Operating Around COVID-19

Due to the unexpected impact that coronavirus has had on training, the University of Dayton Fighting Flyer Battalion has had to make significant changes to daily operations.

These adjustments have allowed the Cadets to continue valuable in-person training. Such changes have included the cycled cleaning of all equipment, to include dummy rifles from Leadership Lab and all surfaces Cadets are in contact with. This is done through wipes and disinfectants located in both the range and classroom. Other changes include limited use of the weightroom, with a designated sign up sheet allotted by time designated by MS4 CDT Curtis Szelesta. Physical Training is now being conducted in two separate groups, divided into A Company and B Company. Cadets are expected to maintain social distancing, coupled with proper mask use. They are encouraged to take individual temperature if ill, and to remain home with any present symptoms. Cadre have also implemented Zoom as an interface for those sick or unable to attend class. These adjustments have certainly been a challenge, but the program plans to continue to operate and train in accordance with the safety guidelines.

Fighting Flyer Alumni,

we want to hear from you! Please send an email to UDROTCAlumni@gmail.com with your name, graduation year, and current email address.

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University of Dayton Army ROTC
IN CADET NEWS...

ALTERNATIVE TRAINING -
OPERATION AGILE WARRIOR

When levels of concern regarding the Coronavirus began to heighten in March of 2020, there was much uncertainty regarding how Cadet Summer Training could be conducted in accordance with the safety guidelines set forth by state officials.

Known as Leadership Developmental and Assessment Course prior to 2015, Advanced Camp is traditionally attended by Cadets during the summer months following their MSIII year. This 31-day training is filled with evaluated events that are a culmination of what the Cadets have been learning at their programs. This includes weapons qualification, a physical fitness test, Platoon Leader operations as well as a 6, 8 and 10 mile ruck. Cadets are evaluated on their leadership and proficiency and ranked among their peers, ultimately contributing to determining their overall rank in their ROTC cohort.

With so much riding on this event, it was very important that Cadet Command make a careful decision on how to proceed. The result was Operation Agile Warrior. Operation Agile Warrior consisted of a week-long, evaluated training course. This condensed training consisted of weapons qualification, platoon leader lanes, a ruck, and land navigation. All events were adjusted for COVID regulations.

FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

During the weekend of September 26-28th, Cadets traveled from the University of Dayton to Camp Sherman in Chillicothe, OH. The first day began with iterations for MS1s, MS2s, and MS3s covering basic movement techniques, introduction to land navigation, Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction, and patrol base operations.

The following day, Cadets started their morning with a Field Leadership Reaction Course. During this exercise, MS4 and MS3 Cadets filtered to and from rifle zeroing and qualification. MS1s and MS2s were given instruction over hand grenades and OPORDs. After shooting, all Cadets spent the rest of their day completing a day and night iteration of land navigation. The night concluded with patrol base operations.

The final morning, Cadets woke up to complete a night to day iteration of land navigation in groups. The weekend concluded with an awards ceremony.

Ranger Rudy’s Review
OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW -
THE ARMY COMBAT FITNESS TEST

This semester, University of Dayton FFB has started to transition from using the Army Physical Fitness Test to the Army Combat Fitness Test. The adjustment began with Cadre directing MS5 and MS4 Cadets on how to grade other Cadets for correct repetitions and body placement.

The new test consists of 6 graded events: 3-repetition deadlift, standing power-throw, hand release push-ups, sprint-drag-carry, leg-tuck, and two mile run.

After the MS5 and MS4 Cadets were instructed on grading following their first ACFT, they were then permitted to start grading other Cadets. To maintain covid guidelines, companies have broken up by respective squads to take an ACFT each Friday.

MS4 PT officer CDT Curtis Szelesta has implemented Monday running workouts and ACFT inspired workouts on Wednesdays to better prepare Cadets.

LEADERSHIP LAB RECAP

Following the return to campus, Cadets were eager to return back to normal activities. While this semester has been an adjustment, Cadet leadership has made positive changes to ensure developmental instruction is still taking place.

Each Wednesday, Cadets continue to have their weekly LLAB instruction. Changes made involve separation by companies and squads at various stations and mandatory masks.

Cadets continue to cover basic warrior skills, such as radio communications, Individual Movement Techniques, and first aid. They also conducted a 6 and 8 mile ruck march. The semester will end with the tradition of the squad Gauntlet competition.

Fighting Flyer Battalion

Fall 2020

Ranger Rudy’s Review
Join us for Leadership Professional Development

Within the past year, the University of Dayton Fighting Flyer Battalion has started offering Cadets the ability to attend Leadership Professional Development (LPD). LPDs are presentations given by various leaders over different topics. These presentations are offered in person, and over Zoom video call in compliance with covid guidelines.

Topics presented have included tips for new platoon leaders, women in the army, and basic leadership review. Most recently, we had the pleasure of hosting Brigadier General Rhoades and Sergeant Major Graf (SF), for an LPD covering their knowledge in the National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty. Cadets were able to ask any questions at the end of the presentation, and were provided an informational pamphlet.

You can find links to tune into these presentations on our Facebook and Instagram page!

Ranger Challenge Competition

The Brigade Ranger Challenge is traditionally a competition between teams of 11 Cadets from different universities in physical and mental teamwork oriented military skills events. Due to COVID-19, the Brigade level competition was cancelled. However, the Fighting Flyer Battalion Ranger Challenge team continued to practice through the semester to keep up the momentum from the past years.

In lieu of the brigade competition, the Ranger Challenge team split into A and B groups and held an internal competition on campus. The teams competed in shooting on a smokeless range, a written land-navigation test, hand release push-ups, team sprint-drag-carry relay, a two-mile run and rope bridge crossing. Cadre and MS5 Cadets helped grade the events. The team is planning to continue their practices and hold a similar event next Spring.
Please join the Fighting Flyer Battalion in congratulating our Fall graduates and commissionees. We will be hosting a virtual celebration via Zoom on: December 19th, 2020.

To attend, you can find a link on the University of Dayton Army ROTC Facebook page.
HONORS AND RECOGNITION

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATES

The following UD Cadets have been recognized as ranking in the top 20% of all ROTC graduates across the nation:

GENEVIEVE HERMAN
OLIVIA HOSEY
MICHAEL KERNER
NIKOS KLADITIS
ETHAN LETSCH
ALEXANDER OTTO

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TAKING FLIGHT - OUTGOING CADRE MEMBER

The Fighting Flyer Battalion is proud to recognize the achievement of one of our Cadre staff members. Captain Adam Berg arrived to the University of Dayton as an Assistant Professor of Military Science in the Fall of 2019. Originally branched Military Police, CPT Berg has been selected to begin training as a Foreign Area Officer and has been studying Arabic. Foreign Area Officers utilize their proficiency in a foreign language to serve as the Army’s experts on region-specific political, cultural, geographic and economic operations. CPT Berg will be undergoing a Permanent Change of Station to the Defense Language Institute in Washington, D.C. to begin his training. Congratulations to CPT Berg and best of luck on your next journey.
Cadet of the Semester

MSIII CDT Sam Harris

Cadre believe that it's important to recognize Cadets who consistently demonstrate a high level of leadership and excellence in everything from PT to the classroom. Each semester one individual from each MS class is selected to appear in front of a board consisting of Cadets and Cadre to be examined and tested on their knowledge. The board members score them on set criteria and determine who performed to the highest standard. The Fall 2020 Cadet of the Semester is MS3 Sam Harris. CDT Harris has been a great contribution to the program since his arrival. This semester CDT Harris was a platoon leader where he demonstrated his understanding for generating success of a team. He has continued to challenge himself and grow as a future Army leader. At physical training, CDT Harris stands out as a motivator, calling cadences and helping those who fall behind. The board recognized him specifically for his confidence, knowledge and uniform wear and appearance. Congratulations to CDT Harris.

Meet the BC

MSIV CDT Noah Caster

I'm Noah Caster, the Cadet Battalion Commander this semester. This semester has been different from most as we have been adapting to the changes that COVID brought on the University. My goal for the year was to continue physical training and advance the knowledge of MSI’s MSII’s, and MSIII’s to prepare them for camp. We have been doing this while maintaining mask requirements and social distancing. We spent the first part of the semester completely remote. In September, the Fighting Flyer Battalion was able to conduct a field training exercise at Camp Sherman. This was our first time of the semester that we were able to bring the entire battalion together at the same time. In recent news, the MSIV’s and MSV’s were assigned their components for after commissioning a few weeks ago, and they will find out their branches in the next few weeks. I’m looking forward to finishing out strong. Go Flyers!
This year has been one like none other. While Army training is difficult to conduct remotely, our Cadets and Cadre have risen to the challenges presented by 2020. Our Cadets still executed their training to prepare to lead tomorrow’s Army. We still conducted PT, leadership labs, and our Fall FTX, all while following safety protocols. Our Cadets have learned how to adapt to an ever changing environment, which will help them as future leaders. I am proud of our Cadets as they find innovative ways to continue to improve themselves everyday and make the Fighting Flyer Battalion the best in all of ROTC.

For this initial newsletter, I want to acknowledge that we are missing addresses of some alumni. I ask that if you know of anyone who did not receive this newsletter, please let us know. We want to improve the relationship between our current Cadets and distinguished alumni, and this newsletter will be one way to do just that. We welcome additional information on who else needs to receive this so we can build the bonds amongst our Fighting Flyers, both past and present.
Be on the lookout for the Spring edition of Ranger Rudy’s Review!

Fighting Flyer Alumni,

Please send an email with your name, graduation year, and current email address to:
UDROTCAlumni@gmail.com to stay connected to the program and fellow alumni.

University of Dayton Army ROTC
University of Dayton Army ROTC Alumni
@ud_army_rotc
@UDFlyersROTC

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