



## Col. Tunnell influences cadets, leadership with book, remarks

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By CADET AUSTIN GREALISH  
Purdue ROTC

With the command of "FIRE!" the sound of rifles rang out during a cool autumn day in northwest Indiana. This was just one of the many sights and sounds to be seen and heard at the 200th anniversary of The Battle of Tippecanoe. The cadets of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., Army ROTC's Military Science IV class attended this event not only to learn about the military history of the area but to learn about a very important battle in the nation's history and to give back to the community as well.

The Battle of Tippecanoe took place between the army of Gen. William Henry Harrison and a confederation of Indian tribes led by Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet. The actual Battle of Tippecanoe took place Monday, but the re-enactments began taking place as early as Nov. 3.

The week prior to this celebration Purdue's MSIV class spent a morning conducting a staff ride and touring the grounds where the battle took place. Using the staff ride guide titled "To Compel with Force," written by Col. Harry Tunnell (now Accessions Command's director of research at Fort Knox), they studied and learned about critical maneuvers, actions, and leadership styles of the men engaged in this battle. Not only did this provide a historical lesson to the cadets but it also showed how traits such as aggressive leadership, thorough training of Soldiers, and knowledge of the enemy can lead to a victory in battle whether fighting for territory in 1811 or fighting to establish peace in the Middle East.

After becoming more knowledgeable about the major events that took place during the battle, Purdue's cadets were assigned a specific stand that corresponded to a certain area or critical event during the battle. On the Saturday of the re-enactment they acted as subject matter experts for their stand and oriented visitors to the site and explained the events that took place. They were assisted in their explanations by the historical role players, and the gentlemen who worked at the museum.

Overall, this once-in-a-lifetime event was a chance for Purdue's ROTC cadets to learn about a battle that shaped American history in a monumental way. Not

only did it allow them to learn about the event in the classroom but also gave them the chance

to learn in a more hands on fashion. Most importantly it allowed the cadets to be seen and represent themselves while giving back to the community.



*Courtesy photo*

PURDUE UNIVERSITY ROTC  
CADETS MANNED THE  
BATTLE STATIONS at the  
Tippecanoe Bicentennial  
celebration Saturday.