

JMU ROTC DUKE BATTALION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Your guide to keep updated with the latest JMU ROTC training



WHO ARE WE?

We are a committee devoted to keeping the JMU Army ROTC Program Alumni updated with what the current cadets are doing. This newsletter features how we are being innovative toward our training on becoming future Army Officers.

VISION FOR SPRING 2019

A word from your Duke Battalion Command Team

"My past three years here at JMU we have learned what it takes to be a confident, adaptive, and personable leader. I hope we can instill this in the upcoming classes to carry on and exceed the legacy of the JMU ROTC Battalion."

-Battalion Commander, Cadet Matthew Reed

"I want cadets to be proud of JMU and our school to be seen as a premier University with an excellent ROTC Battalion. Every cadet that we interact with at training events should know about JMU and who we are."

-Command Sergeant Major, Cadet Kevin Steiner

"With hard work, loyalty, motivation, and dedication to the mission of the Duke Battalion, I have no doubt that this program will grow better and stronger in the years to come."

-Battalion XO, Cadet Jacqueline Krawiec



**WHAT IS THE DUKE BATTALION UP TO?
READ ON!**

Top of the line training

Fall 2018 FTX

Camp Shenandoah, VA

The Duke Battalion attended FTX this past fall on a cold and wet weekend. With a mix of paintball gunfire and camo stucked faces, the Dukes came ready to train. The FTX was organized by MSIV's and cadre to provide realistic training situations for the cadets to learn.



Spring 2019 JFTX

Fort Pickett, VA

This year, JMU has mission command of spring Task Force Field Training Exercise. A full range of events have been scheduled in order to simulate the rigors of US Army Cadet Command's Advanced Camp. The MSIII Cadets are the primary training audience and will operate out of patrol bases to complete multiple tactical mission tasks, basic rifle marksmanship training, hand grenade training and culminate with a M-4/M-16 range.

JMU Duke Battalion's 40th Anniversary!

This Alumni Newsletter is brought to you by ARMA Aviation



Alumni Panel & Tailgate on JMU Homecoming Weekend

By: CDT Ashley Kim

The Duke Battalion hosted an Alumni Panel this past Homecoming Weekend. Here, the Dukes welcomed six alumni to offer advice to the cadets aspiring to be Second Lieutenants. During the panel, the JMU alum offered advice while the cadets asked a plethora of questions.

The following day, the Duke Battalion hosted a tailgate where we welcomed 300 guests including: alumni, cadets, and cadre. Here, there was catered food, drinks, games, and a photo booth. We hope to hold this tradition, for the upcoming fall and 40th anniversary of the JMU Duke Battalion. Please plan to be there October 25 & 26, 2019.



Top: 2LT Joseph ('18, ANC) offers mentorship and guidance to nursing cadets

Bottom: May 2019 commissioning class at Alumni Tailgate

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DUKE BNs, Professor of Military Science, LTC Thomas Tolman



LTC Tolman setting new standards for the Duke Battalion

This year the Duke Battalion will commission 37 cadets. This represents a surge in growth. When I arrived in the summer of 2016, the Army was downsizing and JMU commissioned 20. Despite the growth, the quality of our cadets remains high and all cadets who requested Active Duty in the past two years have scored high enough on the national Order of Merit List to achieve that goal. Cadets will commission into Infantry, Engineer, Finance, Field Artillery, Signal, Aviation, Military Intelligence, Cyber, Chemical, and the Nurse Corps. Cadet Brittani Butler, member of our Ranger Group, will be the first female cadet from JMU to branch Infantry. We also have Cadet Emily Booker and Jencia Allen selected to go directly to graduate school for psychology and physical therapy.

Our cadets have new and exciting summer training options. This summer we will send nearly one hundred cadets on various deployments, internships, camps and schools including overseas opportunities in Uzbekistan, Peru, Mongolia, Nepal, Korea, Tanzania and Botswana. Advance Camp at Fort Knox is our main effort (30 cadets) but we also have cadets going to Airborne School, Air Assault School, Nurse Summer Training Program, internships and other training.

Over the last few years we have seen a surge in alumni support and funding led by James Fugit ('94). He funded an endowment which provides merit based bridging scholarships to the top students which helps attract and keep the best cadets in the program until they are able to contract. Cadet Jacqueline Krawiec was the first scholarship recipient in 2016 and she will commission as an Aviation lieutenant in May. The second award recipient, Emma Altonji, will commission as an Army Nurse in 2020. In addition to scholarships, the Fugit endowment provides funding to enhance opportunities for the Ranger Group and leadership opportunities for the program. Among other things, this has enabled cadets to start a Cyber Club, allowed 16 cadets to travel to North Carolina to complete the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, and allowed a record number of cadets to run half marathons and the Army Ten Miler. Mr. Fugit's financial support has significantly enhanced the program in meaningful ways.

In addition, many other alum have made recent visits or provided funding to help our cadets. One of the first cadets to do Army ROTC at JMU and the recipient of JMU's highest award to alumni, LTG (ret) Raymond Mason ('78), is a major donor to Army ROTC and makes an visits at least once a year to mentor cadets. Other alum that have visited this year to speak to cadets include MG John Morrison ('86), BG (ret) Randy Dragon ('80), BG Matt McFarlane ('92), COL Townley Hedrick ('92), COL Ken Burgess, COL (ret) Brian Zarchin ('92), LTC Andrew Burgess and more. LTC Terry Windmiller ('93) continues to fund an annual scholarship which he has done every year since he commissioned.

Army ROTC was established at JMU as part of UVA's program in 1974. On September 12th, 1979 the program was upgraded to a host university. This fall we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of our program. Plan to join us on homecoming weekend (25-26 October) to do just that. On Friday, 25 October, we will have an Alumni Panel where you can mentor cadets. You can tour our facilities, see how cadets are training now, and if you are still brave enough – rappel off Eagle Hall again. On Saturday we will have a tailgate prior to the homecoming football game against Towson. There will be activities for kids so feel free to bring your whole family.

For me personally, this has been a deeply rewarding assignment to see the growth of our cadets as they prepare to commission and serve our country. I requested an extension and it was approved so I will be here for a fourth and final year. Go Dukes!

Spotlight on JMU Duke Battalion Cadets

Cadet Alejandro Torres, MSII

CDT Torres went to Military Police Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Here he learned how to be a leader and the mental agility to exceed expectations of his cadre and counterparts. CDT Torres said it was difficult being away from family and friends for five months, but during this time he learned a lot about himself. CDT Torres is a junior at JMU, majoring in Justice Studies with a concentration in Crime and Criminology. He hopes to branch Military Police in December 2020.



Cadet Zachary Miller, MSIII

CDT Miller is currently a junior at JMU and is majoring in Business Management. CDT Miller will graduate and commission in May 2020 and would like to branch Field Artillery. In May of last year, CDT Miller attended Sabalauski Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, KY. Here, he was able to learn the skills and handling of an aircraft from the ground. At the end of the training, CDT Miller was Air Assault certified which meant he could make maximum use of helicopter assets in training and in combat to support unit operations. CDT Miller says the most exciting part of his training was the opportunity to jump out of a Blackhawk on his last day at Fort Campbell.



Cadet Ashley Kim, MSIV

CDT Kim attended Nursing Summer Training Program this past summer at Fort Wainwright, AK. She was in the Emergency Department in Bassett Army Community Hospital for four weeks. Here, she solidified her clinical and critical thinking skills while shadowing an Army Nurse. CDT Kim said traveling in Alaska, seeing the wild life, and serving active duty soldiers were the most exciting parts of her experience. She will graduate in May with her Nursing Degree, commission in August, and hopes to be stationed at Walter Reed National Military Hospital in Bethesda, MD.



Cadet Evan Greenhaw, MSIV

CDT Greenhaw is a senior Nursing major and will commission in December 2019. He attended Project Global Officer, East African Field School. This is a program provided by JMU but also supported by ROTC. CDT Greenhaw traveled to Tanzania where he learned the Swahili language, political ecology of East Africa and human environmental interactions. CDT Greenhaw was able to balance the rigor of the courses with free time exploring the country of Tanzania.



JMU Ranger Group

Rangers Lead the Way



"Whatever the Battalion succeeds or fails to do depends on the Ranger Group"
-LTC McDonald

By CDT Ashley Kim

The JMU Ranger Group is dedicated to the mission of improving our ROTC Battalion. Through additional extensive training, the members of the Ranger Group is an example of what the standard could and should be.

Every year the Ranger Group conducts an intensive training program otherwise known as the Ranger Candidacy Program. Here, cadets are tested on their leadership, physical ability, and mental agility by learning and training in stressful environments. In addition, each Fall semester the Ranger Group participates in the 4th Brigade Ranger Challenge. This competition takes place every fall at Fort Pickett, VA against 40-50 other teams from the Brigade. They are tested on the Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks Warrior Skills Level 1. During the Spring, each member of the Ranger Group participates in their own FTX where they are tested on their tactical competency in a foreign and physically stressful environment. Lastly, Cadet Development Initiative (CDI) is a class taught by the Ranger Group throughout the year. This once-a-week session provides additional guidance for the rest of the Battalion and helps them prepare for summer training like Advanced and Basic Camp, CULP, Air Assault School, and Airborne School.

This past candidacy ended March 29 and the Ranger Group welcomed five new members. Congratulations Class 01-19.



The new Ranger Group members after they completed Candidacy. Class 01-19



JMU Alumni: Major General John B. Morrison

By CDT Teresa Gregory

MG Morrison received his commission from the JMU ROTC program in 1986. MG Morrison graduated as a Signal Officer with a Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in marketing.

On March 14, 2019, seven James Madison University cadets selected to branch Signal had the opportunity to meet former JMU cadet, MG Morrison.

MG Morrison spent time during one of the networking breaks while at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA), to sit down and mentor current JMU Cadets: David Reed, Kevin Delaney, Ethan Brown, Gavin McCain, Justin Laatz, Luke Hammack, and Teresa Gregory.

Morrison reflected on his experience as a Platoon Leader in the 1st Signal Battalion, 7th Signal Brigade, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Some of the advice that MG Morrison shared with the current JMU cadets included:

- Getting to know soldiers and soldiers families
- Reading the news and staying updated on current events
- Recognizing that making mistakes is inevitable
- Understanding that humility is a part of being a leader

MG Morrison is currently commanding the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon, GA.





Balance: Advice from Brigadier General Matthew McFarlane Class of 1992

By CDT Ashley Kim

BG McFarlane is an Army Ranger, Master Parachutist, Combat Infantryman, father, husband, and a cherished JMU ROTC Alumni. Throughout his career, BG McFarlane has traveled all over the world on a multitude of assignments. Among these assignments he has landed back in his home state of Virginia, at the Pentagon, not too far from where he grew up in Burke, VA. Since being stationed back in

Virginia, BG McFarlane has made it back to his Alma Mater of JMU for commissioning ceremonies and has hosted Q&A's to share the knowledge and lessons he has learned from his past 25 plus years of service.

During his last visit on Martin Luther King Weekend, he made it a priority to emphasize the importance of balancing everything from your career to your personal life. He stated that some keys to his success included: listening and mentoring others as well as taking care of yourself. As an officer, it is absolutely critical to find the right balance between career and family. Through time, hardships, and practice, he has learned that his family is his backbone and foundation for his support system.

He also shared some leadership lessons. He spoke about the importance of adjusting your leadership approach to each subordinate based on their experience and capabilities. He shared a leadership continuum model that was passed to him from a mentor that provides a scalable approach to developing subordinates and building trust.

Throughout his many years of service, he has learned countless lessons and does not hesitate to share these experiences with the cadets of the Duke Battalion. He hopes that his experiences and lessons learned will help cadets as they begin their professional careers.

The Duke Battalion appreciates BG McFarlane's mentorship, perspective and willingness to continue to shape the future officers of the Army. These visits are a reminder to cadets of what their hard work can achieve. BG McFarlane is a role model and one of many great Alumni that have graduated from our Duke Battalion.

Update from Alumni

Colonel Scott Noon, Class of '94

COL Scott Noon remembers his first visit at JMU meeting MSIII, Cadet Matthew McFarlane, now Brigadier General, who aspired to be just like him. COL Noon joined the Ranger Group, a fraternity, the Honor Council, and several other campus organizations while attending JMU. This coming May marks COL Noon's 25 years of service. COL Noon served with many JMU Alumni. He was deployed with COL Chris Black ('94) and COL William Garber ('94). COL Noon says, "how to successfully lead and build a team is a lifelong endeavor" to everyone and anyone, but especially to soon-to-be Second Lieutenants.



Colonel Michael Davis, Class of '95

COL Davis remembers JMU as molding their cadets as leaders, "The program was open and inviting, offering to teach leadership and adventure." Now continuing his career as an U.S. Army attache at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, he cherishes the moments and memories created at JMU, Ranger School in 1996 and Special Forces Qualification Course in 2001. COL Davis remembers the Duke Battalion as one of the best ROTC programs, apart from other programs COL Davis says, "JMU has a family." COL Davis leaves cadets and soon-to-be Second Lieutenants with this piece of advice: "Learning to take care of one another now will teach you the discipline, respect, and compassion to lead your soldiers in the years to come."



Top Right: COL Noon and family, 2018

Middle Right: COL Davis and family, 2016

Bottom Right: COL Noon, COL Davis, Andy Richter ('93), and Neil Quinlan ('95) at James Fugit's ('94) wedding

We want to hear from you!



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JMU ARMY ROTC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Come visit the Duke Battalion

Eagle Hall Rappelling: April 19, 2019

May Commissioning: May 4, 2019 at 1400

Alumni Panel: October 25, 2019

Homecoming Tailgate: October 26, 2019

Schedule a Q&A: contact CDT Howl



Top Left: 2LT Muzo ('18) & 1LT Mannion ('17) at Commissioning Ceremony, December 2018

Bottom Left: (R) Brigadier General Randal A. Dragon ('80) & Mrs. Dragon at Fall 2018 Dining Out

ATTENTION JMU ALUMNI!

If you would like to be featured in the next Duke Battalion Alumni Newsletter or involved with the current cadets at JMU, please contact the new Alumni Chair, CDT Lauren Howl at howlle@dukes.jmu.edu.