

# THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BULLETIN

Spring 2024

*THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION VISION:* BECOME THE TOP ROTC BATTALION IN THE NATION BY PRODUCING COMPETENT ADAPTIVE LEADERS OF CHARACTER- GROUNDED IN TEAMWORK AND THE ARMY VALUES; NURTURED BY AN OVERALL CLIMATE WHERE CADRE AND CADETS ARE VALUED, CHALLENGED, AND ARE PROUD MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Company Briefs

Training Local Fire Fighters

Military Ball

NROTC Colorado Meet

Alumni Spotlight

Land Nav Super Lab

Ranger Buddy

Student Spotlight

Spring LDX

Commissioning

## Company Briefs

### *Alpha Company*

Alpha Company used Spring Semester as the final conditions check to ensure that the MSIII (Juniors) were ready for Cadet Summer Training. This is generally known as the more challenging Fall semester, as Cadets have to practice what they have learned as MSIIIs are assessed on leadership attributes and competencies. Cadet summer training is one of their final assessments before being assessed into their preferred branch and component of choice. Over the last two years, Alpha Company has had a 95% success rate of Cadets earning their top choices. The assessment metrics include GPA, campus leadership evaluations for A CO cadre, physical fitness, and the overall metrics from their advanced camp scores. Advanced camp scores consider a lot of individual training, like land navigation, rifle marksmanship, medical, physical events, and leadership in the field through offensive and defensive missions.



ACO CADETS DISCUSSING WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE NEXT LAB EXERCISE.

Alpha Companies' success wouldn't be possible without the MSIVs (Seniors) helping prepare the MSIIIs every Thursday in the Spring labs conduct missions that they have to plan, prepare, and assess successes and failures so they get better the following week; all evidence of a true cadet led leadership program to allow our future leaders the opportunity to work on their leadership styles. The lab training is the hands-on application

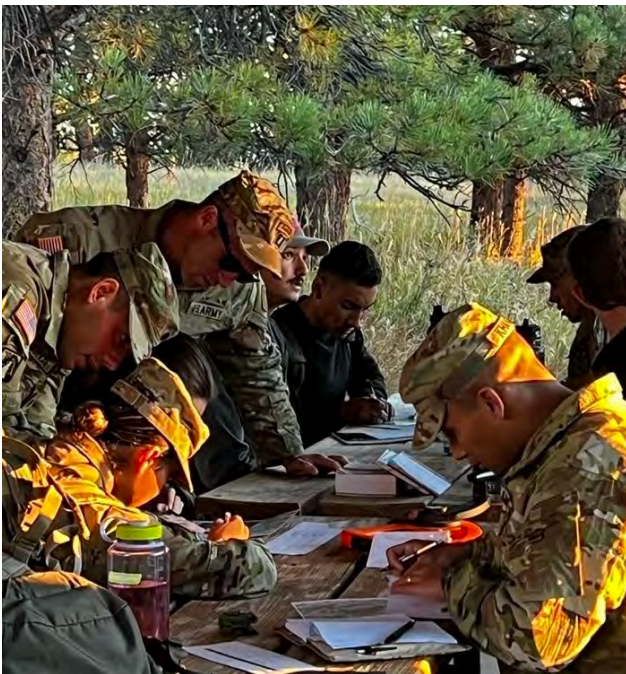
of what the Cadre focuses their classes on in the Spring semester and to prepare the MSIIIs for success at Camp and as an early foundation for their Army careers. This also benefits the MSIs as it helps the MSIs and IIs learn and leads them to labs and physical training. Not only do the cadets take part in labs over the semester, but they also have several other events called super labs that help prepare them to perform well at cadet summer training. Those events include land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship, and any cadre training they feel is necessary to retrain on, and the culminating event is the Spring Field Training Exercise. This lets cadets showcase everything they have learned through a strict tactical leadership assessment. Alpha Company has had the highest number of excellent and outstanding evaluations over the other two companies in the last two years and has set the bar high.

## *Bravo Company*

*Written by Cadet Stedman Lewis, Junior at CCU*

The beginning of the Semester for Bravo company started off when volunteers from both cadets from Colorado School of Mines and Colorado Christian University helped out with a food drive at the River Church. Cadets at CCU also went on a mentorship camping trip where the MS1s learned the basics of military knots and shelter building.

Moving into the semester the entire company had its ACFT for both contracted and non-contracted cadets. With the MS3s completing their last ACFT till they head off to Fort Knox for CST. CDT Schomaker and CDT Lewis shadowed a Colorado National Guard Aviation unit at Buckley Space Force Base for the day and were able to get a ride in a Chinook. Both of these cadets are interested in becoming Aviation Officers and have taken the SIFT.



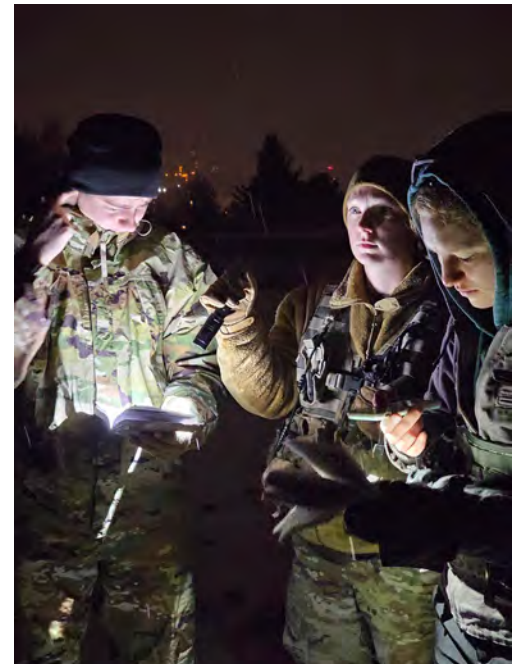
*CHARLIE COMPANY CADETS PREPPING FOR LAND NAVIGATION.*

Late in the semester we had our rivalry PT competition with Air Force ROTC in a

game of buttball. We also had a Military ball where all of the cadets from the entire battalion were able to mingle. Bravo company participated in the Land Nav superlab where our cadets were able to place with some of the highest scores from day and night.

## *Charlie Company*

Charlie company has had a very fulfilling spring semester. We have seen the program grow by an additional three students as well as prepare our seniors for commissioning and graduation. Here in Charlie Company we continue to lead with our students involvement in campuses throughout the greater Denver Metro Area. CDT Emanuel Walker has



*(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) BRAVO COMPANY CADETS DRAIN, GROTE, AND SCHOMAKER PREPPING FOR NIGHT LAND NAV.*



been recognized by the City of Denver for his phenomenal work within the City of Denver and was also a speaker at the Black Men of MSU panel event.

We have cadets Kai Kostal and Jessica Stanfill who earned first place in KU Buddy (formerly Ranger Buddy) competition. CDT Cody Kidd has been integral in the FTX with UCCS this year serving as the lead planner representing the Golden Buffalo Battalion. Overall, our company has continued to maintain the standard of excellence that we do every year and without a doubt represent the Golden Buffalo Battalion as the premier company within the organization.

## Training Local Fire Fighters

The local Boulder County Fire Department requested the Army ROTC Golden Buffalo Battalion from CU-Boulder to assist with helping train their new recruits using the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) training.

Four members of the Army ROTC Cadre and Cadets ventured out to the Boulder County Fire Training Center. They were asked to come out and put eight new firefighters through a standard AROTC physical training session and some team building exercises. The goal of this exercise was to get the recruits into the proper mindset for their upcoming 15 week-long Fire Academy testing.



*CDT BRADLEY PINKUS LOOKING ON AS THE FIREFIGHTING RECRUITS RUN SPRINTS AT THE FIRE TRAINING CENTER ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024.*

By the end of the training session, the recruits were given a full picture of what they can expect during their academy training. And the Golden Buffalo Battalion was appreciative to have solidified a new partnership with the Boulder County Fire Department.



*CADETS TAKING THE TIME TO POSE FOR A PICTURE WITH THEIR CLASSMATES AT THE 2024 MILITARY BALL.*

## Military Ball

The annual Military Ball for the Army ROTC Golden Buffalo Battalion was held again at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield on Friday, March 1, 2024. Cadets and Cadre/Staff alike came together to celebrate another successful year.

The event went through all of the traditional formalities that make the Military Ball a yearly institution. The evening started off with the AROTC Color Guard posted the colors, brief opening comments from the current PMS, then all



CADET HARBER (SECOND FROM LEFT) ACCEPTING THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES ESSAYONS SCHOLARSHIP.

eyes were on the empty table to honor all soldiers missing in action or prisoners of war, followed by the Invocation, and finally the Grog Bowl was mixed by the Cadets with ingredients that represented the rich history and current travails of the Golden Buffalo Battalion.

The meals were served, and attendees enjoyed their dinners and talked amongst themselves. This year's guest speaker was Mr. Kevin Ruelas, an AROTC commissionee from Fresno State and current owner and CEO of Defense & Government Solutions (DGS) which focuses on defense services.

The Cadre then recognized the individual Cadets selected for the internal scholarships and awards. Cadets from the entire battalion

were selected for the following scholarships/awards. See the full story on the Army ROTC website here: <https://www.colorado.edu/arotc/2024/03/01/military-ball-march-2024>

## NROTC Colorado Meet

Army ROTC Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion were given the opportunity to participate in the 2024 Naval ROTC Colorado Meet on the CU-Boulder campus (3/8/24-3/10/24). Due to other pre-planned Army training, the Cadets were only able to participate in the Friday, March 8 activities.

The two shooting competitions were conducted throughout the day on Friday. The Cadets engaged in a closely regimented shooting competition where they were tested on their military shooting proficiency in a competitive environment. The exercise guidelines were taken from the National Rifle Association's Competition Rulebook.

Our knowledge team were tested on various topics in a "Jeopardy" type format – so Cadets answered a series of questions testing their military knowledge and bearing. Of course, CU NROTC took 1st place overall followed by Nebraska in 2nd. Oklahoma took 3rd after dramatically breaking a four-way tie in a pull-up competition. Army ROTC looks forward to participating in next year's competition. Please see the full-length article on the Army ROTC website here:

<https://www.colorado.edu/arotc/2024/03/08/participated-nrotc-colorado-meet-march-2024>



ARMY ROTC CADETS SHOWING THEIR RESULTS AFTER THE PISTOL COMPETITION AT THE NROTC COLORADO MEET.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

### Laura J. Richardson, General

Commander, U.S. Southern Command

1986 graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver with a BA in Psychology

General Richardson, an esteemed MSU graduate and proud Army ROTC alumna, recently hosted a lunch with cadets, cadre, and staff from Metropolitan State University. The event was a lively and engaging question-and-answer session where participants were free to ask anything on their minds.

During the lunch, General Richardson shared invaluable advice drawn from her extensive experience. Among her standout quotes were, “Never compromise yourself personally for what you want to do professionally,” a reminder of the importance of integrity in one’s career. She also stressed the significance of self-care with, “Invest in yourself—find what grounds you to protect your mental health and schedule it,” and highlighted the power of a positive outlook, stating, “Positivity inspires and empowers other people.” She encouraged cadets to get involved in their communities, saying, “Be a part of the community—join a non-profit.”

After the Q&A session, General Richardson took a nostalgic trip down memory lane by visiting the ROTC house. She shared stories of her time there, recalling the countless hours spent studying and working with her ROTC peers, leaving everyone with a sense of camaraderie and tradition. The cadets, cadre, and staff left the event inspired and equipped with practical advice, feeling a deeper connection to their ROTC heritage and more motivated than ever to pursue their goals with integrity and positivity.



## Land Navigation Super Lab

Army ROTC Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion came together on CU-Boulder’s South Campus on Saturday, March 9th to conduct another Land Navigation Super Lab. Cadets were given a written land navigation test that requires them to pass with a 70% or higher score. After passing the written test, the Cadets



GBB CADETS PLOTTING POINTS ON THEIR LAND NAVIGATION MAPS.

moved onto the solo land nav practical course test. Those that received less than 70% were pared up with MSIV Cadets to refine their knowledge and land nav skills.

This type of training further enhances a Cadet's land navigation skills. All Junior Cadets are encouraged to participate in this training that will help prepare them for their Cadet Summer Training (CST) – or also known as Summer Advanced Camp. Despite the deep snow in some areas, this training went off without a hitch and the Cadets did a great job at navigating the varied terrain of the Boulder County foothills.

## Ranger Buddy Competition

The University of Kansas (KU) Army ROTC hosted the 28th annual Ranger Buddy Competition at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on Saturday, April 6, 2024. This year saw the largest field of competitors in the entire competition's history with 219 registered teams.

The teams consisted of two-cadets (either all male, all female or co-ed). The Golden Buffalo Battalion sent two teams to compete: 1 Male Team and 1 Co-ed Team. During the event, teams rucked 13-miles and completed 15 tactical tasks. Our Co-ed team of CDTs Stanfill and Kostal (pictured to the left) won the ruck march by over four minutes and place first for the Co-ed Open Division.



THE GBB CO-ED TEAM ACCEPTING THEIR AWARD FOR WINNING THE RUCK MARCH.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

2024 Cadet Summer Training (CST)  
top BN student – CDT Jessica Stanfill (MSIII)

Each year the PMS and Cadre are delegated with the task of ranking all MSIII Cadets (juniors) before they go to the required Cadet Summer Training. This year, the top three spots were all females: #1 CDT Jessica Stanfill (photo shown to right) from the Univ. of Denver/CCO, #2 CDT Sarah Schomaker from Colorado Christian Univ./BCO, and #3 CDT Claire Fleckenstein from CU-Boulder/ACO.





## Spring Leader Development Exercise (LDX)

Once again, the Golden Buffalo Battalion Army ROTC Cadets traveled down to the Jack's Valley Training Area on the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy to conduct their annual spring Leader Development Exercise (LDX) on Thursday, April 11 through Sunday, April 14.



*CADETS DISCUSSING POTENTIAL ROUTES TO TAKE TO SUCCESSFULLY TAKE THEIR SQUAD THROUGH THE PATROL BASE TRAINING LANE.*

This traditional spring training was held in conjunction with the Army ROTC Cadets from the Battalion at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs (UCCS). Several coordinated tactical missions were performed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Which gave Cadets an opportunity to collaborate with unfamiliar soldiers and learn how to best communicate to execute the assigned task.

Cadets ran through different unit/platoon lane exercises to test the combat skills and techniques they have learned throughout the semester

(exercises including raids, movement to contact, ambushes, and attack). They also planned out and conducted various medical evacuation scenarios that goes “hand-in-hand” with any military tactical operation. All exercises were performed with the end goal of successfully completing each mission’s objective.

During this event, the MSIII Junior Cadets were put in charge of their assigned platoons while being evaluated on their teamwork, tactical movement, and communication skills; as well as the ability to lead others in different simulated battlefield environments. Each Cadets skills and abilities will be fully assessed when they head off to their four-week mandatory Cadet Summer Training (CST) back at Fort Knox the summer before their senior year.

## Spring Commissioning

The Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (Golden Buffalo Battalion) commissioned a total of twenty-one Cadets this spring 2024. Alpha Company at CU-Boulder commissioned eight Cadets, Bravo Company at the Colorado School of Mines commissioned six Cadets, and Charlie Company at the Metropolitan State University of Denver commissioned seven Cadets.



*CADETS PREPARING TO FIRE WHILE CONDUCTING AN AMBUSH DURING THE SPRING LDX.*



The Cadets were sworn in by a ranking Cadre member, friend, or family member; along with their rank pinned onto their uniform by a chosen family member or friend. The final act of commissioning was to give the first “Silver Dollar Salute” to a Non-Commissioned Officer of their choosing.

*ACO ARMY ROTC SPRING 2024 COMMISSIONEES [LEFT TO RIGHT]: 2LT MATTHEW BIESIADA, 2LT DYLAN UREN, 2LT BENJAMIN MOREHART, 2LT JOHN D'AGOSTINO, 2LT SCOTT SMITH, 2LT LIAM MCDERMOTT, 2LT BRENTON CARVER, AND 2LT WILLIAM VLAD.*



*BCO ARMY ROTC SPRING 2024 COMMISSIONEES [LEFT TO RIGHT]: 2LT AVA HOUSER, 2LT PETER BUCKINGHAM, 2LT JACK DOBROTKA, 2LT ADALI MATZ, 2LT NUREL MINOR, AND 2LT MAGNUS LOKEN.*



*CCO ARMY ROTC SPRING 2024 COMMISSIONEES [LEFT TO RIGHT]: 2LT SCHAWANDA GEORGE, 2LT RAHUL KHANAL, 2LT BRITTNEY VERBERKMOES, 2LT WYATT HORAN, 2LT JUSTIN VOLDEN, 2LT CODY KIDD, AND 2LT RYAN MATTMAN.*





## Contact Us

### The Golden Buffalo Battalion

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.colorado.edu/arotc>

<http://inside.mines.edu/MIL-Home>

<https://www.msudenver.edu/arotc/>

Facebook:

The Golden Buffalo Battalion



Instagram:

@golden\_buffalo\_battalion



## Program Support

Our Cadets rely on your generous donations to help offset costs associated with events such as Commissioning and Awards ceremonies, annual Dining-Out, Military Appreciation/Veteran's Day events, leadership labs, orientation events, Cadet participation in Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March, and summer leadership training programs. Without your support, we would not be able to take advantage of these great developmental opportunities for our aspiring officers. To donate online, please visit

<https://giving.cu.edu/fund/army-rotc-program-fund-cu-boulder>

## Special Thanks

The Spring 2024 Golden Buffalo Bulletin would not be possible without the following individuals:

Special thanks to:

Dr. Alaina Beaver, *CU Boulder Universal Design Consultant*; Ann Brokaw, *CU Boulder Information Architect/User Experience Designer*; CPT Chris Head, *Cadre Newsletter Advisor*; Meggan Foster, *AROTC University Liaison*

*Photos courtesy of Aaron Sager, CPT Chris Head, CPT Nathan Illies, CDT William Vlad, and Elevate Business Photography*

