The Paul Revere Battalion, an Army ROTC unit, was established at MIT in 1917, shortly after the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916. This is believed to be one of the first ROTC units in the Nation. During World War I, there were more Regular Army Officers serving in the Army from MIT than from any other school except West Point. Of the 1538 military participants in World War II from the Institute, 1335 were commissioned officers. The battalion now consists of students from MIT, Harvard University, Tufts University, Endicott College, Gordon College, Salem State College, and Wellesley College. The Battalion's history would fill many pages with individual actions of bravery on the battlefield as well as scientific and technical achievements in military laboratories. The history does not stop here, but continues to be made by the men and women of the Paul Revere Battalion whenever the call may come.
Looking Ahead

By Cadet Alyssa Pybus, Battalion Commander

The ROTC program at MIT has gone through some big changes since I walked into 201 Vassar Street three years ago. To start off, all of the Cadre from my first day in the program have moved on to either new posts or retirement. This year we welcomed both a new Professor of Military Science and a new Assistant Professor of Military Science. They’ve implemented some big changes and we’re excited to see how they will develop the program next year.

Aside from staff changes, we’ve been issued new gear (as much as we enjoyed the Alice rucks and LBEs and E-tools, putting together new MOLLE stuff is even more fun), female Cadets can now wear their hair in ponytails during physical training (PT). We conduct decentralized PT on each campus rather than by Company, the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) changed its name to Cadet Leader Course (CLC) and is no longer an evaluation, we got an awesome climbing rope in the Merrill Room, and there’s no longer a beagle hanging around the Battalion in a pumpkin suit (pet of our beloved former HR technician, Mr. Michaud). The biggest change, though, is in the training objectives of our program. ROTC is moving away from standards based on how well we can memorize battle drills and execute them in the field, and whether or not we manage to find our way through the woods with a map and compass. Those skills will still be applicable in the new training model, but the real emphasis will be on critical thinking and analysis. The point is to think of tactics and Situational Training Exercises (STXs) as tools for developing competency in executing the universally applicable Troop Leading Procedures. This emphasis on critical thinking and developing a bigger picture perspective will better prepare us for whichever component or branch we commission into. This past year was a period of impressive development as our Cadre and Cadet leadership worked to implement the new training objectives. We look forward to the challenge of further adapting our program next year, and continuing to commission new Officers with the best preparation possible to succeed in the Army as strong leaders of good character.

For all the MSII and IIIs, good luck at Cadet Summer Training (CST). I hear Knox is great in the summer time. For all returning Cadets, enjoy your break from Paul Revere, but come back ready to take on another year with even bigger responsibilities. One of your most important missions is to develop and mentor your subordinates and help out your peers. Always keep that in mind.

For the MSIVs, congratulations on commissioning. It’s been a great three years with you and we owe it to you that our program is in the great shape that it’s in today. You’ve been mentors and leaders to us all, and we wish you the best in your future careers.
The 2015 Battalion Staff Ride

By 2nd Lieutenant James Kiefner

On April 19, 1775, British regulars and colonial militia fired the first shots of what would become the American Revolution. The ensuing battle raged for an entire day—from Concord, MA, all the way to Boston. At the end of the day, the British forces holed up in Charlestown with 247 casualties, and thousands of colonial militiamen from all over New England swarmed to besiege Boston. Whether or not either side was ready, the Revolution had begun. 240 years later, on April 18, 2015, the Paul Revere BN senior class traveled this historic route on its annual Staff Ride.

The staff ride is a revered military tradition in which officers intensely study an important battle, and then move through the battlefield for a “field study.” They observe the real terrain and imagine troop movements, the fog of war, and a host of other factors that would affect a commander’s decision on the ground. The exercise culminates with a long and in-depth discussion of the battle—every lesson that could be applied to commanders and Soldiers throughout time.

This year’s staff ride allowed MSIVs to understand the Battle of Lexington and Concord with a degree of nuance and depth that would be unattainable in a classroom setting alone. The seniors spent an entire semester studying everything from individual battle accounts to the strategic and political climate of 1775. On April 18, they traveled to each of the important battlefields and placed themselves into the commanders’ shoes. How, for instance, would they react to an ambiguous pre-dawn confrontation on Lexington Green? Or, given LTC Francis Smith’s guidance and the terrain around North Bridge in Concord, would they choose to defend it or withdraw back towards a friendly British force? With one cadet as the colonial MAJ John Buttrick and one as British CPT Walter Laurie, the seniors played out multiple possible scenarios.

The staff ride lasted an entire day, assisted by multiple Patriot’s Day reenactments along the Battle Road. Despite being hundreds of years old, the operation still has plenty of lessons to offer. As a result of the carefully planned Military Science 400 class and the staff ride, our new Second Lieutenants have a fresh perspective into the challenges of planning, leading, and creating shared understanding in the heat of battle.

2LT Kiefner (2nd from left) recently graduated from Tufts University with a degree in History and Psychology.
Coordinating Instructions

By 2nd Lieutenant Edward Lowe

As the Cadet Battalion Commander this past semester, I had the opportunity to work with the leadership of other schools on a joint Brigade Staff for the planning of the Joint Leadership Training Exercise. This experience was invaluable as a learning opportunity on leadership at both the functional and human levels.

Planning, preparing and executing a joint training exercise between four battalions comprised of over 300 Cadets is definitely not a straightforward task. This semester’s planning and preparing phase saw almost no reconnaissance due to record snowfalls and a late Spring. In addition, both the Brigade S3 and S6 had to be replaced within two weeks of execution. Working with Cadets from other schools made it apparent just how well Lieutenant Colonel Godfrin had been preparing us as MSIVs for military operations and officerhip.

Both Lieutenant Moon (formerly Cadet Moon) and I had a much deeper understanding of the mission command philosophy than the MSIVs from other schools. This became more of an outstanding issue when I, as the Cadet Brigade Commander, articulated a mission command based commander’s intent and vision for the training event. I received pushback from other Cadets, who suggested that it might not be feasible to plan and execute such a training event. Cadre from the participating universities helped us to smooth out misunderstandings and build a shared vision for the JFTX. We were able to reach an agreement and move forward in the planning phase. Working with Cadets from other schools was also difficult on a human level as well as a functional level. Different training objectives and levels of doctrinal understanding led to varying degrees of ability.

While some Cadets were thoroughly prepared to execute mission orders along the commander’s intent, others needed more guidance. We will all face these kinds of complications in the army, where degrees of training, motivation and preparation create various discrepancies in personnel. The ability to determine strengths and weaknesses of peers and subordinates is a necessary skill in ROTC, and I expect it will remain so throughout our careers. We can all use this skill to our advantage for joint mission success.
Heavy Lifting

By Cadet Luke Pumiglia

This past semester, Cadets of the Paul Revere battalion began to integrate weight lifting into their weekly exercise program. These resistance-based workouts often offered a very welcome change of pace from the grueling sprint interval and aerobic workouts conducted for the other PT sessions of the week. However, the true benefit of the weightlifting was in allowing motivated Cadets to take disciplined initiative to push themselves to break through physical plateaus in a challenging new way.

Over the course of the semester the Cadets who embraced the lifting regimen both learned a lot and were able to vastly improve their explosive physical capabilities. Lifting novices were instructed by other Cadets on how to safely and properly conduct each exercise. The list of lifts learned by Cadets this semester include bench press, incline bench press, front and back squats, deadlifts, power cleans, push presses, and rows. Additionally, MS III and IV leaders empowered MS I and II’s to take an initiative within the greater purpose of the workout to instruct and modify on the fly, in order to ensure the best results for all participants.

This initiative, coupled with the feedback of the cadet leaders, allowed for a shared understanding that ensured all Cadets involved internalized both the critical safety components of lifting, as well as the outstanding physical results that resistance training offers. Finally, the semester worth of experience and instruction means that Cadets can now move forward with another host of exercises and workouts to add to their own athletic arsenal in support of future physical training.

Overall, the introduction of weightlifting into the physical training regimen this past semester has been a resounding success. Cadets involved saw massive improvements in their Army Physical Fitness Test, as they were able to push through previous plateaus in events such as push-ups and the two-mile run. Additionally, the tremendous team building that accompanies lifting improved morale, a benefit that will undoubtedly carry over to future semesters of PT.

Learning How to Lead Before Learning How to Army

By Cadet Grace Fully Park

As the dust settled and the bang bangs stopped whizzing past our perfectly camouflaged Kevlars, third platoon looked down at the valley we ambushed to discover: victory. With two SAPA force enemies down, the assaulting element charged through, with the supporting element following shortly after. After establishing 360 degree security both at the ORP and the objective, third platoon had successfully defended against a secondary SAPA attack, conducted three EPWs, collected critical intelligence, and changed mission without a single notional casualty. It was another Joint Leadership Training Exercise (JLTX) success story.
During this spring’s JLTX, MS III’s from Northeastern, University of New Hampshire, Boston University, MIT, and their affiliate schools gathered to put into practice what we have learned over the course of our ROTC careers. During the final lane, I had the opportunity to act as platoon leader in a line ambush. During summer training at Ft. Knox, I felt pressured to show my mastery of tactics, leading lanes like a to-do checklist. This JLTX lane was different. My lane walkers were helping me think through every decision, guiding me tactically when I needed help, but also allowing me to defend my decisions if they strayed from doctrine, simultaneously teaching and evaluating me. Ultimately, I walked away from that lane with comments aimed to improve rather than critique. My TAC emphasized communication and utilization of talent, instead of focusing on my ability to follow doctrine exactly or my platoon’s lack of tactical spacing.

As I enter into my final year of ROTC and decide on branches far from combat arms, sometimes I wonder how relevant leadership training in a tactical environment might be. As someone interested in the Reserves and a career in academia or politics, tactics sometimes seems frustratingly far from my future reality. However, the experience of leading, planning, executing, and improvising—those are opportunities many of my peers are unable to have absent an educational environment like ROTC. With our program’s revitalized focus on teaching leadership qualities rather than just tactical leadership, I am confident that The Paul Revere Battalion is training quality leaders for any field.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

**By Cadet James Clarke**

April is sexual assault awareness month, and, rather than attend one of the many excellent events being run throughout Boston, I chose to host one myself. For many, this month is about remembering, healing, moving on and most importantly finding ways to prevent sexual assault.

My interest in hosting the event was to provide a forum unlike most others. While many events are held in a lecture format, mine was an open discussion, using the events of a sexual assault case at the University of Virginia as a way to ground our discussion. The conversation covered everything from ways people can support friends who may have survived assault, to the ways these events could have been prevented or handled differently. Moreover, those who attended this event were active participants, sharing their own experiences and enriching the discussion for everyone.

Sexual assault, while incredibly difficult to discuss, needs to be brought to light and talked about in an open fashion if improvements are to be made. Hosting the event was, in many ways, inspiring. It was inspiring to see so many give up their time to attend an event for the betterment of the community in which we live. It was inspiring to hear so many great ideas for ways to prevent future sexual assaults. It was inspiring to know that so many people, Cadets and college students, males and females, care enough about this subject that they are willing to stand up and declare in one voice that we can all do a better job of recognizing and preventing sexual assault.
By Cadet Jeremy Wiltshire

CDT Wiltshire is a freshman at Salem State majoring in biology.

Before commissioning as an officer in the US Army, a Cadet going through Army ROTC has a lot of things to juggle and balance. Many sacrifices have to be made to reach that ultimate goal of 2nd Lieutenant. All ROTC Cadets are both college students and officers in training and they often have to deal with the responsibilities of both sides. This is no easy feat for anyone. ROTC Cadets may find themselves staying up late to study for an upcoming exam or to work the job they may be holding, then waking up early the next morning to conduct physical training. Lack of sleep and long days are common in the ROTC, and just like college, the challenges and responsibilities we face in ROTC will only get harder as a Cadet goes up in rank.

In lab a first year Cadet, or an MSI, may find himself or herself learning how to lead a small team of Soldiers where a MSIV may coordinate the entire lab session. Lab sessions normally take place on Wednesday evenings and start around 6pm and end at about 9pm. The time a Cadet leaves lab varies based on many things. Some MSIII’s and all MSIV’s are there before and after the start of the lab to plan and set up the lab then to evaluate what happened during the lab to make future sessions better. This can take up a lot of time out of one’s day and this still is not the extent of the responsibilities a Cadet will have in ROTC.

One of the most important responsibilities that all Cadets will have to deal with is physical fitness. Physical training normally takes place at either 6:00am or 6:30am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. PT sessions normally last an hour and is meant to sustain a level of physical fitness so a Cadet can pass an Army Physical Fitness Test, or APFT. Being a Cadet who is prior enlisted and having been in the Army for three years prior to joining ROTC, the importance of PT cannot be stressed enough. As an Army officer, you must set the example for all the Soldiers under you even when it comes to physical fitness. Physical fitness is essential to the readiness of any and all Soldiers regardless of his or her job. Just like in the Army, lack of physical readiness can end a Cadet’s career in ROTC if he or she is contracted. PT sessions that take place every other day will not be enough to improve one’s level of physical fitness so it is important that all Cadets find the time to work out on their own outside of ROTC. This is not only an individual responsibility but it is also a group effort.

Cadets are also required to take classes as they progress through the program. MSI’s and MSII’s take classes that are meant to introduce them to the history and the basic custom and courtesies of the Army. MSIII’s and MSIV’s take classes focused on leading Soldiers and organizing and overseeing various battlefield operations. Just like a regular college class, there will be homework and in class assignments as well as long lectures where you will be required to take notes with the expectation of exams in the future. Time management is essential to all Cadets both in and out of the program so grades do not slip. Coming in to the ROTC program comes with many responsibilities, and it takes a special person to take on the challenges that will be presented in both ROTC and later in the Army. Cadets are put under immense stress in order to mold them in to physically and mentally tough officers to lead Soldiers in the US Army. All this stress will all be worth it in the end when the 2nd Lieutenant rank in being pinned on your collar and you are able to call yourself an Army leader. There is a lot of pride that comes with being in this program and being able to represent the Army and its future. This decision to join should not be taken lightly but it is encouraged to reach out if you have any questions about taking this path. Strive for greatness, be different from your peers and become a part of that one percent!
Learning from Leaders

By Cadet Talia Messina

Beginning Army ROTC as the only female cadet from Gordon College was a challenge. However, my experience as a new Cadet has been nothing short of amazing. In high school I was never on a sports team. My biggest fear was failing my squad leader by not meeting the physical fitness standards. I expected to be alone in my mission to pass the fitness test. I could not have been more wrong. The Cadets welcomed me into their support system and refused to let me slip through the cracks.

On my first physical training day, one of the Cadets changed his running pace so that he could encourage me to keep pushing through. During field training, another Cadet drilled me on the operations orders to ensure I understood the commands. Still another time, a Cadet called me on the phone simply to check on my well-being. The support from these Cadets is one major reason why I loved my first semester in ROTC. I was never left behind and I was always challenged to push myself harder than I believed I could.

Another influential aspect of the ROTC program was my fellow Cadets determination to lead by example. The military science classes could teach me basic characteristics that the army required, yet I learned more by watching my leaders. This is especially true in the way that they carried themselves when they were not in uniform. The traits of respect, honor, and self-less service were apparent in their everyday life styles.

By observing my chain of command, I learned how to speak with confidence, explain my views clearly, and offer advice without sounding demeaning. These traits are applicable to all aspects of my life. Although it was difficult waking up at 6am for training and adding military science classes to my already demanding major, I found that what ROTC has taught me so far has bettered me as a person and a student. I am honored to be part of this program and excited to one day serve my country with the traits I have learned from my fellow Cadets.
This semester, Cadet leadership implemented Campus PT. Though it was well received by many, it also has unacknowledged downsides compared to company PT. Those in favor argued that the change allows for more variety as well as the ability to target muscle groups more precisely. A smaller group can utilize the individual campus weight rooms without the room becoming impossibly overcrowded.

Another benefit to Campus PT was the fact that smaller groups allowed for more leaders to emerge. While these may be true, there have also been downsides to the change that needed to be addressed so we could continue to improve as an organization.

People often complain about the standard push-up and sit-up drills. While these exercises can become dull when repeated, there is no doubt that they are the most effective way to improve your push-up and sit-up scores on the APFT. The most effective way to improve push-ups is not to lift weights, it is to workout with your own body weight. The remainder of the exercises work well as a supplement, but the “meat and potatoes” of your chest and arms workout should still be the pushup, regardless of what other equipment is available to you. The equipment in a gym is only as good as one’s knowledge of it. And since most of our training has been on bodyweight workouts, it is also far easier to put together a bodyweight workout than one that uses weights and machines.

While some would say that having someone more experienced show the proper form for weightlifting is a solution, there are some campuses where the highest-ranking Cadet is only an MSII, and therefore not ideal for putting together a PT plan. This also means that the MSIs and MSIIs at these campuses cannot benefit from seeing more experienced leaders in action. Instead, they are forced to find out what does and does not work on their own, wasting time and energy. Having more experienced leaders available is the best way to improve.

Additionally, not all gyms are equal. Some gyms even lack an indoor track. While treadmills or cardio machines are potential solutions, there remains a big difference between a 13:00 two-mile on the treadmill and a 13:00 two-mile on a track. And running outdoors is not always feasible due to weather. Training should match the APFT, as much as possible. By working with an entire company, it is easier to schedule the runs for where there is a track.

In summation, while campus-based PT sessions certainly have some benefits, there are significant downsides that can and should be addressed in the future. We need to continue to work towards a physical training plan that works to the advantage of all Cadets.
Highlights From Winter/Spring 2015

Joint Service Military Ball

Branch Night

Troop Leading Procedures
Actions On the Objective

...And Congratulations to the Paul Revere Battalion Commissioning Class of 2015!
Congratulations to all MSIV’s who will be starting a new journey upon commissioning in May 2015!

Active Duty
John Bowlus - Transportation
Robert Costa - Field Artillery
Andrea Dubin - Cyber
James Kiefner - Aviation
Molly McFadden - Military Intelligence
Joel Perkins - Ordnance, EOD
Will Scopa - Armor
Anna Woudenberg - Nurse Corps

National Guard
Shane Wilson - Field Artillery

Reserve
Andrew Hamel - Military Intelligence

Educational Delay
Sophia Chua-Rubenfeld - Judge Advocate General Corps
Chad Larcom - Medical Corps
Edward Lowe - Chaplain Corps
Andrea Moon - Medical Corps

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