

Revere Recorder



Fall 2021
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

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.

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. However, we were determined to make the best of the situation. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we have conducted multiple successful training exercises, physical training, and battalion bonding events throughout the past few months. In the pages of this Recorder, you will read about how our mission has continued.

Of course, the hard work of all our cadets could not have happened without the continual support of our friends and family throughout this fall. To all those who have helped our cadets strive to become the best in the nation in our respective academic, military, and extracurricular fields, we thank you.

We would also like to thank all of those who have donated to our program. Those donations have helped fund the many hours of hard work by the Hackathon team and renovations for the Cadet Lounge. Please visit the back cover if you are interested in helping fund similar opportunities for our Cadets in the future.

Best Regards,

Bryce Kim
CDT, Editor

Letter From the PMS



I'm Lieutenant Colonel Dan Williams, and I began serving as the Professor of Military Science for the Paul Revere Battalion this fall. My family (wife, Mary, and three boys) moved into the Boston area last June and have been warmly welcomed by everyone associated with the ROTC program - from Cadre and Cadets to MIT staff, and we couldn't have asked for a better transition. It's our first time being in the upper Northeast area of our great country, and so far, it has been incredible. The history, culture, and patriotism of the community is impressive, and of course, so is Fenway Park! As for the ROTC

program, I've been blown away by the initiative, drive, and commitment of all our Cadets.

I commissioned through Officer Candidate School, so this is my first exposure to an ROTC program, and am fortunate to have landed in one of the top programs in the country. Throughout this publication, you'll read about some of the incredible events, projects, and training our Cadets have led and participated in. Ranger Challenge at Fort Dix, New Jersey; "Hackathon" with Special Operations Command; and the Field Training Exercise at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod are just a few of the highlights from this fall semester. As you read through these pages, it's important to recognize that most of the events and training conducted by the Paul Revere Battalion are Cadet-led. Special mention goes out to CDT Mateo Prieto (Tufts) and CDT Madeline Gavitt (Harvard), who served as the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major respectively. They, along with all the other Cadets who served in leadership positions, did an amazing job in planning, resourcing, and executing a comprehensive, challenging, and rewarding training plan. I truly appreciate all their hard work and dedication to the program.

Paul Revere Battalion Cadets, Cadre, and MIT staff will continue our close collaboration to maintain quality training for our program and will persevere (safely) through these challenging times. We're all excited for what lies ahead during the Spring semester, and you can count on our Cadets being at the tip of the spear in everything we do.

"NO FEAR!"

Dan Williams,
LTC, EN

Letter From the Senior Military Science Instructor



Over the past 2.5 years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of serving as the Senior Military Science Instructor and primary instructor for the MS II cohort. Having trained Soldiers over the course of an 18-year career, I have to say my time here at MIT has been the most unique and rewarding.

Working with some of the world's best and brightest who are eager to train and learn new things has been a pleasure to watch. Our PRB Cadets enthusiastically step up and volunteer in various events such as color guards at the local universities, the STEAM Ahead project, tutoring and mentoring middle school aged local students, JROTC events at the local high schools, the Hackathon team that works with SOCOM, and many more. They continuously showcase their drive and initiative and prove day in and day out that they will be engaged leaders, willing to take the extra time to train and lead, as well as extend their influence outside the Chain of Command, the unit, and the Army. I know without a doubt, they will be successful in whatever they decide to do.

As I enter my final semester here at the Paul Revere Battalion before moving to Fort Bliss, Texas, I want to take the opportunity to thank the Cadre team here at MIT for your hard work and dedication to securing a solid future for our Army and our country by grooming the finest leaders in US Army Cadet Command.

As for the Cadets, thank you for the opportunity to teach as well as learn with you. I know you're going to go forth and do great things. Never hesitate to reach out if you ever need anything, and I'll see you around this great Army of ours.

NO FEAR!!

Brian S. Jordan

Brian S. Jordan,
MSG, EN

Letter From the Battalion Commander

Cadets of the Paul Revere Battalion, alumni, friends, and family,



It was the utmost honor to serve as the Cadet Battalion Commander this past semester. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Cadre and Cadet Staff who worked endlessly this semester to reimagine our training cycle once again to readapt to in-person instruction and training exercises after being almost completely virtual last year. During our first LLAB back at MIT, I was overwhelmed to see all our Cadets, old and new, back together again, laughing, conversing, and learning from each other. For some Cadets, that LLAB marked the one-year anniversary of joining our Battalion, yet was also the first time they had ever seen their peers in person. We have had to overcome a lot since last year, and we benefited from that hard work this year.

Our battalion enjoyed a tremendous amount of success this past Fall. Our Ranger Challenge team placed 11/50 teams in Second Brigade, the highest standing we have achieved in over four years. Our Hackathon Team hosted a fantastic weekend with SOCOM operators discussing modern technology relevant to the new battlefields the Army is entering. We met with GEN Richard Clarke, Commanding General of SOCOM. We reinstated a 3-day FTX for the first time in two years where we enhanced our marksmanship, land navigation, and STX lane skills. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we welcomed thirty new cadets into our Battalion, the largest MS100 class our program has had in recent history.

While the Battalion achieved enormous success throughout this semester, the credit belongs to each individual Cadet. At every LLAB, I was impressed by your willingness to learn, ask questions, and teach your peers in the relevant instruction. During PT, I was humbled by your commitments to better yourselves physically. Under duress of the blistering sun during our Fall FTX and the monsoon-like rain during our PT session with CSM Caywood, I was motivated by your willingness to ignore the elements, embrace the suck, and remain enthusiastic and inspired in your tasks.

That last point brings me to my final one. In our world, there are two types of people: reactive and proactive. Reactive people let external factors shape their moods and behavior. Conversely, proactive people ignore outside distractions and can maintain efficacy in their duties regardless of the circumstances. With all the success we have achieved as a Battalion this semester, despite the time we lost with the previous year being virtual, we have proven ourselves to be a motivated, effective, and most importantly, proactive group of Cadets.

The Army teaches its leaders to react, adapt, and execute no matter the situation and no matter the difficulty. I believe the Paul Revere Battalion has truly personified that mantra this semester, and I am proud to have been a part of such a determined and disciplined team. I eagerly anticipate watching our Battalion build off this semester's success as we enter the Spring. We are all significantly more experienced, more competent, and more confident than we were back in September. Watching your hard work pay off has been an incredible privilege. Thank you all for motivating me and your peers.

Sincerely,

Mateo Prieto
CDT/BC



The Fall '21 Command Team:
CDT/CSM Gavitt (Harvard '23) and CDT/BC Prieto (Tufts '22)

Letter From the Command Sergeant Major

As the Fall 2021 Command Sergeant Major for the Paul Revere Battalion, I would like to thank each and every one of my fellow cadets for all of their hard work throughout the semester. After over a year of virtual learning, we were finally able to return to MIT's campus to resume our training the way it was meant to be conducted. Finally meeting so many of them in person and getting to work together again as an entire battalion has been an experience like no other. Though the previous year left many of us in different places in terms of training, all cadets came back with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn that allowed us to quickly make up for what we had missed the previous year.



Throughout this semester, I was lucky enough to be able to work beside an incredible command team, principally our Battalion Commander, CDT Mateo Prieto, whose mentorship and guidance I could not have done my duties without. With the help of the staff and our incredible cadre, we were able to successfully carry out an array of amazing training opportunities, including FTX, STX, CFTX, a 12-mile ruck, and our squad challenge tournament.

Looking at our younger cadets, I can't help but be impressed by the growth and leadership skills that they have shown time and time again. Even bigger than that though, they have demonstrated a propensity to work together, collaborate, and help one another stronger than I have ever seen before. It is because of so many of them that our battalion has been able to grow and come together so strongly after being apart for so long throughout COVID. This growth should be credited to the MSIs themselves, but also to the amazing team leaders, squad leaders, and platoon leadership that worked closely to create a welcoming and educational environment for our new cadets. The battalion would not have been able to function like it did without all of their hard work.

Looking back on the semester now, I am incredibly proud of how far this battalion has come and I have no doubt that each and every one of these cadets will carry on to do amazing things both within the army and beyond.

Sincerely,

Maddy Gavitt
CDT/CSM

Cadet Summer Training

CDT *Chris Chu de León*, MSIV

In the summer of 2021, I packed my bags to head to Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox, KY. CST is a 38-day training event for all ROTC Cadets and represents one of the most pivotal final steps before commissioning. Throughout your time, you'll be evaluated in four leadership positions: Platoon Leader or Platoon Sergeant position in garrison and the field, and Squad Leader twice in both environments.



CDT Chu and his squad after a long day in the field.

The summer began with time in garrison — living in barracks with hundreds of other Cadets. In garrison, when not rappelling down a 64-foot tower, singing inside the CBRN gas chamber, shooting M4s at the range, or doing an obstacle course, there is a significant amount of “CTO”, which is effectively autonomous time to practice. We tried to take advantage of it as much as possible by using the time to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), review technical operations like conducting moves like ambushes and raids, and importantly, build community with fellow Cadets. I was with the same platoon the whole time there and was exposed to the striking diversity of the U.S. Army, with Cadets coming from a broad range of racial and ethnic backgrounds, religions, schools, and personalities. They became my family. And if there's anything CST teaches you, it's the importance of not only being an effective leader, but a great follower and teammate.

Trusting and building strong connections and friendships with my battle buddies was one of the best parts of CST. When the weather was blisteringly hot; when I was running on 3 hours of touch-and-go sleep; when I was exhausted; when I felt like my feet were falling off during the 12-mile ruck; and when I was fighting off raccoons from taking coveted MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat), it was my fellow Cadets that kept me going. If you help each other and share knowledge, your platoon will keep you motivated and engaged in the roughest situations.

CST culminated with two weeks in the field, running three missions a day with a rest day every three days. It applies all the knowledge you learn from time in garrison and from years of ROTC, and is the most important evaluation phase of CST. It's meant to simulate the stress and exhaustion you might feel in the Army — I found it an exciting and humbling time. I found myself laying in pouring rain, fighting off sleep while pulling security at night, and humbled by the breadth of knowledge I learned from people 8 years younger than me. I took a lot of notes, kept a battle book readily handy, and tried to stay focused on the mission priorities. When I was a Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant, there were dozens of things demanding my attention, but I always tried to make sure to stay focused on my priorities. Doing so helped me build a stronger sense of confidence in my ability to execute missions — something difficult to cultivate from just doing the occasional weekend FTX or STX exercise during a busy school year.

CST ultimately prepares the next generation of military leaders to meet difficult challenges. And builds a deep sense of camaraderie. I left Fort Knox even more excited about the future of my Army career after commissioning.



CDT Chu and his platoon

Ranger Challenge

CDT Aden Rothmeyer, MSIII

Ranger Challenge is considered the varsity sport of Army ROTC across the nation. The purpose of the program at the Paul Revere Battalion is to produce a high-speed



Cadets conduct night land navigation at the 2nd Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition

team of 12 Cadets that will participate in an annual Ranger Challenge competition within their brigade. There must be 12 team members total, but only nine will be “starters” in each event, leaving three alternates at any given moment in case of an injury. Additionally, there must be at least one Cadet from every MS class year and a minimum of one female starting each event. The second brigade competition has always been at Fort Dix (New Jersey) where almost 50 Army ROTC programs would meet to compete against each other for three days in October. The usual schedule consisted of 10 events over the course of three days: a physical fitness challenge, land navigation, weapons assembly, one rope bridge, obstacle course, grenade toss lane, tactical combat casualty care, burden, tug of war, and 6-mile ruck. Each event is scored and worth an allotted number of points. On the last day, all of the points are added up, and the placings are determined.

This year, the team was especially strong—despite how early in the year the competition was and how little time the freshmen, especially, on the team had to train up. In fact, our final placing was 11th out of the nearly 50 competing teams and—had our ruck time been counted at 6 miles—we certainly would have been solidly in the top ten, bolstered by the second fastest time in the competition (instead the ruck was thrown out due to organizational failures). Highlights this year included being in the top ten of many events as well as having the best score on the weapons knowledge test, a one rope bridge time twice as fast as a team record from 2 years ago, and the incredible effort the whole team put into the final ruck.

Looking forward to next year, I have even higher hopes for the team as the team passes into the hands of the very high-speed freshmen and sophomores who have already begun reaching out to me with specific training ideas for improving our odds at the competition. From a land navigation class by a champion orienteering racer to 3D printed weapons for assembly practice—the will is there, we'll just need to follow through a year from now.



Cadets relishing a welcome break before another afternoon of competition.

Army Ten-Miler

CDT *Jack Robinson*, MSIII

The Army Ten-Miler is the second largest ten-mile race in the United States with more than 20,000 runners. During a normal year, cadets train together and then drive to Washington D.C. for the race. The D.C. course picturesquely winds its way around the Potomac River and past the Washington Monument on an extremely flat route. I have heard from others that the race weekend is a ton of fun with a fast course and lots of fellow runners from all across the military with interesting stories. Due to worries over the COVID-19 delta variant, the Army Ten-Miler occurred virtually again this year. I still ran with many of the other Tufts cadets to prepare for the race. MSG Jordan organized a “Paul Revere on the Battle Road Trail” run, and Aaron Bohem, Connolly Ferraro, Morgan Kim, Jacob Hebert, Reilly White, Spencer McCleery, Bryce Kim, and myself all arrived eager to race on the cool morning of October 17th.



Cadets in various states of exhaustion and exhilaration post-race.

The Battle Road Trail weaves through Minute Man National Park with its historic sites from the start of the Revolutionary War, making it an apt course for the Army Ten-Miler. We stretched in the parking lot of the trail before jogging to the start. Connolly, Aaron, Reilly, and I led the group as we cruised down through the rolling hills of the park, past walls where Massachusetts militiamen took cover to fire on retreating Red Coats, and across footbridges that spanned the occasional bog. Aaron and I reached the turn-around at the Fiske House, so we cheered on the other cadets as we headed back towards the finish. For the last three miles, I ran by myself, enjoying the colors of the changing leaves and pushing myself to hold on. I finished in an hour and five minutes and went on a cool-down run with Aaron to cheer on the rest of the finishing cadets.

The Army Ten-Miler encapsulates many of the aspects I most like about ROTC. I enjoy the physical challenge and discipline of training as a group in the weeks leading up to the event. But even more than that, the community of other similarly motivated people makes the miles of training easier, pushes you during the event, and helps you recover post-race with a huge group dinner meal. I hope to see more alumni and other fellow cadets down in D.C. for next year's Army Ten-Miler!



MSG Jordan provides some pre-race advice.



CDT White (Tufts '25) enjoying some nice fall weather.

Military Strategy Initiative

CDT Luis Esteva Sueiro, MSII

At its inception late last semester, the Military Strategy Initiative (MSI) was already a space for cadets to explore, apply, and grow their understanding of the deep intellectual tradition that takes place behind the scenes of the Army. MSI (yes, we know this looks a lot like MS1) works with Army leaders to research a pressing topic of interest to the Army and write a policy proposal with potential action items to be considered. Last semester, we researched and prepared a proposal brief on redefining “readiness” in the context of competition with China in the Indo-Pacific. This semester, our topic is on mitigating the effects of Russian disinformation campaigns in domestic contexts as well as with our allies abroad.

In addition to being a great educational experience, it helped cadets to grow their professional network in the Army, allowing them to benefit from the mentorship of COL Molly Solsbury last semester and LTC Joe Parker this semester. In addition to regular support from project mentors, or commissioners as we call them, we present our findings to senior leaders in parts of the Army working on the exact issues we researched. Last semester, we had the honor to brief Major General Chris Donahue, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, and receive feedback on our presentation from him. I was able to personally discuss with him in detail my recommendations on Army force positioning in the South China Sea and receive very valuable feedback from his direct experience.

In just half of a semester, MSI became something unparalleled by any other ROTC program in the nation, and we're only getting more and more interesting.

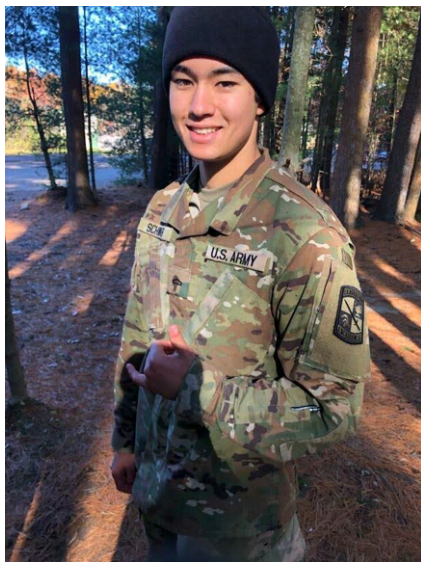


*First Row, Left to Right: CDT Esteva (Harvard '24), CDT Gavitt (Harvard '23)
Second Row, Left to Right: CDT Ferraro (Tufts '23), CDT Boehm (Harvard A.M. '23), CDT Clyde (Harvard '25), CDT Motes (Harvard '24), CDT Johnson (MIT '25), CDT Robinson (Tufts '23)*

Fall FTX

CDT *Jack Schwab*, MSI

The exercise started on the first of October, the day the Battalion arrived at Camp Edwards. It was a Friday afternoon filled with preparation for what was to come in the following days. As an MSI, I was introduced to new topics such as setting up patrol bases and the steps to conducting a raid or linear assault. I also got to get reps in on topics from previous LLAB's such as individual movement techniques (IMTs) and the famed Battle Drill One Alpha (BD1A). Most importantly, I got to practice yelling "bang" at the top of my lungs in addition to adding a plethora of acronyms to my mental dictionary.



CDT Schwab

Saturday started on the range. We reviewed the principles of basic firearm safety, were taught the shooting qualification sequence, and were able to send some rounds downrange. I really enjoyed the range time,

but the priority was to give the MSIIIs as much practice as possible, so myself and my fellow MSIs used the time to chow down on some MREs (most notably the 'raisins, osmotic') and review concepts before the lanes.



CDT O'Connor (Harvard '24) left, provides instruction to CDT McCleery, right, on principles of marksmanship

After the range, I had the opportunity to run my first lane with my platoon. It was an awesome learning experience. We were tasked with conducting a raid. It was cool to see all the steps in action: starting with the brief and ending with the return

to the objective rally point (ORP). The after action review (AAR) was very helpful as well. As a platoon, we were able to receive input from our MSIV lane grader as well as active duty officers: ranging from a newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenant to a seasoned Army Ranger. The night concluded the same as the night before: with a patrol base setup and a heart-warming MRE.



CDT Wooten (MIT '23) left, and CDT Murray (Harvard '23) right, lead the way to the next mission

Sunday started with a ruck march to the land nav starting point. The MSIs and MSIIIs were paired up while the MSIIIs went solo. It was the perfect hands-on experience to apply the land nav knowledge I had only learned in the classroom. It was also a great bonding experience between the MSI and MSII pairs because we were pacing around in the forest for three hours together.

Following land nav, the battalion gathered in the armory for weapons cleaning. It was the final and most daunting task of the weekend. FTX concluded with a final formation and recognition ceremony. No fear!

Fall FTX was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my semester. I learned a ton and had fun while doing it.



Final Formation

The Semester in Pictures

The Paul Revere Challenge:



CDT's Qiu (HVD '22) and Brown (MIT '22) prepare to judge the Trivia Challenge.



*From Left to Right, Row 1: CDT's Chavez (HVD '23), Motes (HVD '23), Hansen (HVD '25)
Row 2: Akwei (HVD '24), Brister (HVD '24), Goldstein (HVD '25)*

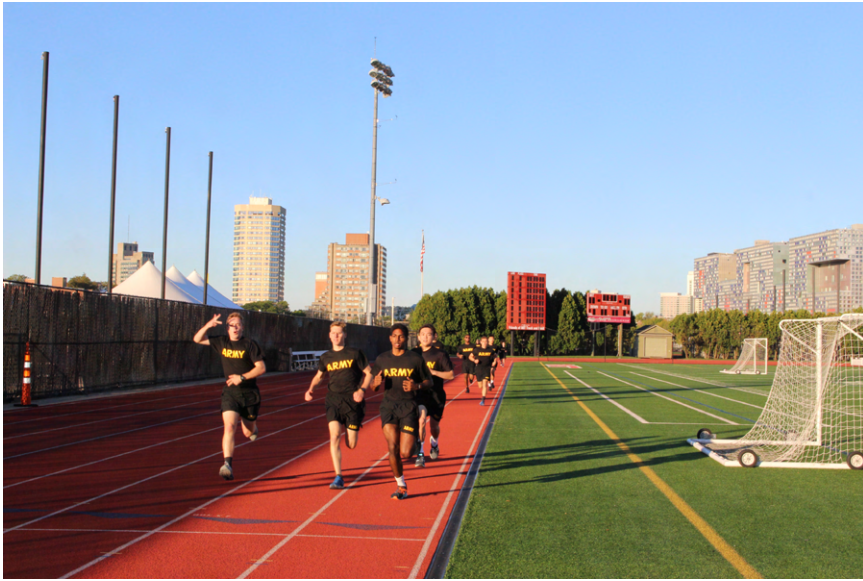


From Left to Right: CDT's Levesque (Salem State '24), Lehman (Harvard '25), Eastman (MIT '23), Kim (Harvard '25), Whitney (Endicott '25), Fadule (Harvard '25) pose in front of the Samuel Adams Statue at Faneuil Hall.



CDT Prieto (Tufts '22) demonstrates the rope climb to fellow cadets ahead of the Paul Revere Challenge.

The Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and The Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT):



CDT Ferraro (Tufts '23, far left) on his morning jog.



CDT Gavitt (Harvard '23) takes flight.

Leadership Lab (LLAB):



CDT's Esteva (Harvard '24), Huey (Harvard '25), and Cahaly (MIT '24) are excited for the return of in-person LLAB.



CDT Brown (MIT '22) provides instruction at the first LLAB of the semester.

Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX):



Cadets after surviving the Combat Water Survival Test (CWST).



Cadets planning to defend the good citizens of Atropia against the invading Arianans.



CDT Pumiglia (Harvard '22) instructs MSI and MSII cadets on Tactical Combat Care with the assistance of CDT Spain (Harvard '24).



Cadets practicing before hitting the range.



Rucking with the sunrise.



Cadets taking a break before embarking on their next mission.



Land navigation- the bane of many a cadet.



CDT Lim (Harvard '25), center, handing out rags for weapons cleaning.



CDT Brown (MIT '22) with some friends.



Cadets preparing for a day on the range.



Cadets receiving some key preliminary marksmanship instruction (PMI) from instructors.



CDT's Kalkus, Kim, Lehman, and Hansen repping the Harvard '25 brand.



CDT Cogbill (Harvard '24) wondering where his cover has gone during an after-action review (AAR).



MIT Army ROTC
The Paul Revere Battalion

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