Greetings to All Past and Present Ute Warriors,

It has been an absolutely fantastic year here at the University of Utah. We have so many things to be proud of however the first and foremost would be the caliber of the Second Lieutenants that this Program produces for the Total Army. Within the past year we commissioned numerous Distinguished Military Graduates, the number six Cadet in the Nation, and a Nurse that was selected among four others in the Nation to continue in school for the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners Program. The bottom line to all of these accomplishments is the University of Utah Army ROTC produces some of the best leaders this Nation has to lead our sons and daughters.

Within one year our Cadet Battalion has grown which has allowed us to become more visible in the community. Recently we executed a team building event for the University Baseball team. It was truly an amazing event and I hope we can do it again next year! We continue to show our Ute Pride during football games with the Cannon Crew and Color Guard. As we move into the Basketball and Gymnastic season anyone can see the best this University has to offer standing proud as our National Anthem plays.

We sent two Ranger Challenge teams to compete during the Task Force competition this year. Both teams did remarkably well. To those that will commission this year, take the lessons of team work with you as you enter the next stage of your life. The Army is not an individual sport; it is not about cutting the weak link. It is about finding that sweet spot where all members of the team know their responsibilities and executing them as a cohesive unit. To those members that will be with us in the following years, I hope to see you continue on with a future Ranger Challenge Team. Challenge yourself to build something bigger and better than what was there before.

A special message to all past Ute Warriors – Thank You for your service! Thank you for making this program what it is today. If you find yourself in the area, please come by our building (we are now located in the historic Fort Douglas PX building) and say hello. We would love to get to know you and the things you have accomplished.
C/LTC Kristen Hansmann  
_Cadet Battalion Commander_

_Ute Warriors,_  
As this semester comes to an end, I want to highlight our battalion and a few of our accomplishments.

Starting from the MS1’s, I’ve seen tremendous growth. Not only did you ask questions to learn, you acted upon that knowledge and showed great success.

MS2’s, I’ve seen your true leadership show. At the JFTX you took initiative and stepped up to new leadership roles such as squad leader and platoon sergeant.

MS3’s, you conducted various tactic lanes and worked with neighboring schools to execute missions. You lead by example and set the standard that we at the UWB maintain.

Finally, with our MS4’s, you truly came together and worked hard for the desired end result of planning a successful JFTX and semester of training.

Overall, I set a goal for the battalion to reach a 95% pass rate on the PT test. After sending out that message, we hit our goal the following PT test. Our battalion is run with differing leadership styles and various personalities, but our differences are what make us successful. Thank you for your continuous efforts on whatever goals are set for you. Thank you for your discipline down to the smallest levels throughout training.

As we look forward to the next semester, I ask that we keep this level of professionalism and work ethic. Continue to push yourself, continue to ask questions, and continue to prepare yourself for your commission. Earn it, and look for every opportunity to succeed. As Major Dick Winters said, “Strive to be a leader of character, competence, and courage.”

---

_Ute Happenings_

_Cannon Crew_

This season has been a very successful cannon crew season. Cannon Crew participated in six University of Utah home football games starting on 01SEP2016. The University of Utah played University of Washington, BYU, Arizona State, Southern Utah, USC, and University of Oregon and won each game except against University of Washington. At the JFTX, the cadets loaded and shot the cannon whenever the University of Utah scored. Towards the end of the season, Cannon Crew also did boot drive and helped raise funds for the ROTC program. Numerous cadets volunteered for Cannon Crew this season and we would like to thank everyone for their support. We could not have been successful without them.
Throughout this semester the ROTC Color Guard has been active not only with the University but also within the community. This year we have three teams being led by CDTs Johnson, Keogh, and Nudelman. Some of the most notable events our Color Guard Detail has taken part in thus far has been the Veterans Day Ceremony for the University of Utah and the Raising of the Flag at the University Hospital and Huntsman Cancer Institute. Although all members of the Color Guard team have shown great enthusiasm and dedication, there has been one cadet who has risen above what is necessary. CDT Schaus participated in 6 details throughout the year showing her enthusiasm to promote the program and to ensure that there is always a full team no matter the event. Our Color Guard detail looks to continue its success and promotion of the program through the rest of the semester and up until the end of the school year, fulfilling as many events that come our way.

Every year, our battalion is honored to conduct a combined Veteran’s Day Ceremony with both the Navy/Marine and the Air Force ROTC programs. The Ceremony took place on November 11th to honor Veterans of past conflicts, those currently serving, those who have retired, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice and never got to come home. We asked for volunteers from our program, and these volunteers were required to attend three rehearsals before the ceremony in preparation. We had cadets acting as Escorts, each assigned to an Honoree that they get the opportunity to have lunch with afterwards. Cadets also provided a Color Guard to post the colors at the start of the Ceremony, an Honor Guard, Cannon Crew to fire a 21 cannon salute, a platoon to stand in formation for the entirety of the Ceremony, and personnel to conduct a POW/MIA Ceremony at the end. This year we had a huge turnout of volunteers, the Ceremony had increased in size from previous years, and we had another great opportunity to work with the other branches and motivate our cadets to continue to serve in our great military.
Joint Field Training Exercise

Some say the early birds get the worm and that was completely true for the University of Utah, Weber State University, and Utah State University cadets on the morning of November 4th. At o'dark thirty each of these schools Army ROTC programs began their movement to Camp Williams in order to conduct one of few Fall Joint Field Training Exercises (JFTX), in order to recruit and retain freshman and sophomore cadets (Basic) as well as prepare our juniors (Advanced) for their training this summer referred to as Advanced Camp. The Ute Warrior Battalion and the other programs relied heavily on their senior cadets who were in charge of planning and executing this event several months in advance.

The Advanced JFTX consisted of a land navigation course, a multitude of STX Lanes which included Urban Operations, Recon, React to Contact, and Battle Drill Assessments. The culminating event consisted of a fast pace 12-mile ruck march on rigorous terrain.

While the Advanced Cadets were working hard to prepare themselves for Advanced Camp, the mission at the Basic JFTX was to recruit and retain. The Basic Cadets began their training with a round-robin of the rappel tower, Tactical Causality Combat Care (TCCC), and the Hand Grenade Assault Course (HGAC). Upon completion cadets were able to conduct and complete an air movement in Blackhaws, a land navigation course, a 6-mile ruck march, as well as participate in the Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC) and learn to work as a team with fellow Cadets that they had never met before.

Overall, two-day JFTX conducted by the University of Utah Cadets was extremely successful and set the bar high for future training events in the future.

Ranger Challenge

Over the past three years the UWB Ranger Challenge teams have struggled in competition. This year, SFC Friese and Cadet Taylor set out to change their luck. Two teams were created and comprised of primarily new ROTC cadets. Cadets Olea, Galland and Taylor are seniors that had previously competed in Ranger Challenge and were able to supply the new cadets with ample knowledge and experience.

Part of the change in the ranger challenge culture started from day one. The two teams were directed to complete a three mile run up Red Butte Canyon carrying 12 sandbags and 8 water jugs. It was a true eye opener as to how much work and dedication Ranger Challenge would require in order to be successful. All cadets were trained to be proficient in every facet of the competition to ensure success regardless of any obstacles that could occur. The Ranger Challenge team placed 6th out of seventeen teams, which is a huge accomplishment and stride towards success and a tradition of excellence. When asked what was different, Team Captain Samuel Taylor attributed their success to hard work and dedication along with the difficult training provided by cadre.
This semester, Ute Warriors have made a significant effort to become more involved in the community. Cadets did so by hosting a tailgate at each University of Utah home football game, serving Thanksgiving dinner at the VA Nursing Home, participating in community athletics such as, intramural sports and the Dugway 10K, and fundraising through local “boot drives.” A new event also took place this semester with the University of Utah baseball team. Army ROTC personnel held an Army physical training session for the baseball players in order to help them develop team cohesion and resiliency. Likewise, the baseball team provided their field and a workout plan for the MSIV cadets. Increased cadet participation and visibility in the community has provided the Ute Warrior Battalion with more support and opportunities for growth.

**Newly Commissioned Utes**

*2LT Connor Howard*

I graduated from the University of Utah with a BS in Geoscience and received my commission as an Active Duty Infantry Officer this last summer. It was a pleasure to be a part of the UWB ROTC program and I’ll always look back on my experiences with the cadre and cadets fondly. I’m currently hoping to end up either at Fort Bragg, NC or return to my home state of Washington at Fort Lewis-McChord. The best advice I can pass along is well summarized by a very wise man who once told me that “Experience is the best teacher so don’t take that away from yourself or others”. Allow those around you to learn through making mistakes and never shy away from those opportunities yourself. ROTC is a great medium for that. Trust me, it only took me a modest 6 years from start to finish.
Highlighted Cadets

The following have been hand selected by their cadre for excelling in all aspects of the Army ROTC curriculum and standing out among their peers in their respective military science classes.

**MSI**

**CDT Brenna Verboncoeur:**

I am a freshman at Westminster College majoring in Nursing, and I could not be more honored to be a part of this ROTC program! I come from a family deeply rooted in respect for the military and a Dad who has served 26 years in the Army. I was born in Hawaii when my Dad was stationed there, but the rest of my life has been spent in Utah. My mom is my hero, somehow managing to put up with me and homeschool me all the way through high school along with my younger brothers, Benjamin and Nathaniel. There are a lot of wrestling matches, nerf gun battles, green smoothies, and laughter fests in my home! I don't know what I would do without my family's love and support.

Being homeschooled allowed me to spend time doing what I loved. This included competing in speech and debate for four years, getting involved in a youth political action group, leading worship at my church, interning at the Utah State Capitol, and becoming a certified CrossFit trainer so I could spend even more time at my favorite CrossFit gym. Spending time with people and adventuring in the great outdoors also fill my limited free-time. Last year, I became a Certified Nursing Assistant, which solidified my life-long desire to become a nurse. I've always wanted to serve my country and my hope is to commission as an Active Duty Registered Nurse. My goal is to have a family someday, but I look forward to travelling as much as possible during my time in the military.

Joining ROTC has already given me incredible opportunities: attending a college like Westminster, learning exceptional leadership skills, and the ability to prove to myself every day that I can be stronger. Coming in as an MS 1 is a phenomenal chance to learn from the wisdom of those who have gone before me. Often times, I think at first I come across as quiet to people, but I have learned the value of listening and observing when there is no need to speak. I am so thankful for this experience and I look forward to building the skills it takes to become a strong Soldier with all of the incredible individuals in this program.

I spent the early years of my childhood in a secluded oasis in Hobble Creek Canyon, Utah. It was there I developed my love for hiking, shooting, and sleeping under the stars. Since then, I've moved to various locations along the Wasatch front. I spent my final years as a teenager in North Ogden attending Weber High School. Throughout high school I enjoyed being a thrower in track and field, the principal violist in the orchestra, an alto in choir, an aerialist in a circus, the president of the musical theater company, and an ultramarathon runner. It was the summer before my junior year of high school I decided I wanted to be part of the military.

During the summer of 2013, I attended my older brother’s Induction Day at the Naval Academy. That day, I decided I wanted to join the military. I knew I wanted to be a leader, serve my country, and protect the lives of others. However, I wanted a more traditional college experience and none of the academies commissioned nurses, so I decided ROTC was the best fit for me.

I come from a family of both military and civilian. My father is a JAG Officer in the National Guard, my oldest brother and sister-in-law are Ensigns in the Navy, and my other brother is graduating from the Naval Academy this spring. My other five siblings and mother have chosen various lives in the civilian sector. Family is the most important thing in my life. Someday, I hope to have my own.

I am currently a sophomore (MSII) at Westminster College finishing my prerequisites for Nursing School. My dream upon graduation is to commission as an Active Duty RN in the Army Nurse Corps. As my career progresses, I plan to earn my doctorate degree and become a Nurse Practitioner. Since I grew up not having one particular hometown, I will be happy anywhere the Army sends me as long as there are beautiful sites and kind people. The dream would be to eventually settle down somewhere with mountains and warm weather.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time in the ROTC program and would recommend it to anyone who wants to join the military. My favorite part about this program is the sense of comradery and family that I have developed since joining. When times are tough and I'm under pressure from school and personal life, my battle buddies have always been there for me. I am excited for the rest of my career in the United States Army.
I am from Middleton, ID, a small farm town outside of Boise. I grew up with horses, goats, dogs, and cats on 40+ acres. I absolutely love animals and the outdoors. My family consists of me, my mom, Lynda, my dad, Brian, and my little sister, Andi. We are a very close family and my sister, a sophomore at Humbolt State University, is my best friend. I attended Bishop Kelly High School where I was ASB Secretary, played basketball, ran track and cross country, and was valedictorian of my class. School was my number one priority in high school and it continues to be now.

At Westminster College, I am a junior studying Neuroscience for pre-medicine. I have aspired to be a sports orthopedic surgeon since I was eight years old and my goals have not changed. After my freshman year, I realized I could no longer afford college and considered ROTC. I had thought about attending one of the academies in high school, but never followed through. I knew I wanted to serve my country and make a difference in some manner, but did not know where to start. Ultimately, ROTC seemed to be the perfect opportunity to help me finish college as well as serve my country. I enjoy the training and structure aspect of ROTC. It is fairly organized and a nice change of scenery from all of my science classes. Next year, I would like to branch Medical Service and attend the military's medical school after I graduate from Westminster. After that, I am not sure what I want to do, but I will figure it out when the time comes.

At an early age, I knew I wanted to do something different in life. From the influence of my parents, I learned the importance of our country and freedoms which led me to finding the Army ROTC program. As a national scholarship winner, I decided to attend the University of Utah where I study Strategic Communications. I currently work at Challenger Schools, and will soon work as an intern at the Capitol. I recently found out that I will be serving as an Active Duty Signal Officer upon my commission, and look forward to all the opportunities ahead. My advice to anyone in the program is to take advantage of every opportunity in ROTC such as Scabbard and Blade, Bataan Memorial Death March, Ranger Challenge and Cannon Crew.
Newly Contracted Cadets

Joshua Bratton (MSI)
Hometown: Layton, UT
Major: Biology
Scholarship: 4YR National
College: University of Utah
Graduation: Spring 2020
Dream Branch: Military Intelligence

Nathaniel Checkwood (MSI)
Hometown: Kennesaw, GA
Major: Geography (GIS)
Scholarship: 4YR National
College: University of Utah
Graduation: Spring 2020
Dream Branch: Aviation or Field Artillery (NG)

Ezra McHaley (MSI)
Hometown: West Jordan, UT
Major: Political Science with Pre-Law Emphasis
Scholarship: Reserve Minuteman
College: Westminster
Graduation: Spring 2020
Dream Branch: JAG Corps

Jacob Chlarson (MSII)
Hometown: Murrayville, IL
Major: Chemical Engineering
Scholarship: 3YR GRFD
College: University of Utah
Graduation: Spring 2019
Dream Branch: Military Intelligence

Mirabel Duncan (MSII)
Hometown: Ogden, UT
Major: Neuroscience
Scholarship: 3YR AD
College: Westminster
Graduation: Spring 2019
Dream Branch: Medical Service Corps

Benjamin Eisenhower (MSII)
Hometown: Grand Junction, CO
Major: Kinesiology
Scholarship: STEM
College: University of Utah
Graduation: Spring 2020
Dream Branch: Aviation

Jared Johnson (MSII)
Hometown: American Fork, UT
Major: Civil Engineering
Scholarship: 3YR AD
College: University of Utah
Graduation: Spring 2019
Dream Branch: Corps of Engineers

Sophia Lowry (MSII)
Hometown: North Ogden, UT
Major: Nursing
Scholarship: 3YR AD
College: Westminster
Graduation: Spring 2020
Dream Branch: Nurse Corps

Rachael Wedge (MSII)
Hometown: Quantico, VA
Major: Nursing
Scholarship: 3YR Nursing
College: Westminster
Graduation: Spring 2019
Dream Branch: Nurse Corps
Jorge Cespedes (MSIII)

- Hometown: Bucaramanga, Colombia
- Major: Economics
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: Quartermaster

Brittany Dunn (MSIII)

- Hometown: Rancho Cordova, CA
- Major: MS Nutrition Education and Research
- Scholarship: GRFD
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: Medical Service Corps

James Fernandez (MSIII)

- Hometown: Camarillo, CA
- Major: Political Science (Pre-Law)
- Scholarship: 2YR AD
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: JAG Corps

Huihsien Huang (MSIII)

- Hometown: Chiayi, Taiwan
- Major: Biology (Pre-Dental)
- Scholarship: Green-to-Gold
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Fall 2018
- Dream Branch: Medical Services Corps

Alfredo Lopez (MSIII)

- Hometown: Rockville, MD
- Major: Finance
- Scholarship: 2YR AD
- College: Westminster
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: No Preference

Justin Murrell (MSIII)

- Hometown: Farmington, UT
- Major: Sociology
- Scholarship: GI Bill
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: Undecided

Gordon Nudelman (MSIII)

- Hometown: Biebelsheim, Germany
- Major: International Relations
- College: University of Utah
- Graduation: Spring 2018
- Dream Branch: Military Intelligence, Detail: Infantry
Meet Our Newest Cadre Members

MASTER SERGEANT PHILLIP S. MCDANIEL

Master Sergeant Phillip S. McDaniel enlisted in the Army in 2001 and attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training as an 11B (Infantryman) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

His initial assignment was to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served as a Rifleman, M240B Machine Gunner, Team Leader, and Squad Leader. During this time he deployed to Jordan in support of Exercise Early Victor and to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom he was then reassigned to the 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia from 2005-2009 where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class and served three years as a Drill Sergeant. Upon completing his time as a Drill Sergeant, he was reassigned to the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he served as a Platoon Sergeant and an Assistant Operations Sergeant from 2009-2012. During his time with the 82nd Airborne Division he deployed in support of Operation Unified Response in response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake and to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. He was then reassigned to the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, Louisiana where he served as a Platoon Sergeant and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was later promoted to First Sergeant and assumed responsibility of Alpha Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, deploying again in support of Operation Resolute Support. Upon returning from Afghanistan Master Sergeant McDaniel was reassigned to the University of Utah to serve as the Senior Military Instructor.

Master Sergeant McDaniel’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (6th Award), Army Achievement Medal (6th Award), Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award), Army Superior Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Ribbon, NCO Professionalism Development Ribbon (3rd Award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal (2nd Award), Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman’s Badge, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, and is a member of the Distinguished Audie Murphy Club.

Master Sergeant McDaniel’s military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer’s Course, the Senior Leaders Course, Drill Sergeant School, Combatives Level 1-4, Total Army Instructor Training Course, Company Commander and First Sergeant Pre-Command Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, and Ranger School.

SFC BO D. LATHROP

SFC Lathrop was born in Clinton, Oklahoma. He enlisted in the US Army on 28 August 2001 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He attended basic training in Fort Benning, GA and was assigned to 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR in Fort Carson, CO as an indirect fire Infantryman. Throughout his 15 years of service, SFC Lathrop has served in multiple positions that include Ammo bearer, Assistant Gunner, Gunner, Mortar Squad Leader, Mortar Section Sergeant, Recruiter, Platoon Sergeant, Combat Arms NCO, and Senior Enlisted Advisor. SFC Lathrop’s assignments include 2-54 Infantry, 1-3 Armored Cav Regiment, OKC Recruiting BN, 1-506 Infantry, and the Army Training Support Center.

SFC Lathrop has completed the following service schools: Basic Leaders Course, Combat LifeSavers Course, Army Recruiters Course, Infantry Mortar Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Air Assault School, Senior Leaders Course, Pathfinder School, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, and Combat Development and Capabilities Course.

SFC Lathrop’s awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal (1 oak leaf), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 oak leaf), Army Achievement Medal (1 silver leaf, 2 oak leaf), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award (1 oak leaf), Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal (5 knots), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 stars), Iraq Campaign Medal (4 stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non Commission Officer Ribbon (numeral 3) Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (numeral 3), NATO Medal, Gold Recruiting Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and earned the Air Assault Badge.