

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025- 2026

What was happening with the Excelsior Battalion this year? This year's RECOIL has all of that and so much more! A special shoutout to CDT Mikel Alvis (MS IV) for all of her hard work taking photos as PAO this year that helped make our RECOIL possible!

ARMY ROTC RECOIL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the PMS!

From the Battalion Commanders

Our Year Timeline

Our New MS1s!

Fall FTX

Ranger Challenge

Military Ball

JLDX

Summer with the Army

The AFT and PT

Army Ball

Alumni Spotlight!







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A LETTER FROM OUR PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

As I prepare to pass the guidon and conclude my time as Professor of Military Science at Cornell University, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the people and experiences that have defined my years with the Excelsior Battalion.

Serving alongside our Cadets has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my Army career. Watching young men and women arrive with potential, uncertainty, and ambition—and then grow into confident, capable leaders ready to commission as Army officers—has been both humbling and inspiring. As we close Army ROTC's 109th year at Cornell, I am reminded daily that the strength of this program has always come from its people.

To our Cadets: thank you for your commitment, professionalism, and trust. You took on demanding training, balanced with rigorous academic paths, and held yourselves to the high standards expected of future Army officers. You challenged me to be a better leader, educator, and mentor. It has been an honor to serve you.

To our alumni, families, and friends: your support sustains the Excelsior Battalion in ways that are both visible and unseen. From generous donations that allowed us to improve training facilities and expand opportunities, to the mentorship, encouragement, and pride you share in our mission—your involvement directly shapes the success of our Cadets. I am deeply grateful for your belief in this program.

One of the most rewarding moments each year is commissioning our newest Second Lieutenants. Seeing members of the Class of '26 raise their right hands and accept the responsibility of leading Soldiers is a powerful reminder of why Army ROTC matters. These officers carry forward not only the values of the Army, but also the legacy of Cornell and the Excelsior Battalion.

Our Cadets' summer training—Advanced and Basic Camp at Fort Knox, Army training and internships around the world, and numerous additional programs—reflects the breadth of opportunities available to them and the trust the Army places in their potential. I have complete confidence that wherever they serve, they will lead with competence, character, and compassion.

As I depart, I do so knowing the Excelsior Battalion is strong, resilient, and in excellent hands. The future is bright, and I encourage all of you to remain connected—support the program, engage with our Cadets, and continue investing in the leaders our nation needs.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Professor of Military Science. I will always take great pride in having been part of this extraordinary community.

Please do not hesitate to stay in touch. I can always be reached at derek.r.fitzpatrick.mil@army.mil.

True and Firm,
LTC Derek R. Fitzpatrick
Professor of Military Science
Cornell University

A LETTER FROM OUR BATALLION COMMANDERS

Excelsior Battalion, Friends, Family, and Alumni,

As the 2025-2026 school year ends, we want to reflect on the past two semesters and thank each of you for the role you have played.

This year has been filled with growth and achievements. Seven cadets ran the Army Ten-Miler, our Ranger Challenge team earned a top ten finish at Fort Dix, and thirteen seniors branched into the United States Army. At the same time, this year tested us in difficult ways, including the loss of one of our cadets, whose absence continues to be felt across the battalion.

In the midst of balancing typical college challenges and personal struggles, our cadets have consistently demonstrated resilience, commitment, and strength. Our battalion has grown as teammates and as members of a community that truly supports one another.

We would be remiss not to thank our families, friends, alumni, and supporters who have encouraged and supported us throughout the year. Thank you for believing in us and in this program, and for investing in the development of the next generation of Army leaders. Your incredibly generous support through Giving Day means more than we can express, and it helped sustain the training and traditions that shape our battalion.

To the Excelsior Battalion—it has been an honor to serve as your Battalion Commanders. We are proud of what this battalion has accomplished and overcome, and even more proud of the character and camaraderie developed this year. We are excited to see what the future holds for you all.

To our fellow seniors—thank you for the time, leadership, and dedication you have poured into the battalion. We wish you the best as you begin your journey in Active Duty, the National Guard, or the Reserves, and we know you will represent the Excelsior Battalion well. We would like to give a special shout-out to CDTs Chris Bird (S3) and Jack Fortna (S4) for the countless hours they have dedicated to keeping this program running; we could not have done our jobs without them!

Thank you all for your continued support of our battalion and our mission.

Your Battalion Commanders,
Jillian Shaw (Fall 2025) & Jacob Jodlowski (Spring 2026)

EXCELSIOR BATTALION TIMELINE

Watchfire

32nd annual POW Watchfire sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) to remember the 81,600 Americans who remain missing from conflicts since World War II.



Army 10 Miler

This year, seven cadets and two of Excelsior Battalion's own cadre ran in the Army 10 Miler race in Washington, DC. The race was held on October 13th, 2024.



Mogadishu Mile

The mile is a physical training workout in order to show remembrance to the significant and heroic events of the Battle of Mogadishu (Oct 04, 1993). This year was the 31st anniversary.



Military Ball

The Military Ball brings together cadets and midshipmen from all three ROTC branches at Cornell to celebrate military tradition, camaraderie, and the year's accomplishments.



EXCELSIOR BATTALION TIMELINE

Ranger Challenge

Our Brigade's Ranger Challenge Competition happened the weekend of October 18th. Our Ranger Challenge team did an amazing job, earning a top-10 finish among all teams in the Freedom Brigade.



Veterans Day

To celebrate Veteran's Day this year, we participated in an event featuring speeches from military connected people from across campus, featuring our own CDT Mullen and CDT Yoon.



Fall FTX

A two-day field exercise filled with land navigation and platoon lanes led by our amazing MSIIIs



JLDX

In April, to end off the year, JLDX brought together ROTC programs for a joint field training exercise where cadets practiced leadership, teamwork, and tactical skills in realistic military scenarios.



New MS1s



Cade Wright
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Cornell University
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Strength and Conditioning



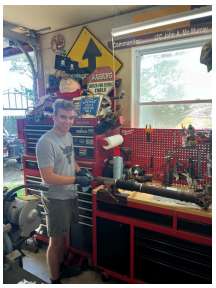
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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Biological Sciences



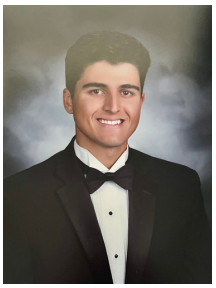
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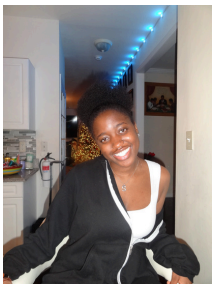
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New MS1s



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College of Arts and Sciences
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Mechanical Engineering



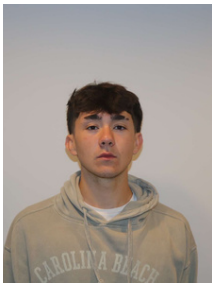
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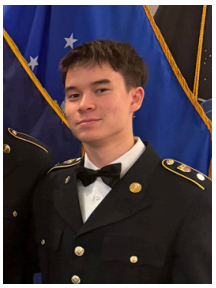
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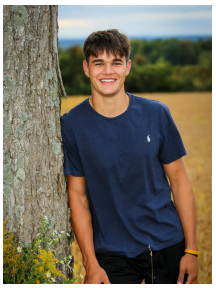


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The Duffield College of Engineering
Electrical Engineering

New MS1s



Ezekiel Ehrenberg
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Cornell University
College of Arts and Sciences
Economics/Psychology



Joe Radovich
Greenwich, NY
SUNY Binghamton
Electrical Engineering



Allie Major
Buffalo, New York
SUNY Binghamton
History



Tyson Drowns
Honolulu, Hawaii
Cornell University
School of Industrial and Labor Relations
Industrial and Labor Relations



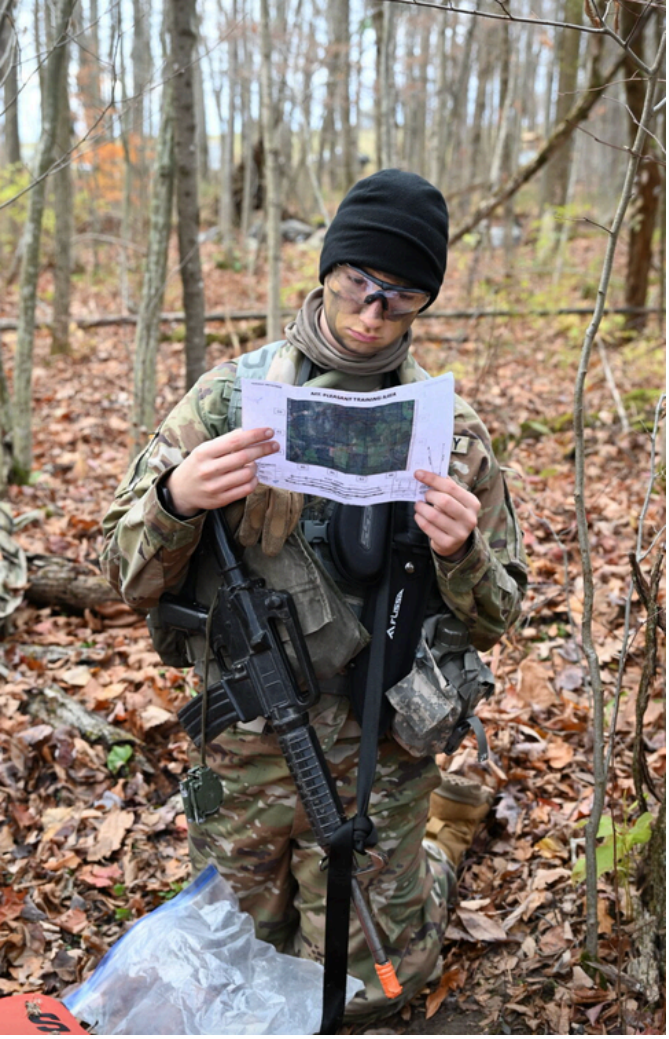
Kyber Henry
Cobleskill New York
Suny Cortland
Physical Education
















LEGION





FALL SEMESTER FIELD TRAINING EXCERCISE

Each semester, we conduct a Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) that serves as a key practical component of our training. This event gives cadets the opportunity to put classroom instruction into action through immersive, scenario-based exercises focused on tactics, leadership, and teamwork. Held at Mount Pleasant, just a short distance from Cornell, the FTX includes squad- and platoon-level lanes as well as land navigation challenges. The experience is intended to build real-world readiness, strengthen unit cohesion, and help cadets develop the skills necessary for success at Advanced Camp.


2BDE RANGER




RANGER




BATTALION



RANGER CHALLENGE

The Cornell Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team delivered an outstanding performance at the Freedom Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition, earning 10th place overall against some of the top ROTC programs in the region!

“Ranger Challenge has been one of the most rewarding parts of my Army ROTC experience thus far. The competition is an amazing test of physical fitness, endurance, technical skills, and teamwork. As a team, we spend early mornings and countless extra hours training. This year pushed us both physically and mentally, but it also made us a very close-knit group. Some of my best friendships have come from the Ranger Challenge team! I love Ranger Challenge because it pushes you past your limits alongside a team built on discipline and trust. “

-Kate Campisi, MSII











Military Ball

On February 27, 2026, the Cornell Tri-Service Brigade hosted its annual Military Ball, bringing together cadets, midshipmen, cadre, and guests for an evening celebrating service, leadership, and tradition. Representing Cornell University ROTC across the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the event highlighted the unity of the brigade and its shared commitment to developing future officers. Rooted in Cornell's long-standing history of military education and leadership development , the ball served as both a formal celebration and a reflection on the responsibilities of service.





The evening featured a keynote speaker, Colonel Michael E. Erlandson, who offered insights on leadership, emphasizing resilience, adaptability, and service beyond self, values central to the cadet experience. We were so lucky to get the chance to hear from him. In addition to our speaker, traditional elements such as formal toasts and other military customs reinforced the significance of the occasion.

The Military Ball not only honored the achievements of the past year but also strengthened camaraderie within the brigade, reminding attendees of their shared purpose as future leaders in the armed forces.







JLDX

JLDX brought together ROTC programs for a joint field training exercise where cadets practiced leadership, teamwork, and tactical skills in realistic military scenarios to get MSIIIs prepped and ready for camp this summer!













“JLDX was a great experience because it gave me a better understanding of what to expect during my MSIII year and, from watching the MSIIIs from Syracuse, Cornell, and Clarkson helped me feel better about doing it myself next year.”

- Connor Flores, MSII





SUMMER W/ THE ARMY







Attending the Air Assault Course at Fort Drum was one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences I've had as a cadet. Alongside two other cadets from our Army ROTC program, I was challenged mentally and physically while learning the importance of discipline, teamwork, and attention to detail. Going through the course with two close friends made the experience even more memorable, and earning the Air Assault badge together was an incredible feeling we'll all carry forward in our military careers."

-Ethan Qasemi, MSIII

CDTs Sclafani, Ochaleck, and Qasemi all attended and passed air assault at the same time in summer 2025! Excelsior Battalion is so proud of them!

AFT + PT

This year, our battalion Spring AFT average was a score of 449! Check out our top scores:

Deadlift: 9 cadets maxed out the deadlift!

Hand-Release Push Ups: 63, CDTs Snarr, Bonarti, and Meyer

Spring Drag Carry: 1:23, CDTs Nick D'Alleva and Meyer

Plank: 36 Cadets maxed out the plank!

Two Mile: 12:45, CDT Manfredo (MSIII)

Top Overall Male Score: 500, CDTs D'Alleva, Bonarti, and Radovich

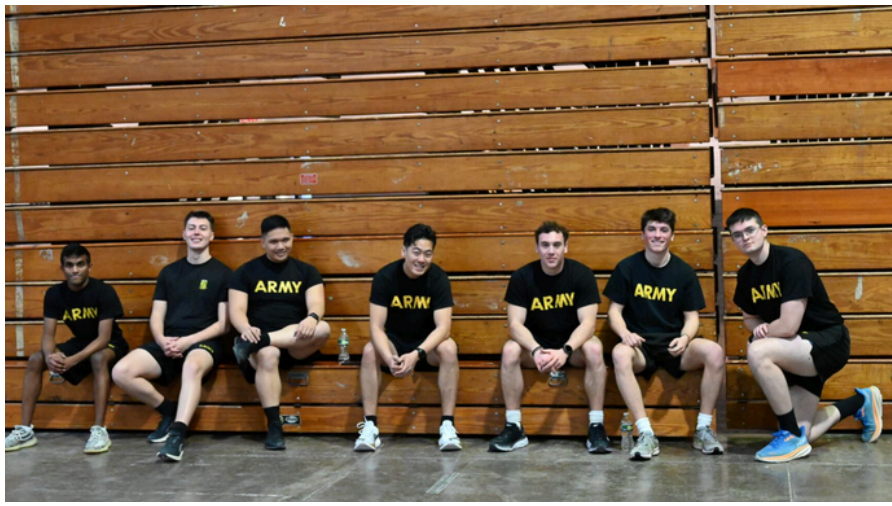
Top Overall Female Score: 483, CDT Ponzo






MEYER
U.S. ARMY
D'ALLEVA
U.S. ARMY




ARMY
ARMY
ARMY
ARMY


& FIELD
ARMY



ARMY BALL



Army Balll, also known as Dining In is hosted to look back on the accomplishments of the past year while bringing together cadets, cadre, and guests for an evening focused on military tradition, camaraderie, and recognition of the battalion's achievements! We celebrated with our battalion's annual traditions of paper-plate awards, the senior roast video, and cadre gifts!

"Being able to plan Army Ball this year alongside CDT Stroud was so much fun, it's always been one of our favorite army events and we are so glad we got to make it come to life this year!"

-CDT Fernandez, MSIII












ARMY


BATTALION
BEST MOM







ALUMNI

2LT Jenna Stickley



2LT Stickley with 2LT Marriot who is also a Excelsior Battalion almuni!

“After commissioning, I returned to Fort Knox to support Cadet Summer Training before heading to Logistics BOLC at Fort Lee, Virginia. BOLC brought a new set of challenges along with some new (and old) friends. During that time, I gained a strong foundation in sustainment operations and further developed my leadership skills within the Army.

The real adventure began after graduating BOLC this past January, when I moved to my duty station at Camp Casey, South Korea. Here, I serve in a field artillery unit as the Executive Officer for the Forward Support Company. Being stationed at the most forward-deployed base in Korea means a high operational tempo and a constant need to stay ready. Despite the demands, I’ve been able to explore the region and travel around Asia in my free time. Serving in this role has pushed me to learn quickly and adapt to new challenges every day. While it’s demanding, it’s also incredibly rewarding and has given me the opportunity to grow as a leader.” - 2LT Jenna Stickley



