The University Of Vermont
Green Mountain Battalion

CADET AWARDS CEREMONY
24 April 2020
Opening Ceremony
Awards Presentation
Closing Ceremony
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.
The Pallas Athene Award is presented each year by the Women’s Army Corps Veterans Association. The award recognizes the top two outstanding MS IV female Cadets in US Army Cadet Command (USACC). The outstanding Cadet, as nominated by the Battalion Cadre and selected by the United States Army Cadet Command, will have successfully completed the National Advanced Leadership Camp, and is in the top 50% of her Military Studies and academic courses.

**Nominated Cadet Hunter Graham**

Society ROTC Award of Merit, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) is presented to an MS III or IV Cadet, as nominated by the Battalion Cadre with endorsement from the Cadet’s Dean of Engineering and selected by the SAME, who is in the top 25% of his/her Engineering class and has a B average in Math, Science and Engineering courses.

**Nominated Cadet Peter Bailey**

The American Legion Military Scholastic Award is presented to one Junior Cadet and one Senior Cadet who are in the top 25% of his or her respective ROTC academic class and has demonstrated outstanding qualities in leadership, discipline and character and participates in community activities or sports.

**Cadets Patrick Barrett and Hunter Graham**

The American Legion Military Excellence Award is presented to one Junior Cadet and one Senior Cadet who are in the top 25% of his or her respective ROTC academic class and has demonstrated outstanding qualities in leadership, discipline and character.

**Cadets Daniel Borbely and Joshua Sickles**
Awards

The American Veterans ROTC Recognition Award is presented to a Cadet in good military and scholastic standing who demonstrates outstanding leadership attributes

*Cadet Ryan Hester*

The Association of the United States Army Award is presented annually to recognize outstanding leadership and academic achievement. The recipient of this award shall be in the top 10% of the class in ROTC grades; and shall be in the top 25% of the class in general academic grades.

*Cadet Alec Wilson*

The Daughters of the American Revolution Award is presented for outstanding demonstration of Loyalty and Patriotism.

*Cadet Richard Parlato*

General Society of the War of 1812 is awarded annually to a Cadet consistently demonstrating the highest moral character while conducting leadership responsibilities.

*Cadet Liam Hoagland*

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award is presented to a Cadet who holds a primary leadership position in ROTC, maintains a high academic GPA, and is active in extracurricular and community affairs.

*Cadet Thomas Sheboy*
A w a r d s

The Military Order of the World Wars is presented to Cadets performing above and beyond the expectations of their current rank and grade, to outstanding Cadets in the MS I, MS II, and MS III classes.

*Bronze Award: Cadet Ryan Whitney*
*Silver Award: Cadet Max Duffield*
*Gold Award: Cadet Justin Ranalli*

The National Sojourners Award is presented in recognition of the highest attributes of Americanism and support of the United States to a Sophomore or Junior Cadet who is in the top 25% of his or her respective academic class.

*Cadet Connor MacDonald*

The Reserve Officer’s Association Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards presented by the Reserve Officers’ Association Department of Vermont, is presented each year to Cadets who have demonstrated outstanding competence in the art and science of national defense and who have provided meritorious contributions to the common good of the Reserve Officers’ Training Program.

*Bronze Award: Cadet Brenna Kerin*
*Silver Award: Cadet Hunter Anderson*
*Gold Award: Cadet Robert Bognar*

Sons of the American Revolution Silver ROTC Medal is presented to a single first-year Cadet in recognition of superior leadership abilities and accomplishments, military bearing, and overall excellence. This superior ROTC Cadet exemplifies the high ideals and principles which have motivated and sustained our patriotic ancestors throughout our Nation’s great history.

*Cadet Katelyn Pokorny*
Awards

Veterans of Foreign Wars Award is presented to Cadets in good academic and military standing with demonstrated achievement and concentrated effort in military and academic subjects, demonstrated capability in ROTC activities.

*Cadets Nicholas Welsh, Alexandra Goodnow, Abbey Lussier, and Brian Schwarzkopf*

The Book Award presented by the North Country Uniformed Services Association, recognizes one Cadet annually for their overall commitment to our team and potential for a high level of future service. The recipient will receive a book from the North Country USA in honor of their performance.

*Cadet Brian Schwarzkopf*

The Military Officers Association of America, presented by the MOACV, is awarded to the Cadet who has demonstrated great potential for military leadership as a member of ROTC.

*Cadet Philip Rich*

National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) is presented to an MS-III Cadet enrolled in an academic course, the main portion of which is of particular interest to the Transportation Corps. (Engineering and Computer Science majors are included in this category.). Top 25 percent in ROTC and academic standing at the program. Recommended by PMS as an outstanding student and Cadet.

*Cadet Nicholas McDonough*
Awards

The United States Army Association Spirit Award is presented annually to a single Cadet for true Esprit de Corps and a spirit of service to ROTC, our community and the nation.

_Cadet Garrett Edwards_

U.S. Daughters of 1812- Commodore Thomas Macdonough Chapter Award is presented to an MS III or IV who has demonstrated qualities of academic excellence, leadership, military discipline, dependability, patriotism, upright character in speech & habits, which exemplify the ideals upon which our nation was founded.

_Cadet Chloe Bullock_

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Award and scholarship is presented to an outstanding Cadet in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) major.

_Cadet Marshal Pesaturo_

The Battalion Commander’s Award for Community Service is awarded to the Cadet who does the most to support the community.

_Cadet Anthony Baiungo_
Awards

The George C. Marshall Award is presented annually by the Marshall Foundation to the most outstanding Cadet in the Senior class as nominated by the Battalion Cadre and selected by the United States Army Cadet Command. Each of the ROTC battalions throughout our country nominates its model graduating Cadet who best emulates the principles of leadership and scholastic excellence as demonstrated by General George C. Marshall.

Cadet Joshua Sickles

The SGT York Award is presented to the Cadet who does the most to support the ROTC program.

Cadet John Zanin

The Distinguished Military Graduate is presented to Cadets who possess outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character; exhibit a definite aptitude for and interest in military service; attain a military science standing in the upper third of his or her ROTC class and are ranked in the upper third by Order of Merit List as established by the Professor of Military Science.

Top 10% Distinguished Military Graduates:
Cadets Hunter Graham, Ryan Kennedy, and Nicholas McDonough

Distinguished Military Graduate:
Cadets Richard Parlato, Elsie Pryor, Brian Schwarzkopf
The Department of the Army Superior Cadet Decoration

**Cadet Command Award** is presented to one of the most well-rounded and highest performing Cadets in each class. The recipient Cadets must be fully contracted to serve as a future Second Lieutenant upon graduation and in the top 25% of their respective class with clearly demonstrated potential for future service as an officer.

*Cadets John Lynch, Teagan Poliseno
Peter Bailey and Timothy Faulkner*

The Zabriskie Cup is awarded in honor of Mr. Charles Zabriskie, Jr. an alumnus from the class of 1953, who has had an incredibly positive lasting effect on the Green Mountain Battalion. His generous effort to promote the importance of both academics and physical fitness remind us of what it takes to be a truly professional officer in the United States Army. The Zabriskie Cup is awarded to the Cadet with the highest level of scholastic achievement, athleticism, and demonstrated leadership potential.

*Cadet Peter Bailey*

The Cadet of the Year Award for the most outstanding Cadet leadership performance throughout this past academic year is presented to the most valuable Cadet whose efforts have most greatly contributed to overall mission success for the Green Mountain Battalion family.

*Cadet Ryan Kennedy*
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
Command Sergeant Major Gregory Caywood is a native of Greenup, Illinois and he enlisted in the Army in November 1995. He attended basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma as a forward observer.

He has served in every leadership position from platoon forward observer to Battalion CSM. His stateside assignments include Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Irwin, California, Fort Drum, New York, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Riley, Kansas. His overseas assignment was Schofield Barracks, Hawai‘i. He has deployed three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

CSM Caywood’s military education includes: the Warrior Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Joint Fires Powers Course, Observer/Controller Course, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System Users Course, Senior Leaders Course, Information Operations Course, NCO Battle Staff Course, Precision Fires Targeting Course, the Strategic Studies Fellowship at the University of North Carolina, the Master Resilience Trainer Course, the Jungle Operations Training Course, and a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Course, Class 67. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College and a Master’s degree in international relations from Webster University.

CSM Caywood’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (2nd Award), the Meritorious Service Medal (6th Award), the Army Commendation Medal (4th award), the Army Achievement Medal (6th award), the parachutist badge, and the combat action badge.
LTC Jeremy Pitaniello is the Professor of Military Science for the Green Mountain Battalion ROTC program at the University of Vermont. He enlisted in 1998 and attended Serbian-Croatian language training at the Presidio of Monterey in California. Upon graduation he served as a Voice Intercept Operator for the 501 Military Intelligence Battalion in Daxheim, 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.
Christopher Cunningham
Master Sergeant

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.
CADRE and STAFF

Professor of Military Science: LTC Jeremy Pitaniello
Senior Military Instructor: MSG Christopher Cunningham
Executive Officer/VTNG Liaison: MAJ Kevin Elmer
Operations Officer: CPT Wesley Champlain
Sustainment Officer: CPT Patrick Harvey
Operations NCO: MSG Matthew Lally
Sustainment NCO: SFC Wesley Faulkner
Military Science Instructor/Contractor: Mr. Dillon Bissell
Recruiting Operations Officer: LTC (retired) Michael Palaza
Human Resource Assistant: Mr. Christopher Cwieka
Office Support Specialist: Ms. Valerie Pallotta

CADETS

Cadet Battalion Commander: Ryan Kennedy
Cadet Command Sergeant Major: Elizabeth Campo
Cadet Executive Officer: Hunter Graham
Cadet S1: John Zanin
Cadet S2: Elsie Pryor
Cadet S3: Richard Parlato, Robert Bognar
Cadet S4: Brian Schwarzkopf, Emma Mathisen
Cadet S5: Anthony Baiungo, Joshua Sickles
Cadet S6: Calli Van Gorden
Cadet Company Commander: Garrett Edwards
Cadet Surgeon: Timothy Faulkner
We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. & Mrs. Charles Zabriskie, Jr. and the Green Mountain Battalion Alumni Association for their continued support of our program.

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