

# SPARTAN BATTALION NEWSLETTER



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# Leadership Labs

## Attack



The Spartan Battalion kicked off this month by completing an attack exercise in their organic companies. MSIIIs took on leadership roles leading MSI/IIs through a realistic battle drill. Our cadets were able to practice their tactical and leadership skills as they successfully worked as a company to complete their lane.

## Super Lab



For the second lab of the month, the Spartan Battalion completed the first super lab of this semester. Cadets worked together in their organic companies; MSIIIs took on leadership roles successfully leading MSIs and MSIIIs through an attack into a hasty defense.

## Land Navigation



The Spartan Battalion completed the last outdoor lab of the semester with land navigation. MSIIIs traveled to Dobie to challenge their land navigation skills in an unfamiliar location. While MSI/IIs remained at Woodlot to test their own skills alone or in pairs to find their designated points.

## Round Robin



The Spartan Battalion ended the semester back at Demonstration Hall with a round robin leadership lab. Cadets focused on how to disassemble and reassemble M4s, M240s, and M249s. Cadets also took on the task of setting up and configuring SINCGARS radios.



# Cadet Spotlights

## CDT Stauffenberg

CDT Stauffenberg proudly represents his country as both a cadet and a wrestler. At MSU, he excels as a Division 1 wrestler and is an active member of the Ranger 1 club. In addition to his athletic achievements, he is a SMP cadet. Stauffenberg's goal is to branch infantry and is working towards submitting a packet for the Special Forces. Despite the demanding nature of his wrestling career, he considers becoming a cadet the best decision he has ever made.



## CDT Lewis

CDT Lewis is an MSII cadet and a proud member of the Michigan State Marching Band. Her commitment extends beyond the band, as she actively participates in the Drum Corps, the Black Student Union, and teaches music and marching arts to students in the community. After completing Army ROTC at Michigan State, she plans to join the Army National Guard and commission as an intelligence officer.





# Club of the Month

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## Ranger Challenge

Members of the Ranger Challenge team traveled to Fort Knox, KY, where they placed 2nd out of 38 teams in the 7th Brigade. Leading up to the competition, the team trained rigorously multiple times a week, in addition to completing a challenging three-day tryout. Their hard work paid off, as they qualified for the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY, where they will represent the 7th Brigade as one of two teams.

The first day of the Brigade Ranger Challenge featured physical events such as push-ups, pull-ups, & log carrying. The second day included three events where teams completed a series of tasks to earn points. The competition was incredibly close, with our team narrowly missing 1st place by just 5 points to Notre Dame. The team remains focused and committed to improving their skills as they prepare for Sandhurst.

# Club Updates

## Ranger Challenge

The Ranger Challenge team secured 2nd place of all 7th Brigade at the Bold Warrior Challenge and has been increasing the intensity of their workouts to prepare for the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition.

## Ranger 1

Ranger 1 Cadets have successfully completed multiple patrols and numerous OPOD exercises. They are now gearing up for their upcoming Fall FTX on December 6th and preparing all active members for the upcoming CST.

## Pathfinders

The Pathfinders successfully completed multiple STX lanes, rigorous training sessions, and implementing extra workouts in the gym. Additionally, they carried out a challenging 24-hour mission for recruits, with two recruits making it through: CDT Calio & CDT Wolsker.

## Color Guard

Color guard cadets have actively participated in a variety of events at Michigan State University, including hockey, football, & women's basketball games. Along with the Veterans Day Ceremony detail, which showcased their dedication to both athletic and community engagement.

## Marksmanship

Marksmanship cadets have been diligently working on grouping and zeroing their weapons to prepare for the Fort Benning Competition-Small Arms team tryouts, which take place this spring.

## Valkryies

Valkryie members recently attended a Krav Maga self-defense class, where they learned practical techniques for personal safety and improved their overall self-defense skills.

## Drill Team

The Drill Team completed flag details and the ceremonial retiring of the flag. In addition, they participated in extra workouts to maintain and enhance their physical fitness.



# ALUMNI UPDATES

Send your updates to [houtinge@msu.edu](mailto:houtinge@msu.edu)  
& [munozan5@msu.edu](mailto:munozan5@msu.edu)!

We want to see what our alumni are  
accomplishing!

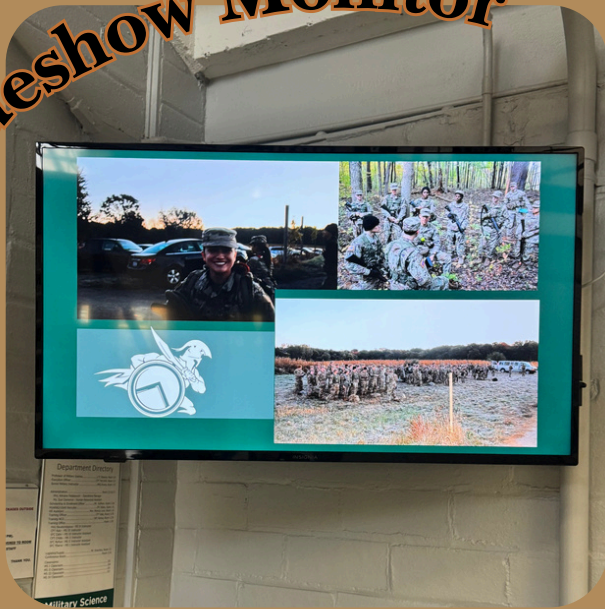
Updated Alumni Contact  
information

Support Link



# DEMONSTRATION HALL UPDATES

## Slideshow Monitor



The Social Media Team has curated new images from this year's events to showcase on the hallway monitor. This display highlights the exciting activities and achievements of the Spartan Battalion, allowing visitors, cadets, & cadre a glimpse.

## Baseball Display



In the main office, a new display has been created featuring the baseballs awarded to the Spartan Battalion that recognize this program's achievement in meeting our battalion's Nursing Mission Goal.





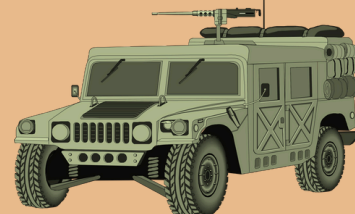
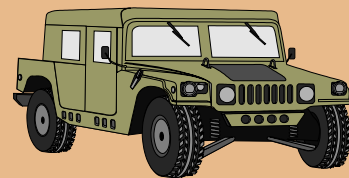
# On The Road to Innovation



The Spartan Battalion had the privilege of visiting the GM Proving Grounds Technology Center in Warren, Michigan. We had to opportunity to hear from insightful keynote speakers: a GM historian, motivational speaker, and Medal of Honor recipient, Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee. Cadets then networked with many MSU alumni whom work at GM Defense.



In addition, cadets got an up-close look at infantry squad vehicles and the latest military vehicle prototypes currently under development.





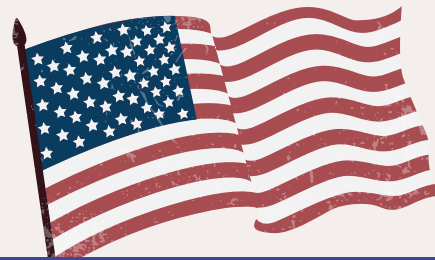
# Veterans Day Ceremony



On Monday, 11 November, the Spartan Battalion and Air Force ROTC Detachment 380 participated in MSU's Veterans Day Ceremony to pay tribute to the sacrifices of our veterans.

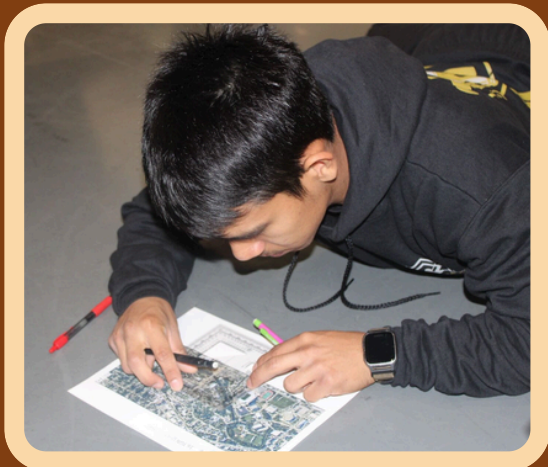


We were privileged to host the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee, a recipient of the Medal of Honor.





# Battalion Competition



**This month, the Spartan Battalion successfully completed an intense two-day competition. On the first day, cadets were assigned various points across campus and had to use their land navigation skills to locate them. The following day, they faced a series of demanding events, including plate pushes, bear crawls, low crawls, Kellogg ramp buddy carries, calling up 9-line medical evacuations, and carrying sandbags and weights up stairs. After tallying up the scores, Charlie 2/2 emerged as the winning squad!**







# Photo Recap



# Battalion Contact

## Information

### SFC Ybarra



SFC Antonio Ybarra is the National Guard Liaison/Recruiter and MS I Assistant Instructor for the Spartan Battalion. He has a background as an Infantryman and has served in various roles including with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and the Georgia Army National Guard Long Range Surveillance Unit. He has deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and currently works with the Michigan Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion.



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### 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.



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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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