



# Big Red Battalion Newsletter



## UNL/UNK Army ROTC

### Fall Activities

The Big Red Battalion has been busy this fall. The semester began with a week-long in-processing week known as “Zero Week”. This included briefings on everything from fall expectations to the upcoming celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of the University. All new cadets conducted an Army Physical Fitness test as well as a basic introduction to the Big Red Battalion.

After the first week, the company prepped for and executed our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX). This year the Fall FTX was conducted in Mead, Nebraska, with help from the Nebraska National Guard and in conjunction with the Black Wolf Army ROTC Battalion at Creighton University. During the FTX, Cadets trained in a variety of military tasks including patrol bases, squad operations, and weapons training with the M-16, M-249 and M-240B. Freshman and Sophomores were given the opportunity to ride in a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter. The training gave cadets an introduction into basic soldier skills as well as a better understanding of what will be expected of them at advanced camp following their Junior year.

As the semester continued Cadets were trained in several different areas such as military communication, first aid, and squad tactics. The semester concluded with an Army Ball celebrating a successful semester.

### Ranger Challenge

This semester, Cadets from the Big Red participated in our Task Force Ranger Challenge in Dubuque, Iowa. The Big Red Battalion sent two teams comprised of nine cadets each. 16 cadets from A-Co at UNL and two cadets from B-Co at UNK made up the two teams. The Cadets competed in various physical tasks as well as military skills competitions. Overall, our teams competed very well. One team placed second (only missing first place by a single point). Preparation for the competition was led by Cadets Josh Wray and Nick Gaffney. After 4 years participating in the challenge, CDT Gaffney had this to say about the teams: “The Big Red Cadets represented the Big Red Battalion very well. They pushed themselves throughout the two-day competition and I couldn’t be prouder.”

### 2019/ 2020 Commissionies



**Armor**  
 -Austin Chitty  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Fountain, CO



**Air Defense Artillery**  
 -Kamryn Sannicks  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE



**Engineers**  
 -Grant Carstens  
 -Iowa Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE  
 -Amanda Cook  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE  
 -Ashley Cook  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE



**Field Artillery**  
 -Enrique Costas  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown- Stafford, VA



**Infantry**  
 -Elijah Eubanks  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE  
 -Niko Gavino  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown: Seattle, WA



**Medical Services**  
 -James Brown  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Lincoln, NE



**Military Intelligence**  
 -Damien Scovill  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown- North Platte, NE



**Military Police**  
 -Raymond Anderson  
 -Active Duty  
 -Hometown- Omaha, NE  
 -Nick Gaffney  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- Kennard, NE



**Quarter Master**  
 -Emily Cumming  
 -Nebraska Army National Guard  
 -Hometown- St. Edward, NE



**Signal**  
 -Jared Polack  
 -Active Duty, December 2019  
 -Hometown- Omaha, NE.

**TBD**  
 -Hope Hasslen  
 -National Guard  
 -Hometown – Ortonville, MN.

## UNL N150 Homecoming

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln celebrated its 150th birthday in February of 2019, making this the 103rd year of Army ROTC at UNL. This fall semester, we had the enjoyment of celebrating UNL's 150th Homecoming week. There were a lot of events put on to celebrate school wide. The Big Red Battalion is proud to have played a part in University N150 celebrations. Cadets offered up their artistic abilities to create an ROTC banner, as well as participate in the Jester Competition -- an event that provides comical dancing and talents. Cadets also took time out of their week to donate blood to the American Red Cross and display the colors at the Homecoming football game.



## Upcoming Events

The Big Red Battalion has an exciting spring coming up. The semester will begin with training and preparation for the upcoming spring FTX. This year the spring FTX will be held at Ft. Riley in Kansas with five other ROTC battalions from the area. The annual spring FTX is a great opportunity to work with other universities outside of Nebraska and train the juniors for their upcoming summer at Advanced Camp. The FTX will consist of land navigation, small arms ranges, and tactical platoon operations.

In addition to preparing for spring FTX, the Big Red is also preparing for two different military competitions. The first of which is the Bataan Memorial Death March. This march is a 26.2 mile ruckmarch at White Sands Missile Range in the high desert of New Mexico. The Big Red will send two teams of five along with two alternates for the race on March 15. The Big Red Battalion is also preparing for the Ranger Buddy competition. The Ranger Buddy competition is much like the Task Force Ranger Challenge competition except that the teams are much smaller only having buddy pairs. Additionally, The Big Red will be participating in the Northern Warfare Challenge. The Northern Warfare Challenge takes place in La Crosse Wisconsin in February and is known as the "Hardest Competition in ROTC". The race takes place over one day and cadets will battle both the cold and cover 22+ miles and more than 3,500 feet of elevation gain.

This semester the MSIV staff will participate in their Staff Ride at Pea Ridge, AR, as well as one final Chancellor's Review before the seniors graduate and commission on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Big Red Battalion is looking forward to their upcoming semester of training and special events, and for the opportunity to continue to grow as leaders.

## Program Comments

Fall 2019 shaped up to be another fine semester for the Big Red Battalion. Whether reflecting back upon the great accomplishments of the endurance competition teams, admiring the number of prestigious summer internships awarded to our cadets, or simply marveling at the continuous improvements made in cadet efforts to hone the skills of their craft, one thing has been constant – the level of commitment and dedication has been second to none. Additionally, I would like to recognize the superb efforts of the cadre and staff in not only providing the leadership and professionalism needed to develop great officers, but the effort they put into developing and nurturing good people as well.

– MAJ Rick B. Helton



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Edited By: C/MSIV Stocking

