

UND Army ROTC Alumni Letter

in this issue

From the PMS [P.1](#)

COL Mathre's Promotion [P.2](#)

CDT of the Semester [P.3](#)

Alumni Highlight [P.4-5](#)

Upcoming Events [P.6](#)



ARMY ROTC

From the Professor of Military Science

Welcome 2LT Sampel!

We are excited to have 2LT Hanna Sampel in our office as our Gold Bar Recruiter through May!

2LT Sampel will be working in the office working with scholarship applicants. She will also be attending events on campus and the Greater Grand Forks area.

She will be reporting for flight school at Ft. Rucker this August.



A Fighting Hawks shout-out to our Alumni and friends with the hope for some warm weather soon. This winter was much different than last winter's historically mild weather with 11 blizzards and some seriously cold temps at -30 Fahrenheit but judging from some of the pictures on Trudy's board from years past, this is nothing new. I think the students and I can officially claim our place as surviving a true North Dakota winter. Despite the cold wintery conditions, the Cadets continue to train and lead and our MSIII's are making great progress towards their preparation for Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox this summer.

In January I had the honor to serve on the second of three National Scholarship Boards, helping to review over 1900 applications for prospective Cadets applying for an ROTC scholarship. I was amazed at the quality of applicants from across the nation for those aspiring to be Army Officers. Four 10-hour days were spent reviewing the applicants resume, grades and PMS interview to grade them on a scale of 1-6 (6 being the highest) to help determine the winner of 3 and 4-year scholarships. I am proud to say that we had one 4-year winner and three 3-year winners that will hopefully be joining the Battalion in the Fall (a couple of our winners were also selected to attend West-point, which just goes to show you the quality of the applicants). With one additional National Scholarship Board in March, we look to boost the number of scholarship Cadets even further.

This year we have modified our training methods to include CST preparing tactical labs in the Fall to provide initial tactics execution early in the year (normally we waited until the Spring). This spring we are continuing with tactics but with less focus on the execution of the tactics and more on the planning of the missions and actions by the platoon leadership prior to the execution of the mission.

The feedback from the seniors based on of the mission. The feedback from the seniors based on their experience at CST in 2021, showed that nearly 70% of the assessment on the tactical lanes was focused on the planning and only 30% on execution. This revision in our training looks to provide our MSIII's with more focused training that will set them up for success both at CST and in the future.

With a lessening of COVID restrictions, we have been able to do significantly more recruiting than last year with Cadets setting up booths on Campus and Cadre and Cadets working with local/regional high schools to discuss the opportunities in ROTC. The Cadets have started a new tradition by establishing a push-up team for UND Football that showcases the Cadets during the games and working at the Ralph during Hockey games. In the works is the 1st annual Fighting Hawks Organization Day, inviting students from across the campus to participate in carnival like events, lots of food and fun that looks to increase exposure of the program on campus.

Despite the weather this winter, the UND Army ROTC has continued to train and develop Cadets and we are anticipating another great Camp performance from our juniors at camp this summer. The senior class of 2022 has been doing a remarkable job training and developing the Cadets and taking on the mantel of a Cadet led program. The seniors continue to make incremental improvements in the program, and I am proud of the leadership they continue to provide. They are the future of the Army and have demonstrated they are well prepared to lead Soldiers following their commissioning here in a few short months!

Promotion of Our Professor of Military Science

On February 4th, 2022, the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks Battalion's very own Professor of Military Science (PMS), was promoted from Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel. COL Mathre has been the PMS for the Fighting Hawks Battalion since June of 2020. During this ceremony, the President of UND, President Armacost, gave a speech stating to everyone this is a very rare event, especially here on UND campus. He honored COL Mathre and his number of attributes he has demonstrated; proven leadership, excellence, proof of leadership, pushing teams together, and commitment to serve. President Armacost stated in COL Mathre's last performance report "outstanding officer that does exceptional work" and repeated uses of the term "flawless". He ended his speech presenting COL Mathre with a UND President's coin and a handmade piece of metal artwork specially designed for him with the UND logo. At this time, he was pinned by his sister, Jennifer Rholing, and brother, Tony Mathre and his hat was pinned by his wife, Heather. President Armacost administered COL Mathre the oath of office.

COL Mathre gave a speech thanking all the Cadets and how they would be the next generation of officers and could not be prouder. He also thanked his staff and cadre, NCO's and civilians that he has worked with over the years. He thanked his family: kids; Carson, Bryson, Harrison, and Madison; thanked his sister and brother for making the long trip along with "last but not least" thanking his "lovely wife of 21 years", Heather. At the end of the ceremony, food was served in a buffet style to all those in attendance along with COL Mathre serving the cake.



Cadet of the Semester

The Fighting Hawks Battalion conducted its first ever Cadet of the Semester (CotS) Competition.

Congratulations
CDT Lehfeldt!

COVID-19 Update

In late February, UND has begun easing the mask requirement around campus. In the classroom, students are still required to wear a mask. Around campus, persons only need to wear a mask while waiting in line for food at the Memorial Union or Wilkerson Dining. It is still encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask in all indoor areas. At the airport, masks are still required, but may be taken off once inside an aircraft if the crew is comfortable.

Armory Changes

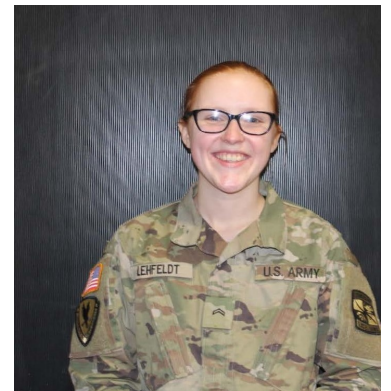
On top of the renovations that occurred to the front office and the new roof over the summer, we are excited to have a dedicated Cadet lounge and computer office again! The Cadet lounge shares space with our indoor smokeless range. Couches, tables, and computer workstations are available for Cadets to use anytime. Cadets spend hours on end studying and socializing in this space.

In the week of 6-9 December 2021, the Fighting Hawks Battalion conducted its first ever Cadet of the Semester (CotS) Competition. Cadet CSM Kostelecky, along with the help of the MSIII class, planned a variety of events to test participating MSIs and MSIIIs on their skills and knowledge on subjects they learned throughout the semester. This competition found one Cadet who had the best overall score. CDT Lehfeldt is an MSI, 4-year scholarship winner. She was titled "Cadet of the Semester" and awarded \$500 from the UND Army ROTC program.



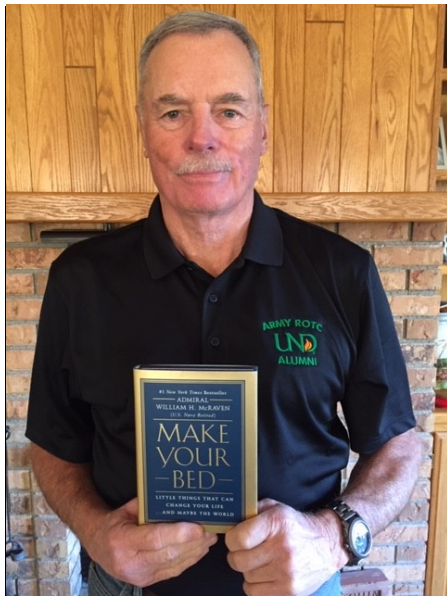
In the planning of this event, the MSIIIs were each tasked with being an Officer in Charge (OIC) for one event and an Assistant Officer in Charge (AOIC) for a second event. These events included Land Navigation, Marksmanship, Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3), Grenades, Tactics, Drill & Ceremony, a Uniform Inspection, and a Board. They were required to fill out a DRAW, supply request, and CONOP for each event, then conduct rehearsals with their evaluators as to how the event would be run and graded. There were 2-3 events each night over a 4-day period. The winner was announced at the Military Ball on 10 December.

Overall, this competition was a fun way to test the lab products and teaching from the semester and form bonds between those evaluating and those participating. This was a great event for retaining and motivating Cadets as they were excited and talking about the next CotS opportunities. In future semesters, the Fighting Hawks Battalion hopes to sustain the CotS Competition due to its motivation and success.



*CDT Lehfeldt
Cadet of the Semester, Fall 2021*





COL (Ret) James Diercks

Class of 1968

COL (Ret) Diercks, purchased a copy of the book "Make Your Bed" for all those commissioning December 2021, May 2022, and August 2022.

Thank you for your outstanding contribution!

Our First Alumni Highlight

this issue is

James Diercks: Class of 1968

James graduated from UND with a BS in Business Administration and commissioned into the regular army as a Field Artillery officer on 2 June 1968 through the ROTC program.

He graduated from field artillery officer basic and the ballistic missile officer program at Fort Sill, OK and the Army Ranger program at Fort Benning, GA in 1968 and early 1969. James' first assignment was with a field artillery battalion in Vicenza, Italy as part of NATO and the Southern European Task Force. As a nuclear missile unit they saw endless training and deployments designed to stop the Soviet threat of the Cold War. After 16 months, he received orders for deployment to Vietnam. After a short refresher course at Fort Sill, James arrived in country and assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division in Chu Lai, RVN.

After his assignments and three-month extension in country, James returned to Oakland, CA and resigned his regular army commission and swore in with a reserve commission to continue service towards retirement. After a branch transfer to the Medical Service Corp and various assignments throughout North Dakota and after moving to Bozeman, MT, James completed the Officer Advanced course and the Command and General Staff College course.

After being promoted to LTC, he transferred to the 6228th Army Reserve School in Boise, ID and became the first instructor in Montana to bring the officer CAS3 course to MT and teach the first class of 14 National Guard and Army Reserve officers for two years to their graduation.

At the end of that course, James was mobilized for Operation Desert Storm and assigned to Health Services Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. His job was deputy chief of staff was to help mobilize and configure all the Army medical assets and units to support the war.

After being promoted to Colonel in 1992, James was promoted out of work with no position vacancies existing in Montana. On the civilian side, James moved to Bozeman, MT in fall of 1975 and started a business in property and casualty insurance working as an independent agent owning his own agency and growing it through the years until selling it in 2009 and retiring with his wife of 38 years, Teresa. Hobbies are many but hunting, fishing, and golf occupy their time as well as their trips to New Braunfels, Texas during the winter. James is very proud of his alma mater and graduation from such a fine school.



**We want YOU
to be our
Alumni Highlight!**

We would love to spotlight you!
If you are interested in being our
Alumni Highlight in the next
newsletter, please email Trudy at
trudy.soli@und.edu
with a few photos
and your biography!



MG Lonnie Hibbard

Class of 1989

**Our Second Alumni Highlight
this issue is**

Lonnie Hibbard: Class of 1989

Major General Lonnie G. Hibbard is the Commanding General for the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and is responsible for annually transforming 130,000 civilian volunteers into Soldiers who are disciplined, fit, grounded in Army Values, and combat ready. He also serves as the Senior Mission Commander of Fort Eustis as part of Joint Base Langley Eustis.

Prior to his arrival at CIMT, MG Hibbard served as the Deputy Chief of Staff G-3/5/7 for U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, where he was responsible for developing, integrating, and managing training operations requirements, concepts, policies, and plans.

MG Hibbard has served in command and staff positions from the platoon to 4-star level in operational, institutional, and special operations units. His service includes deployments in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MG Hibbard's service at the tactical level includes time as a Combat Engineer, Aviation Officer, and AH-64 pilot in the U.S., Indo-Asia-Pacific, and the Middle East. His service at the strategic level includes assignments at a Theater Special Operations Command, U.S. Army Forces Command, and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

MG Hibbard is a native of Kaukauna, Wisconsin and received his commission from the University of North Dakota in 1989. MG Hibbard has a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He and his wife Gail have two grown daughters.



Kyle Riedel Lonnie Hibbard Doug Raddatz
Robin Knox Gail Hibbard Julie Flom



Support YOUR Fighting Hawks Battalion!

We are always accepting donations to support our various activities within the Battalion.

Checks are always accepted and can be sent directly to the Armory. Checks may be made out to the Raiders Club. You may also electronically send donations through the UND Foundation Website below:

<https://undalumni.org/schools-and-colleges>

We are always grateful for your continued support of the program!

Go Sioux! Go Hawks!

Upcoming Events

- **Spring Break**
14 – 18 March
- **GAFPB (German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency)**
25 – 27 March, Camp Ripley, MN
- **Olympics Event**
31 March, Armory
- **Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX)**
9 – 12 April, Camp Ripley, MN
- **Awards Ceremony**
28 April 2022
- **Spring Commissioning**
13 May 2022, UND Memorial Union Small Ballroom (Rm. 220). The event will also be streamed live on our Facebook.

A Note from Trudy:



Spring semester is already heading towards the greatly needed spring break as it has been a cold, windy and snowy winter so far. We continue working on the Cadet lounge and computer lab with some new desks and chairs along with some UND's "hand-me-downs" of a conference table and book shelves. Cadets are starting to use this area for their Cadet meetings, a place to study and just have some social or quiet time. We have a long way to go until it is complete, but we are slowly working on it with the funds we have through you, alumni's generous donations and with what the Cadets make working concessions. Keep the updates coming and would love to highlight you in one of our newsletters; so please feel free to email a couple of pictures along with your bio and anything else you would like added. (trudy.solli@UND.edu) Take care and God Speed...ts



ARMY ROTC
Follow us on Social Media!

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