

# SPARTAN BATTALION

## *Winter Newsletter*

DEC 2025 | JAN 2026

Issue 04

ge



@msuarmyrotc

[www.armyrotc.edu](http://www.armyrotc.edu)

# *Table of* **CONTENTS**

**1**

**Cadets of the Week**

**2**

**Leadership Labs**

**3**

**Club Updates**

**4**

**Club Spotlight**

**5**

**Ranger 1 FTX**

**6**

**Fall Commissioning**

**7**

**Spartan Solarium**

**8**

**Photo Recap**

**9**

**Contact Information**







# CADETS OF *The Week*

Week of 1/19: CDT Reigel, CDT Shelton, CDT Adam (not pictured)

Week of 1/26: CDT Fitrakis, CDT Smiddy, CDT Garno (not pictured)

# LEADERSHIP

## *Lab*



All officers and cadets attended the Change of Command Ceremony, marking the official transition of leadership as cadets accepted their new roles and responsibilities within the battalion.

MS1s and MS2s gathered to learn proper cold weather attire and procedures to prepare for the cold winter months in addition to Troop Leading Procedures and range card sketching. MS3s rappelled and practiced their weaponry knowledge.



While MS1s and MS2s rappelled, practiced drill and ceremony, and memorized the MEDEVAC 9 line, MS3s conducted a tactics lab covering squad and team leader roles as well as practical exercises with raids.

The MS1s and MS2s practiced M240B and M249 procedures as the MS3s were tested on land navigation and conducted a raid practical at Dem Hall.





# CLUB

## Updates



### ENDURANCE CLUB

This semester, our Endurance Club is focusing heavily on building mileage and, once the weather warms up, facilitating MS3 rucks. They'll also be attending some fun runs and preparing their leadership team for next year.

### PATHFINDERS

This semester, Pathfinders are shifting their focus to recruitment through a 10-week period. They are also working closely with MS3s to help prepare for camp, building their confidence for CST.

### RANGER ONE

Ranger One recently completed a 24-hour FTX. They are now focusing on recruitment and training R1 MS3s who are preparing to attend camp.

### DRILL TEAM

In December, the drill team traveled to Detroit to present the colors at a basketball game. This month, they'll be reviewing ceremonial details and practicing saber handling.

### MARKSMANSHIP CLUB

Training for the early March competition is officially underway, and teams are still being finalized.



CDT KROZEK





## CLUB SPOTLIGHT:

# *Pathfinders*

Last semester, Pathfinders remained heavily involved in the Battalion by hosting optional land navigation training, supporting MS3 CST preparation through additional STX lane repetitions, assisting with AFT preparation, and strengthening alumni connections, many of which are still ongoing. This semester, Pathfinders are shifting their primary focus to a 10-week recruitment period while continuing to work closely with MS3s to ensure camp readiness. Current actives report that MS3s are in a strong position, confident and well prepared for CST, with only final details remaining.



# RANGER 1 FTX

Ranger 1 successfully completed a demanding 24-hour field training exercise featuring high-intensity close quarters battle (CQB), force-on-force engagements, and the Star Course land navigation. The exercise pushed cadets to their limits, testing physical endurance, tactical proficiency, and mental resilience in a realistic and fast-paced training environment. Building on this success, Ranger 1 is now aggressively focused on recruiting highly motivated cadets and sharpening the readiness of MS3s as they prepare for the challenges of camp.





# FALL COMMISSIONING



Former CDT Amelie Lepley has committed to her Active Duty contract and will commission into the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) branch. Following her commissioning ceremony, she was immediately slotted for BOLC-B at Fort Sill and is currently there completing that training. After BOLC, Lepley will remain at Fort Sill for an additional year. During this period, she will fill a 13A slot, working as a platoon leader for Basic Combat Training (BCT). Lepley will then be assigned to Germany for a three-year assignment, where she will work on high- to medium-altitude air defense systems (HIMAD).

Lepley recommends that lower MS levels get comfortable being uncomfortable: “You are in the critical years of learning—take advantage of being able to fail and learn with the amazing support you have.” She also encourages you to take lots of pictures and take care of your battle buddies.

Congratulations 2LT Lepley!



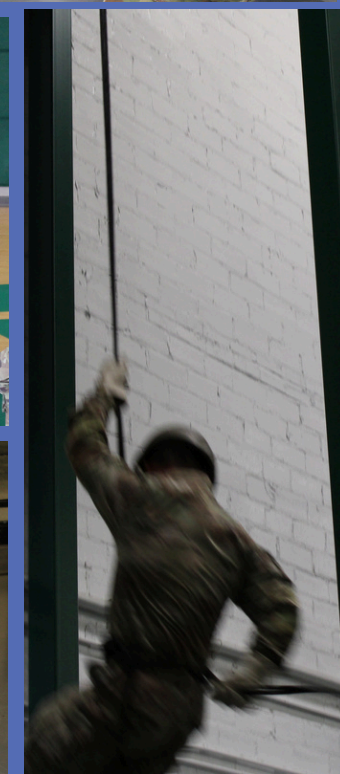
# SPARTAN *Solarium*

*lee*



Spartan Solarium kicked off the spring ROTC semester with a comprehensive overview of our mission intent, training priorities, and expectations for the semester. Spartan Solarium set the tone for a focused, demanding, and rewarding term.





# Photo Recap



# Spartan Battalion Contact Information



## Mr. Sullivan- ENROLLMENT OFFICER

Mr. Robert H. Sullivan 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.

✉ [sull77@msu.edu](mailto:sull77@msu.edu)

☎ 517-353-3484



## SFC Boles- MSU/ARMY ROTC NATIONAL GUARD CAREER LIAISON AND RECRUITER

SFC Kyle Boles 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.

✉ [kyle.boles@affiliate.msu.edu](mailto:kyle.boles@affiliate.msu.edu)

☎ 517-237-2793



## SSG Hitchcock- MSU/ARMY ROTC NATIONAL GUARD CAREER LIAISON AND RECRUITER

SSG Tanner Hitchcock began his military career in 2015 as a Military Policeman with the 46th Military Police Company in MI, serving until 2021.

His roles included Auxiliary Security Forces in TX, deployment to Guantanamo Bay for Operation Enduring Freedom, and peacekeeping in Kenosha, WI. In 2022, he became a squad leader and Non-Lethal Weapons Instructor with the 1776th Military Police Company. Since 2024, he has served as the National Guard Liaison at Michigan State University.

✉ [tanner.j.hitchcock.mil@army.mil](mailto:tanner.j.hitchcock.mil@army.mil)

☎ 517-763-3748



# ALUMNI UPDATES

Send your updates to [weissst1@msu.edu](mailto:weissst1@msu.edu) &  
[dhimanra@msu.edu](mailto:dhimanra@msu.edu)

**We want to see what our alumni are accomplishing!**

Scan this qr code to update your  
information!

