WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL PARTY

INVOCATION BY
COLONEL (RET.) CARROLL OCKERT

REMARKS BY
THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE,
LTC JEREMY PITANIHELLO

REMARKS BY
CHARLES ZABRISKIE, JR,
ROTC ALUMNI MEMBER-AT-LARGE

REMARKS BY UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
PRESIDENT SURESH V. GARIMELLA

REMARKS BY THE GUEST SPEAKER,
GEN. (RET.) JOHN W. NICHOLSON JR

OATH OF OFFICE

NATIONAL GUARD OATH OF OFFICE

PINNING SECOND LIEUTENANT RANK

FIRST SALUTE CEREMONY

PLAYING OF THE ARMY SONG

BENEDICTION BY
COLONEL (RET.) CARROLL OCKERT

PRESENTATION OF
WADSWORTH RAMSEY SMITH AWARD
The History of ROTC at the University of Vermont

The University of Vermont has a long and proud history of military service. During the War of 1812, the University was closed in order to allow students and faculty to serve in the military. Buildings across campus were utilized as barracks for the troops guarding the Canadian-United States frontier. The Land Grant Act of 1866 initiated a military training program at UVM, providing male students with training in tactics and drill instruction. The United States government provided the university with 100 breech-loading muskets to support this training.

In 1874, Brevet Captain Frederick Robinson became the first Army officer assigned as the Professor of Military Science at UVM. However, from 1898 to 1903 there was no officer assigned to lead the training program, and the Cadet’s took the initiative to continue their military training themselves.

In the fall of 1913, the University of Vermont was one of the first Colleges selected to implement a “Students’ Army Training Course,” as a precursor to the National Defense Act of 1916 and the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. In 1921, UVM granted commissions to graduating Cadets for the first time, and between 1921 and 1943 nearly 500 UVM students received a commission in the United States Army.

The current battalion designation, “The Green Mountain Battalion,” was officially recognized in June 1986. The unit crest is a shield with the Catamount, UVM’s mascot, and the words “University of Vermont” scrolled across the bottom. The unit patch was approved by the Army’s Department of Heraldry and consists of a circular patch with a Catamount in front of a mountain scene, bordered by the words “Green Mountain Catamounts.”

Today, the University of Vermont Department of Military Studies serves as the host for students participating from five additional schools: Castleton University, Champlain College, Middlebury College, Saint Michael’s College and SUNY Plattsburgh.
Lieutenant Colonel
Jeremy F. Pitaniello

LTC Jeremy Pitaniello is the Professor of Military Science for the Green Mountain Battalion ROTC program headquartered in Burlington at the University of Vermont. He enlisted in 1998, and attended language training at the Presidio of Monterey in California. Upon graduating from the Presidio’s Serbian-Croatian language course, he served as a Voice Intercept Operator for the 501 Military Intelligence Battalion in Dexheim, Germany, during which he deployed in support of operation Kosovo Force (KFOR) at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo in 2000. He was commissioned in 2001 as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Field Artillery Corps.

LTC Pitaniello earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration from Castleton State College, Vermont, and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. He is a graduate of the Army Field Artillery Officers’ Basic Course, the Military Intelligence Officers’ Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), and the Junior Officer Career Cryptologic Program at the National Security Agency.

LTC Pitaniello has served in various command and staff positions throughout the Army during the past 22 years. His assignment history includes duty as a Mortar Platoon Leader and Fire Direction Officer with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 25th Infantry Brigade and Senior Intelligence and Security Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington; Chief of Operations, Meade Operations Center, Fort Meade, Maryland; Company Commander and Operations Officer for the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion in Aurora, Colorado; Senior Targeting Officer for the III Corps Intelligence Directorate in Fort Hood, Texas; Senior Operations Officer for the 719th Military Intelligence Battalion at Camp Humphreys, Korea; Division Collection Manager for the 25th Infantry Division and Senior Intelligence and Security Officer for the 25th Sustainment Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He has served in 7 overseas assignments to include 3 combat tours in Iraq, and 1 in Africa.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, 3 Joint Military Unit Awards, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal (with 2 stars), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Korea Defense Service Medal.
Master Sergeant
Christopher Cunningham

MSG Christopher Cunningham was born September 16th 1979. He is from a family of twelve where all of his brothers are or have served in the Military as Green Mountain Boys. He is a native of Whitingham, Vermont and graduated from Twin Valley High School in 1996.

MSG Cunningham enlisted in the United States Army in 1998 as an Infantryman with an Airborne Ranger contract. His first duty assignment was with the 1st Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia from 1999 until 2003. There he served in various positions from rifleman, senior gunner, and team leader. His first deployment was to Operation Bright Star in Egypt. He then deployed to Afghanistan twice with the Rangers in December 2001 and October of 2002. He graduated from Primary Leadership Development Course as the Leadership Awardee from Fort Stewart, GA in 2002. His next duty assignment was as a Team Leader with the Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 110th Military Intelligence BN, Fort Drum, NY. While there he deployed back to Afghanistan in October of 2003. In 2004 he was then assigned to C Troop, 3-71 Cavalry Reconnaissance Surveillance Target Acquisition Squadron as a Sniper Section Leader and Platoon Sergeant. He completed the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course on the Commandant’s List at Fort Benning, GA in 2005. He deployed again to Afghanistan in February of 2006. In 2008 he was assigned to the 6th Ranger Training Battalion on Eglin Air Force Base as a Primary Ranger Instructor and Operations NCOIC. His next assignment was as a Scout Platoon Sergeant with 1/87 Infantry in the 10th Mountain Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in January of 2013. He served as First Sergeant A Company, 2-22IN at 10th Mountain Division for 30 months and deployed his Company to Operation Inherent Resolve as the Security Forces NCOIC for Combined Joint Force Land Component Command – Iraq in Baghdad.

MSG Cunningham’s military and civilian education includes the Jumpmaster, Senior Tactics Instructor Course, Pathfinder, Sniper, Ranger School, OC-T Academy at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Airborne School.

MSG Cunningham has received numerous awards and decorations including the Silver Star, Bronze Star w/ Valor, Bronze Star (3 OLC), the Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (6 OLC) the Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award (1 OLC), the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award, the Order of Saint Maurice (Centurion) and Kuwaiti, Jordanian UAE, French, Italian, Greek, and Egyptian Foreign Jump Wings.
General (ret)
John W. Nicholson Jr

With over 36 years of active duty, General Nicholson’s six years in Afghanistan distinguish him as one of America’s most combat seasoned four-star generals. He is the longest-serving commander of the Afghan War, having led the 41-nation NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and United States Forces-Afghanistan for two and a half years. His leadership and close relations with Afghan leaders were key to brokering the first universal ceasefire in the 19-year war and helped enable the launch of the current peace initiative.

Prior to leading RSM, General Nicholson was Commander of NATO’s Allied Land Command based in Izmir, Turkey where he was responsible for commanding multiple NATO Corps in the event of large-scale war.

As an infantry officer, General Nicholson lead units at all levels, ultimately serving as Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division. He commanded companies in the 82nd Airborne and the 75th Ranger Regiment. He served as a Major in the 1st and 3rd Infantry (Mech) Divisions, as a Lieutenant Colonel commanding the “Tomahawks” 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and as a Colonel in the 10th Mountain Division where he commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, the “Spartans” for three years to include sixteen months in Afghanistan.

He is Adjunct Faculty at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School lecturing on leadership and a senior mentor for U.S. General Officers in the National Defense University CAPSTONE program.

General Nicholson earned a Bachelor’s in History from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy where he was the First Captain, Commander of the Corps of Cadets. He earned Masters degrees from the School for Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) and the National War College, and received Honorary Doctorate degrees from the Institute for World Politics and American University of Afghanistan.

He is a Ranger, Master Parachutist, Pathfinder, and has two awards of the Combat Infantryman’s Badge as well as numerous awards including the Bronze Star Medal with V Device for Valor. Among multiple international awards, he has been presented Afghanistan’s Amir Amanullah Khan Award, France’s Legion D’Honneur and Germany’s Knight Commander’s Cross, Great Cross with Star.

As President of the Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) Foundation, General Nicholson leads their effort to enable service members to serve our nation free of financial worry and for all veterans to realize financial stability and opportunity.
Suresh V. Garimella, Ph.D.
President
University of Vermont

University of Vermont president Suresh Garimella comes to Vermont from Purdue University, where he was Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering and an administrative leader in several roles focused on engagement and global affairs. As Purdue’s inaugural Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships, Dr. Garimella led a $660 million per year research enterprise, achieving five consecutive years of record research funding. He also oversaw Discovery Park, a unique set of facilities and institutes where disciplines converge to solve global challenges related to health and life sciences, sustainability, food, energy and defense, and security.

An active researcher and passionate educator and mentor, Dr. Garimella has made seminal contributions to the field of thermal management and energy efficiency at nano-scale in electronics systems, and in sustainable energy systems technology and policy. Co-author of over 500 publications and 13 patents, he was inducted as a Fellow into the National Academy of Inventors. He has applied his expertise to national and international issues, having served as a science advisor at the U.S. Department of State and as Senior Fellow for Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. Dr. Garimella is a member of the National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation and also serves as an independent body of advisers to both the President and Congress on policy matters related to science and engineering. He also serves on the seven-person research advisory board of Sandia National Laboratories.

Dr. Garimella was drawn to UVM as a land grant university in the home state of Senator Justin Morrill, creator of the land grant concept that links university and community. UVM’s new president considers the creation of the land grant university system to be one of the greatest and most successful experiments in higher education. Owing a debt of gratitude to public universities in his own life, Dr. Garimella is excited to now be leading UVM and reimagining the land grant mission for the 21st century.

For President Garimella’s full bio, please visit:
https://www.uvm.edu/president/president
Mr. Charles Zabriskie, Jr.
ROTC Alumni Member-at-Large
University of Vermont (‘53)

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, on October 9, 1930, Charles Zabriskie, Jr. was raised in Ridgewood, New Jersey, where he graduated from the community’s high school. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in banking and economics.

Commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation in 1953, he was activated and served during the Korean conflict. He spent a total of thirteen years on active duty and serving in active reserve units.

Mr. Zabriskie began his career with the Manufacturers National Bank in Detroit as a trainee in commercial lending and rose to vice president before accepting a new opportunity in Cleveland, Ohio with Central National Bank in 1963. In 1966 he joined Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. as a manager and became a partner in 1968. At the urging of Walter Hanson, Senior Managing Partner, he was assigned to London and later to Sydney as the U.S. representative to overview client relationships in the United Kingdom and Europe. In Sydney he traveled and worked with clients in New Zealand, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, and later in the Philippines and Hong Kong. With the retirement of the firm’s senior partner he joined a Wall Street Investment and underwriting firm known as Faulkner, Dawkins, and Sullivan; as executive vice president for underwriting and mergers and acquisitions (1971-1973).

In 1975 he founded an executive recruiting firm Charles Zabriskie Associates, Inc., and successfully operated this nationally known organization for almost twenty years.

In 2006 Mr. Zabriskie was appointed the first honorary commander for the Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Base by Lt Gen. Charles L. Johnson II. Within this capacity, Mr. Zabriskie was awarded the Civilian Distinguished Service Medal in 2000 by Stewart W. Wallace, MG. USA, Commander, US Army Cadet Command.

Mr. Zabriskie is married to Star Paris-Myles Zabriskie. The Zabriskies have two sons and reside in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.
A commission can be defined as a “formal written warrant or authority granting certain powers or privileges and authorizing or commanding the performance of certain acts or duties.” This definition, although comprehensive, does not adequately express the true essence of the responsibilities assumed by a military officer who directly and indirectly affects the lives and well-being of each of his or her Soldiers. An officer must be a good example and serve as a role model. An officer must be courageous, both physically and morally. An officer’s word must never be questioned because integrity is the essential attribute of an officer. Officers must take responsibility for their every action and accept the honest mistakes of their Soldiers as their own.

These are only a few of the special responsibilities inherited by an officer upon taking the oath of office. There is no better guide for an officer than the words of the former Chief of Staff of the Army, General Creighton Abrams, who said: “We need leaders who will bear a heavier load, go the extra mile, and step out into the darkness and unknown for the well-being and safety of others.”

Today these young men and women will follow a long, proud tradition and receive their commissions as Officers in the United States Army. The Citizens and Government of our great country place special trust and confidence in their future leadership and entrust to them our country’s greatest treasure – its volunteer Soldiers.
The Army Officer’s Oath

I, [State your name], having been appointed an Officer in the Army of the United States, in the grade of Second Lieutenant, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. That I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; so help me God.

National Guard Oath

I, [State your name], do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of [Declare your State] against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of [State your State], that I make this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Second Lieutenant in the Army National Guard of the State of [State your State] upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.
The First Salute

In keeping with American military tradition, the first enlisted Soldiers to salute our newly commissioned officers today will receive a silver dollar in return for their rendering of this time-honored military courtesy. The tradition associated with the hand salute has withstood the test of time, and it is a proud two-way form of communication between military personnel around the world.

The exact origin of the silver dollar awarding custom is arguable. Researchers suggest that it came from the British Regiments stationed in Colonial America. They brought with them a number of customs and traditions that were retained by the newly formed American units during and after the Revolution. For example, newly commissioned British officers were assigned an enlisted soldier to train them, teach them the Regiment’s history and traditions, and to ensure the officer’s kit, dress, field uniforms, and personal equipment were serviceable at all times. Grateful Lieutenants often showed their heartfelt gratitude by informally compensating the enlisted man with a small sum of money.

This custom continued to grow within the British military and newly formed American units. American Second Lieutenants, in 1816, received a monthly base pay of $25, a $3 ration allowance and $1 for their enlisted advisor. This advisor’s pay was later discontinued, but the responsibility for teaching the newly-commissioned officer continued. The enlisted Soldiers of our Army still shepherd and mentor our junior officers to great success within our ranks and the present day tradition of the presentation of a silver dollar for the first salute is thought to have its roots in this relationship.

The silver dollar is traditionally the only coin given in exchange for the first salute. The coin represents more than a dollar in currency. To every new officer, it has a special significance. It represents the symbolic receipt of respect due a newly earned rank and position and honors the significance of the selfless service of all servicemen in the line of military duty.
The Wadsworth Ramsay Smith Award was established in 1947 by Mrs. Margaret Smith in memory of her late husband, Wadsworth Ramsay Smith. The saber and epaulets on display in UVM’s Adams House, were worn by the late General Joseph Rowe Smith, Medical Corps, United States Army. The saber belonged to Brigadier General Joseph Rowe Smith Jr., born at the Madison Barracks, Madison, New York, on 18 April 1831. After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1848 and earning a degree in medicine at the University of Buffalo, Joseph Smith took a commission in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant in 1854. Serving with distinction in the Indian Campaigns prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. During the Civil War, LT Smith served as an assistant surgeon. In May of 1861, the Lieutenant and his fellow medical officers were captured by Confederate troops at an Army Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. After a prisoner exchange in 1862, LT Smith was promoted to Captain and assigned to the Georgetown Army Hospital as the commanding officer. By July of 1863, CPT Smith was re-assigned as the Chief Assistant to the Surgeon General’s office and promoted to the rank of Major. By a General Order from President Lincoln in February 1865, MAJ Smith was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel becoming the Surgeon General and Medical Director of the U.S. Army. LTC Smith was twice breveted: once for meritorious service and once for superior ability and excellent management of his department. He retired from the Army in 1904 at the rank of Brigadier General. BG Smith died of pneumonia in 1911 in his home in Washington D.C. as a bachelor.

Wadsworth Ramsey Smith was the son of BG Smith’s younger brother, LTC Henry Warren Smith. LTC Smith was born on 13 September 1836 and died of pneumonia on 8 March, 1869 while serving with the 3rd U.S. Cavalry at Fort Stanton, New Mexico. LTC Smith served as the Assistant Adjutant General during the Civil War and on 17 April 1865 was the arresting officer of Mrs. Mary Surratt and Lewis Powell (AKA Lewis Payne), co-conspirators of the assassination of President Lincoln.

Wadsworth Smith was born 8 July 1864 in Washington D.C. After the death of his father in 1869, Wadsworth and his mother were taken in by BG Smith. In the early 19th century, Wadsworth married Margaret L.H. Smith, taking up residence in Burlington, Vermont, where they maintained a small farm, known as “The Bittersweet Farm” at 616 South Willard Street. On 4 February 1918 Wadsworth died in a car accident on Bank Street. In 1928, Margaret moved to 151 South Prospect Street where she opened the Bittersweet Tea Room. Margaret donated the house, and BG Smith’s saber and epaulets to the University of Vermont in 1961, with the provision that she be able to operate the tea room and reside in the house until her death, which occurred in 1979.

The Wadsworth Ramsay Smith Saber Award is presented to a Second Lieutenant who has displayed high aptitude and achievement in Military Science and extraordinary qualities of leadership, knowledge and, most importantly, commitment to our organization throughout the course of his or her tenure with the Green Mountain Battalion ROTC program. Each year, the senior class nominates one of their classmates who they feel is most deserving of the Award. The recipient receives an engraved saber and scabbard.
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<th>Commission Status</th>
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*Expected to commission Summer 2020*
The Army Song

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We’re the Army and proud of our name!
We’re the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation’s might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting ‘till the battle’s won,
And the Army goes rolling along.

Then it’s hi! hi! hey!
The Army’s on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where're we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.