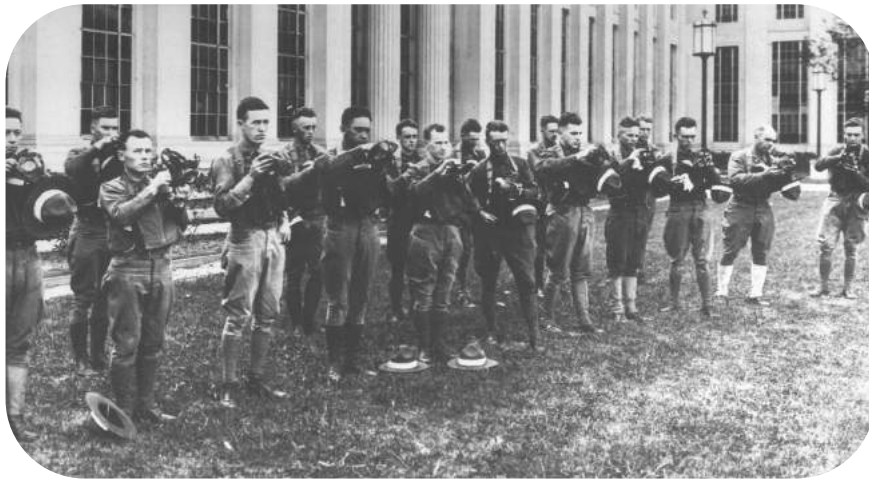


PAUL REVERE RECORDIER



SPRING 2020



Army ROTC Cadets conduct a gas mask drill on Killian Court in Spring of 1918.

PRB's History:

MIT established the Army ROTC Paul Revere Battalion in 1917, one year after the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. During World War I, more Army Officers came from MIT than from any other school (with the exception of West Point). Of the 1,538 military participants in World War II from MIT, 1,335

were Commissioned Officers. The battalion's history would go on to fill many pages with individual accounts of bravery on the battlefield as well as scientific and technical achievements in military laboratories. Today our battalion's history is shaped by the wide variety of students from MIT, Harvard University, Tufts University, Wellesley University, New England Conservatory of Music, Gordon College, Salem State University, and Endicott College. Yet our history does not stop here. It continues to be written by the men and women of the Paul Revere Battalion, whenever the call may come.

Revere Recorder Contributors:

Connor Bryan, Tufts, '20

Jillian Sharples, Harvard, '21

Caroline Jamieson, Endicott, '21

Ian Miller, MIT, '21

Randle Steinbeck, Harvard, '21

Mateo Prieto, Tufts, '22

Todd Qiu, Harvard, '22

Aidan Welsh, Tufts, '22

Allyson Fournier, Gordon, '23

Editor's Note:

The Revere Recorder serves to highlight the big events of the semester. It is a macroscopic view of the events that were held and the experiences that were had. This year has been a challenging one for our program, our nation's military, and our country as a whole. We deeply regret having to make the switch to remote training for the safety and wellbeing of our Cadets and Cadre. However, we were determined to make the best of the situation. In the pages of this Recorder, you will read about how our mission has continued. This spring, Cadets attended Air Assault School, conducted important work for DOD laboratories, and received mentorship at Vets and Cadets, our semesterly event which brings officers and Cadets together for an evening dinner and discussion. With the shift to remote training, we focused on maintaining meaningful training outcomes for our Cadets. We refused to accept this as a lost semester of training, and the hard work of our Cadre and Cadets should be visible in these pages.

We would also like to thank all of those who have donated to our program. This year those donations helped support our team for the Army 10 Miler, the many hours of hard work by the Hackathon team, and renovations for the new Cadet Lounge. Please visit the back cover if you are interested in supporting similar opportunities for our Cadets in the future.

The views expressed in this journal are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the US Army, Department of Defense, or the US Government.



Letter from the Battalion Commander

Connor Bryan, MSIV

Members of the Paul Revere Battalion, Alumni, Families, and Friends,

I want to thank all of you for making my experience in the Army nothing less than tremendous thus far. The Battalion I inherited was strong. The Cadets in this program were motivated to attack the spring semester head on. The Cadre were enthusiastic to support us. I came in on day one the same as I leave the program now:

hand in hand with the best teammates one could hope for, and confident in our ability to grow into competent, confident, and adaptive leaders.

It is easy to think of what would have been had we been able to work through the training schedule in its entirety. We were cut short by the onset of coronavirus, and had to shelve many things as we had to knock out crucial contract and commissioning requirements when many of us needed to rush home to pack our things and be off campus in a day. But when I am asked how the semester went, I do not think in terms of what should have been: I think of what we achieved in less time.

We instituted a new lab structure, giving us the same great training but improving the delivery of instruction, increasing operational tempo, and shortening time requirements in the middle of the academic week. We got a fantastic MS III training program fully off the ground, giving our juniors the best CST prep possible. Our Battalion opened a fully furnished and stocked Cadet lounge. We began to turn the supply room into a maker space to facilitate the initiatives of some of our brightest Cadets on the Hackathon team as we build a lasting relationship with SOCOM.

I proudly turn over this program to Cadet Isabella Van Atten and a command team that matches her dedication and drive. To the Cadets of the Paul Revere Battalion: I know that each of you will continue to make the most of the relationships and the training you receive here at Paul Revere. I am sure that you will make our country proud as you navigate through MIT Army ROTC into successful careers. Congratulations to all on another year well done.

Sincerely,

Connor Bryan

Letter from the Command Sergeant Major



Jillian Sharples, MSIII

As Cadet CSM this past semester, I sought to implement Cadet Bryan's vision while motivating others to achieve a higher level of esprit de corps, personal discipline, and physical fitness. While I hope that I was able to facilitate my peers in their personal growth and leadership development, I can positively affirm that my peers have done so for me.

It is humbling to stand in front of a formation of over eighty Cadets, being responsible for giving clear direction and maintaining spirits. I remember how I felt as an MSI in formation, overwhelmed and paralyzed by the unfamiliarity of a military context and unknown faces. Now, standing in front of the formation, I felt the pressure to accurately maintain accountability and set an example of strength and confidence.

At the first formation of the semester in my new role as c/CSM, I was extremely conscious of my obligation to set the right example for the Battalion. However, looking back at me in formation were familiar faces; the faces of people that were counting on me and had confidence in my ability to set the example.

For all the tactical knowledge and doctrine I've learned these past few years, the most important lesson I've learned has come from Cadet leadership roles; from learning how little one gains from focusing on one's individual journey. Our time in the battalion is limited, but the impact we can have on our peers and successors is not. Regardless of any personal setbacks or failures, we can choose to be invigorated by the prospect of enriching the experience of our fellow Cadets.

Regardless of how difficult this time may be, we are all going through it together. In whatever position one holds in the battalion or in one's community, we can all strive to be the leaders we would have wanted to look up to and look back to in formation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jillian Sharples".

Jillian Sharples

Ranger Challenge 2020!

Mateo Prieto, MSII



This semester, the Paul Revere Battalion's Ranger Challenge team was hard at work preparing for next fall's competition. Led by Cadet Abrecht (Tufts MSII), our young team, consisting almost entirely of MSI and MSII Cadets, welcomed many new members interested in trying out for the competition. Accordingly, CDT Abrecht started by teaching his team the basics and hosting extra training sessions on weekends and weeknights after LLABs.

In these meetings, Cadets practiced a number of useful tasks for the competition. This included how to tie a swiss-seat, a multi-step process that takes a single ten-foot rope and turns it into a safe and useful harness that can be used for rappelling. The team also devoted much of their time learning how to create a one-rope-bridge, one of the hardest and most technical events in the entire competition. They were even treated to exclusive instruction on infantry tactics and offensive maneuvers taught by Battalion Commander LTC Stalker.

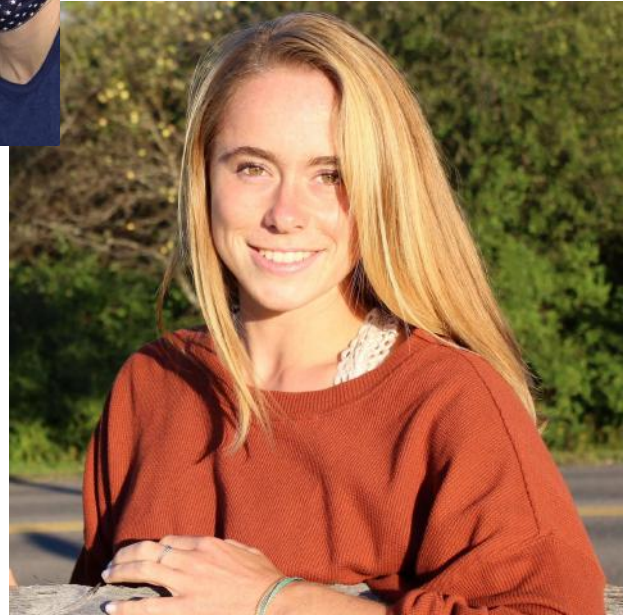


The transition from in-person meetings to virtual learning was not an easy one, but the team made full use of all its resources to ensure its training and standards were maintained. CDT Abrecht set up weekly Zoom calls where teammates could reconnect, present important information, and give lessons just as they would have done under normal circumstances.

The team also started a virtual lectures series, inviting veterans to talk about their experiences with ROTC and the Army, as well as answer any questions the team might have. One such veteran speaker was Captain Dan York, a former Green Beret with 1st Special Forces Group and a graduate of Norwich University who now works as the director of operations for O2X Human Performance in Scituate, Massachusetts. CPT York gave invaluable Special Forces and insights from his time both in the conventional Army and advice for how Cadets can begin developing themselves while in ROTC to set themselves up for successful futures and careers.

With the year winding to a close, the Ranger Challenge team continues to make strides to ensuring maximum preparation for the competitions ahead. Though there are sure to be challenges with virtual collaboration yet to come, the team is excited to get back together next year and tackle the competition as best they can!

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Above: Cadet Aidan Welsh delivers groceries to elderly residents in his neighborhood during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below: Cadet Todd Qiu delivers masks and groceries to residents for Meals on Wheels in Long Island, New York. Center right: Cadet Maddy Gavitt at her home in New York. Cadet Gavitt distinguished herself earlier this year when she employed her EMT training to assist a critically injured driver in Cambridge at the scene of a car crash. Cadet Gavitt's coolheaded actions provided crucial aid until first responders could arrive.



USSOCOM Hackathon - Ft. Bragg Edition

Ian Miller, MSIII

27 September 2019 marked a major turning point in the Paul Revere Battalion's Hackathon efforts. Presenting at the nearby Lincoln Laboratories, Cadets demonstrated the operational potential of a slew of prototypes they had designed to SOCOM personnel. The program quickly caught SOCOM's interest, and the Battalion worked to maintain and grow our partnership with USSOCOM more broadly.

This September performance led to our Hackathon team being invited down to Ft. Bragg to participate in the 2nd iteration of the Nightcrawler Hackathon. This time around, the Hackathon would last for 3 days and we would be conducting our work on post.

Over the next three days, 3 teams continued working on the Nightcrawler, an unmanned ground-vehicle built to clear rooms by collecting and distributing visual intelligence from inside buildings. Currently, the Nightcrawler "program" is being used by select SOF units and still very much in a rapid iterative stage of development. One specific SOF unit was the organizing force behind this Hackathon. They were the ones that had invited us down to Ft. Bragg and would prove to be incredible hosts. Other than the actual technical work on the Nightcrawler itself, we were shown around base, given the opportunity to learn close-quarters combat skills like breaching and clearing rooms, and allowed to eat meals with the staff of this incredible unit. These people are at the absolute razor's edge of their profession. It was an honor and a privilege to be in the same room as them, let alone learn soldier skills from them.



In the last edition of the Revere Recorder, I gave an overview of the work completed by each Hackathon team. In this edition, I'll give an update on the new work done at Ft. Bragg.

- 1) 360° Awareness:** Cadets built in a localization function to the already-functioning object detector. Now, the camera can not only detect humans but also figure out where they are relative to the camera.
- 2) Opening Doors:** Due to logistical and personnel constraints, this team was not able to make it down to Ft. Bragg. Stay tuned for next semester!
- 3) Extending Signal Transmission Range:** Cadets replaced the old transceiver (running at a higher frequency) with a digital transceiver running at a much lower frequency. This lower frequency allows better permeability through walls, fixing one of the primary controls issues with the current iteration of the Nightcrawler.
- 4) Better Arm Control:** Cadets worked on a device that autonomously points at a given target. Together with the 360° Awareness team, they were able to demonstrate a motorized arm pointing at a detected object. This whole process happens autonomously.

Each team had direct access to and assistance from SOCOM operators and Lincoln Labs researchers. This event would not have been possible without either of those two groups. The hospitality of the group at Ft. Bragg was unmatched. They were incredibly generous with their time and their energy. Several of the Cadets will be continuing work on these projects this summer with internships through Cadet Command. This is the start of something huge.

Right: The Hackathon Team hard at work on this semester's projects.

Air Assault!

Cadet Todd Qiu, MSII



From January 13-29, four Paul Revere Battalion Cadets attended the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky to learn how to work with helicopters and other aviation assets. The group consisted of Cadets Henry Hanlon, Isabella Van Atten, Jill Sharples and myself.

The course was divided into three sections: combat assault, sling load and rappel phases, with an obstacle course in the beginning and a 12 mile ruck march right before graduation. The training was challenging, engaging and surprisingly academic. We learned a lot everyday and had to stay very focussed because we knew a single missing item from the packing list, failed obstacle or test, or missed formation could get us sent home at any point.

Personally, I felt getting to meet, live and train with soldiers in the Army was the best part of attending the school. I do not come from a military family and before this, the only soldiers I really knew were the MIT ROTC Cadre. I was quickly surprised by the kindness and motivation of the soldiers I met, from junior enlisted to officers. Some soldiers we barely knew invited us to join their families for a home cooked meal after they heard we were TDY, others offered me a place to stay after they learned that the heating and bathrooms in my barracks were out of order, more still offered sincere and helpful advice about the Army. These experiences made me much more confident that I had made the right choice in doing ROTC. I can think of no greater pleasure or honor than to work with, help and lead people of such character on a daily basis.



The importance of teamwork during our time there could not be emphasized enough. The four of us Cadets kept each other accountable, studied together, helped and motivated one another. Cadre has also done a lot to prepare us well. I had hurt my ankle during rappelling right before the 12 mile ruck march, the final requirement to graduate. I was quite worried but the other Cadets helped me buy a wrap for it and helped motivate me to tough it out, and we were all able to complete the ruck. I was very surprised to learn right after the ruck that I was the class's Distinguished Honor Graduate: the student with the highest performance across all the tests. I did not even know I was in the running. It was very much a group effort, all four of us worked very hard and helped one another; it could have easily been any one of us.

Overall, Air Assault School was a unique and very rewarding experience. I am very excited to one day bring the skills we learned as an Army Officer, and cannot recommend going to the school enough.

Right: Cadet Qiu (right) is acknowledged as the Honor Graduate of the Sabalauski Air Assault School by CSM Bryan Barker.



Who Needs a Gym?

Aidan Welsh, MSII

This semester, the traditional nature of Battalion physical training (PT) ended after an unexpected Army Physical Fitness Test on a cold March morning at 0530. The early morning of pushups, sit-ups, and running saw many Cadets achieve hard-earned PT goals as campuses closed and we returned home to begin online learning due to COVID-19. Now, away from campus, Paul Revere's Cadets and Cadre have continued to conduct PT through cardio, weightlifting, and stretching, regardless of our gym resources. In particular, the most successful plans in the Battalion maintained motivation, assured proper rest, and allowed for the recognition and achievement of goals.

To continue building cardiovascular fitness, Cadets used a combination of cross training methods including long distance runs, biking, swimming where possible, and jump-rope. Different workout methods helped prevent overuse injuries and developed cardiovascular strength in different methods. Many of my fellow Cadets on the Ranger Challenge team undertook competitive 6-mile rucks, sharing their times with each other. Weekly challenges from MSG Barrera have only further inspired healthy competition among our battalion.



With gyms closed, Cadets also adapted their weightlifting regimens. Inspired by Cadet Delbrocco's one thousand pushups per day, many have focused on high repetitions of body weight exercises. Combining variations of pullups, pushups, and squats with other bodyweight exercises have proven to be some of the hardest workouts many ever done. Cadets also shared resources such as the IBOLC "death march" workout with the Battalion, combining cardiovascular work with body weightlifting in a set of phenomenal workouts.

Many Cadets have also dedicated their newfound time at home to improving flexibility, a long overdue task many of us put off. Simply dedicating 15 minutes to stretching and mindfulness has the potential to not only improve our flexibility, but also to relax during this uniquely stressful time.

While no longer together, each member of the Paul Revere Battalion is hard at work achieving their own fitness goals. I am excited to get back to campus in the fall and see everybody crush the APFT and ACFT-and maybe be a little more flexible as well!



Top right: Cadet Van Atten works on her pull ups after leaving campus.
Bottom right: Captain Eder has some fun doing improvised sled pulls with his daughter!

Air Assault Training

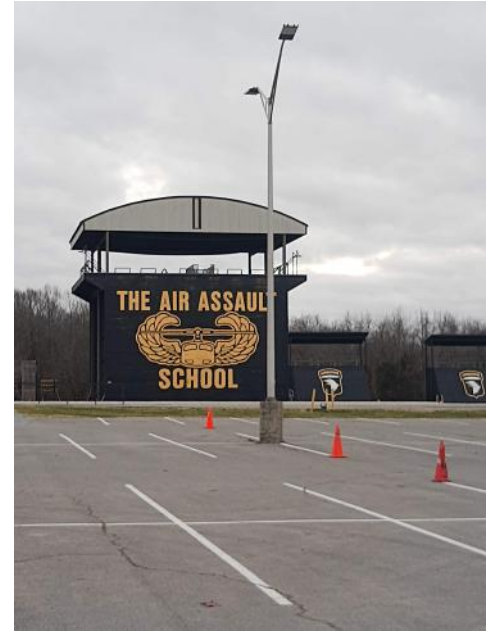
This semester the Paul Revere Battalion had the opportunity to send four of our Cadets to the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky to learn how to work with helicopters and other aviation assets. The group consisted of Cadets Henry Hanlon, Isabella Van Atten, Jill Sharples and Todd Qiu. Each Cadet graduated one of the Army's toughest courses, and we're proud of their hard work.

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From top left (clockwise): Cadets Todd Qiu and Henry Hanlon wait in line on the infamous Sabalauski Obstacle Course. Cadet Isabel Van Atten triumphs over the Weaver, a particularly tough obstacle. Cadet Jillian Sharples high crawls through an obstacle.

GRADUATION



From top left (clockwise): Cadet Todd Qiu is named Honor Gradute of the Sabalauski Air Assault School. A tower at Fort Campbell. Cadets Jillian Sharples, Todd Qiu, Isabel Van Atten and Henry Hanlon celebrate their graduation.



Studying Military History as a Cadet

Randle Steinbeck, MSIII

As the Army seeks to win in a complex world as part of varied joint, interorganizational, and multinational efforts while projecting power across the full spectrum of domains, focusing even on the near-term can be a monumental task. As an Army, we seek to purge ourselves of the obsolete battle period model of planning, moving away from the football-esque mindset of imposed periods of planning (i.e. the huddle) puncturing a long offensive drive: preparation, short bursts of intense effort, disengagement, a return to the huddle, and repeat. Now we attempt to execute operations as a rugby team, with rapid synchronization where moments of opportunity are recognized and rapidly exploited by individuals with the support coalescing organically around them. With such a demand for immediate action, it might be understandable if leaders fail to consider history and think only of the present, rather than the past.

In this new model of the battlefield, what happens when the situation on the ground changes and an opportunity appears? By failing to read history, leaders are put at a distinct disadvantage, especially in our hyperactive world. We must be prepared to exploit the vulnerability presented to us by conceptualizing and executing faster than the enemy can adapt. What better way to conceptualize your operation than by understanding how those before you did? Furthermore, by failing to understand history, a leader can only learn from his or her own mistakes- a time consuming endeavor that must often be paid for by the blood of young men and women. Of course, by reading history a leader learns from the mistakes of those who have gone before, a less costly proposition for those under his or her command. As a testimony from GEN Mattis declares, "We have been fighting on this planet for 5000 years and we should take advantage of their experience. 'Winging it' and filling body bags as we sort out what works reminds us of the moral dictates and the cost of incompetence in our profession." While history certainly does not give us all the answers, it can light the path to success and expose some of the dark pitfalls that might otherwise appear tempting.

As part of an effort to better equip ourselves with the historical knowledge that can clarify our decision making process, Cadets at Harvard have undertaken an effort to recognize important moments in U.S. military history. While we know our Cadets are crunched for time, this semester Harvard's Cadet leadership team has consistently reminded Cadets of the anniversaries of important military events, along with some of the context around them. We hope this will foster a mindset shift in Harvard's Cadet culture, one in which we place military history more prominently in our training.

Studying history in width and depth must be expected of every Army leader at every level, from Team Leader to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. History develops an agile mind and a contextual lens through which to exploit ephemeral opportunities as they appear at the tactical, operational, and strategic environment. Every warrior must be a scholar, lest we fail to exploit the opportunities that are presented to us. After all, in the words of Thucydides, a soldier and a historian: "The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting by fools."



One Year Down!

Allyson Fournier, MSI



My first year of college has been a time of immense growth for me - and not just in the academic sphere. I am a biology major with a concentration in biotechnology and a minor in chemistry, so my academic responsibilities keep me very busy. However, I've learned far more about myself than I have about biology and chemistry this year. I have learned how to lead and be a member of a team, how to push myself beyond what I thought was possible, and how to manage my time better - and I attribute most of this to my time so far in ROTC.

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The time I spent on ROTC training was some of the best of my freshman year. My highlights of each week were PT (yes, even with the early mornings), and LLAB on Wednesday nights. Nothing gave me more joy than being in the field at FTX and STX. I quickly came to look forward to seeing my fellow North Shore Cadets in the morning for PT, and the rest of the Battalion on Wednesday nights. I have especially enjoyed getting closer with the other Cadets in my class.

My responsibilities this year have also taught me structure, discipline, and time management, three very important principles that can be applied to all facets of life. I learned how to manage my time by making daily schedules and setting hit times for myself, making sure to hold myself accountable to get things done in a timely manner. This taught me how to give full effort in all areas of my life - with ROTC training, classes, studying, and on-campus ministries blocked into my schedule, I learned how to juggle all of the things that come with life in college.

I have changed and grown in ways that I wouldn't have even believed possible ten months ago, and I am so thankful for what my first year of college and ROTC have taught me!



Top right: Cadets receive a briefing at one of the last on-campus training labs of the semester.

Bottom right: From left to right: Cadet Todd Qiu, Midshipman David Chung, and Cadet Bryce Kim at this year's Joint Service Military Ball.



The Show Goes On: Training Remotely

Caroline Jamieson, MSIII

All of my expectations for this semester came to an abrupt halt seven weeks ago. Campus life, as I knew it, changed for me and every other college student across the United States! Because the Endicott campus was shut down and the remainder of my lacrosse season was cancelled, I packed my car and headed back home to Pennsylvania. The COVID-19 pandemic turned my life, along with my friends, professors', clinical instructors', coaches', teammates', and Cadre's lives upside down. Within twenty-four hours remote ROTC, social distancing, online clinical, and Zoom became my new normal.

As an MSIII cadet, the spring semester is key. The field training exercises, weekly labs, and class time is focused on preparing us for Advanced Camp, and we were quickly tasked with doing this all from home. A large struggle for us was not knowing what training would look like this summer, but our cadre and MSIVs helped us by making the transition as smooth as possible. Cadre and MSIVs helped us keep up our training through weekly lessons on topics like land navigation, call for fire, weapons familiarization, and drill and ceremony. Though Cadet Summer Training was scale back this year, we still salvaged valuable training outcomes.



Everyone has faced unique challenges as we face the COVID-19 crisis. As an athlete, I miss the camaraderie of my teammates and the thrill of the game-especially because we held a 4-0 record upon leaving campus! Moreover, as a nursing student, the transition to online clinical has been difficult. Being home has brought difficulty staying occupied with seemingly little to do.

But my teammates and I still hold weekly Zoom calls; social media challenges and care packages have allowed us to stay connected. My clinical instructors have worked to ensure I keep learning remotely. And I haven't gotten *too* bored at home-my parents have gotten my help in building a shed, organizing the house, gardening, and experimenting in the kitchen. (The banana-nut bread was a hit; the zucchini bread not so much!)

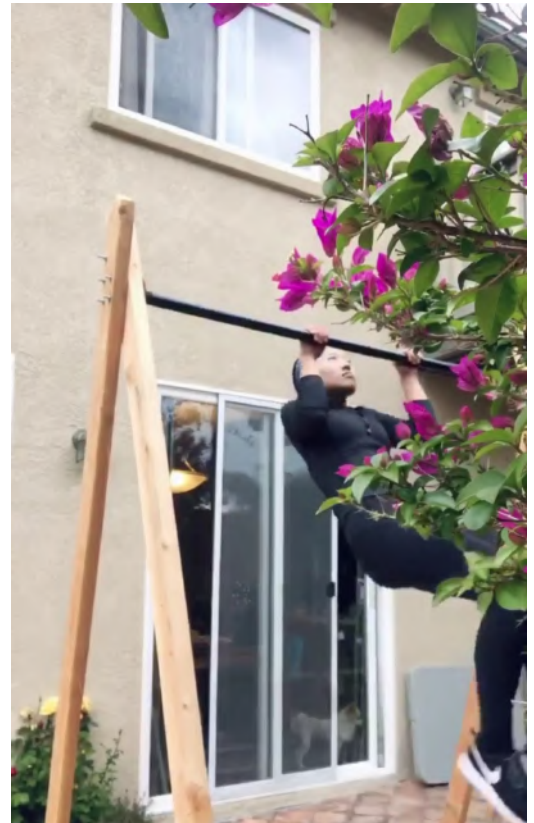
During this time of uncertainty, it's important to find we continue to grow as people and as future Army Officers. One thing is certain: We're all looking forward to being back on campus and with everyone from the Paul Revere Battalion!

Top right: A Cadet's room after packing up to leave Gordon College.

Bottom left: Cadet Andrew Churchill trains on a marksmanship simulator at one of the Battalion's last in-person training labs of the semester.

Physical Training Off Campus:

This semester, Cadets throughout Paul Revere Battalion successfully adapted to conducting Physical Training off campus. Cadets got creative with their workout regimens and maintained the level of fitness we expect from future leaders in the United States Army.



From top left: At our last group workout of the semester, Cadets Sophie Hill Steven Salvas and Sophie Hill were winners of the Battalion Tug of War competition! Cadet Elle Song showed her dedication to physical fitness by building a homemade pull-up bar in her own backyard. Cadet Mateo Prieto continued to ruck after leaving campus. Cadet Isabella McKinney finished a six-mile trail run in beautiful Concord, MA.

The Paul Revere Battalion

MS1

Baehr, Lauren
Chavez, Zavier
Collard, Carson
Eastman, Jack
Ferraro, Connolly
Fournier, Allyson
Gavitt, Maddy
Kim, Michelle
Ko, Erin
Medina, Bryan
Motes, Gracie
Murray, John
Poliquin, Michael
Robinson, Jack
Rothmeyer, Aden
Van Bebber, Jonathan
Ward, Joseph
Wooten, Eric

MS2

Abrecht, Quinton
Arunachalam, Easun
Bizier, Rebecca
Brown, Chloe
Burnett, Mikyla
Butler, Margaret
Chan, Sophia
Delbrocco, Andrew
Follwenweider, Joshua
Johndrow, Sean
O'Keefe, Joseph
Kim, Bryce
Marks, Ari
McKinney, Isabella
Melvin, Claire
Mitchell, Joshua A.
Morakis, Valentina
O'Connor, Sean
Prieto, Mateo
Pumiglia, Michael
Qiu, Todd
Smith, Hunter
Song, Elle
Thompson, Erik
Welsh, Aidan

MS3

Balasubramanian, Gayatri
Bayar, Esat
Churchill, Andrew
Conboy, Liam
Crawford, Andrew
Escobar, Jazmine
Felissaint, Veridson
Hiebert, Michael
Jamieson, Caroline
Lee, Lucy
Memoli, Garrett
Miller, Ian
Patrone, Clarke
Penzer, William
Perkins, Tahirin
Pham, Laura
Rebello, Shawn
Seekamp, Shane
Sharples, Jillian
Shiller, Peter
Steinbeck, Randle
Van Atten, Isabella
Yin, Shiyan "Yeva"

MS4

Atkins, Henry
Brems, Matthew
Bryan, Connor
Hanlon, Henry
Hill, Sophie
Lazo Rivera, Pedro
Legg, Cole
Li, Wilbur
Murray, Patrick
Salvas, Steven
Shah, Rishi
Stockham, Rex
Upton, Robert
Voznyarskiy, Yuriy



From top: Cadet Margaret Butler low crawls during a Battalion workout. Cadets Jazmine Escobar and Liam Conboy brief their plan at a sandtable. Cadet Pedro Lazo Rivera reluctantly accepts his third consecutive Lightless Lantern. Cadet Isabella McKinney photobombs MSG Barrera and Cadet Steven Salvas. Captain Swain briefs Cadets at Branch Night.



No Fear!

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Instagram: instagram.com/armyrotcmit/

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