



LIBERTY BATTALION

ARMY ROTC NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021 - Vol. 2





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Letter from the PMS & SMI



As we reflected on this past year, we were overwhelmed with emotion and stories of how our Cadets faced every challenge head-on. MSG Salas and I will share just a few of those emotions with you:

Thankfulness

Our program could not have achieved success without the support of all of you. Our Universities, Cadet Command, surrounding community members, friends, families, loved ones, and so many more were essential to making this year a success. This year has challenged all of us in so many ways, but together, we made it. From all of us in the Liberty Battalion, thank you.

Pride

We are SO PROUD of all of our Cadets; they are the heart and soul of our program. Their dedication, adaptability, initiative, and teamwork were inspiring to watch and were the key to our success.

Confidence

We know that our program will continue to produce some of the finest Officers for our Army. How do we know this? Because of our Cadets! Although we are still in the process of finalizing our Cadet vision statement, I will share just a few definitions that our Cadets came up with as characteristics of a Liberty Battalion Cadet.

Leading with Grace: To lead with grace is to face the trials of life and leadership with humility, gratitude, and generosity conducive to maintaining the morale and unit cohesion that will see the unit through to success.

Acting with Honor: To act with honor is to live the Army Values. In leadership as in life, we will all be faced with challenges to the values and ideals we hold most core to our moral codes. This moral code should be directly rooted in upholding our Army Values—Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

Striving for Excellence: More than merely the desire to reach one's full potential, to strive for excellence is to devote oneself to process and to discipline.

Thank you again for your continued support to the Liberty Battalion. We can't wait to see what our Cadets achieve this summer and beyond!

With Grace and Honor,

LTC Dave Mun & MSG Jesus Salas

SPRING EVENTS

ABLE COMPANY SUPERLAB: 27FEB21

MSIV STAFF RIDE: 13MAR21

BATTALION FTX: 19MAR21 - 21MAR21

RANGE DAY: 28MAR21

COMBINED FTX: 8APR21 - 11APR21



Able Company Superlab

CDT Will Ganim - MSIII

To kick off in-person training for the spring 2021 semester, Cadets from Liberty Battalion set off to Fort Devens, MA on a dreary February morning. With a unique, covid-informed fall semester, new Cadets would experience training in the field for the first time at this event. Not only was this the first time in the field for some Cadets, but new Cadre, including our Professor of Military Science, LTC Mun, would see Liberty Battalion in action for the first time. Veteran MSIII and MSIV Cadets know what Field Training Exercises (FTX's) involve, and the physical and mental demand of a long day conducting tactical lanes. For those who are new to military training, 'lanes' or lane training, are situational training exercises designed to give Soldiers repeated repetitions of the planning and execution phases of various types of missions. After arriving at Fort Devens Range Control, Cadets organized into their platoons and conducted a tactical road march to their first objective (OBJ). In MS101 class, Introduction to the Profession of Arms, first-year Cadets learn various platoon, squad, and individual movement techniques. These movement techniques enable Cadets to operate efficiently in various terrain and situations within a hostile environment. The day progressed onward, and Cadets quickly adapted to the field environment.

The last mission of the day was to conduct a platoon attack on a squad-size element of guarding a weapons cache. 1st Platoon successfully seized the weapons cache as the Platoon Leader, MSIII Cadet Majeski, conducted a by-the-book L-shaped attack. The assault and supporting elements followed the four principles of an attack (surprise, audacity, concentration, tempo) in order to overwhelm the opposing forces. One 'casualty' was sustained while clearing a late enemy for 'explosive devices.' Once both platoons conducted after-actions reviews of their final missions, LTC Mun addressed Able Company.



The speech answered the question *"How do I succeed as a future Army Officer?"* As all were gathered around, LTC Mun unpacked his rucksack in front of everyone and called out each item – one by one. "You may be wondering why I am doing this," he said. "Look, I even have my Jetboil with me so I can have hot coffee..." The expressions on Cadets' faces showed both intrigue and confusion. LTC Mun continued, "I packed my bag to plan for any scenario I could find myself in." His remarks testified to the habits which allow him to successfully fulfill his duty as PMS: teaching, mentoring, and grading Cadets in the field. He could not be worrying about forgotten or misplaced items. LTC Mun transitioned this message to his Cadets. He stated that each "Cadet's ability to succeed as a leader in the field starts before we arrive." Our "preparation enables us to focus all of our attention on leading the mission and caring for our Soldiers." Success is not something that just happens, you don't come to the field and "get leadership" and "get success." Being a good leader begins with our everyday habits, such as planning and organization. It begins with the decision to get ahead on studying or writing that paper due next week. So, when the time comes that we are responsible for others, we can give the present moment our full attention.



CDT MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM during a tactical movement at Superlab

MSIV Staff Ride

CDT Jack Emerling - MSIV

On March 13, Liberty Battalion's MSIV class embarked on one of the most crucial events of our senior year: the Staff Ride. The purpose of the Staff Ride is a formal battle analysis; its express is to "[discuss] the strategic and operational context" of an important American combat event (USACC Pamphlet 140-10). The Staff Ride is conducted every year and is considered so meaningful to the development of a young Officer that Cadet Command has made it a commissioning requirement. In close partnership with Cadre, MSIVs are responsible for analyzing elements of the battlefield in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the decisive factors of warfare. The heritage factor, and the connection to military history and former American Soldiers, is also underscored throughout the event.

Liberty Battalion's home in Massachusetts, a state rich in history, presented the perfect locations for a day-long event. Four areas were visited and explored: Lexington Greene, the capture site of Paul Revere, Concord Bridge, and Bunker Hill. Each of these areas played a role in establishing Massachusetts as the birthplace of American Liberty, and it was at each of these sites throughout 1775 that the American Revolution began. The MSIVs were divided into four groups, each of which had a particular focus at the four sites. They were as follows: Enemy Forces, Regimental Tactics, & Established Trust; Friendly Forces, Insurgency Tactics & Establishing Trust; Terrain Analysis & Civil and Military Considerations; and Logistics and Medical Considerations & Lessons Learned. At each site, the groups would present and lead a discussion on their assigned subjects. All the while, the early spring weather provided a near-perfect parallel to the environment that our minutemen forefathers would have operated in.

The MSIV cohort was also fortunate enough to meet with members of the National Park Service at Bunker Hill, who provided us with a focused and engaged lesson on the events of June 17, 1775. While all of the sites have since been developed and changed with the course of time, the aspect of *presence* was nevertheless key.



MSIVs at the Bunker Hill Monument during the MSIV Staff Ride



MSIVs at the Minute Man National Historical at Concord Battlefield during the MSIV Staff Ride

To stand where the Founding Fathers stood, to imagine the crash of musketry and the shouts of command, to try and feel the nervous ambition that undoubtedly possessed the men at these sites; the classroom can't compare. On top of it all, we considered the tactical and strategic decisions that were made and connected them back to the decisions that we will have to make as leaders.

Staff Ride provided the MSIVs with an opportunity not only to conduct a battle analysis, but to conduct a particularly meaningful battle analysis as a team with their peers. The experience will surely provide us with a foundation with which we can confront challenges as Second Lieutenants; building on the "backs of giants," as one MSIV mentioned, is a critical aspect of character and leadership development. Staff Ride provided us that opportunity.

Battalion FTX

CDT Liz Ergil - MSIII

About once a semester for the past three years, I've packed up my ruck and told my roommates I was going to go sleep in the woods for the weekend—a simplification given that previous attempts to explain land navigation, raids, or the joys of MRE peanut butter have never been successful.

As far as training exercises go, this semester's BN FTX is probably one of the most important that we've had, given that we haven't been able to safely come together and train in a true field environment since the last academic year due to COVID-19 precautions. It was the first time that many MSIs ever used their sleep system or experienced a true, full length tactical lane. For the camp-bound MSIIIs, it was a chance to be in leadership positions and prepare for advanced camp. During the weekend, the battalion was divided into three platoons and conducted a patrol base on the first night. This was followed by several tactical lanes over the next two days, including a raid, attack, movement to contact, and ambush, broken up between land navigation.



CDT LIZ ERGIL and CDT Bobby Whiton during the Battalion FTX taking a halt during an ambush lane

As a first semester MSIII, with another year ahead of me before camp, I spent my FTX trying to learn as much as possible. I had the opportunity to be Platoon Leader for the first night's patrol base, which was the first time since I had been in any sort of leadership position.

Starting out the FTX in the middle of the action for the first time—running the operation—gave me a new perspective on my role as a leader and increased my motivation throughout the entirety of the FTX. It should be noted that the weather that weekend was absolutely beautiful, only increasing our motivation as a platoon to work hard, display strong violence of action, and have a successful FTX.

During one notable movement to contact lane, we discovered that the “enemy” who had initiated fire was actually a gigantic speaker. The platoon leader at the time, Kyle Gonzalez, took control of a situation we had never dealt with before, and while we ended up taking a few casualties, we really came together as a platoon, moving quickly and embracing every aspect of the mission. This ended up being my favorite operation of the day.

During the land navigation portion of the FTX, we split our time into day and night iterations. Day land nav is one of my favorite military activities. Searching for points and passing fellow Cadets as they try to find their own in the daylight is incredibly fun, but doing this at night is a whole different story. It was my first time ever having to find points by myself in the dark, and I was terrified. While I only ended up finding two points (the red lens light of a fellow Cadet even revealed my second point for me), being alone in the dark, and having to rely on dead reckoning, good eyesight, and accurate plotting to find my points was definitely a growing experience.

As a final point, I feel I need to mention that I was issued a pizza “meal ready to eat” (MRE), which was a new menu item I’d had yet to try. Overall, I’d review it at a 7/10. As entrees go, it’s not the most filling—more of a side than a meal—but the combo of red sauce and MRE snack bread is now high on my list of favorites, right up there with the “chili mac” entree.

While much of this FTX was different than previous ones—we had to, for example, bring a recent negative COVID test result, socially distance on the bus, and wear masks—it was a learning experience for everyone, regardless if Cadets were learning how to fit everything in their rucksack and still manage to eat breakfast or how to control an entire platoon in an ambush. As an MSIII, I was able to more thoroughly appreciate the detailed planning that went into the FTX, and I would be remiss if I did not give a shoutout to every MSIV that made this FTX a success.



CDT JACOB LANDWEHR assaulting through the objective at the Battalion FTX



CADETS take notes and rehydrate while CDT Nicole Kraemer conducts an AAR (after action review) during the Battalion FTX

Range Day

CDT Ellie Fremont-Smith - MSIII

In late March, Cadets from Liberty Battalion had the opportunity to expand their technical skills at the Spring 2021 Range Day. Range Day took place at Fort Devens, where the program's Cadets had just conducted their battalion field training exercise the previous weekend. While rain was on the horizon, Cadets managed to complete the majority of weapons training before the weather turned stormy.

With summer training opportunities around the corner, Cadets were instructed in weapons safety, maintenance, and use. With the instruction and support of Cadre, Cadets were taught the proper methods for shooting in the prone, prone unsupported, and kneeling positions. Cadets were also under the careful eye of Cadre who discussed range safety standards, which were strictly enforced throughout the day. Finally, Cadets were also instructed in basic weapons maintenance for the M-4 rifle. Liberty Battalion Cadre spot-checked as Cadets disassembled, cleaned, and dried their rifles after a day on the sandy and wet range.

For MSIIIs, this added training is of heightened importance due to the range qualification requirements for camp-bound Cadets. Cadets at Advanced Camp are required to qualify on the M4 rifle over multiple days of training, hitting a minimum of 23 targets at distances of between 100 and 300 meters. At Advanced Camp, given the limited time and range of distances at which targets are placed, repetition is key to preparing for success on the qualifications course. Liberty Battalion Cadets clearly appreciated the added experience. Cadet Blanca Naglestad described Range Day as "one of the most functionally educational days that we have had in terms of training this semester," highlighting the importance of receiving such practice prior to the summer. Overall, Range Day was a productive and useful experience for the MSIII Liberty Battalion Cadets as a whole.



CDT NICOLE KRAEMER shooting an M4 from the kneeling position at Range Day



CDT LIZ ERGIL shooting an M4 from the kneeling position with guidance from CDT Nick Vaughn at Range Day



CADETS observe their targets while learning how to zero their weapons at Range Day

Combined FTX

CDT Tom Flanagan - MSIII

Just three weeks after their BN FTX, the Cadets of Liberty Battalion boarded buses for the Cape to take part in a capstone combined field training exercise (CFTX) at Camp Edwards. Though a handful of MSIIIs opted for a Thursday night deployment, the majority of Cadets arrived at Camp Edwards on the evening of April 9.

The differences between this FTX and the previous one were quick to appear. Rubber ducks were replaced with bona fide M4s, and several would shoulder M249 machine guns. Blank ammunition was distributed, along with magazines and ear protection. Perhaps most striking, however, was the number of Cadets from different schools and battalions: BU, UMaine, Harvard, and MIT.

“It was a good opportunity to practice working with people you aren’t already comfortable with,” said Connor Cahill, an MSIII from Liberty Battalion. Shortly after arriving, MSIIIs were separated from the MSIs and MSIIIs and assorted into one of three integrated platoons. With magazines loaded and slings tied, the MSIIIs were then led to their respective patrol bases established the night before. Liberty Battalion had joined the fight.



LIBERTY BATTALION MSII CADETS at the obstacle course during the combined FTX

Meanwhile, Liberty’s MSI and MSII Cadets were readying for a different kind of weekend. Rather than running STX lanes, they would be participating in a number of events designed to strengthen their individual Soldier skills. Alongside MSIs and MSIIIs from partner programs, junior Cadets conducted weapons training, day and night land nav, and even their own patrol base operations. But all agree that one experience stood out above the rest: a rip-roaring ride in a UH-60 Blackhawk.

“I thought obstacle course familiarization was the best event aside from the choppers,” said Tommy O’Rourke, an MSII bound for Air Assault school this summer. “So definitely a sustain on that.”



CDT WILKERSON and CDT SPELLENBERG run the 240 as part of weapons squad during the combined FTX

Overall, Liberty Battalion Cadets took home multiple positive experiences by the conclusion of the CFTX. Getting hands-on practice with equipment like ASIP radios and M240B machine guns was big among camp-bound Cadets, as was the opportunity to lead in an unfamiliar setting. MSIs and MSIIIs had enjoyed the autonomy, and had gotten a taste of what it would be like in the years to come. As the Cadets of Liberty Battalion returned to Boston, it was with a renewed confidence that they were all the more prepared for what lay ahead.

PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTS

BATTALION DIVERSITY TEAM

THE SPRING 2021 COMMISSIONING CLASS

OUTGOING CADRE Q&A

ALUMNI PROFILES



Battalion Diversity Team

CDT Emily Newell - MSIV

In Fall 2020, Liberty Battalion Cadets and Cadre identified culture-building as an organizational priority. MAJ Hassett and MSG Salas have guided the volunteer Cadet team in hosting virtual trainings with focuses on sexual harassment and assault prevention and Agile Leadership during COVID-19 with COL Aiello (a Northeastern University and Liberty Battalion alumna). LB Diversity Team members are currently working on compiling a resource guide and scheduling trainings for Fall 2021. All Liberty Battalion Cadets are encouraged to join! Eleanor Fremont-Smith, Nicole Kraemer, and Blanca Naglestad are the 2021-2022 Diversity Team leaders.

Our **mission statement**: The Liberty Battalion Diversity Team seeks to provide resources, seminars, workshops, and other educational opportunities for Liberty Battalion Cadets in order to contribute to a positive culture of inclusion, dignity, and respect within the battalion as well as help prepare Liberty Battalion Cadets for an ever-changing, ever-diverse Army.

Mission:

Task Force Medical (TF Silver Dragon) Mission: Provide Medical Mission Command in FEMA Regions I-IV/VI and direct subordinate units to provide Health Service Support (HSS) and Force Health Protection (FHP) throughout the Joint Area of Operations (JOA).

- What did this mean (initially)?
- Serve as the CEO (Commander) of DoD medical units and personnel.
- Establish a Role III (Hospital) – x2 148-bed at two separate locations.
- Non-Covid care only.
- Off-set or decompress the NYC Hospitals.

Event Timeline:

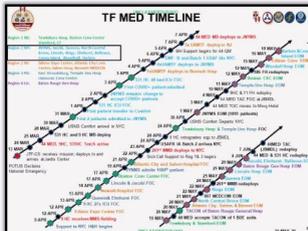
- 13 MAR: POTUS declares Emergency
- 24 MAR: Alerted 44th MED BDE (Fort Bragg, NC); 9th HC (Fort Hood, TX); 531st HC (Fort Campbell, KY)
- 25 MAR: 44th MED (x4), 9th HC / 531st HC advance party arrive NYC
- 28 MAR: 531st HC and 11th HC Arrive
- 31 MAR: JNYMS - Patient #1
- 2 APR: Change of Mission – JNYMS is COVID-19 Facility
- 3 APR: JNYMS - "First" COVID-19 Patient
- 4 APR: Assume Region II (New Jersey – 4 locations)
- 9 APR: Medical Support to NYC Hospitals begins (x10)
- 17 APR: Assume Region I (MA / CT – 3 locations)
- 19 APR: JNYMS – Admits "1000th Patient
- 24 APR: Assume Region III (PA – 3 locations)
- 20 MAY: Assume Region V (LA – 1 location)
- 31 MAY: JAVITS last patient (1,095)
- 4 JUN: EOM of NYC Hospitals
- 6 JUN: Redeploy

Notes:
Blue – Related to JAVITS mission
Red – Related to medical support to NYC Hospitals
Green – Related to medical support outside of NYC

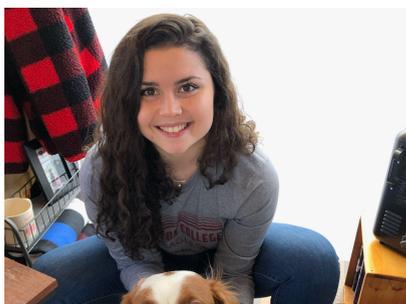


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Kimberlee Aiello

COL KIMBERLEE AIELLO giving an incredibly moving and inspiring talk to Liberty Battalion about her career, COVID response, and her experience as a woman in the Army hosted by the Diversity Team



THE 2021-2022 DIVERSITY TEAM LEADERS (from left to right) Blanca Naglestad, Ellie Fremont-Smith, and Nicole Kraemer

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Simon Chin Lee

Active Duty: Aviation

If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes an Army to develop a good Officer. The people and experiences that it took to get me to where I find myself today are too numerous to mention but I am grateful for all of them - whether it was a good experience or not. I definitely could not have done it without the support of my family, friends and all the great Cadre who have passed through Liberty Battalion who have helped develop me into a confident and capable junior Officer. I can definitively say that I am ready and able to progress to the next level of learning and achievement that life holds for me.



Brandon Dudley

National Guard: Cyber

Thank you to all of the Officers, NCOs, and fellow Cadets that helped me along the way and encouraged me to apply for green to gold. I could not have done this on my own and appreciate all of the help and support.

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Jack Emerling

Active Duty: Infantry

I would not be here if it weren't for my mom, my dad, and my brother. I would be here, but I would be miserable, if it weren't for my girlfriend and friends who have supported me for the past several years. I would be here, but I would not be who I am, if it weren't for the Cadre and staff who have taught me so much about character, leadership, and excellence. Thank you all for everything.



Scott Etchechury

Educational Deferment (JAG)- Attending BC Law

I'd like to thank my parents, my brothers, my Cadre mentors, and my close friends at BC for always pushing me to be the best person I can be. It is because of these people that I am in the position I am in today. Thank you all!

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Shane Etchechury

Educational Deferment (JAG) - Attending BC Law

I'd like to thank my friends, family, Cadre mentors, and fellow Cadets for all of their support over the last four years. Without them, I would not be at this point in my life. Commissioning has been the goal of my life up until this point, and because of all of you I am ready to take the next steps in this journey.



Dan Gao

Active Duty: Cyber

Thank you to my friends and family for the incredible support you have provided me over the last five years. Thank you especially to the other MSIVs who I have the privilege of commissioning with, and to the Cadre who've guided us all this way. It's been a wild, stressful, and sleepless ride, but I wouldn't have done it with anyone else. Here's to the next chapter.

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Sam Harmon

Active Duty: Infantry, Detail Military Intelligence

Thank you to my family, especially to my parents and brother, for their support through the many challenges that have made me the student, Cadet, and person I am today. Thank you to all of the Liberty Battalion Cadre members and fellow Cadets who have taught and led me by their examples over the past four years. You all have made me confident in my ability to overcome any challenge as an Officer. I am incredibly fortunate to have worked with you all, and I am truly grateful.



Brandon Heaslet

Active Duty: Infantry

Thank you to everyone who has helped me throughout my time as a Cadet! I'd like to especially thank my parents, my NEU friends, my MSIV colleagues, and our exceptional Cadre!

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Matt Holcomb

Active Duty: Cyber

Thank you to my parents for your wisdom, my siblings for your mentorship, and my friends for your support. To the Cadre who have guided me every step of training, it has been a privilege learning from you. I will never take for granted the great fortune that has led me here and will.



Rattapong Kaewsiripong

Active Duty: Infantry

Thank you for my family and friends who have supported me throughout my last 4 years. I would also like to thank the Cadre, fellow Cadets, and especially my fellow MSIVs who have mentored me and taught me how to lead and take care of others. I am proud to be a part of the Liberty Battalion ROTC program and would not be who I am today without my stressful, fun, and exciting experiences that I have had with everyone these past 4 years!

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Cole Kennedy

Active Duty: Signal

I'd like to thank my mom, my dad, and my brothers, Kyle and Luke, for their support over the past four years. Thank you to all of the Cadre and Cadets that have helped me develop myself as an Officer, and for the memories they've given me. I'm excited to be given the opportunity to lead America's sons and daughters, and look forward to giving back to my country and community.



Joungwoo Kim

Active Duty: Field Artillery

I'd like to thank my family for supporting my choices. The past two academic years with the Northeastern ROTC program was a great experience and a milestone for my future career. I have much appreciation for our Cadre and fellow Cadets as well. It was an honor, and I will deliver my leadership and knowledge back to the Service for the future of our Nation.

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Kevin Krivda

Active Duty: Infantry

I'd like to thank my parents, my siblings, my friends at BC, my MSIV classmates, and especially the incredible NCOs and Officers I've had the privilege of learning from in ROTC! I cannot wait to open up the next chapter.



Jack Matthews

Active Duty: Infantry

I'd like to express humble gratitude to my parents and grandparents who have always supported my decision to join ROTC, the Cadre who have helped shape me into the Officer I will be, and my friends who I have shared this ride with. Thank you for everything.

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Austin Mays

Active Duty: Engineer

I would like to give a tremendous thank you to my family for their support and to my professors, Cadre, and friends who have all helped make Boston College my home these last four years. I look forward to applying the lessons that I have learned from you all. Thank you!



Emily Newell

Active Duty: Quartermaster

Thank you to my friends and family for their encouragement and support. I am so grateful for my time in Liberty Battalion and the people I met along the way.

The Spring 2021 Commissioning Class

Justin Nicholson

National Guard: Signal

I want to thank all of my family and friends for the support over the last five years. I would also like to thank the fantastic NCOs and Officers who have worked to make this program great. It wasn't always easy and I'm positive without everybody's support and encouragement I wouldn't be where I am today.



Shane Powers

Massachusetts National Guard: Cyber

I would like to express my gratitude to all of my family, and friends who helped to mentor, motivate, and guide me throughout the course of my life to date. I am so grateful for the experiences I have been able to have, both good and bad, that shaped me into the person I am today. I would like to specifically thank my Mom and Dad, who have always been there for me, and my twin sisters, who I can rely on for competition and sibling rivalry. I am excited for what the future holds.



Outgoing Cadre Q&A

MAJ Amanda Hassett

1) When did you come to Liberty Battalion, where did you come from, and where are you off to next?

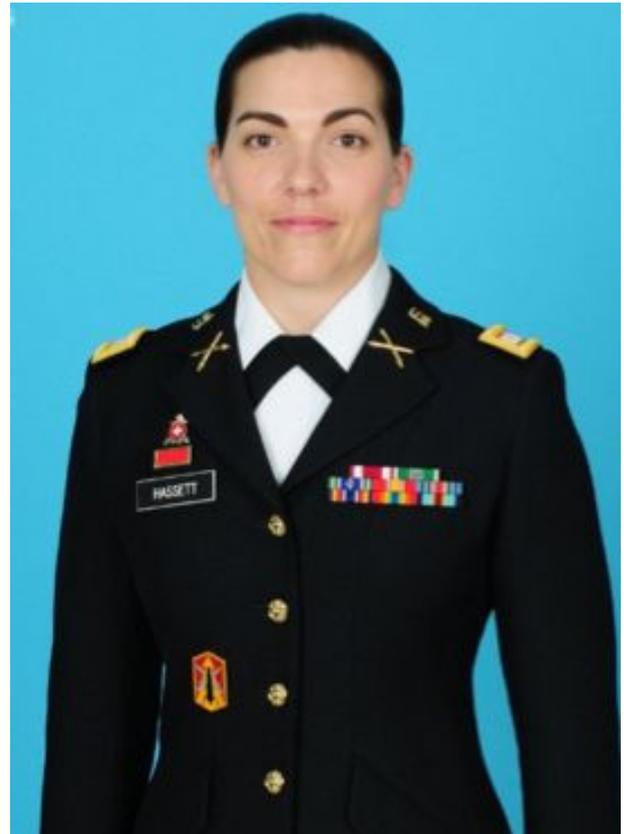
I arrived at Liberty BN this past September after completing a graduate school fellowship at Boston College in the Carroll School of Management where I earned my Masters in Business Administration. I am moving this summer to Fort Leavenworth, KS where I'll attend the Army Command and General Staff College.

2) What has been your favorite part of working at Liberty Battalion?

My favorite part of my experience as an Assistant Professor of Military Science has been working with all the Cadets. It has been so fulfilling serving as an instructor and mentor to such an outstanding group of young adults. I am continuously impressed by their dedication to academics, the ROTC program, and service to the community. I am beyond proud of how much each Cadet has grown over the last year especially during such a challenging environment.

3) What lessons have you learned from your time working with Cadets?

This past year has been one big lesson in flexibility. We constantly had to make adjustments to how we conducted training and classes based on ever-changing conditions. As a program, we developed the agility to transition between in-person and remote training with minimal impact. It took a lot of patience, innovation, and adaptability to get through the academic year, but despite these challenges we still managed to accomplish our missions with great success.



4) What is the most important piece of advice you want to leave with our Cadets?

My biggest piece of advice to all the Cadets in our program is to stay present in the moment because your college and ROTC experience will fly by much faster than you think. Cadets have a tendency to be so future-focused, worrying about grades, internships, branching, post-commissioning etc. they miss out on what is going on right in front of them. Take the time to enjoy the small moments you have with your fellow Cadets, whether it's an early morning ruck around the Res or running around campus with wiffle ball bats during Labs. I promise in the not too distant future you will be looking back at your time in ROTC missing your time on Stokes Lawn or at the Fens but most importantly your fellow Cadets and their friendships. Relish in your time as a Cadet and make the most out of this amazing opportunity.

Outgoing Cadre Q&A

CPT David Shermer

1) When did you come to Liberty Battalion, where did you come from, and where are you off to next?

I arrived at Liberty BN in April of 2018 from the Engineer Captains Career Course. I am transitioning from active duty after this assignment.

2) What has been your favorite part of working at Liberty Battalion?

My favorite part of working with everyone here at Liberty BN is the emphasis on development. The Cadre and staff are always working to push the Cadets to improve their academics, their leadership, and their technical and tactical proficiency. The best part of this job is seeing an underclassman join the program with no army background or experience and watch them lead their fellow Cadets two years later. I am enormously proud of the type of Lieutenants this program produces.

3) what lessons have you learned from your time working with Cadets?

Not necessarily a lesson learned, but more of a lesson experienced. It always amazes me the way problems are solved. I may have a preset idea about the way a tasking or mission should go, and usually that is not what happens. It is always a pleasure to watch the light switch turn on when someone solves a problem that they've been working on. Even though I'm only 8 years removed from my time as an ROTC Cadet, the different perspectives brought by each of the senior classes is totally different from mine and each other. Each year the incoming MSIV class adds value and contributes using their individual backgrounds and expertise. I have enjoyed all the interactions I've had with the Cadets here at Liberty Battalion.



4) what is the most important piece of advice you want to leave with our Cadets?

The best piece of advice I can leave with you is this. Determine your own leadership style and run with it. Take what you like from other leaders and incorporate it into your own, and likewise strive to stay away from the attributes you've experienced that you do not like. Your Soldiers will be able to tell when you are being genuine and when you are trying to emulate someone or something that you're not. Always strive to improve your weaknesses, but you have strengths that others may not. No two leaders are the same, and the width and breath of those differences are more apparent the higher the rank you achieve. Gen. Eisenhower and Gen. Bradley were both great leaders, but no one would argue that they had the same leadership style. Be true to yourself and genuine around your peers, your superiors, and your subordinates.

Alumni Profiles

1LT Joe Bruno-Metzger

I commissioned as an Active Duty Infantry Officer in May of 2019 with a B.S in Mechanical Engineering from Northeastern University. I am currently assigned to 2-327 IN "No Slack!", 1BCT, 101ST ABN DIV (AASLT). I have served as an assistant plans Officer, a Company XO during a rotation to JRTC, and I currently serve as a rifle platoon leader. I have had two years to size up other commissioning sources and I can confidently say that Liberty Battalion is as good as they come. The training I received there as a Cadet set me up to succeed at IBOLC, Ranger School and, most importantly, leading Soldiers. The path to becoming a Platoon Leader is a long and challenging one, but I would not trade my job or my Soldiers for the world. NFS!



2LT Claire O'Melveny

I commissioned as an Active Duty Army Nurse in May of 2020 from Boston College. I am currently assigned to Walter Reed National Naval Military Hospital in Bethesda Maryland.

After commissioning, I was sent to BOLC in San Antonio, TX. It was there where I learned about the medical side of the Army and what I would specifically do as an Army Nurse in the Nurse Corps. From there I was sent to Walter Reed and I am currently working on a Wounded Warrior floor where the majority of patients are amputees. These patients' original injuries happened in 2010/2011, but they keep having new surgeries done to further assist them in wearing prosthetics. The work I am doing is extremely rewarding. I am able to care of Soldiers who have experienced trauma, pain, and injuries during combat. Even though I am a nurse, I am a Soldier first and Liberty Battalion instilled that ethos into me. I take part in different leadership roles, help train LPNs, and medics, and partake in Army trainings (ie. Weapons qual, ACFT, etc).





Northeastern University (Host School)
Boston College (Extension School)
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Berklee College of Music
Emmanuel College
Emerson College
Framingham State University
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