

@msuarmyrotc

# SPRING

EDITION

SPARTAN BATTALION  
NEWSLETTER



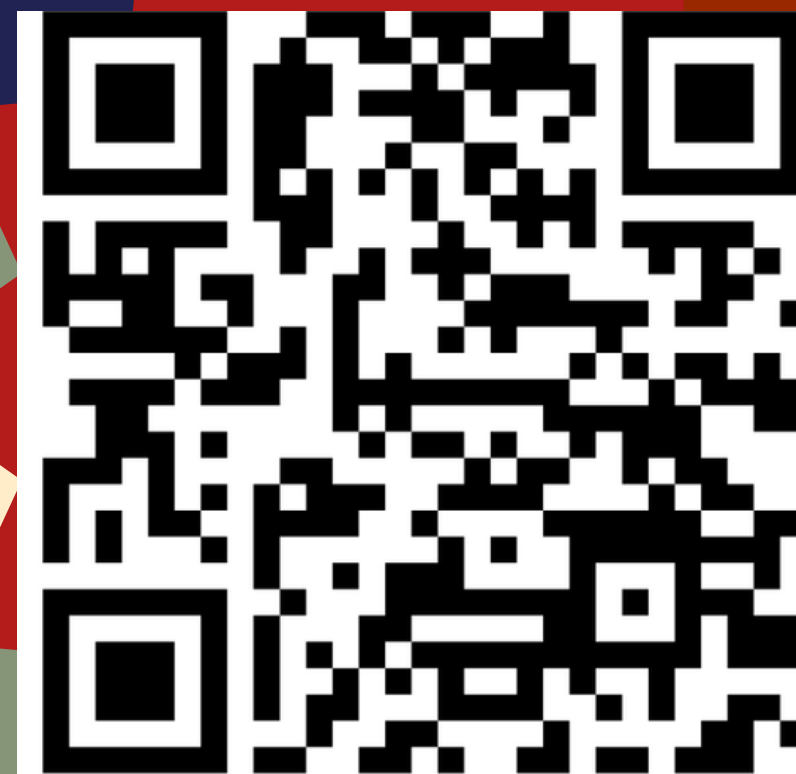
# Alumni Updates

We want to see what our alumni are accomplishing!

Send your updates to  
[mayesmal@msu.edu](mailto:mayesmal@msu.edu) &  
[farre220@msu.edu](mailto:farre220@msu.edu)!

Our Updated Alumni  
Contact information

Support Link



# Table of Contents

**1 Cadets of the Week**

**2 Leadership Labs**

**3 Club Updates**

**4 Best Sapper**

**5 Pathfinders Spotlight**

**6 Spring Awards**

**7 Staff Ride**

**8 Spring Commissioning**

**9 Commissionees**

**10 Photo Recap**

**11 Contact Info.**

# Cadets of the Week

## Alpha Company

CDT Stout  
CDT Haveman  
CDT Jordan  
CDT Lagrou



## Bravo Company

CDT Juergens  
CDT Lopez  
CDT LoPorto  
CDT Huffman



## Charlie Company

CDT Fernandez  
CDT Nesom  
CDT Stalin  
CDT Shelton



CDT DeGroot 1

# Leadership Labs

MSIII cadets completed Super Lab training alongside Central Michigan and Ferris State ROTC programs, While MSI's and MSII's did land navigation at Woodlot. Training included EST, M4 qualification, hand grenade drills, and warrior tasks with the M249 and M240B in preparation for Advanced Camp.



Cadets conducted the final STX lane of the semester, executing platoon ambush training at both Woodlot and Dobie training areas. The training reinforced tactical leadership, coordination, and squad-level proficiency across all companies.

During lab, cadets rotated through four training stations featuring a barricade range, POPs with the M240 and M249, immediate action drills with the M4, and grenade throw practice in preparation for CST



Spartan Battalion conducted its Change of Command ceremony, formally transitioning leadership responsibilities for the upcoming semester. The event recognized outgoing leaders for their service while introducing the incoming MSIV and MSIII cadets who will assume key leadership positions within the battalion.

# Club Updates

## Pathfinders

At the end of the semester, Pathfinders successfully activated six new members into the club. Each completed a demanding 10 week recruiting process, culminating in the passing off a 24- hour mission. Semper Primus!

## Ranger One

This past month, Ranger 1 completed its training cycle in preparation for Advanced Camp while continuing to train new members to the club standard. The spring recruiting cycle concluded with a Black Class induction. RLTW.

## Valkyries

Valkries has shifted to leadership for next year, CDT Degroot is now the CO and CDT Mayes is the new XO. Valkries will finish up this semster with planning for next year!

## Endurance club

Endurance Club concluded the semester by completing final MS3 rucks, including a 12-mile ruck and participation in the IZZO Run. The club also transitioned to new leadership with CDT Lagrou as CO, CDT Juergens as XO, and CDT Pappalardo as 1SG.

## Marksmanship

The Marksmanship Team concluded the semester following the All-Army Small Arms Competition and is now preparing for the Army Reserve Marksmanship Competition in September while continuing to develop marksmanship and leadership skills.

## Ranger Challenge

Ranger Challenge concluded the semester preparing for Fall 2026 competitions, with the goal of succeeding at the 7th Brigade Competition and qualifying for Sandhurst. Team members will continue training throughout the summer.

## Drill Team

Drill Team concluded the semester by supporting final color guard events, including the IZZO 5K and the 100th anniversary of the Union, while also beginning preparation for next year's competition routine. The team looks forward to the fall semester.

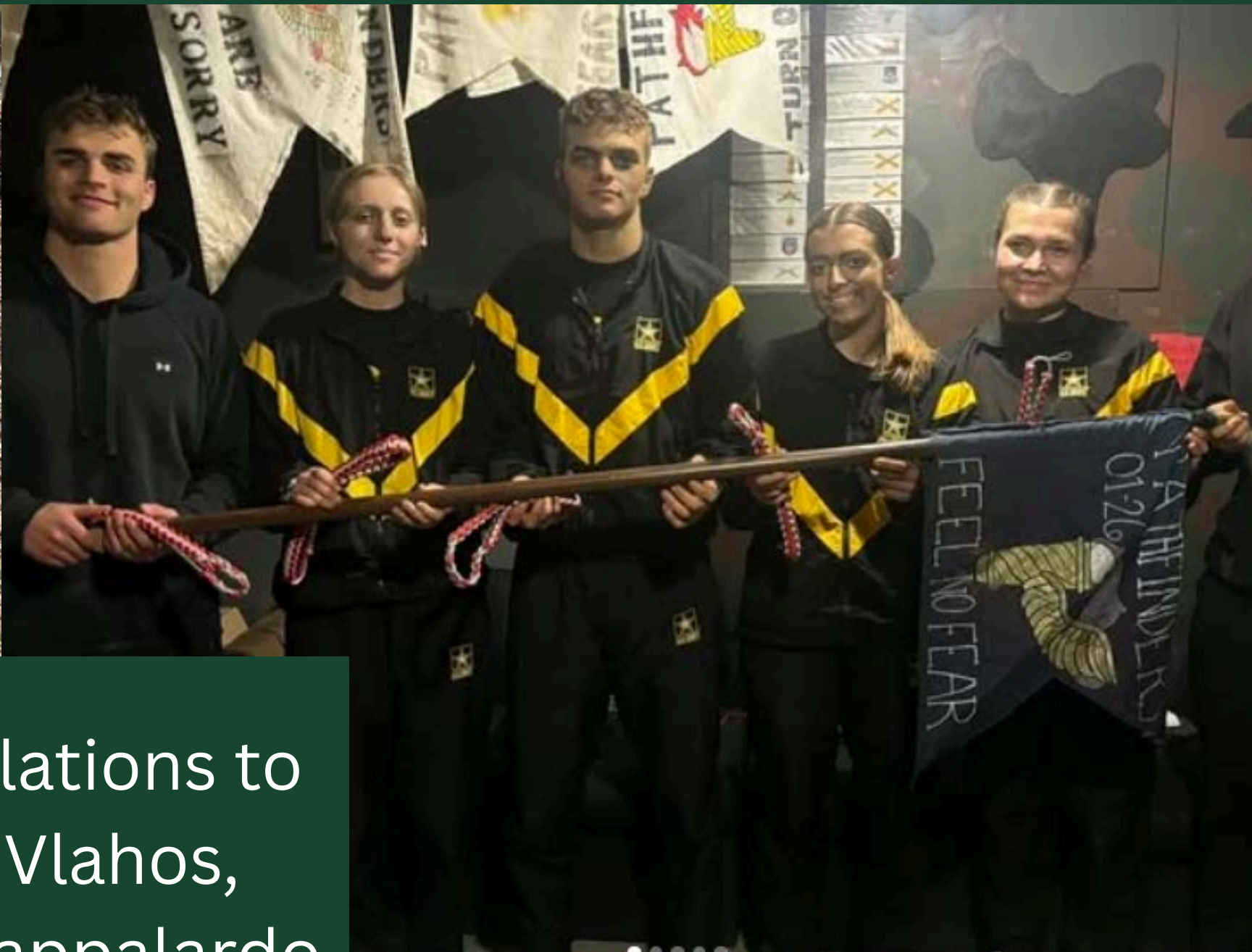
# Best Sapper Competition



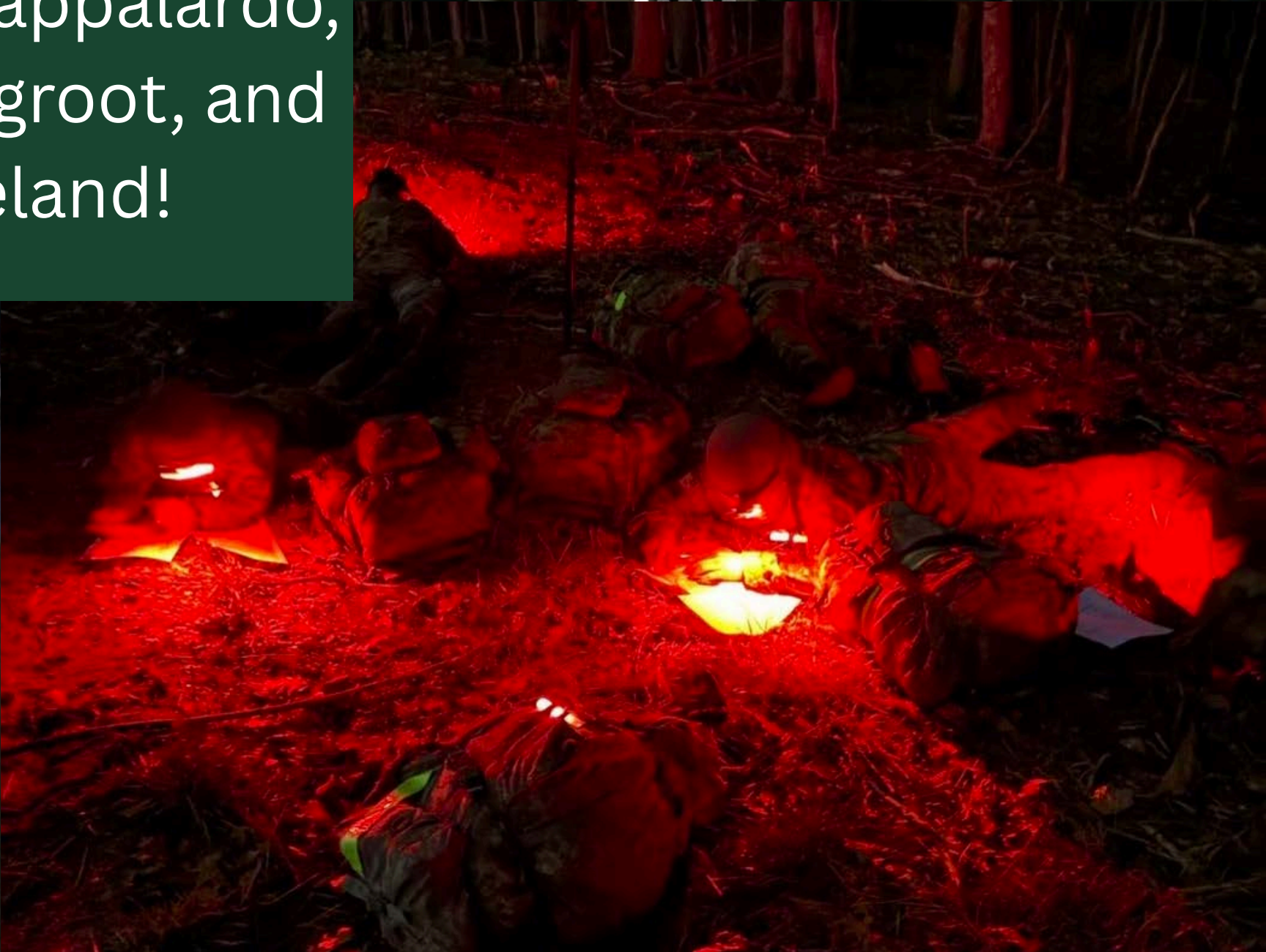
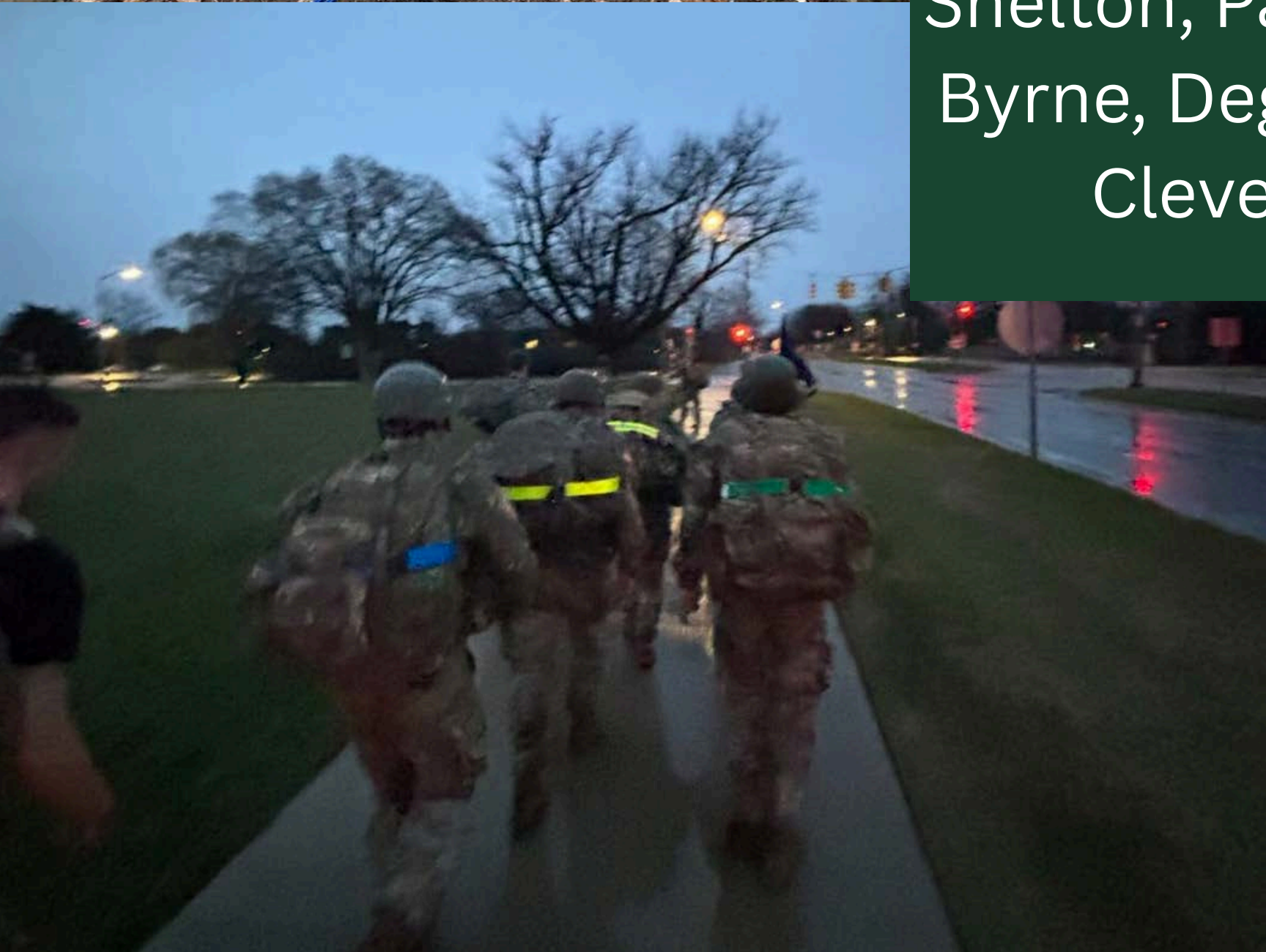
Spartan Cadet Sappers from Michigan State University's Bold Warriors team, Cadets Andrew Ross and Derek Ellis, competed in the 19th Annual Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers Best Sapper Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from April 16–24, 2026. Facing 42 elite teams in a demanding four-day test of combat engineering skills and endurance, the cadets earned a 16th-place finish. The competition challenged participants in demolitions, weapons systems, land navigation, obstacle negotiation, and endurance events designed to develop technically and tactically proficient combat engineer leaders under austere conditions.

# Pathfinders Spotlight

The MSU Pathfinders Club conducted its 24-hour mission this month, testing recruits' physical and mental resilience following 10 weeks of intensive training. Events included a 5-mile ruck carrying 50 lbs., day and night land navigation, written evaluations, STX lanes, and OPORD briefing assessments.



Congratulations to  
Cadets Vlahos,  
Shelton, Pappalardo,  
Byrne, Degroot, and  
Cleveland!



# Spring Awards

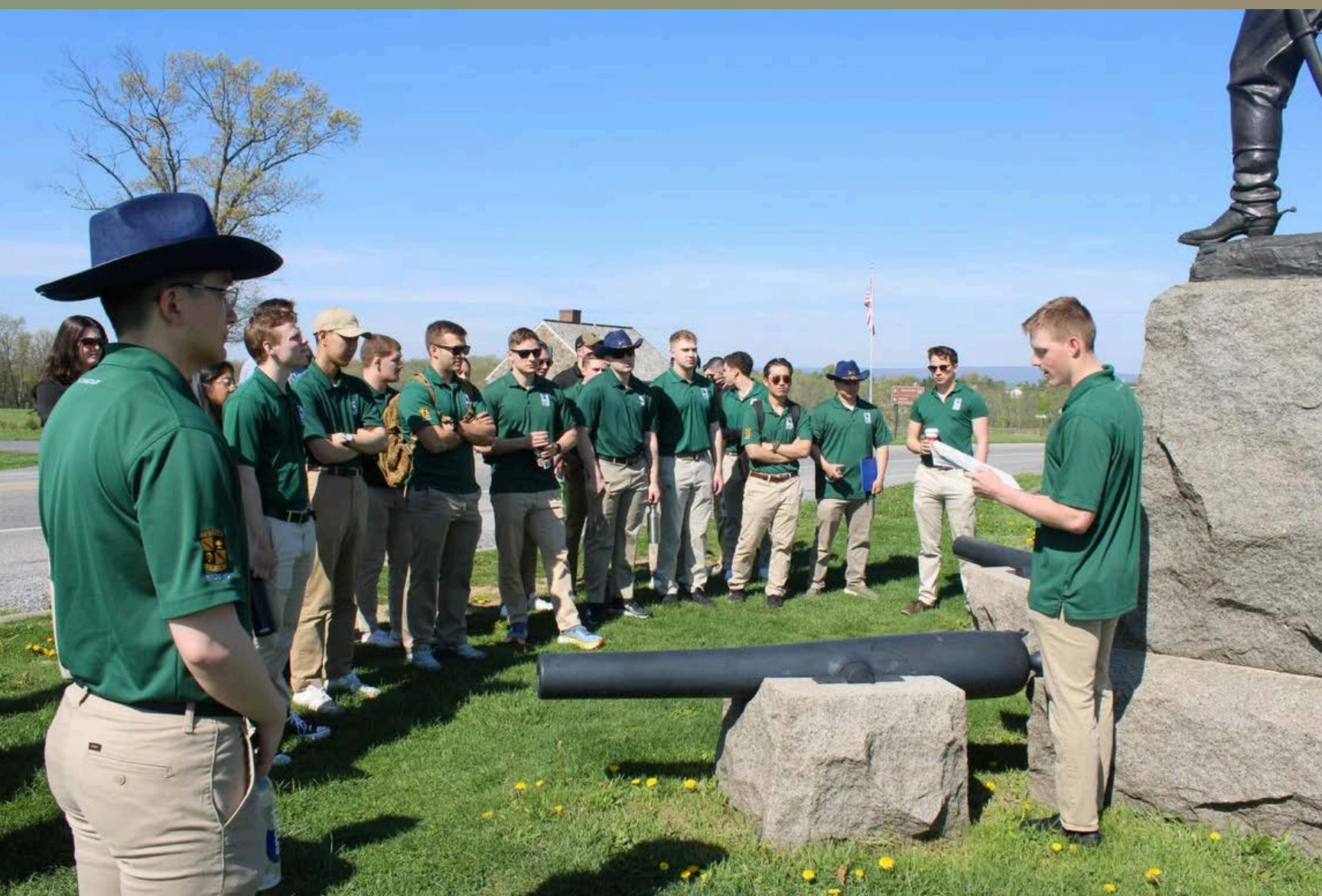


Distinguished cadets were recognized for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Spartan Battalion. Their hard work, leadership, and commitment to excellence continue to set the standard across the program.



CDT Dhiman 6

# Staff Ride



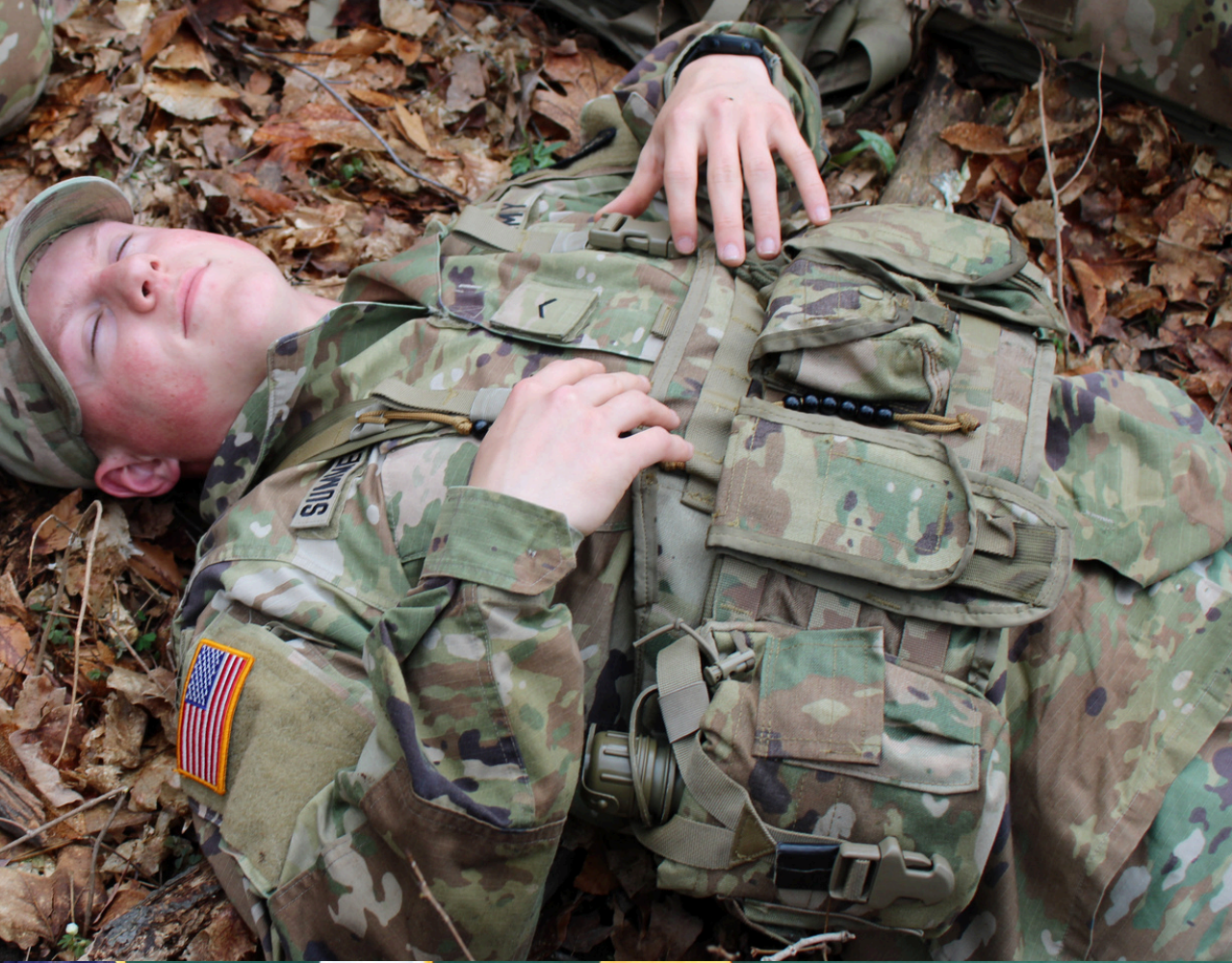
MSIV cadets traveled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for a staff ride focused on leadership, military history, and battlefield analysis. Throughout the trip, cadets explored historic sites around the town, including the Gettysburg Museum, murals, and local landmarks before touring the battlefield itself.

While on the battlefield, cadets presented on assigned historical figures, monuments, and key moments from the Battle of Gettysburg, applying leadership lessons and tactical analysis to the terrain. The trip concluded with additional time for cadets to explore downtown Gettysburg and participate in team bonding activities.

# Spring Commissioning



# Photo Recap



# 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

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

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

517-763-3748