Greetings Alumni, family and friends of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Vermont. We hope you had a wonderful summer relaxing with family and friends! Our Cadre and Cadets spent the summer honing their military skills and cultural knowledge from Fort Knox, Kentucky to the steppes of Montenegro!

Included in this summer 2016 issue are a few notable highlights from our spring 2016 semester, our Cadet Summer Training, and our calendar of events for the fall. Enjoy!

### Commissioning 2016

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the University of Vermont’s Ira Allen Chapel, 16 Cadets were commissioned into the United States Army as Second Lieutenants. 13 Second Lieutenants were selected to serve in Active Duty and three selected to serve in the National Guard. We were honored to have LTG (Ret.) Michael Dubie, UVM Class of ‘82, as our Guest Speaker.

**Class of 2016**

- Liam Coleman
- Justin Colletti
- Christopher Devito
- Cooper Farina
- Patrick Foley
- Ché Garcia
- Theodore Gruer
- Samantha Lucas
- David Macdonald
- Trevor Madsen
- Thomas Martin
- Colin Montgomery
- Heidi Peterson
- Cody Sayward
- Julie Silverberg
- Frederick Tordé

*Front row: 2LT Theodore Gruer, 2LT Samantha Lucas, Laura Sibony, 2LT Heidi Peterson, 2LT Julie Silverberg, 2LT Justin Colletti, 2LT Cooper Farina. Back row: 2LT Trevor Madsen, 2LT Patrick Foley, 2LT Frederick Torde, 2LT Ché Garcia, 2LT Cody Sayward, 2LT Liam Coleman, 2LT Christopher Devito*
On June 10, 2016, the U.S. Army ROTC National Hall of Fame conducted a ceremony to induct its first group of former ROTC Cadets. UVM alumni Lieutenant General Retired Michael Dubie, ‘82 and Mr. Charles Zabriskie, Jr. ’53 were among the 326 former Cadets who were inducted into the 2016 inaugural class. The ceremony was held at Fort Knox, Kentucky. LTG (Ret.) Dubie and Mr. Zabriskie, Jr. are our first two UVM Hall of Fame members to be inducted into the USACC National Hall of Fame. The accomplishment of these two great leaders speaks volumes for their character and dedication to excellence. We are very proud to call them our Alumni and we are grateful for their excellent role-modeling for our Team. Congratulations gents, may it be said well done! Catamounts lead the way!
On behalf of the University of Vermont and the entire Cadre and Staff of the Department of Military Studies, welcome to the fall 2016 semester. This fall the University of Vermont admitted a spectacular group of young ladies and gentlemen to the Class of 2020. The GMB welcomes 25 incoming first-year students from UVM, Castleton University, Champlain College, and St. Michael’s College. We also welcome our new Senior Military Instructor, Master Sergeant Christopher Cunningham and his wife Holly, son Hudson, and daughters Cecilia and Eleanor to our Green Mountain Battalion Family. He comes to us from a recent deployment to Iraq and service as an Infantry Rifle Company First Sergeant out of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY. We are fortunate to have his expertise among our ranks as we continue to develop future leaders in the U.S. Army. Please feel free to stop by and visit us at our Headquarters at 601 Main Street in Burlington. We are proud of all of our recent accomplishments and very excited about the great year ahead. Thanks for all of your support!
WELCOME, MASTER SERGEANT
CHRISTOPHER CUNNINGHAM!

TRIBUTE TO AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ARMY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
Although ARMY ROTC is the main source of Officer Commissions for the United States Army; Officers cannot be successful without Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs). NCOs are commonly referred to as the “Backbone of the Army.” UVM ROTC is fortunate to have two Master Sergeants:
MSG Cunningham is an Infantryman and MSG Kovalchick is an Armor Crewman, (referred to as a “Tanker”). The Officer - NCO relationship is a reciprocal one that involves leadership and training at all levels. The key relationships are “Platoon Leader to Platoon Sergeant,” “Company Commander to First Sergeant,” and “Battalion Commander to Command Sergeant Major.”

Leaders,
I have the honor of serving as your new Senior Military Instructor. Master Sergeant Levy spoke highly of this unit as part of his Army Family and after arriving here I can see why. Everyone is driven and works well together as a team. I am grateful for this opportunity to grow as an Army Leader with you.

My door will always be open. -MSG Christopher Cunningham

MSG Cunningham is from a family of twelve brothers and sisters from Whitingham, Vermont. He graduated from Twin Valley High school and joined the Army in December of 1998. He has worked in various units throughout the Army during his 17 years of service. His last duty position was as a Rifle Company First Sergeant in the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum. MSG Cunningham enjoys hiking, fishing, and shooting in his off time with his family. He is married to the former Holly Stewart of Whitingham. They have a son Hudson, two daughters Cecilia and Eleanor, and a dog Jenny.

ABOUT NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
A Non-Commissioned officer’s duties are numerous and must be taken seriously. An NCO’s duty includes taking care of Soldiers, which is the priority. Corporals and Sergeants do this by developing a genuine concern for their Soldiers’ well-being. Leaders must know and understand their Soldiers well enough to train them as individuals and teams to operate proficiently. This will give them confidence in their ability to perform well under the difficult and demanding conditions of battle. Individual training is the principle duty and responsibility of NCOs. No one in the Army has more to do with training Soldiers than NCOs. Well trained Soldiers will likely succeed and survive on the battlefield and will properly execute the tasks their NCOs give them. A good leader executes the boss’s decisions with energy and enthusiasm; looking at their Leader, Soldiers will believe the Leader thinks it’s absolutely the best possible solution. “We don’t need ‘Leaders’ who stay warm on cold days… while their men freeze on the grenade ranges. If they get cold, the leader ought to get just as cold. And when he marches back to the barracks with them after that kind of day, they know he is one of them.”

By Drill Sergeant Karl Baccene
No one is more professional than I. I am a Non-Commissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a Non-Commissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Non-Commissioned officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the military service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers. I will strive to remain technically and tactically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Non-Commissioned officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All Soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my Soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my Soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Non-Commissioned officers, leaders!

MSG Kovalchick

MSG Cunningham
Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET)

Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) is an intense four-week introduction to Army life and leadership training. The course aims to motivate and qualify Cadets for lateral entry into the Senior ROTC program and is designed for rising sophomore and junior college students. While attending CIET at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Cadets gain an experience that runs the gamut of Army life and the responsibilities of being an officer.

My CIET Experience by CDT Stephen Bissainthe

For thirty-one days this summer, I had the opportunity to attend Cadet Initial Entry Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Considering this was my first training event away from the familiarity of the UVM ROTC family I was admittedly a little nervous and uncertain as to what the coming month would bring. However, my doubts were assuaged by the fact that I knew the MacArthur Award winning Green Mountain Battalion had prepared me well for whatever Fort Knox could throw at me.

Not only was I prepared to meet the standards that were expected of the cadets during the training event but my preparation also gave me the confidence to exceed the standard on many occasions. A fellow member of the Green Mountain Battalion, Cadet Liam Brown (UVM ’18), was in both my platoon and squad. It was readily apparent that our training and preparation in the GMB led to our success in situational training lanes, classes, and the culminating field training exercise. What I cherished most was getting the opportunity to work closely with cadets from different schools all across the country. It was a great opportunity to network and add a diverse perspective to my preexisting military knowledge and ROTC experience.

There were many days throughout the month where my platoon and I faced challenges. The cadre at CIET put an emphasis on making sure we learned how to overcome these challenges and complete the tasks at hand. One of the methods of overcoming a challenge we were taught was to use the three C’s: confidence; composure; and concentration. I was able to implement this new tool during some of the events I initially thought were challenging and my confidence in my ability as a Cadet and as a future commissioned officer only grew with the successful completion of each task. I am eager to apply what I have learned here to my future Army career.
The U.S. Army's largest training exercise, the Cadet Leadership Course, is the U.S. Army Cadet Command's premier leadership development event and is held annually at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The purpose of the course is to teach U.S. Army ROTC Cadets Army standards, to develop their leadership skills, and to assess their potential as future officers. Most Army Cadets attend CLC between their junior and senior undergraduate years after contracting to join the Army. Successful completion of CLC is a prerequisite to becoming an Army officer through ROTC.

I began my cadet summer training on June 1st, 2016 with the very first regiment of this year’s Cadet Leadership Course. Throughout the school year my fellow MS3s and I prepared for this summer training event by learning and discussing a variety of topics. Despite this, the nature of CLC and the way it is organized still made it a challenging course. Back in Burlington the Junior year Cadets take on the role of executing the missions that our Cadre and Senior class (MS4s) put together. In doing so we develop, teach, and mentor the Freshman (MS1s) and Sophomores (MS2s). However, in the Cadet Leadership Course there are no MS1s or MS2s for us to mentor. Instead, we were placed in platoons made up entirely of our peer MS3s from across the nation. Working with peers is a unique challenge of its own, but is also a great learning opportunity. It teaches us to get to know the people we are working with and to utilize everyone’s individual strengths for the betterment of the collective unit. It was also a great opportunity to get to know new people and observe different leadership styles.

There were a few specific events throughout my month at Fort Knox that were most beneficial to my future career as an officer. These events made me learn something about myself and while also learning from the members of my platoon. The first was the Field Leadership Reaction Course (FLRC). This course emphasized teamwork, collaboration and trust at the squad level. After getting to know my squad for about 10 days I was placed in challenging scenarios with obstacles and time constraints that forced us to think quickly and act as a team to succeed. I truly learned the importance of trust from this fun and physically demanding event. Another challenging event was our time in the field. For two weeks we conducted simulated combat operations and were given different missions to conduct that tested our leadership and tactical skills, including key leader engagements, ambushes, and attacks. These tasks allowed us to develop critical thinking skills while continuing to work on leading and motivating our peers.

Graduating from the first regiment of CLC was an awesome feeling. Throughout my time in Kentucky I developed skills and built friendships that will stick with me well into my future Army career.
I was afforded the opportunity to attend an ROTC summer internship at the Center of Global Health Engagement (CGHE) associated with the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Maryland. CGHE is a DoD initiative that fosters an interagency approach to enhance partner nation disaster preparedness that facilitates long-term recovery, enables governmental self-sufficiency and encourages regional cooperation. The course is primarily targeted at second year medical students at USUHS and civilian interns who tend to possess a public health background. While there, I completed the Joint Humanitarian Operators Course, which covered the overarching strategy of how the US government responds to disasters, and the Military Medical Humanitarian Assistance Course, which focused on what health care providers can expect to encounter during a humanitarian crisis. The instructors of the course varied from US military physicians to the prior Minister of Health of Iraq. The personal experiences they shared from deployments and working with the US military gave me a completely new perspective on how the US should engage with a partner nation during medically related exercises or humanitarian assistance missions.
Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP)

ROTC Cadets travel to foreign nations through the CULP program each summer. The goal of CULP is to foster an environment of cooperation between the United States military and foreign nations’ militaries and their people. This year the Green Mountain Battalion sent Cadets all over the world on a variety of unique missions:

CDT Kyle Muhr (right) traveled to Tanzania where he taught English to local students and trained alongside cadets at the Tanzanian Military Academy.

CDT Hester’s (center) CULP trip took her to Thailand where she helped teach English to Cadets at the country’s military academy.

CDT Kiana Whitney (2nd from left) traveled to Panama where she learned jungle survival skills from the Panamanian border patrol forces and was able to test her Spanish speaking skills.

CDT Travis Deforge (center, holding flag) traveled to Montenegro where he conducted weapons and reconnaissance training with the Montenegrin Special Forces and mountaineering operations with the Montenegrin Mountain Company. His travels also included brief stops in Rome and Croatia.

CDT Michael Hall (far right) traveled to Mozambique where he trained at the country’s military academies for officers and NCOs. Additionally he spent time on his trip volunteering in local communities.
This summer I had the unique opportunity to complete a CULP mission in Romania, a country I will never forget. The idea of visiting an ex-Soviet and Eastern Bloc country effectively ruled by Communism until the early 1990s may surprise those who lived through the Cold War era. After my visit, I returned home with a sense of gratitude, appreciation, and admiration for the Romanian people. Their country has a rich history and the Romanians have thrived through the hardships associated with years of military conflict. This CULP trip was a truly remarkable experience. It was a very rewarding for me to visit a country that has been so significantly impacted by many of our world’s events.

My fellow Cadets and I engaged in cross-cultural training with Romanian Cadets from the Romanian Air Force Academy, that was named after Henri Coanda, the Romanian father of the modern jet engine. Our days typically began with a filling Romanian breakfast followed by engaging training conducted at the Air Force Academy alongside our Romanian counterparts. Every member of the team was responsible for preparing and presenting a briefing on a relevant topic of their choosing. I decided to conduct a briefing on the Syrian Refugee Crisis. I study Anthropology at UVM and recently wrote a term paper on this subject, so I knew this would be a perfect topic. The discussion and engagement that followed was an incredible opportunity to exchange perspectives on the topic and to learn how to view issues from multiple perspectives.

Our weekends were devoted to cultural immersion, which usually included travelling to significant cultural sites and learning the history of the people and their land. All in all, I could not be more grateful nor more thankful for the opportunity I was given this summer to gain valuable perspective from one of our increasingly significant allies and to grow not only as a future leader for our country, but as a person and a global citizen as well.
The United States Army Mountain Warfare School (AMWS) provides tactical and technical training for mountain warfare and cold weather operations. The AMWS is run by the Vermont Army National Guard and enables Soldiers to operate successfully using proven techniques derived from lessons learned by units currently engaged in mountain warfare. AMWS is located in the mountains of Jericho, Vermont at Camp Ethan Allen Training Site. This summer Cadets and alumni of the Green Mountain Battalion graduated from a variety of courses offered at the school.
As soon as the spring semester ended, I kicked off the summer with some great training at the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vermont. After having already taken the Basic Military Mountaineer Course last winter, I was given the chance to attend the Advanced Military Mountaineer Course. This fourteen-day course was taught in the Green Mountains of Vermont and White Mountains of New Hampshire and focused on molding Military Mountaineers into subject matter experts on maneuvering through mountainous environments.

One of the biggest challenges in the course was making the jump from only having done indoor rock climbing to lead climbing on actual cliff faces. After getting used to it, though, I found outdoor rock climbing to be more rewarding and have since used the skills to continue climbing recreationally.

One of the unique things about the course is that the instructors empower the students to make decisions based on their technical skills and knowledge. This represents an increased learning opportunity compared to the individual task accomplishment that is focused on in the Basic Mountaineering Course. The expert instructors at the Advanced Course acknowledge that there are many ways to accomplish a military mountaineering task. They taught us multiple techniques and trusted in our decision making in order to accomplish our assigned tasks. Our experience at that Assault Climber Course has set us up for future success as leaders in the operational Army.

**Assault Climber** by CDT Amirault

CDTs Leo McCarthy (left) and August Amirault (right) pose with MSG Levy (center) following their AMMC graduation (above) and CDT McCarthy works on his rock climbing skills (below)

| Three Cadets and one Alumnus graduated from the Basic Military Mountaineer Course |
| Dean Halbohn, Chris Murphy, Liam Brown, & Second Lieutenant Nick Selig |

| Four Cadets graduated from the Advanced Military Mountaineer Course |
| August Amirault, Leo McCarthy, Robert Motley, & Dylan MacDonough |

| Five Cadets graduated from the Mountain Planners Course |
| Travis Deforge, Kyle Elliott, Christopher Murphy, Kyle Muhr, and Connor Murray |
## The Class of 2017 Components

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Fall 2016 Events

11 September  
24 September  
30 September – 2 October  
14-16 October  
4 November  
5 November  
11 November

Vermont Remembers Run 11k  
Alumni Reception*  
Fall Training Exercise  
Ranger Challenge  
Record Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT)  
Fall Staff Ride  
Veterans Day Activities

*Family event—all are encouraged to attend

2016 Vermont Remembers 11K Run

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