

THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter of the Fightin' Irish Battalion

December 2023

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GO IRISH!



CDTs pose for a BN photo at the last Physical Readiness Training of the semester

Bold Warrior Victory for the Irish

By CDT Sarah Mahoney ('25)

The Irish Rangers are victorious once again! The Fightin' Irish Ranger Team won first place as well as the Commanders Cup at the 7th Brigade Bold Warrior Ranger Challenge. Coming off of a win in last year's competition, the target was definitely on the backs of the Irish Rangers from the moment they arrived at Fort Knox, KY on October 27th with the goal of securing back to back victories.



CDT Matthew Stewart ('25) holds the Fightin' Irish guidon

The competition started strong on Friday night with team events, including a dominant showing at tug of war, followed by many miles of orienteering. Saturday morning started early with the Alpha Course, as the Irish rangers rucked up and prepared themselves for 23 mission sites testing skills, knowledge, and physical strength. Cadets then competed on the Bravo Course, including 5 more mission sites with an emphasis on team competition and navigation between events. The culminating event of Saturday's competition, the mystery Commander's Challenge, was a ruck through the hills of Fort Knox. The Irish Rangers excelled and finished over 5 minutes ahead of any other team, ending the competition in dominant fashion. Ethan Barhydt ('24) reflects on the team camaraderie that enabled such success, saying, "We got close as a team during many miles of runs and rucks throughout training; this cohesion was even stronger during competition." The Fightin' Irish Ranger Team's grit, dedication, and unyielding camaraderie enabled them to finish 1st out of 38 teams in 7th Brigade.

The Irish Rangers not only met their goal to outshine all other 7th BDE programs, but etch their names in history alongside Michigan State, as the only other school with back-to-back championships in 7th Brigade's recorded history. Our team will continue to make history and set an example for others to follow in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at USMA in April. Ranger Co. Commander, Peter Herrmann ('24), reflects on this great accomplishment, saying, "we were deeply committed to each other and the team every step of the way, and now we get to continue our pursuit of victory." Congratulations to the Ranger Challenge Team for this impressive victory, you make us proud to be part of the Fighting Irish! The road to Sandhurst begins! Team: Peter Herrmann (Ranger Co. Commander), Sully O'Hara, (Ranger Co. XO), Matthew Stewart (Ranger Co. NCOIC), Ethan Barhydt '24, Ethan MacMillan '24, Samuel Martinez '24, Sarah Mahoney '25, Sean O'Gara '25, Estela Ralston '25, Ian Johnston '26, Collin Thornburg '27

The Ranger team poses with 7th BDE leadership post victory



Veteran's Day Ceremony

By CDT Katherine O'Neal ('24)

The University of Notre Dame upholds a very unique and special Veteran's Day tradition. Each year, the tri-campus ROTC community honors the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country with a vigil and ceremony. Over a 24-hour period – in rain, snow, sleet, or shine – cadets, airmen, and midshipmen to stand in a silent tribute to the nation's veterans at the Clarke Memorial Fountain.

This moving visual tribute serves as a reminder to students, faculty, and the Notre Dame community about the profound significance of the holiday.



MSIV Cadets pose for a picture after the Veteran's Day Ceremony

The ceremony that follows the vigil unites campus and community members to pray, listen to an esteemed speaker, and reflect on the sacrifices made by the service men and women who have come before us.

Cadet Juliet Hare ('24) cherishes the vigil and ceremony as a grounding force amid the hustle of social and academic life at Notre Dame. For her, *"It is a reminder of why we do what we do in ROTC – the Veteran's Day Vigil and Ceremony gives us time to reflect on our commitment to serve our country following graduation."*

The phrase "God, Country, Notre Dame" takes on a profound meaning when remembering the 500 Notre Dame alumni who have sacrificed their lives in service. The annual vigil and ceremony not only commemorates these sacrifices but also allows us to come together in commitment to a cause greater than ourselves.



Cadets look towards the Clarke Memorial Fountain and ceremony proceedings



The Tri-Military Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Clarke Memorial Fountain



Army ROTC Club Fall Recap

BY CDT Grace McKenna ('25)

Army ROTC Club (ARC) serves as an umbrella term for all the clubs within the Fightin' Irish Battalion (BN). Running Club, Irish Iron Club, and Color Guard – just to name a few – all fall under ARC, which provides funding, supplies, and opportunities for the clubs to participate in events both locally and all across the U.S.! During the fall of 2023, ARC has been able to fund many events and has seen many accomplishments—here is the semester in review:

After a very successful Army Ten Miler Race in Washington D.C, the Army ROTC Running Club, led by Victoria Gardey ('24) and Sarah Mahoney ('25), continues to host daily runs each week. Whether it's a quick burnout after Physical Readiness Training (PRT) or a long run to get everyone hyped before game day, Running Club is always active. On Saturday, November 11th, ten cadets woke up early to race in the St. Joseph Valley Happy Trail 10K Trail Run. Not only did this race forge strong bonds between cadets amongst the beautiful scenery, the proceeds went toward the Rhyme & Reason Ministry to help serve those with developmental disabilities. In addition, MSIV Megan Hughes ('24) was the winner of the entire event, further proving that the Fightin' Irish BN is the best of the best.

Like Running Club, Irish Iron is one of the most popular clubs among cadets. The club allows cadets to learn the fundamentals of weight lifting, train for the Army fitness test, and push each other while fostering a positive atmosphere. However, this semester, Irish Iron has looked a little different. Due to the club's high demand and popularity, a renovation to expand the Pasquerilla Center gym was put into full effect during the months of October and November. Construction included a new addition that doubled the gym in square feet, as well as updated lighting and flooring. Thank you to Fr. Robert Dowd, C.S.C., Vice President and Associate Provost for Interdisciplinary Initiatives, for making this renovation possible. The BN is very grateful for this new addition as the updates to the gym will allow all cadets to enter into a higher level of training while continuing to develop relationships and lasting bonds in the Irish Iron club.

In addition, Alliance to Lead and Serve (ATLAS) is the main volunteer club for Cadets. ATLAS is designed for cadets to make a difference in the local and extended South Bend community. Events like serving at a local soup kitchen, stocking food for Habitat for Humanity, or being a college mentor for children on campus, cadets work to impact the world around them. MSIII, and one of the main coordinators of ATLAS events, Charlie Luke ('25) shares that ATLAS is so special because **"It can be really easy to get caught up in the bubble of Notre Dame without realizing what's happening outside of campus. ATLAS allows us not only to give back to the community but also open our eyes to the bigger picture and help real people going through real issues."** This fall semester, ATLAS members have accumulated over 300 service hours, a record high.



CDTs Luke ('25), Vigano ('25), and Nugent ('24) serve breakfast at Our Lady of the Road



CDTs participate in the Army Ten Miler in Washington, D.C.



The Color Guard team, also known as the Irish Marauders, have completed another successful football season. Not only having the experience to be on the field in front of the best crowd at Notre Dame Stadium, but most importantly presenting the colors during the National Anthem, Army cadets are able to serve a greater purpose to remember what the flag means and honor Soldiers from the past, present, and future. Though the football season is over, Color Guard now presents the colors at both Hockey and Men's and Women's Basketball games. Moreover, during the Hockey game between the Fightin' Irish and Ohio State on Veterans Day this year, four Air Assault qualified Cadets had the opportunity to rappel from the ceiling of the arena to deliver the puck for the game.

A new club, the Irish Essayons Engineering Club, recently commenced this year. The club provides Cadets opportunities in research, specifically in real-world U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) projects. With technology developing in the Military, new generations of Soldiers equipped with knowledge to construct, repair, and code technology is needed. On September 16, five Cadets traveled to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a three day hackathon to solve challenges, brainstorm concepts, and work first hand with Special Operations Forces. CDT PJ Muehlberger ('25) explained, "Working together with mentors to address a series of challenges put together by SOCOM was an extremely incredible experience. We even got to interact with some of the newest Boston Dynamics products as well as test out a drone simulator." With a need for Military Technology in the future, hopefully the Essayons will continue to grow and provide more opportunities for Engineers and Cadets alike.

In addition to those individual club accomplishments ARC participants hosted a concession stand during the last Notre Dame home football game. The concession stand served as a way to not only bring the whole Army ROTC Club together, but also provide funding for future events for the Battalion. Grilling burgers and bratwursts while dealing with massive lines of hungry Notre Dame football fans was no easy feat for a couple of college ROTC students. However, the Cadets' unwavering determination, commitment to serve others, and endless positive spirit brought in an unexpected profit of over \$2,700. Thanks to ARC and all its members, the fall semester for the Fightin' Irish BN has been a huge success. We are thankful for the opportunities to grow, serve, and impact others during our time as Notre Dame students. It has been a wonderful fall semester and we cannot wait to see what the future holds!



CDTs Schmitt ('25), Savidge ('25), Muehlberger ('25), Lehman ('24), and Shepherd ('24) pose in front of MIT's Lincoln Laboratory



CDTs at the St. Joe Valley Happy Trail 10K



Dixon Challenge

By CDT Ryan Oesterle ('27)

On November 28th, the Fightin' Irish Battalion held its annual Dixon Challenge Competition. LT Patrick Dixon, a 1967 Notre Dame and Army ROTC graduate, selflessly gave his life during an intense firefight in the Vietnam War. As his Distinguished Service Cross Citation states, "though seriously wounded himself, [1LT Dixon] crawled to one of his wounded comrades to administer first aid and remove the man to safety. As he started out to retrieve another injured man, he succumbed to his fatal wounds". To honor LT Dixon and his heroic actions, the Fightin' Irish Battalion conducts the Dixon Challenge Competition every year in his memory.

In squads, cadets completed a series of events to gain points for their respective company. Stations including the Humvee Pull, CBRN ProMask Relay, the Tire-Flip Challenge, MEDEVAC/9-Line simulation, an ACFT-style Sprint-Drag-Carry event, and Trivia challenged each cadet to push their limits. While the snow and the cold made this year's Dixon Challenge particularly memorable, it did little to demotivate the cadets in their pursuit to win the Irish Cup. Culminating in a fierce Tug-of-War battle between Alpha and Bravo Companys, the Dixon Challenge ended with yet another highly-close matchup. After a pizza dinner, the winner of the challenge was announced with Alpha Company taking the victory. CDT Juliet Hare ('24), the Apha Company Commander, stated that "The Dixon challenge is a testament to the company's mental, physical, and emotional capabilities. The success of Alpha's win is attributed to nothing other than grit, determination, and most importantly, being part of a team. Alpha is extremely excited to have won this award not only because of the competition but in honoring the spirit of Dixon this year."



CDTs Tennes ('26), Brown ('26), and De La Peña ('25) flip a tire together



CDT Lindell ('25) puts on a ProMask during a CBRN station



CDTs pull a Humvee together



CDT Schmitt ('25) carries a dummy during a Sprint-Drag-Carry event



CDTs pose together after a Sprint-Drag-Carry event

Outside of South Bend:

Five of the Fighting Irish Battalion's MS3 Cadets studied abroad this fall in Rome and Dublin! Here's what some of them had to say:

"Studying in Rome has been an amazing opportunity for me and one that I am extremely thankful that I have been able to have. I have been able to travel to 12 countries and make new memories with some awesome people! I will miss the daily Italian pasta, pizza, and gelato!"

- CDT Jenna Braun ('25)

"My favorite part about study abroad has been getting to experience so many different cultures and see so many beautiful places. Coming to Ireland in August was my first trip overseas, and after spending a semester here, I feel that I now have a better understanding of the key differences between the U.S. and Ireland/Europe. Ultimately, this journey has significantly contributed to my overall worldview. I am very grateful that the Battalion leadership supports cadets having these sorts of experiences."

- CDT Raymond Foster ('25)

"Studying abroad has been an incredible blessing in my life. Most of my life I have been trapped in the social and cultural bubbles formed around me and often was extremely uncomfortable whenever these were challenged or broken. However, my experience abroad has been an eye opening experience to how vast and beautiful the world truly is. As I navigated through Rome and other cities I traveled too, I was exposed to a variety of different languages, cultures, and customs. These experiences will stick with me the rest of my life and now more than ever I am happy that I call America home."

- CDT Sean O'Gara ('25)

"Studying in Rome has been an eye-opening experience to say the least. I have been blessed with the opportunity to embrace new cultures through my travels around Europe. If you are an ROTC student interested in studying abroad, just apply. You never know where your studies will take you."

- CDT Ryan Radtke ('25)



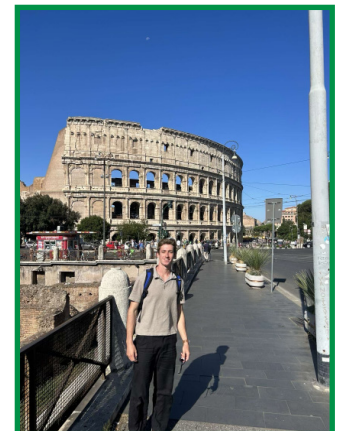
CDT Braun outside of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy.



CDT Foster visiting the Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.



CDT O'Gara completing the Firenze (Florence) Marathon while abroad.



CDT Radtke poses in front of the Colosseum



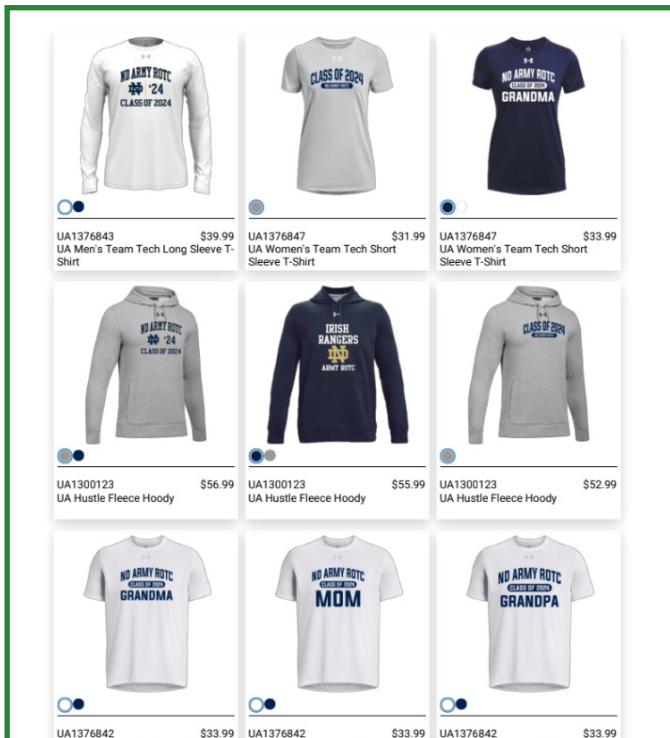
Army ROTC Online Store

More winter labs and smiling cadets in the upcoming spring semester!

Our online store is open once again for anyone interested in purchasing Notre Dame Army ROTC merchandise. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to holiday rush your items will likely NOT arrive before Christmas and New Years!**

The store will close on **December 15th**. We added lots of new items, so please go check out our online store at the link below:

<https://bsnteamssports.com/shop/aZX3EcjyHk>



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



Happy holidays and happy New Year from the Fightin' Irish Battalion!



CDTs pose together at Five Leaf Clover Night in their Christmas sweaters



Fightin' Irish Cadre pose together

Go Irish!

