

Spartan Battalion



Newsletter

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BATTALION LEADERSHIP

SPRING SEMESTER

CDT Montour



**Battalion
Commander**

CDT Lepley



**Battalion
XO**

CDT Janhke



**Battalion
CSM**

CDT Horecki



**Battalion OPS
SM**

CDT London



**Battalion
S3**

Company Leadership

Spring Semester

HHC

CO: CDT Derocher

1SG: CDT Dean

Alpha Co

CO: CDT Stearns

XO: CDT Muñoz

1SG: CDT Simkins

Bravo Co

CO: CDT Peterson

XO: CDT Green

1SG: CDT Lentine

Charlie Co

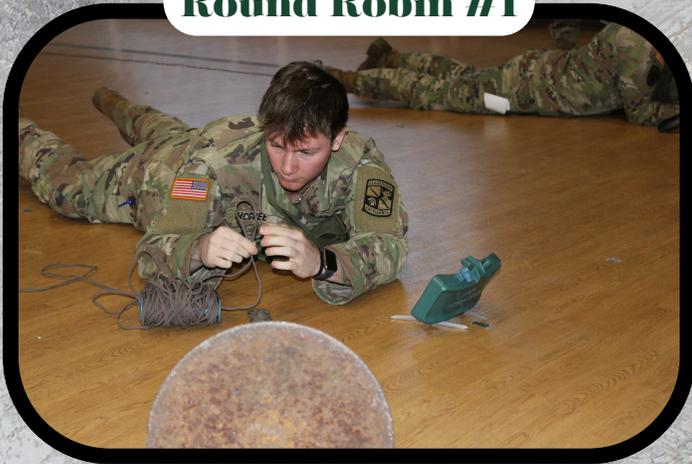
CO: CDT Fitzgerald

XO: CDT Houting

1SG: CDT Lawry

Leadership Labs

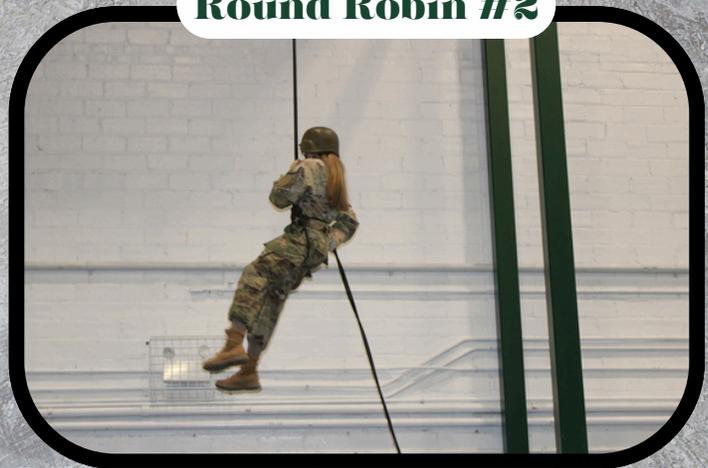
Round Robin #1



The Spartan Battalion kicked off the semester practicing individual soldier skills during a round robin lab. Working to improve their understanding of Troop Leading Procedures, learning to set up a Claymores, and practicing filling out a TTLODAC, which is used when calling in fire support assets.

The Spartan Battalion enjoyed an action packed round robin this week with MSIs and MSIs learning drill and ceremony, applying face paint, and repelling. While MSIs prepped for CST with a Patrol Base class and practicing the assembly and disassembly of M240s.

Round Robin #2



Land Nav and STX Lanes



The Spartan Battalion kicked off week three of the semester by embracing the cold at Woodlot and Dobie. Starting the day bright and early with land navigation, followed by various STX lanes.

Club Updates

Ranger 1

Cadets focused on preparing their MS3s for CST, laying the groundwork for a successful semester of training. At the same time, they initiated the next recruiting cycle for aspiring Ranger 1 candidates. CDT Simkins also stood out, excelling at Air Assault School and continuing to uphold the unit's standards.

Color Guard

Color Guard has started providing details at hockey games and is actively preparing for the upcoming women's basketball detail on January 30th. Their efforts showcase precision and continued support for on campus events.

Endurance

Cadets kicked off the semester with workouts focused on building stamina and strength, including plyometrics and Zone 2 long runs during cadets' own time. These exercises aim to enhance endurance while promoting discipline and self-improvement.

Drill Team

The Drill Team has began holding regular practices and working on reorganizing and improving the Color Guard room to create a more functional and polished space. Additionally, cadets are preparing to conduct Aussie rappelling on Wednesday, January 29th in Demonstration Hall.

Pathfinders

Pathfinders held a brief for the new semester as they prepare to recruit new candidates, Current members have also continued their work on STX lanes, preparing and bettering cadets on battle drills, team work, and further developing leadership skills.

Marksmanship

All Army Teams have been made and everyone who came out shot very well! The highest score was 178 out of 300 points total.

Congratulations to the following cadets: Evan Stahlin, Gabe Calio, Griffin Alan Kennedy, Scott Jackson, Alicia Horecki, Alex Vlahos, Anoush Smith, and Nick Willie.

Club Spotlight

ACFT PREP



For the past year, the ACFT preparation group has been helping cadets build strength, endurance, and work capacity. This group meets every Thursday and Friday in the morning to better themselves physically and mentally.





Major General Hiipakka

Major General (MG) Hiipakka, an exceptional Michigan State University ROTC alumni, has shared valuable insights from his distinguished military career. His journey began during his early college years, when curiosity led him to explore the ROTC program. There, he found his place in the Ranger 1 club, sparking a passion for leadership and service. He then set clear goals: branch Infantry, attend Ranger School, and join the Ranger Regiment.

MG Hiipakka's career started as an Infantry officer with the 10th Mountain Division, followed by service in the 3rd Battalion/ 75th Ranger Regiment. Upon transitioning to the National Guard, he became a Military Police officer, deploying during Operation Noble Eagle to support the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

Over the years, he has held various roles in the National Guard, undertaken multiple deployments, and gained experiences that shaped him as a leader, husband, father, and civilian. Major General Hiipakka's advice to future officers emphasizes the importance of professionalism and preparation. "Do everything in your power to be a professional in the profession," he urges. For new Lieutenants, mastering your role and understanding the skills and tactics needed to lead effectively are vital.

"Second Lieutenants are expected to make mistakes—that's part of leadership growth—but not knowing your job is not an excuse," he explains. "Your Soldiers are counting on your knowledge, skills, and behaviors to make the team successful. Being an officer in the United States Army and leading Soldiers is a privilege."

Battalion Contact Information

SFC Boles

SFC Kyle Boles is the National Guard Career Liaison and Recruiter for Michigan State University and the Spartan Battalion. He began his military career in 2010 as an Infantryman, serving in various leadership roles across multiple units, including the 101st Airborne Division and the National Training Center. He transitioned to Active Duty Recruiting in 2017 and currently works as the Michigan State University National Guard Liaison. Boles has two deployments to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.



 517-237-2793

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Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Robert H. Sullivan is the Enrollment Officer for the Spartan Battalion. He graduated from the Citadel in 2000 and went on to serve in the 3rd BDE, 3rd ID during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Robb deployed again in support of OIF in November of 2007 with the 4th BDE, 10th MTN DIV (LI). Mr. Sullivan came to the Spartan Battalion from various contractor positions with TACOM and the TSA. In addition to his duties here at MSU, he is currently a US Army Reserve Officer assigned to the 406th CSSB located in Ann Arbor, MI.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Key Dates

Event

February 26th, 2025

Annual Cadet Prayer Breakfast

The event's intent is to create an opportunity for cadre and cadets to come together, to eat together and, of course, to pray together. The Cadet Prayer Breakfast allows cadre and cadets to pause and evaluate their spiritual fitness.

March 23 - 25th, 2025

Spring FTX- Fort Custer

Three days of hands-on, immersive training where Cadets practice tactical skills and mission scenarios in realistic field environments to prep for Advanced Camp.

April 11 - 13th, 2025

Staff Ride- Gettysburg, PA

A professional development activity where MS4 Cadets will travel to Pennsylvania to study leadership, strategy, and decision-making by analyzing the historic Civil War battle on its actual terrain.



Photo Recap



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Make the Leap
Spartan Battalion

