

# GREYHOUND BATTALION

Loyola University Maryland  
Towson University  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
Goucher College

Spring 2021 Alumni Newsletter





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LTC Oliva who will be retiring this summer was presented with a token of appreciation during the Spring 2021 Military Ball by Cadet Korpiel (left) and Cadet Monaco (right).

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## A Letter from the Professor of Military Science

LTC Ammilee Oliva



I am sad to say this is my last semester with the Greyhound Battalion as I head off to retirement. It has been the honor of a lifetime serving as the Military Science Department Chair and Professor of Military Science for the Greyhound Battalion. I will miss the Cadets and Cadre but I am excited for my replacement LTC Timothy Mitroka to take the reins and bring the Battalion to the next level of greatness. LTC Mitroka has been an Assistant Professor of Military Science for the last two years and the MSIII instructor here at Loyola. He is the perfect officer to continue the work of those before him to ensure the Greyhound Battalion remains a premier program and that our Cadets continue to show Cadet Command, the Army, and the world that they remain Army Strong!

Despite COVID-19 and the many events we were unable to host and participate in, it was an amazing year for the Greyhound Battalion. In the fall and winter, classes remained virtual but physical training was held safely in six small geographically dispersed groups around the state and labs were held in person every Wednesday at various military installations. Cadets focused on many challenges as seniors completed Operation AGILE LEADER to get credit for Advance Camp tasks and the juniors honed their tactical acumen in preparation for CST 21.

This spring classes were hybrid and Cadets were allowed back on the Loyola campus for physical training at the battalion level. Morale is higher than ever among the Greyhound Battalion and our Cadets were excited to come to lab and physical training and have a break from their virtual course requirements. We ramped up our training regime and focused our Joint Field Training Exercise at Fort Indian Town Gap, PA on platoon operations and land navigation to help the MSIIIs prepare for CST 2021 at Fort Knox, KY. The adjustment from working with Cadets from four schools was challenging but rewarding for the MS IIIs and MS IVs. Other highlights in the spring included the seniors conducting a Staff Ride to Gettysburg and MAJ Joe Mucci attending our Military Ball as guest speaker. Mr. Mucci/ MAJ Mucci was activated by the Maryland National Guard in March 2020 through September 2021, so it was great to see him again and hear his words of advice for the Cadets. To finish off the year, our 22 seniors are excited for in person Commissioning at the Fort Meade parade field on May 21, 2021. Of the 22 Cadets commissioning this spring, 15 will be Active Duty, four will commission into the National Guard and three into the Army Reserve.

This Summer we anticipate sending 16 Juniors to Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY. Despite the intense heat and humidity at Fort Knox I have no doubt they will excel when presented with myriad challenges to include throwing a live hand grenade, buddy team live fire, land navigation, platoon tactics and foot marches up to 12 miles carrying heavy ruck sacks, radios and crew served weapons. Following CST select juniors will participate in Basic Mountaineering school, Air Assault school, Cadet Troop Leadership Training in Hawaii, Fort Campbell and Germany. Select sophomores will participate in Robin Sage and Air Assault.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our donors. Thank you for supporting us and making social events like our Staff Ride to Gettysburg and Military Ball possible. During my tenure as PMS, I cannot count how many Alumni have reached out to ask how they can give back to the program because they quickly realized when they entered military service that they were fortunate to be a product of the Greyhound Battalion. We plan to host another Alumni Reception next spring and can not wait to see everyone in person. If you would like to provide a donation to support Battalion events, please write a check to **Loyola University Army ROTC and send it to the Department of Military Science located at 4501 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21212**. Thank you for your continued support of the Military Science Department of Loyola University Maryland.

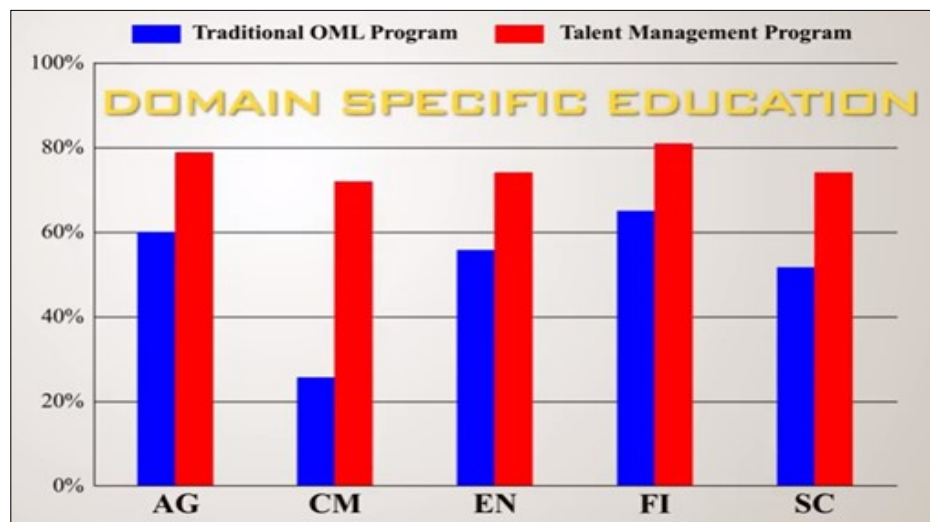
## Talent Based Branching

Sammy Mahmoud, Towson'21

Starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the U.S. Army implemented a new system called the Talent Based Branching (TBB) to branch ROTC Cadets around the nation. The TBB is a job officer market approach for the 17 Army branches. TBB allows for Cadets to represent their talents to better align with branches they fit in best. Cadets, in their junior year, take psychometric assessments for the Talent Assessment Battery (TAB) that reveals each Cadets individual unique skills, knowledge, and behaviors. The TAB serves as a self-reflecting start point in which Cadets can build a professional resume. The TBB allows for branches to express their unique talent demands along with specialized entry requirements per branch. TBB empowers each branch to give feedback and allow for optimal branch alignment, retention, satisfaction, and productivity for newly commissioned Officers. TBB has now replaced the traditional Order of Merit (OML) program. However, OML is still taken into account for branch selection but has now shifted its weight with academic outcomes (40%), leadership outcomes (47%), and physical outcomes (13%) for total OML. FY 2021 results have been analyzed with the Army discovering measurable benefits with TBB. Furthermore, TBB has just completed its first test stage with FY 2021 and the Army will continue to conduct analyses as the FY 2022 Cadets complete their TBB. TBB allows for improvements for branches and Officers in improving Army overall readiness, lethality, and mission accomplishment.

Right: TBB allows for Cadets to create a professional resume. This resume includes Cadets administrative information, transcripts, experience, a personal statement, and a branch preference list.

Below: Cadet satisfaction was shown to increase with around 80% of Cadets receiving their top branch choice compared to the traditional OML program.





## Greyhound Battalion Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) 2021

Lyndsay Monaco, Towson'21

This year's Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) consisting of Loyola Greyhound Battalion, Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State University, and McDaniel University, took place at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG). The JFTX was a culminating event for the Greyhound Battalion MS3's and MS4's and turned out to be a tremendous success. The focus for the MS3 Cadets was to prepare them for Cadet Summer Training (CST) and build emphasis on their leadership capabilities.

MS4s were separated into the Tactical Action Center (TAC), or the Tactical Operations Center (TOC). Each played an important role in helping the soon-to-be Lieutenants understand high intensity, and fast-moving operations in the battlefield. As expected, Loyola Greyhound Battalion set the bar high in comparison to the other attending universities. The Greyhound MS3s would receive the most "excellent" ratings for BlueCard evaluations when compared to the other programs. Blue card evaluations are used to assess overall tactical performance, and leader attributes and competencies. To have several high ratings for Greyhound Cadets, shows that the training they receive is bar none, but also that these Cadets are destined for success. Each day was broken up into vigorous training events that would test their mental, physical, and tactical stamina for each participating Cadet.

Training started with a weapons qualification range for the MS4s. Following the qualification range, Cadets started to arrive for weekend training. After each platoon was integrated, they were able to set up their patrol bases and get some sleep the first night. At o-dark-thirty, Cadets were awakened to a written land navigation examination. Following the exam, they were right back to tactical operations. Friday and Saturday included tactical missions and Sunday would be night/day land navigation with final roll call back home.

Overall, the Cadets learned a lot and performed extraordinary under pressure. Great job Greyhounds!



Cadet Gannon and Cadet Campos teaching hand grenade techniques..



LTC Mitroka briefing missions to platoon leadership on Day 1 of JFTX.

## Spring 2021 Virtual Awards Ceremony

## Adeep Rai, Towson'21

The Greyhound Battalion hosted its Spring 2021 awards ceremony on February 25, 2021 to recognize Cadets for their academic and various military training achievements during the Fall 2020 semester. Even though, it was the Battalion's very first virtual awards ceremony, Cadet Captain Lyndsay Monaco's singing of the national anthem, Cadet Second Lieutenant Christian Hlewicki's flawless narration and Cadet Captain Peter Friedrichs' awesome behind the scene job controlling the virtual platform set a great stage for recognizing the Greyhound Cadets.

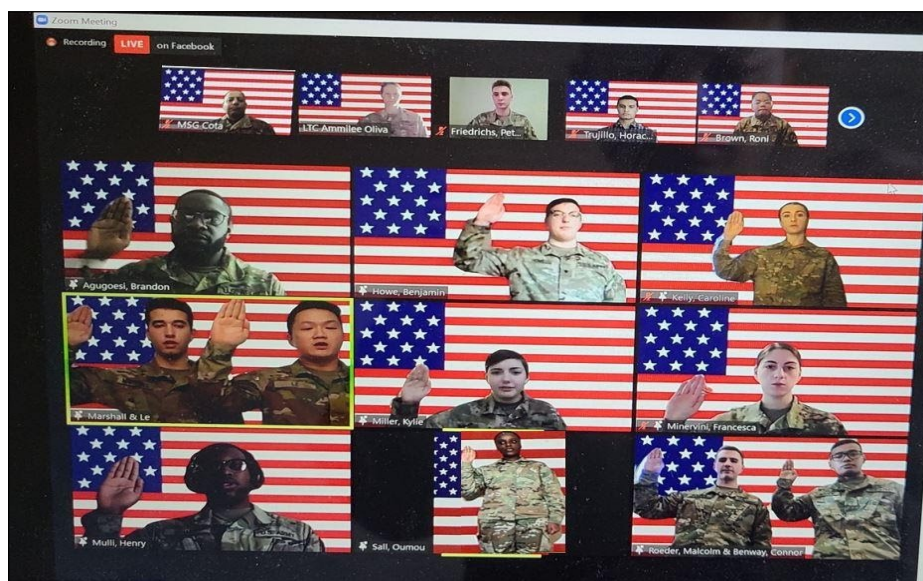
Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Ammilee Oliva took the opportunity to reiterate what Vince Lombardi once said, "Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.", and commended the hard work and dedication not only Cadets but their loved ones have put into developing them as the future leaders.



Cadet Lyndsay Monaco performing the National Anthem during the awards ceremony.

During the ceremony, 37 Cadets received the Dean's List Award with GPA of 3.5 or higher, 25 received the Cadet Honor Award and 13 received the Cadet Scholar Award. On top of receiving the Dean's List award for academic achievement, Cadet Second Lieutenant Tyler Pratt was also recognized for successfully completing Army's Air Assault Training at Sabalauski Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, Kentucky in December 2020. In addition to academic and military training awards, 11 Cadets took their contracting oath demonstrating their commitment to the United States Army. While not everyone was on the list of receiving awards, Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Conor Lowther reminded everyone of how Greyhound Battalion Cadets have been setting examples by their active involvement in college sports, academic and science clubs, writing centers, library advisory board and campus Catholic mass coordination team.

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all this involvement and achievement is a testament that the Cadets of the Greyhound Battalion have embodied the Army's spirit of adapting to and overcoming any obstacles that stand in the way of completing a mission. Even though, they probably did not have awards and recognition in their mind while doing what they are taught to do as future leaders, it was only fitting to take some time out of everyone's busy schedule to acknowledge their accomplishment with an award ceremony and remind them that their dedication, determination and commitment have not gone unnoticed.



Greyhound Battalion Cadets taking their contracting oath administered by LTC Ammilee Oliva.



## A Loyola Legacy

### Chloe O'Hara, Loyola'21

The importance of a sound leader in a field environment, classroom environment and professional environment are all important. For the O'Hara sisters, leadership began with the eldest sister- Olivia (class of 2018) who led her younger sisters, Chloe (class of 2021) and Gabrielle (class of 2023) into the start of their Army career through the Loyola Greyhound Battalion. The three siblings grew up attending gymnastics practice twenty hours a week. The discipline of the sport carried over when Olivia decided to join Loyola's ROTC program.



From left to right: Gabrielle, Olivia and Chloe of Walpole, Massachusetts

Olivia always set the tone for her sisters. She competed for Loyola's Ranger Challenge team and later went on to earn her Sapper tab as an officer in the Corps of Engineers. Chloe later joined the program and was able to compete for the Ranger Challenge team with younger sister Gabrielle, a freshman at the time. Chloe also jumped at the opportunity to travel to Argentina with other Cadets from across the United States on a cultural immersion mission, and during that same school year, she studied abroad for a semester in Athens, Greece.

No matter where they find themselves, the three sisters continue to apply lessons and important skills acquired throughout the years, and they pass on important advice to challenge and build each other to be the best versions of themselves. The O'Hara sisters attribute much of their success to their faith, and leadership from cadre, parents and mentors. Most significantly, they credit each other. Olivia is currently stationed at Fort Hood Texas on active duty orders with First Cavalry Division. Chloe will commission as a Military Intelligence officer in May 2021 into the Massachusetts National Guard. Gabby, as the youngest of the three, will likely make her future plans based on feedback from her older sisters. The two-way nature of leadership, leading and being led, is upheld by the O'Hara sisters as they pursue their love for country and the desire to be part of an organization that allows them to serve.



Olivia, Chloe and Gabby; Sisters visiting Fort Hood, TX

## Where are they Now?

### MAJ Angela Houston: APMS Greyhound Battalion 2015-2018

#### Burhan Rangwala, Towson'21

Starting her Army career in the year of 2007, Major Angela Houston graduated from Delaware State University with a Bachelor's degree in psychology. Upon graduation, Major Houston was assigned as a Chemical Corps Officer branch detailing into Military Intelligence. In the Chemical Corps, MAJ Houston was assigned a Platoon Leader position for Logistics Distribution in Fort Bragg, NC. From 2015-2018, MAJ Houston was the Assistant Professor of Military Science for the Greyhound Battalion. With her hard work and dedication, she was the primary instructor for the freshman class of 2019 as well as supported, trained, and guided cadets in military tactics and career development. Currently, MAJ Houston is the Battalion Operations Officer for the 3rd PSYOP Battalion which is the Army's only PSYOP product development and dissemination battalion. Her duties include being part of the Civil Authorities Information Support (CAIS) intended to aid civilian population during disaster relief situations by disseminating critical information in support of rescue efforts.

Some of MAJ Houston's accomplishments within her Army career have been being a Company Commander with EUCOM, graduating jumpmaster school, and being part of a graduating panel by teaching other Army soldiers and Officers about diversity of women in the Special Operations Community. MAJ Houston is a proud member of the Greyhound Battalion by mentoring and providing guidance and direction for cadets. A true inspiration, we wish MAJ Houston the best in the rest of her Army career.



MAJ Houston in left with COL Wandler at Towson University



MAJ Houston: Bottom left corner with a group of Cadets



## Road to Branching Cyber

Brandon R. Lee-Tobin, Towson'21



Field deployment of electromagnetic systems

### INTRODUCTION:

The newest branch in the United States Army is Cyber. Established 1 September 2014, the Cyber branch contains 4,730 authorized Cyber professionals in all components that make up the force. US Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER) is a worldwide operation that operates and aggressively defends the Department of Defense Information Network (DODIN). ARCYBER conducts both offensive and defensive cyberspace operations against near peer and global adversaries. Cyberspace is defined as, a global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures and resident data, including the internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.

In order to become a cyber qualified officer, the Army conducts a vigorous and in-depth selection process for cadets wishing to have the opportunity to train as cyber professional. Currently the Cyber Branch has 2 career paths, a 17A Cyber warfare officer and 17B Cyber and Electronic Warfare officer (EW). In the future, another path may surface as a 17D Cyber capabilities development officer (pending approval).

### HRC GUIDANCE:

HRC has disseminated the following requirements in order to compete to branch Cyber. Applicants must be a U.S citizen, obtain a Top-Secret clearance, pass a Counter Intelligence (CI) polygraph, possess a bachelors degree (STEM preferred), complete the Cyber Branch Assessment and selection process, be selected by Office Chief of Cyber, and be branched by an Army component. Although the requirements are much more significant than what would be required for another branch, the opportunity to take part in the efforts in cyberspace are certainly worth the additional effort.

HRC recommends a STEM degree and a high-grade point average for consideration. Factors that will strengthen your chances are cyber related work experience, projects, and certifications. The selection process for cyber consists of building a packet for board review separate from the normal hireview branching interviews. Then select cadets will interview with the Cyber officer division chief and a career program manager. These results are compiled and further evaluated through a board where a final order of merit list is disseminated ranking only qualified Cyber cadets.



The emergence of U.S. Military Cyber Expertise

## George C. Marshall Conference

Conor Lowther, Loyola'21

The George C. Marshall (GCM) Conference is a conference held every year for the top ROTC Cadets in the senior class, and it is hosted at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Unfortunately, this year, it was hosted on zoom due to COVID. It was established in honor of General George C Marshall, who according to Winston Churchill, "was the architect of victory" in WWII. Not only was GEN Marshall an excellent leader and tactician he is also known for his diplomacy capabilities during peace. He coined "The Marshall Plan," which was an economic rebuilding plan for Europe after WWII, and he also was instrumental in establishing NATO. The GCM Conference is an attempt to foster Cadets into young leaders that emulate the capabilities that Gen Marshall did both in war and in peace.

At this conference Cadets get to listen to the leadership advice and even ask questions from many high ranking army officers. Speakers at this event included MG John Evans, GEN Michael Garrett, and LTG Theodore Martin. Some of the topics discussed at the conference were asymmetrical warfare, near peer threats, toxic leadership, SHARP/EO, and suicide. These issues were considered in the context of how a good junior officer is expected to properly extend their influence and respond to these threats against our army.

Many of the speakers used their own experience to pitch situations and explain that problem solving when it comes to these issues is not far away from many of the graduating seniors. As Platoon Leaders managing these heavy issues must be done and must be done tactfully. MG John Evans, GEN Michael Garrett, and LTG Theodore Martin did a fantastic job of breaking these issues down in a way that made addressing them more approachable and less daunting.



General George C. Marshall



Fort Leavenworth, KS where the GCM Conference is usually held



## Greyhound Legacy

### Adam Garrison, Towson'21

LTC (Retd.) Jim Garrison started and finished his Army career at the Towson-Loyola ROTC Program.

He spent four years as a Loyola-Towson Cadet and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps in May 1988. In 2007, LTC Garrison returned to the Loyola-Towson ROTC program to serve as the PMS until he retired in 2009.

"To my knowledge, I hold the record for the most time spent in uniform around the Early House. One interesting fact is that Will (Lamar Williams) was here as the supply NCO when I was a Cadet. He was here when I came back as the PMS, and is still going strong as my son Adam commissions from this program in 2021."

LTC Garrison spent his Lieutenant years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as a Platoon Leader during Operation Desert Storm. His Captain years were spent in Germany, The Netherlands, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. As a Major, he was attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas when the events of 9-11-2001 unfolded. He was subsequently assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Carson, Colorado where he would spend the next years planning and executing logistics operations for the 10th Special Forces Group in Iraq. After retiring from active duty, he returned back to the Army as an Army Civilian at Aberdeen Proving Grounds.



2003 10th SFG, Northern Iraq. Bag o Money Logistics. MAJ Garrison gives out American Flag and US Army patch to locals

#### Tip for Newly commissioned Lieutenants.

1. You do not have to be the best Officer in the United States Army.
2. Just: Take care of the soldiers entrusted to you; Be as technically and tactically proficient as a 2LT can be; Be willing to learn; Never compromise your principles (At Home Station or Down Range), and be yourself.
3. Also understand and take pride in fact that you are the true protectors of The United States Constitution. There are many federal workers that swear to defend our Constitution. You are the only ones that signed up to pick up a weapon to do so. Take that oath seriously.

LTC (Retd.) Garrison will commission his son Adam Garrison on May 20th 33 years after LTC Garrison was commissioned by his father on May 22nd, 1988.



Left: LTC( Retd) Garrison as a Cadet in the Greyhound Battalion

Right: Cadet Garrison will be commissioning into Active Duty Infantry Branch

**Cadre Spotlight: CPT Deshon Sims****Nyles Smith, Towson'21**

CPT Sims grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and attended the University of North Texas. He received a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice in 2007 and Masters of Education in 2011 from TUI University in California. In 2009, he attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Army Branch of Air Defense Artillery. CPT Sims' first assignment was a Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) Platoon leader in Echo Battery, 4th Battalion 5th Regiment, 69th Air Defense Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. He deployed as the Battery Commander in 2012 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After completing the Air Defense Captains Career Course in 2014, CPT Sims was assigned to the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade at USAG Humphreys, South Korea as the Air Defense Airspace Manager (ADAM) Cell Officer In Charge (OIC). After his overseas deployment, CPT Sims served as an Air Defense Observer Coach Trainer (OCT) in Fort Stewart, GA as part of the 1st Battalion, 346th Regiment Air Defense, 188th Infantry Brigade.

In 2018, he was assigned as an Associate Professor of Military Science at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Following this assignment, in 2020 CPT Sims joined the Greyhound Battalion as the newest Associate Professor of Military Science. CPT Sims instructs the Freshman military science course at both Loyola and Towson University. When asked how being a PMS (Professor of Military Science) compares to his previous roles as a Officer, CPT Sims states, "Being an instructor gives me the ability to better teach, train and mentor developing leaders who want to serve their country at the highest level". He says the most interesting part of his current assignment is "seeing the maturity level increase as each student progresses through our program. Being able to see the metaphorical light come on when a student starts to grasp the different concepts of being a leader is the best feeling you can experience".

CPT Sims is determined and motivated to leave a legacy of passion, loyalty, and commitment with the Greyhound Battalion. He states, "I say passion because everything I do for this Battalion and my students is always at the highest level. Loyalty because no matter where you come from in the world, when you represent this program, we always will have each other's back. Lastly, commitment. I took an oath to protect and defend. I achieve this by training the future leaders of the Army to do the same". CPT Sims advice for future leaders is "1. Do not be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life, and it is the best way to learn how to overcome adversity. 2. If you take care of your team, your team will take care of you. 3. Set goals for your life and your career then work the plan. There is always more than one solution for any situation. 4. Have fun".





## Greyhound Battalion Community Outreach

**Garrett Lane, Towson'21**

The Greyhound Battalion continues to give back to its community in a multitude of ways, most prominently are the community service projects we undertake every semester. This year our most prominent events were providing assistance with the filming of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans (WHVV) event put on by Gilchrist Hospice Care as a way to recognize those that served before us and show our gratitude, as well as volunteering with eCYBERCOMMISSION to help with a US Army sponsored event to help boost student interest in STEM fields in which we judged student projects at the local level to determine who got to have a chance at the national prize.

For WHVV, the event is normally hosted in person, but due to COVID restrictions Gilchrist decided to make a video instead to distribute to their centers as well as broadcast on local television. CDTs Remsburg, Ounnarath, Monaco, and Lane were tasked with performing a suite in honor of those who sacrificed much of their lives if not everything carrying out the thankless mission of the Vietnam War.

Our other major event was to volunteer with the official US Army educational outreach program eCYBERCOMMISSION. This program sets up a competition for students from middle schools across the country to submit a STEM based project to be judged against all the other submissions across the nation for a chance at various prizes. The aim is to help develop students critical thinking and research skills as well as stimulate an interest in STEM fields at a critical age. Fourteen of our cadets pitched in to help as judges for the event, for which they pledged to judge at least three projects. When asked about the initiative, CDT Chiodi, one of our volunteer judges, said, "It's hard enough to find time to give to the community, and COVID has made it even harder. So, it's a great feeling when you can help the younger community grow." Other volunteers felt similarly. CDT Hayburn was glad to "serve in a fashion which helped foster a love of innovation, learning, and commitment to education."



CDT Remsburg stands at the front of the formation during the filming of the Vietnam Veterans event



The volunteering CDTs pose with the film crew for the Vietnam Veterans event.



## Army Combat Fitness Test

Evelyn Haines, Towson'21



Cadet Posadas looks behind to judge the success of her SPT while her grader looks on.

The ACFT The Army Combat Fitness Test or ACFT is the new physical fitness test for all Army components. It was introduced as a more holistic approach to physical assessment, in hopes that it will bridge the gap between fitness and combat readiness. This will hopefully improve soldier and unit readiness, transform the Army's fitness culture, reduce preventable injuries and attrition, and enhance mental toughness and stamina. The ACFT's events also hold application to common soldier tasks that allow soldiers to understand why training certain muscle groups to standard will help them in their roles.

Small but important changes and developments are coming for physical training in the Army this year. While the revamped fitness test's origin dates back to development as early as 2013, updates have steadily evolved the test as it has been tried and completed by soldiers. The latest version of the test, known as the

ACFT 3.0, is the manifestation of these updates. In this new version, there is possibility for the integration of a gendered grading aspect of evaluation that accounts for physiological differences and expectations. Along with this is the official addition of a timed plank as a substitute for the Hanging Leg Tuck (HLT) in the assessment of abdominal core strength. As of 2021, Active Duty soldiers will be required to take two ACFTs, and National Guard and Reservists are required to take one.

The Army is still in the midst of the ACFT data collection period, which allows these updates to take place more fluidly and be informed by larger quantities of data. This will allow the final product ACFT to be as refined and effective in setting the standard for combat readiness as possible.



Left: Cadets from Greyhound Battalion conduct a PT session that integrates ACFT equipment and trains muscle groups to meet ACFT standards.



## Gettysburg Staff Ride

Nicholas Campos, Towson'21

As one of the last requirements to commission as an Officer in the United States Army, senior Cadets must complete a "Staff Ride" to an American battlefield. At the end of April, the senior class of the Greyhound Battalion traveled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to complete this requirement. Prior to the staff ride, each senior also wrote a paper and completed a presentation regarding a piece of the battle through the lens of the Army branch they will be commissioning into. For example, the seniors branching Infantry wrote about the Infantry maneuvers and tactics of the battle. While at Gettysburg, the seniors each briefed their branch tasks on the battlefield in locations where their branch played a key role. The Staff Ride to Gettysburg served two purposes, first, the cadets were able to study and witness their Army branches in a real world context, in person. This is important because it allows the senior Cadets to understand how their branches play an integral role in the function of the Army at large and see it "in the flesh" so to speak. Lastly, the Staff Ride serves as a culminating event for the seniors to celebrate the end to their four year journey in ROTC and in college. The Staff Ride is an event all senior Cadets look forward to, as it's a time to recap on their times as cadets, as well as students.



Cadet Garrett Lane-Towson (left) and Cadet Conor Lowther – Loyola (right) brief their section at the Gettysburg



Cadets of Greyhound Battalion in front of Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

**Cadet Highlight: Nina Huff****Peter Friedrichs, Loyola'21**

Military service is not for everyone. You must have great courage, tremendous leadership, and unwavering determination to take up the mantle of a Soldier. For some, this is found through experiences in life. It is discovered at times when decisions must be made or when challenges are faced. For others, it is instilled as values from a young age; lessons passed on from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends.

The Army is, at its foundation, an organization of tradition. ROTC sees many Cadets who come from military families. These Cadets are individuals who have grown up around Army tradition, practiced it through their guardians, and often find pressure on their shoulders to carry those traditions forward themselves.

Cadet Nina Huff, ROTC Class of 2024, is not a Cadet to bend to the will of others. An intelligent and inspired young woman, Cadet Huff comes from a military family, but chose to join ROTC for herself, hoping to find her full potential in the Army. With a Retired Colonel for a father and a fresh 2nd Lieutenant for a brother, Cadet Huff is confident when she says "the army is in [her] blood."

As a high schooler, Cadet Huff never hesitated to take on responsibility, splitting her time between two varsity athletic teams, county committees, working as secretary for her parish pastoral council, and being a recipient of International Baccalaureate Program, where she received an additional diploma. Entering college, Cadet Huff received a 4-year scholarship. During her time at Loyola, Cadet Huff has already earned a spot on the Dean's List and has arranged to attend the University of Pittsburgh during summer of 2021 to learn Russian on a scholarship. Cadet Huff embodies the Army values through her persistence to improve herself and others at every chance she is given.



Cadet Huff in the Courtyard of her first-year dorm at Loyola University Maryland



Cadet Huff was awarded "Freshmen Cadet of the Semester" for Fall 2020 during Virtual Awards Ceremony



**Guest Highlight: COL (Retired) William “Randy” Everett****Marielle Tani, Loyola’21**

COL William ‘Randy’ Everett, graciously awarded CDT Megan Korpiel with the 175th ROTC Honor Graduate Award. During the Spring Military Ball held on 29 APR 2021. The 175th ROTC Honor Graduate Award symbolizes the enduring effort and excellence a senior cadet demonstrates throughout their time with the GreyHound Battalion. The senior cadet who demonstrates the highest standards of leadership, academic and military performance within the GreyHound Battalion are nominated by the Professor of Military Science and presented to a committee to be confirmed. CDT Korpiel shone amongst her peers earning her name forever inscribed upon the coveted silver bowl.

COL Everett, an exemplary soldier and leader, embodied all of these qualities and more while serving his country for over 30 years. COL Everett currently serves as an International Armaments Cooperation Staff Officer at the US Army Research Development and Engineering Command, with specific focus on civil military cooperation and operational planning. He has developed strategic plans and associated training for conventional and Special Operations Forces units, who were working to educate host nation leadership at national and local government levels. He has brought into fruition every Army Value and Ethic as he has applied them to highly complicated and multifaceted assignments with the National Guard, while going above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a subject matter expert in International Relations, administrations and staff management.

COL Everett, along with LTC (Ret.) Thomas Bailey, presented the award, offering up a few words of wisdom to the cadets and guests in attendance. Most poignant of all was their message of hope and endeavor as they prompted all in the audience to look forward to the future of the nation and their own as well. As the Commissioning Class of 2021 looks forward to their military and civilian careers, we take with us the knowledge of those who have come before us and those who we are bound to lead. The 175th ROTC Honor Graduate Award serves as a long lasting reminder to not only CDT Korpiel but to us all that the skills we learned through our time with the Greyhound ROTC Program--hard work, diligence, dedication and perseverance--will follow us always.





## Spring 2021 Super Lab

Connor Gannon, Loyola'21

As a commissioning source for the U.S. Army, ROTC requires that all its cadets develop a basic level of proficiency with infantry tactics at the platoon level. This means that, when they graduate college and commission as officers, every new lieutenant is able to lead a unit of forty men in ground combat. The cadets' tactical abilities are rigorously tested during Cadet Summer Training, or CST, which all rising seniors in the ROTC program must complete the during summer before their senior year in order to qualify for commissioning.

In order to prepare our cadets for CST, the Greyhound Battalion follows a walk-jog-run format of training our second-semester juniors the tactics they'll need to know for summer. The walk phase is comprised of early morning instructional and practice events during the weekdays, the jog phase is a day-long training event in which second-semester juniors will rotate in and out of a leadership positions in a platoon comprised of their peers—called Superlab. The run phase is an overnight training exercise in which cadets rotate in and out of leadership positions in a platoon of their peers over the course of four days.

Superlab was conducted on Saturday, March 27th, the weekend before Loyola's spring break. The Greyhound Battalion formed up bright and early at 0530 at Camp Fretard in Westminster, a local National Guard training facility and armory. The event started with a two-hour long demonstration, led by the seniors, to show the juniors what right looks like. Afterward, the juniors took over their platoons of freshman and sophomores and led their troops through a series of mock battles. Seniors and cadre watched closely and provided the juniors with feedback and pointers. The day ended at 1600 with a pizza break and a safety brief.



Cadet Schnitzer (near left-standing) briefing OPORD to his platoon leadership



Cadet Lee-Tobin (right-standing) following platoon during their actions on objective and broadcasting it live on Zoom for virtual Cadets



**Alumni Spotlight: 1LT Knott****George Davis, Towson'21**

1LT Knott is currently serving as a Company Fire Support Officer under HHB, 1-107th FA, Det 1 attached to the 1-175th infantry regiment. When he first joined the program he knew he didn't want active duty and desired to stay in the State of Maryland. He was eventually offered by the Guard to be an FSO. He recalled "being an FSO seemed like an awesome job to be" after a couple years he was delighted in saying "I am very happy with my decision". He went on describing how it is "Unique being in a fires attachment attached to an infantry company. We have very specific skills the infantry doesn't need to train on."

A lot of people forget about the Field artillery personnel still in Maryland and the unique assets they can bring to the table in terms of pure fire power with the use of forward observers. Especially ones that are joint fires qualified. 1LT Knott explained how the fires detachment is continually working on prepping their soldiers for JFO school and diligently working to stay certified. Something that has been rather difficult especially given the difficulties of being sent to DC at the beginning of the year

Left: 1LT Knott (left) on a tank; Bottom: 1LT Knott on far right during training exercise



**Cadet Spotlight: Cadet Sherman in Simultaneous Membership Program****Djbril Mbaye, Towson'21**

I developed a friendship with Cadet Sherman outside of ROTC due the fact that we are both SMP Cadets. He is an MSIII cadet who has been in the program and described his experience as quite challenging but he knows that the extra load of work is going to pay off in the long run and make him a better officer and a better leader for his future soldiers.

Going to BCT and AIT as a 68W (Combat Medic/Healthcare Specialist) has helped him have a better understanding of army history, Army Values, customs and courtesies, and other important information pertaining to his army career. Being a part of the 1-175th Infantry Regiment allows him to gain valuable experience in the medical field which will be extremely helpful when trying to branch Medical Services when commissioning next December. While he has a bit more on his plate when compared to a traditional Cadet, he knows this will build him into a better Soldier.





**Cadre Spotlight: MSG Gabriel Cota****Ally Tillotson, Loyola'21**

Master Sergeant (MSG) Gabriel Cota was born in Portales, New Mexico and enlisted in the New Mexico National Guard as a light wheel vehicle mechanic in 1997. He has served in the Army for 24 years. Post-retirement, MSG Cota looks forward to spending his entire first month hunting for elk and deer in New Mexico where he will be moving back to with his wife and three daughters. He looks forward to not shaving and getting his hair cut to military standards the most. MSG Cota does not drink water, his choice of beverage is Dr. Pepper or Monster which led to one of his most memorable times in the Army during his Basic Training, where his Drill Sergeants found out that he would not drink water, so they would shake his canteen and throw it every morning to which he had to crab walk up and down a hill until the physical training portion of his day began.

MSG Cota will miss the camaraderie Soldiers share with each other and having someone, wherever the Army sent him, that he could get along with and have the relationship that soldiers have in contrast to civilians. Advice to the Cadet's the Greyhound battalion from MSG Cota is, "Take advantage of your Platoon Leader time the most. You will be able to spend the most time with your soldiers during this period. Develop those soldiers, and be enjoy the time you will spend with your team (platoon)."



MSG Cota (right) presenting Certificate of Achievement to Cadet of the Month-Cadet Proffitt

**Cadet Spotlight: Cadet Pratt on his Air Assault School Experience****Henry Tennant, Towson'21**

Cadet Pratt after completing Air Assault School

Being selected to attend the Sabalauski Air Assault School (AAS) was a great honor and was an astounding experience. Attending AAS in the middle of December posed its own challenges, one of which being on day zero when the obstacle course was frozen over. Even so, we persevered and made it through the grueling smoke show PT and the "O" course. Phase one of AAS was based heavily on technical knowledge of rotary winged aircraft and hand and arm signals. We spent most of this phase in the classroom in what the instructors called "death by powerpoint phase". Every night my roommate and I would spend hours creating flashcards then quizzing each other. During this time, I began to create a bond with the people in my platoon, some of which I still talk to today.

Phase one ended with a written exam, hand and arm signal exam and lastly a six-mile ruck march. I was warned that Fort Campbell was very hilly and it most definitely was but my roommate and I stayed together for the duration and finished the ruck with ample time left. Phase two was by far the most intense and difficult phase at AAS. Phase two consisted of written and hands-on training for sling load operations. My roommate and I spent almost double the time studying for the sling load phase as we did for phase one. We began by studying the specifications of all things related to sling loads, which after a few days turned into physically inspecting loads to determine if they are safe to be carried. The day of the test was one of the most nerve-racking moments of my life, knowing in my head that if I did not pass the

four sling load inspections, that I would be sent home. Thankfully, I earned a first time "go" on all the sling loads. This wasn't true for about 50% of the class though. I was grateful to pass that portion! Once I finished my written and physical sling load exams, I took a sigh of relief knowing that the end was in sight and the hardest part was over.

Phase three was the most fun phase of them all! This was because the instructors were finally lightening up and your fellow platoon members wanted to see each other graduate. It was also fun because this was where we learned to rappel. We spent the first few days learning how to tie a swiss seat and repel from the ramp, wall and the tower. Everyone's first time down the line was a little skittish but most people eventually warmed up to it and mastered the execution. The day before graduation is the day that everyone had been waiting for, Helicopter Day! That day was the coldest day we've had down there, and it was a cool 21 degrees. Nonetheless, we were way too eager to let the weather beat us when we were about to repel out of a helicopter at least until we got under the spinning blades of the chinook, it was much windier and colder. Out of my group on the helicopter, I was the last one to go off and I remember stopping halfway down the line to wrap my head around what I was currently doing.

Graduation day started at 3am with a twelve-mile ruck, everyone in the class were so determined to finish. At that point, most of us practically sprinted the first mile and a half, by the time we reached six miles I was in a group with five other guys from my platoon. The rambling conversations about our experiences the last two weeks made the miles go by much faster. Once we reached the gates to the schoolhouse, we sounded off with one last loud and thunderous "AIR ASSAULT!" At this point, it was surreal that I had just completed AAS, but once we returned to the hotel it began to sink in. I was lucky enough to have my family present at my graduation and we even got a surprise speech by Major General John R. Evans, Jr. which I really enjoyed. The support I received from my friends, fellow cadets and family immensely helped me get through this training, and I cannot thank our cadre enough for giving me this amazing opportunity.



## Spring 2021 Military Ball

Megan Korpiel, Loyola'21

After much deliberation due to the ongoing Pandemic, the Greyhound Battalion conducted a Military Ball on the 29th of April. This event served as a way to celebrate the spring semester and recognize the accomplishments of cadets. This year's event was particularly special. After needing to forego the event last semester, this was the first time that cadets had an in-person opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments. Building camaraderie and enhancing spirit-de-corps, Military Ball is a longstanding tradition in Military units everywhere. Traditions, like the receiving line, needed to be modified. Socially distanced seating and all the necessary COVID precautions in place, the Ball looked a little different than past years, but Cadets still loved the event. Fortunately, guests were able to attend, as well as awards presenters.

First command was even generous enough to sponsor a table for cadets who were unable to afford tickets on their own. The guest speaker, our very own MAJ Joseph Mucci, shared his wisdom about his time in the Army. Towards the conclusion of the event, the graduating MS IVs were recognized for their time in ROTC. While the Battalion is sad to see them go, there is excitement in knowing that these young cadets are prepared to be successful second lieutenants in their future endeavors.



First Command Presenting CDT Conor Lowther with the First Command Leadership Award



CDT Rai being presented the USAA Spirit Award with MSG Cota (Left) and LTC Oliva (Right)



