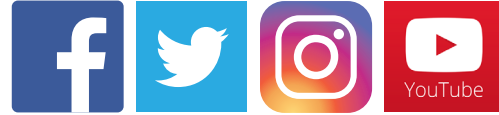




# Gorilla Gazette

Pittsburg State University Army ROTC  
[pittstate.edu/mil](http://pittstate.edu/mil)

2019



## Professor of Military Science

LTC Charles Costello

As my first semester comes to an end, let me first tell you all a little bit about myself. I arrived at the Gorilla Battalion August 2018 from Hohenfels, Germany where I spent the past two years on the Adler Sustainment OC/T team at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. I had the great privilege of teaching, not just to U.S. sustainment units, but also many of our multinational allies and partners on the most updated tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and doctrine.

My wife, Julie, and I did not know what to expect when I accepted this assignment, but we have settled in quickly to the University and community. I was impressed with how integrated the ROTC department was within Pittsburg State University and the community. The overwhelming support from the University, community, and Alumni has been nothing short of amazing and I cannot thank all of you enough!

The Fall 2018 semester was one that saw a lot of change with the cadre. Not only did I replace LTC Ken Hutchison, but we said farewell to Ms. Shirley Beer, MSG Ken Griffin and CPT John Vidiskis. We welcome a almost entirely brand new

staff with MSG Tim Nelleson (SMI), SFC Daniel Hanakahi (ASMI), CPT Bryce Johnson (APMS), and Mr. Matt Emerson (HRA). While the void left by these great leaders will be felt and is not easy, the new members of the Gorilla Battalion bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Change brings in a new vantage point on how we take the Battalion to the next level, and believe me, we are up to the task.

Summer 2018 brought the biggest challenge of this current senior class and they performed with distinction. Every cadet that attended Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY received high marks and set the bar high for this year's junior class, who will this coming summer.

Fall semester 2018 was fast paced and contained a lot of great events for the Gorilla Battalion. We continued are support to the Pittsburg State University football team with our color guard, cannon crew and push up platoon. We supported the PSU baseball and basketball team with team building events promoting teamwork and resiliency. I had the honor of inducting our 35<sup>th</sup> member of the ROTC hall of fame, LTC (R) Kenny Kunstel, and administrating the contracting oath to 15 cadets. We competed at the Task Force Ranger Challenge with two teams, and where we didn't finish where we hoped, the teams consisted of mostly freshman and sophomore cadets which bodes well for our expectations for next year. We also supported the university's Veterans Day observance and had the honor of speaking at the wreath laying ceremony this December for Wreaths Across America. We continued our commitment to community service by assisting with Toys for Tots, numerous color guard events across the community, and supporting our local JROTC programs. This semester was truly an eye opening time for me and am truly blessed to lead this proud program.

This semester, Spring 2019, will prove to be just as eventful. We will be commissioning 18 young men and women into the United States Army which is one of the bigger classes we have had in recent history. We will be planning and executing three big events: Spring Field Training exercise (FTX), the Gorilla Dash in support of the SFC Robertson Scholarship Fund, and the ROTC dining out. All of these events will be planned by our cadets, with guidance and supervision from the cadre, further proving that we are producing quality leaders for the next generation of officers in the Army.

As my first semester is complete and I begin my second, I would like to extend my thanks to the cadets, university personnel, and our great alumni for their support. We are extremely proud of the history and tradition here at Pittsburg State University ROTC, and look forward to continuing to make you all proud.



# Pitt State ROTC Named Army Nursing Center of Excellence



The ROTC department at Pittsburg State has always taken great pride in commissioning nurses into the Army. These nurses have continually gone on to perform well above the standard, both as a military officer and as a nurse. Because of this continued success, the Army designated the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing at Pittsburg State University as a Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence. U.S. Army ROTC representatives visited the School of Nursing, where they made the announcement.

Only a small number of nursing programs in the U.S. have achieved Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence status, which is based both on academic excellence and the relationship between the nursing program and ROTC. PSU's is the only Cadet Command Nursing Center of Excellence in Kansas.

The Center of Excellence designation gives priority to PSU students for nursing scholarships from the Army Cadet Command for this region. Additionally, ROTC students are guaranteed four seats in the upper-division nursing program at PSU each year.

The Gorilla Battalion is given a mission each year to commission two nurses into the Army. If you are wanting to be an Army Nurse, or know any young person interested in becoming one, contact us!

## Meet the New Pitt State ROTC Cadre



Master Sergeant Timothy Nellessen joined the Pitt State ROTC program in September of this year. He is bringing 5 combat deployment tours and 14 years of experience to the already impressive cadre at the program. He has served in almost every capacity of an Infantryman and is a graduate of the US Army Ranger School. His priorities include bringing a "disciplined initiative" approach to the tactics that are learned at ROTC, as well as bringing

a real world aspects to the training of the cadets. He also cares passionately about fostering the Army Values and creating the best leaders in the world to serve our nation. He has served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, the Ranger Training Brigade, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. He is married to Kandace, who is a native of Ottawa, KS, and they have three children together.



Mr. Matthew Emerson joined the Pitt State ROTC program in September of this year after retiring from the Active Guard/Reserve program as a Sergeant First Class. He is bringing 26 years of military experience, many of which he worked directly with Simultaneous Membership Program Cadets from Pitt State ROTC, to the program and Cadets. He has served in many different fields, from construction to combat engineer, supply, training, and

operations. He is very passionate about taking care of students to ensure smooth transitions from civilian positions to military positions. He has two loving children, son Brandon, who is a 2018 graduate of Pitt State and daughter, Brittany, who will graduate from Pitt State in 2020.



Sergeant First Class Daniel K. Hanakahi joined the Pittsburg State ROTC program in January of 2018. He will serve as the Assistant Senior Military Instructor and brings 16 years of experience. He has served most of his time in the US Army as Human Resources Sergeant and Combat Engineer. He believes in strong character, morals, developing/training future leaders, and is determined to instill the Army values in every Student/Cadet within the program. He has

served in many different fields from Human Resources, Combat Engineer, Construction Engineer, and Training Operations. He has served in the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 1st Armored Division, and previous assignment U.S. Army Japan. SFC Hanakahi is from Waianae, Hawaii and is married to Elizabeth. They have four children, Calvin, Noah, Leona and Atele all reside in Pittsburg Kansas.



Captain Bryce Johnson joined Pittsburg State ROTC program in March of 2018. He will serve as the Kansas Army National Guard Active Guard/Reserve Officer and brings 13 years of experience, eight years as an enlisted Soldier, with 2 National Guard mobilizations. He has served most of his time in the US Army as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. He believes in strong character and morals, and is determined to instill those values in every Cadet of the program. He has served

in the 1-188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Battalion in North Dakota and the Joint Air Defense Operation Center in Washington D.C. He is married to Lisa, and has a daughter, Myla.





#### Cadet Chantz Yager

The Pittsburg State University Army ROTC Gorilla Battalion is a premier leadership program on campus. 2018 proved to be another busy year with many opportunities to develop leaders for the United States Army, and we couldn't do it without the support from Pittsburg State University, PSU ROTC Alumni, and the community. The cadets are extremely proud to be a part of this organization.

In the spring of 2018, the Gorilla Battalion had multiple opportunities to test the Cadet Corps mental toughness, problem solving skills, and teamwork. In March, the Gorilla Battalion sent two teams, one male team and one female team, to complete a 26.2 mile ruck at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in remembrance of the Bataan Death March in World War II. The cadets were tested physically and mentally and had to rely on their teammates throughout the entire race.

In April, I took over as the Battalion Commander of the Gorilla Battalion. My first task was to ensure the successful completion and operation of the annual Gorilla Dash. Gorilla Dash is a 5k obstacle course in order to raise money for the SFC Robertson Scholarship. Building over 30 obstacles in a couple weeks can be a logistical nightmare, but with the organization skills developed throughout the curriculum, each team of cadets were able to successfully build their challenging obstacles in time for the race.

After a summer of training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, cadets returned in August to begin the fall semester of classes. The Gorilla Battalion went to work right away providing a Color Guard at several community events, push-up platoon at football games, and shooting the cannon at races. Meanwhile, the cadets in the Gorilla Battalion were provided with mentorship from upperclassmen, a curriculum that tested cadets on their critical thinking skills, and competitive physical fitness training opportunities.

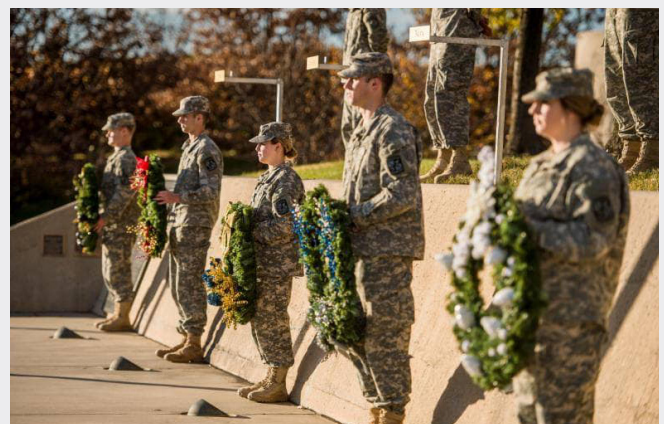
The Gorilla Battalion also had the opportunity to test the teamwork, endurance, and motivation of several Pittsburg State sports teams including the men's basketball team and baseball team. In my opinion, these two days were the best physical fitness sessions we had all year. The competition included three miles of running with awkward telephone poles, stations that included low-crawls, partner carries, squats, and overhead presses, and ended with an 800 meter tire flip. Each sports team was divided into several smaller squads and they all competed against a team of ROTC cadets. This event brought unity among different organizations on campus and I encourage any sports team, high school or collegiate, to let the Gorilla Battalion make a workout for you.

Cadets also spent several weekends at Camp Crowder, MO, training on soldier skills that would be tested during training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Cadets trained on weapons familiarity including the M4A1, M249, and M240B. Cadets also learned survival skills, land navigation techniques, and were tested on leadership ability by completing day and night operations.

Looking back this past year, I have realized how fortunate I am to have chosen Pittsburg State University to attend college. The support the community gives the college is amazing. The Gorilla Battalion has helped me grow in the uniform as well as in civilian life. I know that the experiences I have had in ROTC have been completely supported by the alumni of the Gorilla Battalion. I am especially grateful to God, my wife, my family, the Cadre who have invested time in developing myself and my peers, the cadets I have worked with over the last four years, the community for their support, and the alumni for continuing to help improve the Gorilla Battalion.

## PSU ROTC Would Like to Thank the Following for Their Recent Donations to Military Science:

American Legion, J. F. Derby Post 43  
 Mary Cathleen AuBuchon  
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 Betty Ann Thorpe  
 Ronald Watts  
 Kelly A. Wing  
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# Upcoming Spring 2019 Schedule

**23 FEB** – German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

**2 MAR** – Boy Scouts Weekend

**17 MAR** – Bataan

**12-14 APR** – Spring FTX

**20 APR** – Gorilla Dash

**22 APR** – Ft. Leavenworth & Harry Truman Museum Staff Ride

**26-28 APR** – RSP FTX

**4 May** – Dining Out (invitations for Alumni attendance forthcoming)

**10 May** – Commissioning



*Seventh Cavettes Drill Team, Pittsburg State University  
1968. Photo credit to Carole Maugh.*

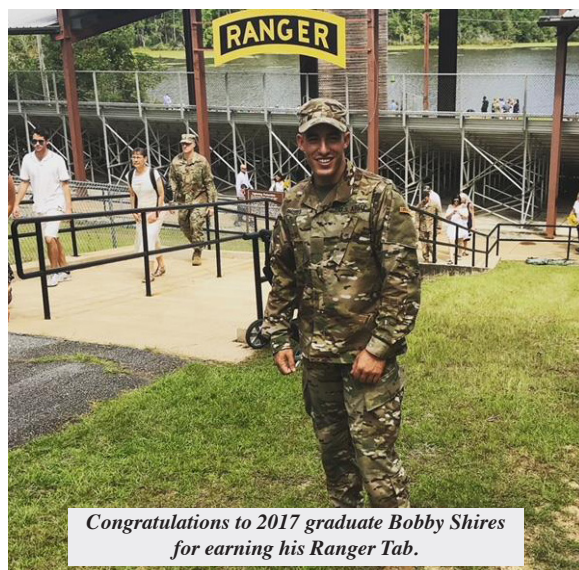
Please let us know if you'd like to make any of the events. The Cadets and Cadre would like to see Gorilla Battalion Alumni at the Dining out. Mark your calendars and look for invites on social media in March.

## Contact us!

We love to see your photos! Send your CONUS and OCONUS pictures to [jshay@pittstate.edu](mailto:jshay@pittstate.edu).

## Gorilla Hall of Fame

There is a link on the Pittsburg State University ROTC Website. It currently contains a general outline for Hall of Fame nominations, as well as the form needed to make a nomination. Please take the opportunity to review the link and learn about current Hall of Fame members at [pittstate.edu/mil](http://pittstate.edu/mil).



*Congratulations to 2017 graduate Bobby Shires  
for earning his Ranger Tab.*

**WHY CHOOSE TO GIVE TO THE ROTC GENERAL FUND?** Unrestricted gifts allow the Professor of Military Science to support the training and cadet leader development opportunities that he or she feels will have the greatest positive impact on the program. These funds are used to fund events such as: ammunition for weapons qualification, Field Leadership Reaction Course time at Greenbush, staff rides, Bataan, Ranger Challenge much more. We appreciate everyone who chooses to support the future leaders of our Army!

**Yes! I want to support Pittsburg State University ROTC**

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**Thank You!**  
ROTC2019



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