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# MARCH EDITION

SPARTAN BATTALION  
NEWSLETTER

 [msuarmyrotc](https://www.instagram.com/msuarmyrotc)





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# Cadets of the Week

Week of 03/23



**A. Co.**  
CDT. Lagrou

**B. Co.**  
CDT. Jones

**C. Co.**  
CDT. Ryan

CDT FARRELL 1

# Leadership Labs



Our cadets first week back after spring break was filled with a cold load Lab with black hawks at an airfield! During this lab our cadets learned how to load and unload off of Blackhawks.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, we sent our cadets off to spring FTX down at Fort Custer to improve leadership skills, field training, and teamwork!



To wrap up the last week of March, our cadets conducted three successful raids between Alpha company, Bravo company, and Charlie company at both Woodlot and Dobie. Squads and teams were cohesive in planning and worked well during the exercises.

CDT STOUT 2

# Club Updates

**ENDURANCE CLUB** WILL BE CONTINUING TO HOLD THEIR MS3 RUCKS IN PREPARATION FOR CST. THEY WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNING NEW LEADERSHIP FOR NEXT YEAR, RUNNING THE IZZO 5K, AND COMPLETING TRYOUTS FOR THE ARMY 10 MILER

**RANGER 1** IS CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR THEIR UPCOMING RECRUIT MISSION AND SPRING FTX, FOCUSING ON READINESS AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT. CDT RATHBUN WILL BE COMMISSIONING THIS MAY AND IS SET TO ATTEND IBOLC AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, MARKING THE NEXT STEP IN HIS ARMY CAREER.

**RANGER CHALLENGE** IS CURRENTLY TRANSITIONING LEADERSHIP WHILE BEGINNING PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR, FOCUSING ON BUILDING TEAM COHESION, REFINING SKILLS, AND SETTING THE FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN FUTURE COMPETITIONS.

**VALKYRIES** HELD THEIR LATEST MEETING ON MARCH 15, FOCUSING ON CONTINUED PROGRESS IN BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT WHILE STRENGTHENING MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND PREPARING FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES.

**PATHFINDERS** HAS BEEN CONDUCTING STX LANES TO PREPARE MS3S AND MS2S FOR CADET SUMMER TRAINING AND ADVANCED CAMP. ADDITIONALLY, TRAINING HAS RAMPED UP TO BETTER PREPARE RECRUITS FOR THE UPCOMING 24-HOUR MISSION.

**DRILL TEAM** IS PREPARING MEMBERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S DRILL TEAM COMPETITION WHILE ALSO GETTING CADETS READY FOR UPCOMING LEADERSHIP BOARDS, FOCUSING ON DISCIPLINE, CONFIDENCE, AND PERFORMANCE UNDER PRESSURE,

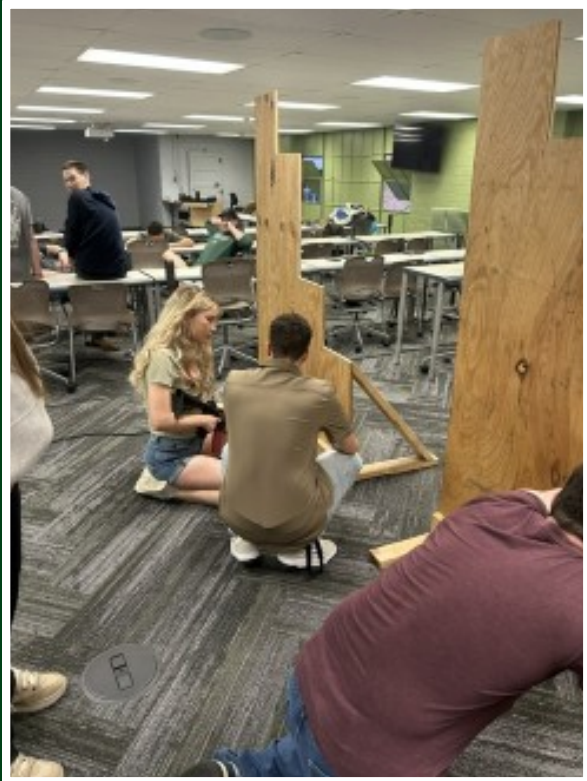
# Club Spotlight



Members of the Spartan BN Marksmanship Team challenged themselves to compete at the US Army Small Arms Championship this month, earning several recognitions! Notably, CDT Vlahos earned Excellence in Competition points for rifle and pistol and the LTG Freakley Trophy. MSU placed second overall from CDT teams.

An especially big thank you to the Swamba family who, along with a monetary donation, donated 10 battle belt setups to the marksmanship team. This donation will enable the team to keep operating and thrive far into the future. We accept these as we carry on Jack Swamba's legacy of excellence in competition and comradery in everything we do.

# Marksmanship Highlight



MSIII cadets at Michigan State University Army ROTC recently trained alongside the Spartan Battalion Marksmanship Club using the MantisX BlackBeard system to refine their marksmanship fundamentals ahead of Super Lab M4 grouping, zeroing, and qualification. As cadets preparing for advanced camp, they focused on trigger control, sight alignment, and shot consistency in a controlled, no-ammunition environment. This deliberate, technology-driven training reinforced discipline and muscle memory, building the confidence and precision needed to excel when transitioning to live-fire qualification.

# Alumni Update



2LTs Montour and Carlin at their ranger school graduation!

"I Graduated IBOLC in November. Reported to Ranger School 36 hours later. Graduated Ranger on March 6th with class 03-26. Next step is airborne school and then off to the 173rd in Europe. MSU helped me become successful with all the extra curriculars they offer at the program and providing them with the resources, knowledge, and support to train as hard as possible. Also the mentorship the cadre provide helps guide you down the right path for you."

- 2LT Montour (11A)



"I started Logistics Basic Officer Leader Course in June 2025 and graduated in October. I reported to Ranger School shortly after and graduated on March 6th with Ranger Class 03-26 alongside some outstanding soldiers. I am now reporting to Fort Drum where I will serve with the 10th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion as a Maintenance and Munitions Officer."

Michigan State ROTC played a huge role in preparing me for these opportunities. The training, extracurricular opportunities, and mentorship from the cadre provided the foundation that helped me succeed."

-2LT Carlin (90A)

# FTX DAY 1



From March 19–21, cadets participated in a Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX). Upon arrival by helicopter, operations began on Thursday with both daytime and nighttime land navigation. Land navigation is a critical skill for cadets, as it develops their ability to operate independently, make sound decisions under pressure, and confidently navigate unfamiliar terrain. MSI and MSII cadets moved in small groups to locate their assigned points, while MSIII cadets completed the course individually in preparation for CST this summer.

# FTX DAY 2 & 3

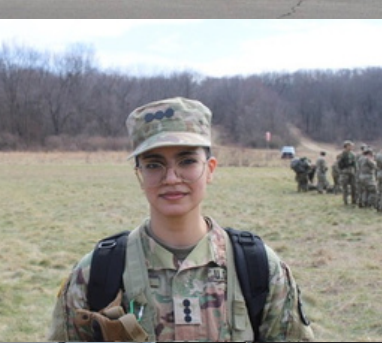
The following days focused on small unit tactics, as cadets integrated into platoons and executed a series of STX lanes. Across five total lanes, cadets conducted key battle drills including raid, ambush, attack, and movement-to-contact. Cadets trained alongside peers from Central Michigan University, the University of Toledo, and Ferris State University. Working in mixed platoons, cadets built cohesion, adapted to new team dynamics, and successfully completed missions in a fast-paced environment. The weekend highlighted leadership, teamwork, and tactical proficiency, reinforcing skills essential for future officers.



# FTX AWARDS



On the third and final day of FTX, four of our cadets were recognized and awarded coins by cadre from other universities for their outstanding performance. CDT Nesom (MSIII) was recognized for his violence of action and exceptional leadership as a squad leader. CDT Lagrou (MSIII) was commended for his outstanding performance as a squad leader and his attentiveness throughout every phase of the operation. CDT Wolsker (MSIII) was recognized for his exceptional leadership as well as the precise placement of his security squad during his evaluated STX lane. Lastly, CDT Degroot (MSI) was recognized for her grit and confidence during the actions on phase of a PLT movement to contact.



CDT Warren 11



MSU ARMY ROTC  
ALUMNI



ARMY ROTC SPARTANS

## Army ROTC 2026 Hall of Fame Nominations

Army ROTC alumni are requesting nominations for the 2026 Hall of Fame. To allow sufficient time for selection and notification of inductees by summer, nominations are requested by **April 6, 2026**.

We expect to induct **two to five new members** at **Demonstration Hall** in conjunction with a fall reunion tailgate (date to be determined). Please submit nominations to [msuarotc@gmail.com](mailto:msuarotc@gmail.com), using the format provided in the linked nomination form below.



**[Click here or scan to view more!](#)**

# 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 the QR code to update your  
information!



# 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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