



**VILLA**

**NOVA**

**Annual Report 2025-2026**

**ARMY**

**ROTC**



# Who are we?

Villanova Army ROTC proudly operates as **Bravo Company within the Dauntless Battalion, headquartered** at Widener University—formerly Pennsylvania Military College. With a legacy dating back to before the Civil War, the **Dauntless Battalion is committed to developing cadets into top-tier future Army officers.** Bravo Company consists of 26 cadets from Villanova, as well as our cross-town campus at Penn State Abington College.

Outside of ROTC, our cadets are actively engaged in a wide range of campus and community activities that reflect their commitment to service, leadership, and personal development. They contribute to charitable initiatives such as NovaDance, Ruibal, and Fall Fest, and many dedicate their time to community service efforts. Cadets are also involved in numerous student organizations, including the Outdoors Club, Sports Analytics Club, Military Science Club, Debate Club, and YoungLife. In addition, they participate in fraternities and sororities, compete in club sports such as rugby, running, baseball, and softball, hold part-time employment, and even serve as Residential Advisors.

The Army ROTC curriculum is designed to challenge cadets with physical training three times a week, a weekly military science class, and hands-on tactical labs with the Battalion. These experiences, combined with academic coursework, community involvement, and the opportunity to work alongside cadets from other colleges, **equip cadets with the skills and discipline needed to perform as Army officers.** Our company fosters hardworking, motivated leaders who **excel academically, physically, mentally, and in service to others.** Graduates go on to serve as successful Army officers across a diverse range of branches, including Infantry, Military Intelligence, Aviation, Cyber, Field Artillery, Signal, Finance, and Engineering.

# OUR CADRE



**Lieutenant Colonel  
William Atwell**  
Field Artillery Officer



**Major Crystal Waller**  
Adjutant General Officer



**Major Bridgette Taquero**  
Signal Corps Officer



**Sergeant First Class  
Hurley Moon**  
Engineering Corps NCO

# CADET COMMAND TEAM



**c/CPT Allie Alaimo**  
Company Commander  
(CO)

“It has truly been a privilege and honor to lead a company of such hardworking and motivated cadets. As Company Commander, my responsibility has been to oversee training, discipline, performance, and esprit de corps in a high-accountability environment. The command team has worked hard to plan and execute weekly training operations, physical readiness events, and leadership development activities aligned with U.S. Army standards. I am incredibly grateful to have been entrusted with this role, as it has challenged me and allowed me to grow tremendously as a leader. To the Villanova underclassmen: I am incredibly proud to have the opportunity to lead you all, regardless of where you are in your ROTC journey. Take in everything you learn and use it to exceed even your own expectations for yourself. Go Cats and go Bravo!” - **c/CPT Allie Alaimo**



**c/1SG Connor Barton**  
First Sergeant (1SG)

“This semester, I’ve had the awesome opportunity to be Villanova’s Company First Sergeant and work on behalf of the most disciplined and hard-working men and women I’ve ever met in my life. As Allie’s right-hand man, I’m in charge of interpreting her plans and putting them into action. Equally as important is my responsibility to set an example for our cadets when it comes to physical excellence, timeliness, uniform wear, and navigating life as a Villanova student and cadet. It is so incredibly rewarding to see our cadets increase their physical fitness test scores, lead 40 of their peers in a successful tactical mission, or pass an extremely rigorous and selective summer training, and I am very thankful to play a small role in the preparation of this. Our cadets continue to push the bar of what excellence looks like both in the classroom and in the military, and I’m excited to see the way in which they change the world upon commissioning into the greatest fighting force in the world.” - **c/1SG Connor Barton**



**c/1LT Ian Lenkart**  
Executive Officer (XO)

“It was an honor to be on the command team as a MS3 for the spring semester. Learning from c/1SG Barton and c/CPT Alaimo has helped me develop leadership skills and gain experience on how to lead a company of cadets. I enjoyed being able to help underclassmen cadets with questions and concerns they brought to me. I am proud of the advancements everyone in our company has made this semester. Being on this command team is one of my favorite experiences in ROTC. I look forward to learning at CST and CTLT this summer! I hope to bring those skills and experiences back to share them with Bravo Company and Dauntless Battalion as a whole!”

- **c/1LT Ian Lenkart**



# CADET SUMMER



Cadet Summer Training (CST) is a 35-day summer training experience for rising senior cadets at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. CDTs Barton, Cleus, Dougherty, and Flynn all attended and graduated CST this past summer. They trained in land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship, hand grenades, field medical care, an 8 and 12 mile ruck, as well as other tactical skills. They spent 12 days in the field where they were given opportunities to be squad leaders, platoon sergeants, and platoon leaders during tactical missions.



# TRAINING

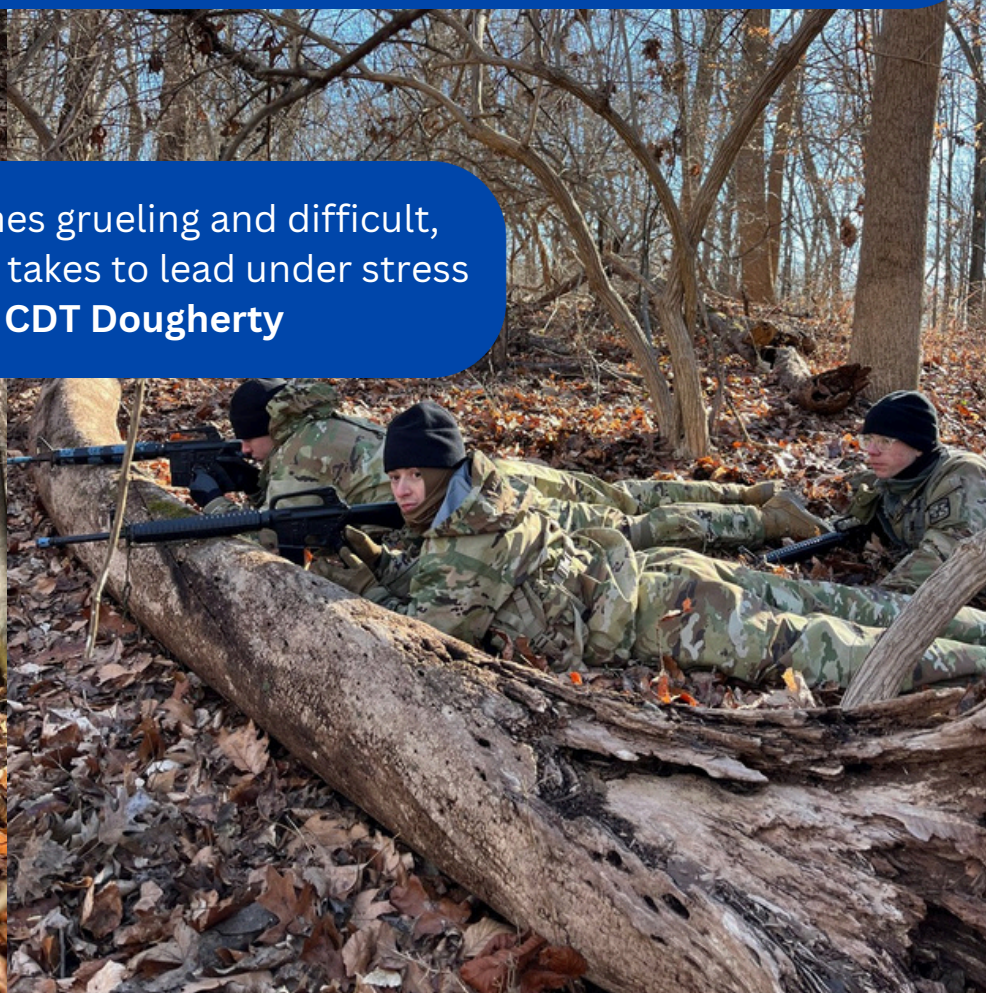
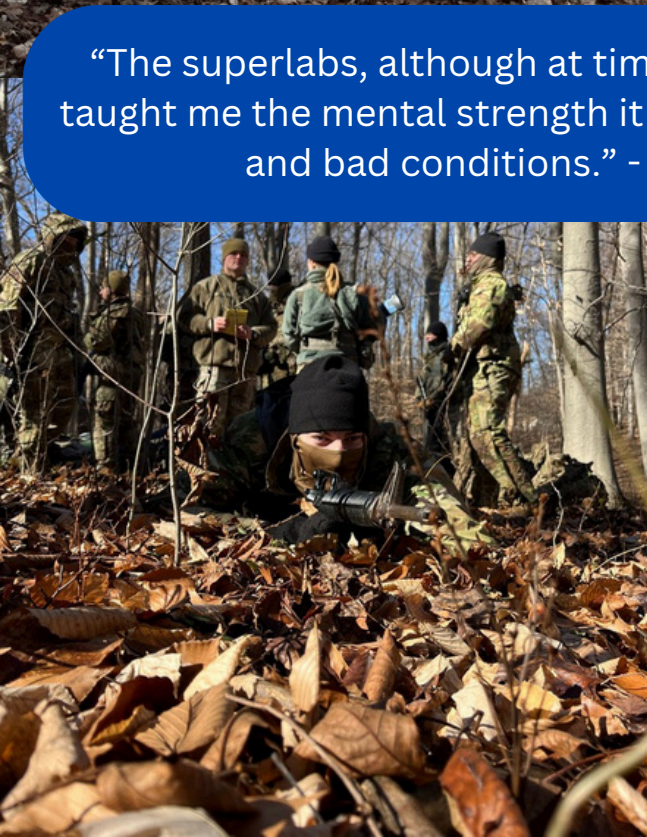


# Superlabs



Superlabs are 1-2 day training exercises designed to develop cadets' leadership, tactical, and teamwork skills. Cadets rotate through leadership roles, gaining experience in mission planning and execution, all while refining their ability to communicate and lead with confidence.

“The superlabs, although at times grueling and difficult, taught me the mental strength it takes to lead under stress and bad conditions.” - **CDT Dougherty**



# Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX)

CFTX is a 3-day ROTC training event for MS3s, which was held at Fort Dix, NJ, this semester. Multiple ROTC battalions come together for a large-scale, immersive field exercise. Our cadets got the opportunity to work alongside other university programs, including Scranton, Lehigh, and Drexel. They practiced platoon-level tactics, movement techniques, land navigation, rucks, and combat drills, preparing them for Cadet Summer Training (CST).



“Superlabs and CFTX were some of the most valuable training experiences I had this semester. Superlabs gave me a chance to refine my tactical knowledge and leadership skills in a controlled, yet challenging environment. During CFTX, I was pushed out of my comfort zone and had to lead under pressure, which helped me grow in confidence.” - **CDT Flynn**



# Senior Staff Ride



Senior staff ride is an annual event that allows our MS4s to analyze leadership skills by studying and presenting on historical battles at the site they occurred. Cadets from each company gave a brief overview of different leaders from the Civil War, reflecting on their own knowledge of leadership competencies, warfighting functions, and principles of war. Our cadets were able to connect how certain decisions, strategies, and tactics led to the outcomes of the battle.



# Specialty School Selection

## Upcoming Air Assault School Attendees



**AAS is a rigorous 10-day course designed to train soldiers in airmobile and air assault operations. The school focuses on three main phases: Combat Assault, Slingload Operations, and Rappelling. Approximately 45% of students pass due to its demanding standards. Graduates earn the Air Assault Badge and are qualified for air assault missions. Our cadets had to compete against every cadet at the battalion level just to earn a slot for this prestigious course.**



### CDT Cian Haugh (MS2)

“Ever since I joined ROTC, I knew I wanted to go to as many schools as possible, so I am very grateful to have been selected for Air Assault. With the guidance of cadre and other cadets, especially CDT Barton, I have not only learned what I need to do to prepare for Air Assault but learned how to put myself on the best path possible to achieve my goals in the Army. I have met some of the highest caliber people I know through ROTC, so competing with them has pushed me physically and mentally which will help me prepare for Air Assault. Looking at Air Assault and my other goals down the line, I am confident that the ROTC program will prepare me to achieve everything I want to and more.”



### CDT Arthur Shore (MS2)

“I have appreciated the organizational efforts of cadre and support from upperclassmen as I’ve been preparing for Air Assault. I’ve been working hard individually all year to achieve my goal of being selected for Air Assault, but there has been a strong focus this year on ensuring all cadets are as physically fit and ready all year through frequent rucks, effective PT, and organized administrative processes. I have also benefited greatly by the support of my peers, specifically the ranger challenge team, upperclassmen with specialty school experience, and other Cadets going for selection with me. I look forward to the challenge ahead of me!”



### CDT Nicolas Chavez (MS2)

“I am confident that the training and mentorship that I’ve received through ROTC will allow me to succeed at Air Assault School. From our early morning PT sessions to the 12-mile ruck at Valley Forge in the April heat, ROTC has encouraged me to push myself and always set a high standard. This program has instilled in me the confidence to take on new challenges, and the upperclassmen have been a big source of advice and encouragement, whether it was practicing the rope climb for tryouts, or gaining a better understanding of what Air Assault will be like. I am so grateful for Dauntless Battalion and am looking forward to representing it well at Fort Campbell this summer.”

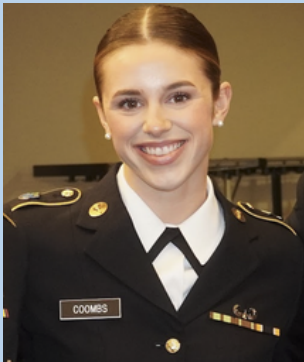
# Specialty School Selection

## Air Assault School Graduates



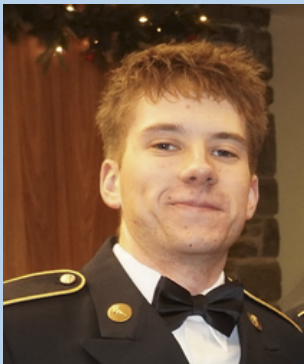
### CDT Ian Lenkart (MS3)

“Graduating from the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell this past summer was a moment I was really proud of. The experience pushed me both mentally and physically, and it taught me a lot about discipline, attention to detail, and staying focused under pressure. Throughout the course I learned the importance of teamwork and preparation, especially during the demanding training and evaluations. One of the best parts of the experience was the friendships I made along the way. Going through such a challenging program together created strong bonds and a lot of mutual respect. Completing Air Assault School gave me a strong sense of accomplishment and motivated me to keep setting higher goals for myself and continue pushing forward in my career.”



### CDT Taylor Coombs (MS3)

“This past summer, I graduated from Air Assault School at Fort Benning, GA. I was honored to be selected and have the opportunity to represent my battalion. With the support and guidance of cadre and upperclassmen, I felt well prepared to attend Air Assault School and perform to the best of my ability. Attending Air Assault as a cadet was a valuable experience that exposed me to Army training and allowed me to further develop my skills and understanding of Army operations.”



### CDT Andrew Chaszczewicz (MS3)

“Completing the United States Air Assault School was by far the hardest thing I have done in my life. Air Assault School combines challenging physical and mental tests to prepare soldiers for air assault operations. The curriculum includes learning specifications of Army helicopters, inspecting sling-loads, and rappelling out of helicopters. As an air assault student, you will be awake before dawn, treated as dirt, and expected to do every task and test asked of you. Failure to do so will get you dropped from the course. It takes a great soldier to complete the United States Army Air Assault School.”

# Specialty School Selection

## Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Qualifications

The Army Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Program trains soldiers in the art of influence and strategic communication. It prepares personnel to shape foreign perceptions, support military objectives, and conduct psychological warfare. The training begins with PSYOP Assessment and Selection (POAS - 10 days), which evaluates physical and psychological fitness. Upon selection, soldiers open the door to later becoming PSYOP Officers. Becoming a PSYOP officer is very competitive, and very few slots for POAS are available to cadets each each year.



**CDT Connor Barton (MS4)**

"I was fortunate enough to get selected to attend POAS this past summer! This 10-day selection process in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, was physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging. During this, I learned much more about PSYOP, made some incredible friends, gained valuable selection experience, and pushed myself to limits I didn't know I was capable of. I am very thankful to our program and cadre for preparing me for this, which ultimately led to my selection for the PSYOP branch!"

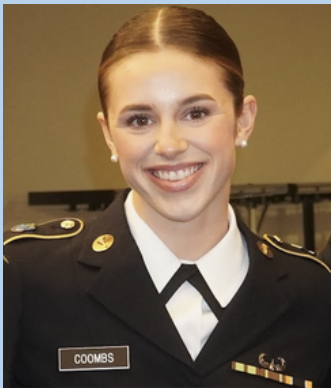


# Specialty School Selection

## Upcoming Airborne School Attendees



Army Airborne School is a rigorous military training program designed to teach soldiers how to safely parachute from aircraft and operate as airborne forces. Conducted over three weeks, the course focuses on developing both the physical skills and mental discipline required for airborne operations. Trainees begin with ground week, where they learn parachute landing techniques, equipment use, and aircraft exit procedures. During tower week, soldiers practice jumps from training towers to simulate real airborne conditions and build confidence. The final phase, jump week, requires students to complete five successful parachute jumps from a military aircraft with and without equipment during both day and nighttime.



**CDT Taylor Coombs (MS3)**

"I was fortunate enough to get selected for Airborne. I'm extremely excited for the opportunity to challenge myself and earn my wings. The training I've received through ROTC has prepared me well, and I feel confident in my physical fitness and discipline as I get ready to go to Airborne. I'm looking forward to stepping out of the aircraft for the first time and proving to myself that I'm ready for the challenge."

## Airborne School Graduates



**CDT Connor Barton (MS4)**

"Airborne school was an incredible experience that pushed me mentally, and I'm proud to have earned my wings. Airborne training has strengthened my confidence, adaptability, and ability to make quick decisions under pressure, skills that will directly translate to my development as a future Army pilot.

Understanding airborne operations also gives me a better perspective on how aviation assets support ground forces, enhancing my ability to operate effectively in joint environments. I'm extremely grateful to our cadre for their constant support and for preparing me every step of the way leading up to and throughout the course!"

# SUMMER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

## Cadet Leader Training (CTLT)

Cadets are able to spend 3-4 weeks shadowing officers of various units to gain insight into what being an officer looks like in different branches. CDT Barton traveled to Vincenza, Italy, where he was able to jump with the 173<sup>rd</sup> IBCT Airborne Unit. CDT Dougherty spent time with an Infantry unit in Ft. Bragg, NC, performing day-to-day officer operations.



## Robin Sage

Cadets have the opportunity to participate in Robin Sage, the U.S. Army Special Forces' culminating unconventional warfare exercise, where they are immersed in a realistic, high-pressure operational environment. This summer, CDT Haugh worked alongside Special Forces candidates, gaining firsthand experience in mission planning, leadership, and operating within complex, ambiguous scenarios.

## Summer Internships

Cadets participate in Army summer internship programs that place them in a wide range of real-world environments, allowing them to gain valuable professional and leadership experience beyond traditional training. These internships span across various Army branches and help cadets develop a deeper understanding of how the Army operates at different levels, build practical skills, and strengthen their ability to lead in complex, dynamic settings. This summer, CDT Lenkart interned with an Engineering Unit and CDT Coombs interned with a Military Intelligence unit.



# Cadet Summer Training Readiness

"I'm really excited for Cadet Summer Training and the chance to challenge myself and improve as a leader. I've been preparing by staying in shape and keeping a focused mindset. I'm looking forward to learning a lot, working with other cadets, and giving it my best effort." - **CDT Lenkart**

"I would say these last four years have prepared me for CST. Overall, I'm looking forward to growing as a leader because I can use those skills for the rest of my life." - **CDT Alaimo**



"All of the field exercises and labs I have done over the years have prepared me for CST this summer. I'm excited to finish!" - **CDT Jung**

"I feel very prepared for the leadership skills needed at camp from the experience this semester. Overall, I do feel prepared for camp, and I'm excited to test my skills this summer." - **CDT Chaz**

# RUCK MARCHES



Rucking is more than just carrying weight—it's a test of endurance, resilience, and grit. This semester, our cadets began with a four-mile ruck, steadily increasing to six, eight, and finally twelve miles, each milestone pushing their physical and mental limits. Through discipline and determination, they have embraced the challenge, and by the time they reach twelve miles, they stand as confident, capable leaders ready for whatever lies ahead.

# RANGER



**Ranger Challenge** is a three-day competition between Battalions from schools along the east coast from PA up to ME. The competition events include land navigation, an obstacle course, one-rope bridge, TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care), a grenade course, weapons assembly, and a timed 6-mile ruck. Our B. Co CDTs participated on this team and helped to bring home the **2nd place Crucible streamer** for the Fall 2025 competition.





# Dining Out

5DEC2025

This year, we hosted our annual **Dining Out** at the Villanova Inn! This event is an opportunity for socialization amongst the cadets of the whole Battalion as well as a time to honor the seniors who have received their components and branches for Commissioning as Second Lieutenants!



Before the evening began, cadets had the opportunity to talk with one another, guests, cadre, and our guest of honor, Colonel Dallen Army, U.S. Army. With the traditional Grog ceremony kicking off the night, our seniors offered a series of toasts.

Towards the end of the night, we honored the MS4s, who received their branches for the first time!

Overall, this was a successful night and all the cadets are looking forward to next year's!



# HONORING THOSE WHO FELL ON 9/11

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Villanova's NROTC program, CDTs ran a 3 mile memorial run honoring all those who lost their life during 9/11. Stopping at landmarks across campus, cadets shared biographies of Villanova alumni who died during the 2001 attacks.



## CADETS ON THE RUN



On March 29th, cadets across Alpha Co, Bravo Co, and Charlie Co came together to run the Love Run Half Marathon in Philadelphia!

# ARMY vs NAVY



The Army vs. Navy ROTC football game was a perfect blend of fun, camaraderie, and school spirit by bringing the two ROTC programs together in our annual competition. Players on both sides brought their best, fueled by friendly rivalry, determination, and the drive to represent their branch. In the end, the scores mattered less—it was a celebration of resilience, unity, and the strength of the ROTC community.



# ON CAMPUS...

## RECRUITING EVENTS



## COLOR GUARD



## INTRAMURALS



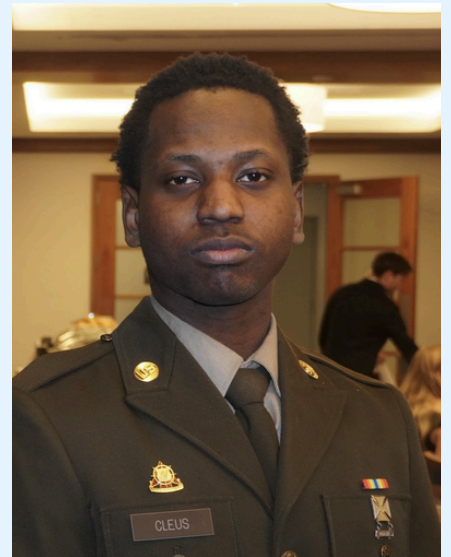
# Congratulations Seniors!



**Allie Alaimo**  
**Army Reserves**  
Post Camp  
Commisionee



**Connor Barton**  
**Active Duty**  
Aviation



**Christopher Cleus**  
**Army Reserves**  
Signal



**Conall Dougherty**  
**Active Duty**  
Logistics



**Sean Flynn**  
**National Guard**  
Military  
Intelligence

<https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc.html>



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- It's part of your college curriculum and includes training



@dauntlessbn\_rotc



For more information about Villanova ROTC or the Dauntless Battalion, contact CDT Cian Haugh: 224-775-6277 or [chaugh@villanova.edu](mailto:chaugh@villanova.edu).

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/liberal-arts-sciences/programs/rotc.html>