nation run by our sister program - ND Flying Irish AFROTC. 32 men's teams and 16 women's teams traveled from all around the country to compete. Our men's team fought their way to the Championship game, affording them the opportunity to play in Purcell Pavilion— the home to the Notre Dame basketball teams. Despite falling a few points short of the title, the men placed 2nd while our women's team made it to the semi-final round, placing 3rd!



Women's team after winning their first game



Men's team after the championship game at Purcell Pavilion





# The Annual Army Ball

By CDT Lauren Crowe ('23)

On Friday, March 3rd, 2023, the Fightin' Irish Battalion had our annual Army Ball. The night included a formal dinner, color guard, honoring the fallen, speakers, and dancing. The seniors brought their parents and were honored as they walked through a saber arch. Our Battalion Commander Cadet Lindsey Michie ('23) gave a speech reflecting on her four years in the battalion, LTC Kobbe shared some inspiring words, and our guest speaker COL Brinker talked about how Notre Dame as our home is our North seeking arrow. At the completion of the formal portion of the evening, the seniors partook in a dance with their parents and then each MS-level class performed a dance. Overall, it was a fun night to remember!

*MS4 Classmates pose together after a long night of dancing*



*COL Brinker giving his speech after dinner*



*CDT Glynn ('23) is all smiles as she dances with her father at the Army Ball*



*CDTs performing the saber arch to announce the seniors and their parents*





**Thank you for your continued support of Notre Dame's Fightin' Irish Battalion Army ROTC!**

**We will see you in the next edition of the Shamrock!**

**GO IRISH!!**



*Color guard at the Army Ball event*

