

# Winter BOILER BAYONET

12 SEP 2024 - 14 DEC 2024

## A Word from our PMS:

“These are exciting times here in the Boiler Battalion! This semester we saw growth, not only in the Cadets, but in the activities and events here on campus. The Cadets performed extremely well during the Fall FTX, which include Blackhawk helicopters, at both Purdue and Wabash College, providing the transportation from the intramural fields to Martell Forest for over 125 of our Cadets. The Cadets are more engaged that ever with Athletics and the university and continue to build and strengthen the relationships, supporting Military Appreciation games throughout the month of November. Additionally, we were able to bring the Commander’s Cup back to the Army for the first time since 2014-15 school year. All of these incredible events could not have been accomplished without the tremendous support from the administration and campus partners at both institutions. The Battalion is poised for another semester of learning, growth, and training that will continue to set up the Cadet for success. Keep an eye on our social media accounts and we look forward to seeing you back on campus in the near future! Boiler up! ”

– Lieutenant Colonel Kevin C. White

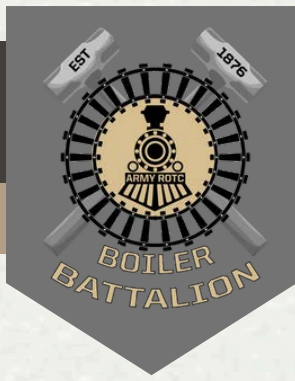
This fall, the Boiler Battalion embarked on a journey filled with growth, resilience, and community impact. Cadets stepped into challenging leadership roles, tackled an intense Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX), and deepened their connection with Army traditions and the wider Purdue community. Through a diverse set of opportunities, the Battalion fostered an environment of excellence and success. Key moments such as the Bold Warrior Challenge, Change of Command Ceremony, and Branch Night highlighted the commitment and advancement within the Battalion. Additionally, We said farewell to two longstanding members of the Battalion. MSG Russell and Ms. Kathy, thank you for your unwavering dedication. We wish them well and thank them for all the work they put into the Battalion. Reflecting on a semester rich with accomplishment, it's evident that the Boiler Battalion continues to shape strong, capable leaders ready to serve with distinction.

## Contents

Introduction.....	Page 1
Fall Leadership.....	Page 2
Fall FTX.....	Page 3
ACFT & CWST .....	Page 4
LTC Stephen J. Herczeg Leadership Speaker Series.....	Page 5
Clubs.....	Page 6
Labs.....	Page 7
Bold Warrior Challenge.....	Page 8
Military Appreciation Week.....	Page 9
Change of Command Ceremony.....	Page 10
Branch Night.....	Page 11
Commissioning.....	Page 12
A Legacy of Service.....	Page 13
Initiatives and Support.....	Page 14
Closing.....	Page 15







# SPRING LEADERSHIP

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## Boiler Battalion c/BC Owen Wright

“ Leading this team of dedicated Cadets is both a privilege and a responsibility that I am honored to be selected for. I’m eager to uphold the high standards that define our Battalion. Together, we’ll continue to build on the legacy of excellence that the Boiler Battalion stands for. ”



c/CSM

Andrew Helgren



c/XO

Bryce Riner



c/S1

Oliver Benbow



c/S2

Joshua Silverstein



c/S3

Andrew Lasecki



c/S4

Cole Ellis



c/S5

Anna Lisa Lynch



c/S6

Chun Pham



c/S7

Daniel Kelly



c/S8

Ethan Lucas



c/HHC CDR  
William Kang



c/A CO CDR  
Ian Wernert



c/B CO CDR  
Noemi Hernandez



c/Ranger PLT LDR  
Leo Detwiler





# FALL FTX

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## OVERVIEW

This semester's Field Training Exercise (FTX) took place at Martell Forest and proved to be a physically and mentally demanding experience for the Boiler Battalion. Over the course of three days and two nights, Cadets participated in several events that tested their tactical prowess and leadership ability. The exercise required grit and determination as Cadets pushed through challenges and demonstrated resilience in both individual and team tasks.

### Day 1

The first event of the Field Training Exercise (FTX) required Cadets to complete several hours of Land Navigation. Armed with only a compass, map, and protractor, they successfully identified and located multiple grid points, demonstrating their navigation skills during both daylight and nighttime conditions.



### Day 2

Cadets were provided with Airsoft rifles and engaged in 12 hours of Situational Training Exercises (STX), which included scenarios such as Attack, Ambush, and Movement to Contact. These exercises were designed to enhance their tactical proficiency and decision-making under pressure.

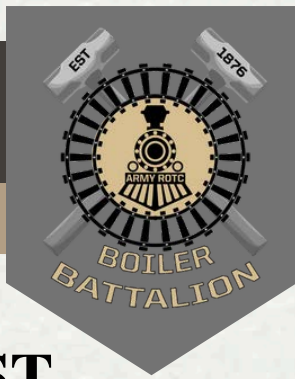
### Day 3

To wrap up the final day of the exercise, Cadets moved back to Purdue's campus and completed several team oriented activities that increased their unit cohesion and team effectiveness. This included the obstacle course, the low ropes course and finally, a ruck march back to the Armory.



Thanks to Charlie Company, 1-137th, all 140 Cadets were transported from Purdue University's campus to Martell Forest via UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. This operation provided Cadets with a valuable opportunity to experience military aviation, enhancing their training and deepening their understanding of logistical operations.





# ACFT & CWST

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

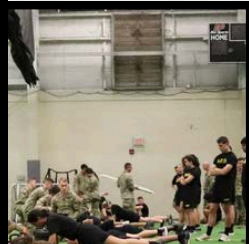
## CWST

The Army's Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) is designed to evaluate a soldier's ability to perform essential water survival skills under stress. It includes tasks such as swimming 15 meters, performing water confidence exercises, and recovering from a submerged position. Soldiers must demonstrate the ability to float, tread water, and swim in full combat gear. The CWST is an important part of basic training, ensuring soldiers are prepared for water-related challenges in various operational situations. Successfully completing the CWST confirms that soldiers are ready to handle waterborne tasks during missions.



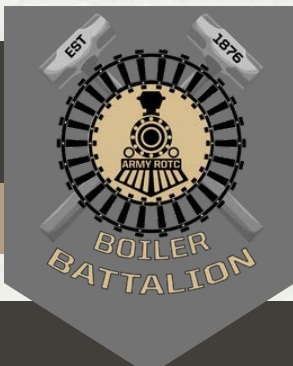
## ACFT

The Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) is a physical fitness assessment designed to evaluate a soldier's strength, endurance, and overall physical readiness. The test consists of six events: the deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release push-ups, sprint-drag-carry, plank, and two-mile run. Each event measures specific components of fitness, such as muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, and agility. The ACFT is an essential tool in ensuring soldiers are physically prepared for the demands of combat and daily military tasks. Successfully completing the ACFT demonstrates a soldier's ability to perform effectively in high-intensity, physically demanding situations.



The Boiler Battalion demonstrated exceptional performance in both the Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) and the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). A remarkable 90% of the battalion successfully completed the CWST, showcasing their commitment and water survival proficiency. Special recognition is due to **CDT Casterton**, whose outstanding leadership and organizational skills ensured the smooth execution of the CWST, contributing significantly to the success of this event. From October 1-3, every cadet in the Battalion completed the ACFT, an evaluation of physical fitness. The Battalion showed impressive progress, achieving an average score of 520, marking a 5% increase from the previous semester. **CDT Day** played a pivotal role in the planning and execution of the ACFT, ensuring that the event was carried out seamlessly and with efficiency. Notably, Cadets **Terry** and **Freeman** earned perfect scores of 600, a testament to their dedication and physical excellence. The performance in both the CWST and ACFT highlights the Battalion's continued growth and preparedness for the challenges ahead.





# LTC STEPHEN J. HERCZEG LEADERSHIP SPEAKER SERIES

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## OVERVIEW

The LTC Stephen J. Herczeg Speaker Series gives Cadets the opportunity to learn from the experiences and careers of some of the Army's most successful leaders. The following leader shared their wisdom with the Boiler Battalion this semester.

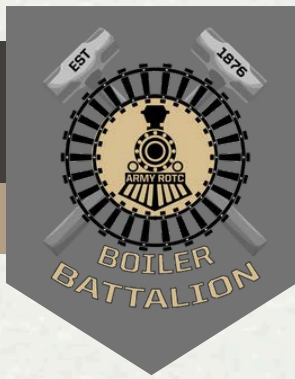


**Lieutenant General Christopher P. Weggeman**, United States Air Force (Retired), addressed the Purdue University Army ROTC, sharing his personal experiences as a fighter pilot. He recounted a critical mission in the Middle East where he played a pivotal role in saving a group of Special Forces personnel from being overrun by enemy forces. The Special Forces had arrived in a town but soon encountered hostile forces. As the firefight escalated, an enemy convoy of reinforcements was advancing toward the town. In response to the call for air support, Lt. General Weggeman led a squadron of fighter pilots to intercept the convoy. Despite low fuel levels, the pilots successfully destroyed the convoy just before it could reach the town, thus safeguarding the lives of the Special Forces on the ground.

Lt. General Weggeman's account deeply impacted the Boiler Battalion, inspiring many cadets. His exemplary display of courage, sacrifice, and decisive leadership highlighted the importance of selfless service and the profound influence of individual decisions in critical moments. His story served as a powerful reminder that the consequences of one's actions may have far-reaching effects, often in ways that are not immediately apparent. We would also like to highlight **CDT Campbell** for his exceptional execution in organizing and running this impactful event, ensuring its success and creating a meaningful experience for all involved.







# CLUBS

## PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

The Boiler Battalion's **Color Guard** exemplifies precision, discipline, and teamwork through its ceremonial performances and commitment to tradition. This prestigious club offers members the opportunity to develop leadership, pride, and a deep sense of responsibility while representing the battalion with honor and professionalism. From presenting the national and battalion colors at events to supporting formal ceremonies, the Color Guard plays a vital role in upholding military traditions and fostering esprit de corps. Through their dedication, members of the Color Guard embody the values of excellence and service.

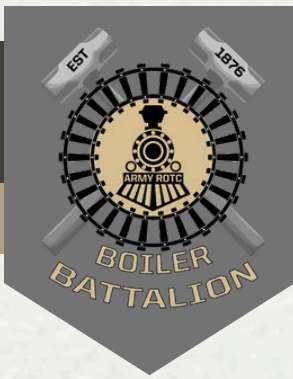


The Boiler Battalion's **Tactics Club** serves as an essential forum for cadets to further develop and refine the tactical skills introduced during daily lab sessions. This club provides members with the opportunity to assume leadership positions, allowing them to sharpen their decision-making and planning abilities in a structured and supportive environment. By revisiting and critically analyzing the tactics and scenarios from lab, cadets can gain a deeper understanding of operational strategy, improve their problem-solving capabilities, and enhance their overall tactical proficiency. Through focused discussion, hands-on practice, and collaborative learning, the Tactics Club plays a pivotal role in preparing cadets for future leadership challenges, fostering both individual growth and the collective development of tactical excellence.

The Boiler Battalion's **Powerlifting Club** serves as a dynamic outlet for cadets to build physical strength, mental resilience, and camaraderie. Through rigorous training sessions, members focus on mastering foundational lifts, improving overall fitness, and achieving personal milestones in strength and endurance. The club fosters a supportive environment where cadets motivate one another to push their limits and embody the values of discipline and perseverance. By promoting physical fitness and teamwork, the Powerlifting Club not only enhances individual performance but also strengthens the collective spirit of the Battalion, reflecting the principles of readiness and excellence.







# LABS

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## Lab 4

MS1 cadets applied individual movement techniques and tactical movements in team-based exercises, fostering trust and cohesion within their squads. MS2 cadets further refined their land navigation and tactical planning skills, demonstrating their capability to operate effectively in dynamic scenarios. MS3 cadets assumed leadership roles, utilizing OPORD and Troop Leading Procedures to lead their teams with confidence and precision. This training reinforced critical skills in teamwork, communication, and decision-making, preparing cadets for future leadership responsibilities.



## Lab 7

MS1 cadets gained foundational knowledge in executing an attack lane, focusing on the basic tactics and techniques required for success. Meanwhile, MS2 and MS3 cadets built upon their prior skills, honing their proficiency in tactical operations and conducting ambushes. These exercises provided cadets with invaluable hands-on experience, reinforcing their ability to work effectively as a team while enhancing their tactical expertise in dynamic, high-pressure environments. make this more formal and a little longer

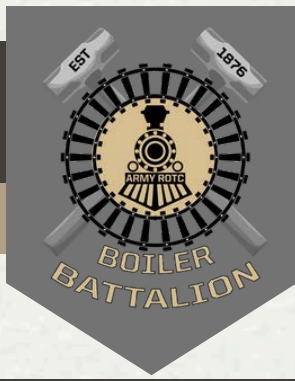


## Lab 11

Cadets participated in hot and cold load training with the UH-60 Blackhawk, gaining valuable hands-on experience in safely and efficiently boarding and exiting the aircraft under various operational conditions, including with rotors in motion. This training emphasized not only the importance of precision and discipline but also reinforced the critical role of teamwork and situational awareness in high-stress environments. By mastering these procedures, cadets demonstrated their ability to execute tasks with confidence and professionalism, ensuring they are well-prepared for the demands of future mission requirements.







# BOLD WARRIOR CHALLENGE

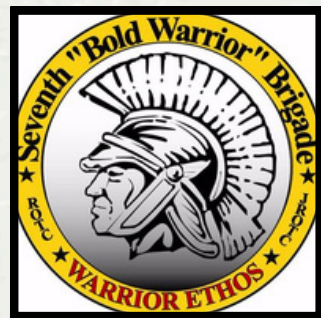
PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

The Purdue Army ROTC Ranger Team is made up of the most physically and mentally fit cadets, dedicated to training and competing in the Bold Warrior Challenge at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This semester, the team has gone above and beyond in their preparation, putting in extra effort during training to excel in the competition. Here's a glimpse of what the Purdue Army ROTC Ranger Team experienced at the 2024 Bold Warrior Challenge.

The Purdue Army ROTC Ranger Team showcased their expertise by constructing a "One Rope Bridge" to transport equipment and personnel across a hill. Mastery of key knots and effective team communication were crucial to the successful execution of this challenging mission. These mission sites were spread out across Fort Knox, requiring the team to ruck over 12 miles with 35-pound rucksacks, demonstrating their endurance and determination.



The Purdue Army ROTC Ranger Team delivered an exceptional performance, overcoming mentally and physically demanding mission sites to secure **5th place overall out of 38 universities from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky**. This achievement marks a historic milestone for the program, **earning back-to-back Top 5 finishes** for the first time in school history at the Bold Warrior Challenge in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

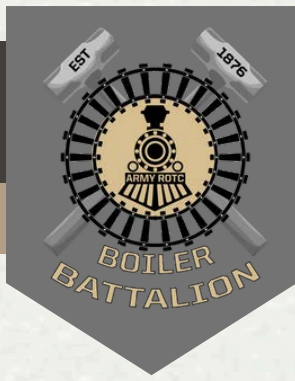


Another mission site presented the team with a significant challenge: transporting a bucket of water to the summit of a steep, slanted wall. Accomplishing this task demanded meticulous strategic planning, cohesive teamwork, and unwavering determination, exemplifying the team's resilience and problem-solving capabilities.



**“CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE”**





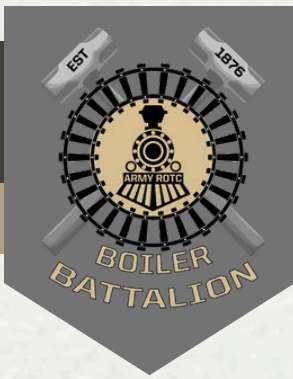
# MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

This year, the Boiler Battalion partnered with our Naval and Air Force ROTC counterparts to host our first ever Military Appreciation Week from November 2nd to 11th. This week included several cadet-planned events aimed at increasing our involvement with the other ROTC branches here at Purdue and the Greater Lafayette veteran community at large. These events included our annual Tri-Service Tailgate at the Purdue Armory, organized by CDT Andrew Lasecki, and added many events from last year, such as a Silent Auction to help fund our new ROTC Scholarship Endowment. During the week, we also gathered a group of cadets and midshipmen to visit the local Indiana Veteran's Home and hosted a virtual Dine and Donate fundraiser with the goal of raising funds for various veteran's organizations. Later, we hosted a flag football game with local veterans and ROTC cadets/midshipmen of the same branches joining teams to compete against each other. Throughout the week, our Color Guard performed ceremonies at the Military Appreciation games for our football, volleyball, men's and women's basketball games. Finally, to finish the week, our Ranger Challenge team was recognized for their performance at this year's Bold Warrior Challenge during the Men's Basketball Military Appreciation Game. Overall, this week was very successful as we executed all our events and accomplished our goal of uniting our program with our local veteran community. As a first-year event, we are very proud of what we were able to accomplish and look forward to growing this event even more next year!







# CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

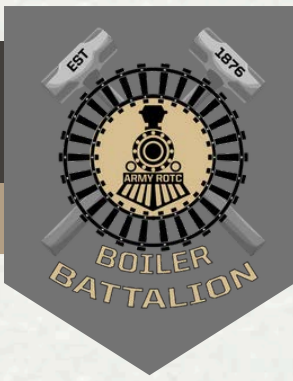
PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## The Boiler Battalion Ends the Semester

As the semester ended, the Boiler Battalion convened for its Change of Command Ceremony, a meaningful event that marked the culmination of a term filled with shared successes and individual growth. This occasion provided a chance to reflect on the challenges overcome, celebrate achievements, and honor the unwavering dedication of our Cadets. During the ceremony, outstanding members of the battalion were recognized for their exemplary contributions, and graduating seniors were celebrated for their invaluable service, leadership, and impact throughout their ROTC journey. In keeping with tradition, c/BC Shuff and c/CSM Bouachoum ceremoniously cased the battalion colors, symbolizing the conclusion of their leadership tenure. These colors were uncased by the incoming leadership, c/BC Wright and c/CSM Helgren, as they took on the responsibility of guiding the battalion into a new academic year filled with promise and potential. This event underscored the enduring camaraderie and commitment that defines the Purdue Army ROTC Boiler Battalion. It also reaffirmed the program's steadfast dedication to cultivating leadership, fostering service, and promoting the personal development of its Cadets. As this chapter comes to an end, the Boiler Battalion eagerly anticipates another semester of excellence, growth, and meaningful accomplishments.







# BRANCH NIGHT

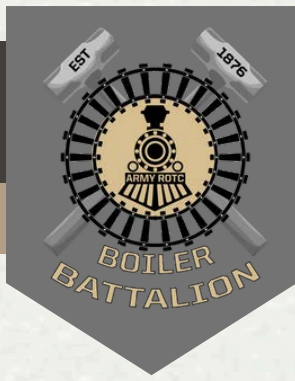
PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

Branch Night marked an exciting and pivotal milestone for the Cadets of the Boiler Battalion as they received their long-awaited branch assignments, solidifying their paths as future leaders in the United States Army. The ceremony celebrated the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Each Cadet was recognized for their achievements and presented with their assigned branch, a reflection of their skills, aspirations, and potential to excel in their chosen fields.



Whether destined for Infantry, Signal Corps, Medical Services, or another critical branch, the evening was filled with pride, camaraderie, and anticipation for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The Boiler Battalion takes immense pride in the Cadets' accomplishments and eagerly looks forward to the impact they will make in their respective roles as officers.





# COMMISSIONING

## PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

The Boiler Battalion is honored to celebrate the commissioning of eleven outstanding Cadets as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. This momentous occasion represents not only the culmination of years of rigorous training, perseverance, and growth but also the beginning of a lifelong commitment to leadership and service. These remarkable individuals have demonstrated unwavering dedication to excellence throughout their time in the ROTC program. They have balanced the demands of academics, physical training, and leadership development, consistently embodying the core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Their commissioning is a testament to their hard work, resilience, and passion for serving something greater than themselves. As these new officers take their oaths and don their bars of rank, they carry forward the proud legacy of the Purdue Army ROTC Boiler Battalion. They are now prepared to lead with distinction, facing the challenges of a dynamic and evolving world with confidence and determination. The Battalion takes immense pride in their achievements and looks forward to witnessing the profound impact they will have on their units, the Army, and the nation as a whole.



**2LT Pietrini**  
Active Duty  
Infantry

**2LT Ralston**  
National Guard  
Aviation

**2LT Copas**  
Active Duty  
Armor

**2LT Ward**  
National Guard  
Transportation

**2LT Dymond**  
National Guard  
Ordnance

**2LT Saul**  
Active Duty  
Aviation

**2LT Rogers**  
National Guard  
Engineer

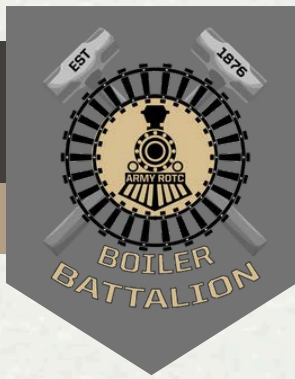
**2LT Norris**  
Active Duty  
Armor

**2LT Kluesener**  
National Guard  
Cyber

**2LT Smith**  
Active Duty  
Aviation

**2LT Weis**  
National Guard  
Signal





# A LEGACY OF SERVICE

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

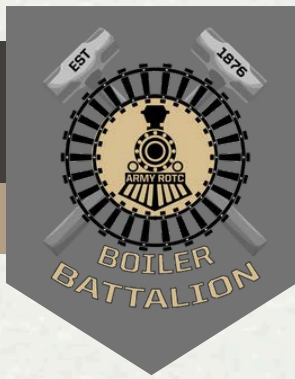


**MSG Jeremy Russell** dedicated an exemplary four years of service to the Boiler Battalion as a Military Science Instructor. He devoted countless hours to mentoring and challenging cadets to excel both academically and personally. Beyond his instructional duties, MSG Russell served as an advisor to the Color Guard and Tactics Club, actively participated in the Pathfinders Club, and consistently led early Friday morning ruck marches. His teachings and leadership remain a lasting example and source of inspiration for all cadets who had the privilege to learn from him.

**Mrs. Kathy O'Brien** served as the University Administrative Assistant with unwavering dedication and warmth. Her friendly demeanor and genuine interest in others brought a sense of light and positivity to everyone she encountered. Always taking the time to greet people with a kind word and inquire about their well-being, Mrs. Kathy fostered a strong sense of community within the Battalion. Beyond her kindness, she was the backbone of the Battalion's events and organization, ensuring that every detail was managed with precision and care. Her steadfast support and tireless efforts left a lasting impact, embodying the values of teamwork and excellence.







# INITIATIVES AND SUPPORT

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

As the semester concludes, the Boiler Battalion remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence and community involvement. To mark the end of the semester, we hosted a watch party for the annual Army-Navy Game at the American Legion posts in Lafayette and West Lafayette, underscoring our dedication to fostering connections with and honoring the veteran community. Additionally, the Battalion successfully participated in the Wabash Ruck, donating over 300 pounds of canned goods, further reinforcing our commitment to service and community support.



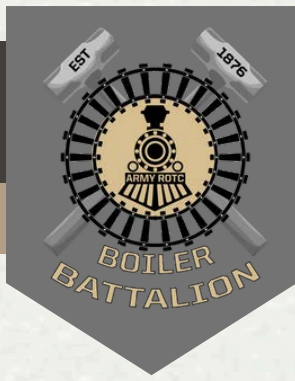
Looking ahead to the spring semester, the Battalion plans to deepen its community ties through initiatives such as "Dine and Donate" events. These partnerships with local restaurants will not only raise funds to support cadet training but will also cultivate meaningful relationships within the Greater Lafayette area. Building on the success of Military Appreciation Week, we aim to expand our outreach efforts and create new opportunities for connection. One of these initiatives includes forming intramural sports teams for ROTC cadets, midshipmen, and military-connected students, which will foster camaraderie, teamwork, and a sense of belonging across campus. A key focus for the upcoming semester is the creation of a Tri-Service Leadership Committee, designed to enhance collaboration among Purdue's ROTC programs, military and veteran organizations, and the Greater Lafayette veteran community, promoting unity and a shared sense of purpose.



Within the Battalion, we remain dedicated to revitalizing traditions and promoting excellence. This past semester, we proudly won the Commander's Cup, and we are committed to continuing this success in future competitions, bringing home the win again. Additionally, **CDT Tran** did an outstanding job organizing the Murph challenge, rallying many to participate and showcasing the Battalion's dedication to physical fitness. In March, a five-person team led by **CDT Benbow** will represent the Boiler Battalion with pride in the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range. **CDT LaFramboise** is also working diligently to form a team to compete in the Army Ten-Miler, further demonstrating the Battalion's commitment to physical readiness and resilience. As we move forward, the Boiler Battalion is eager to continue building connections, developing strong leaders, and honoring the traditions that define us. Together, we remain steadfast in our mission and ready to face the challenges of the future.







# CLOSING

PURDUE ARMY ROTC BOILER BATTALION

## SPRING EVENTS

Wabash Military Lacrosse Appreciation Game.....	February 15
LTC Stephen J. Herczeg Leadership Speaker Series.....	February 19
CWST.....	February 26
Dining Out.....	March 7
Bataan Death March.....	March 22
FTX.....	April 4-6
ACFT.....	April 15-17
Color Casing Ceremony.....	May 1
MS3 Train Up.....	May 12-14
Commissioning.....	May 15

## WHERE TO FIND US

At the Armory: 812 3rd St, West Lafayette, IN 47906



Army ROTC Website



Facebook



Instagram



Merch Store



Alumni Facebook



Alumni Instagram

**THANK YOU**  
**FOR THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT**