

# THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BULLETIN

Fall 2023

*THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION VISION:* BECOME THE TOP ROTC BATTALION IN THE NATION BY PRODUCING COMPETENT ADAPTIVE **LEADERS** OF CHARACTER- GROUNDED IN TEAMWORK AND THE ARMY VALUES; NURTURED BY AN OVERALL CLIMATE WHERE **CADRE** AND **CADETS** ARE **VALUED**, **CHALLENGED**, AND ARE **PROUD** MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN BUFFALO BATTALION.

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## Fall 2023 Wrapped Up

Friends, Family, and Alumni of the Golden Buffalo Battalion—We hope you enjoy this edition of the Golden Buffalo Bulletin!

## Special 9/11 PT Session

Cadets rose to the occasion and decided to create a special Monday morning physical training session to honor those heroes who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks. A few Second Lieutenants came back to their alma-mater to assist with this special PT session. CPT Andrew “Drew” Dahm (sp 2018) and 2LT David Gorman (su 2022) both took leave from their current U.S. Army assignments to participate.

The Cadets also wanted to honor LTC Aaron Roof who passed away last November. LTC Roof apparently loved to run stairs in full ruck gear. So, in his honor, those Cadets who elected to run in full gear, ran the Stadium bleacher stairs several times.



ACO CADETS 9/11 HEROS AND LTC ROOF PT SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

2023 Fall Commissionee and CU Football Player – 2LT Evan Kistler

Back in spring 2023, Kistler was asked to join the Division 1 CU-Boulder football team for the fall (playing every game). He also played Club Rugby and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Plus he continuously worked at Trader Joes all 4-years of college. He graduated with a BA in Integrative Physiology and commissioned as an active-duty officer in the Medical Services Corps.



## First Color Guard

The Army ROTC – Department of Military Science provided a Color Guard Unit for the Saturday, September 16th CU home football game against CSU. The colors were displayed during the half-time event on Folsom Field. The AROTC Color Guard consists of two rifle and three flag carriers.

Representing the Golden Buffalo Battalion, Army ROTC Color Guard are the following Cadets: [from left to right] CDT Daniel Mun (rifle carrier), CDT Zack Xu (U.S. flag carrier), CDT Jackson Leache (Colorado flag carrier), CDT Jaxon Monroe (Army flag carrier), and CDT David Morehouse (rifle carrier).



*COLOR GUARD CADETS PREPARE TO TAKE THE COLORS ONTO FOLSOM FIELD FOR THE HOME FOOTBALL GAME ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2023.*

## Stadium Clean-up

Just five hours after the CU Buffaloes football team squeezed out a win over the Colorado State Rams, the Cadets from the Army ROTC Golden Buffalo Battalion showed up in force to clean-up the stadium.

This year (due to certain vendor constraints), the Cadets only had to deal with two bags to throw everything into. After a quick briefing from the Asst Athletic Director of Stadium Operations, the Cadets grabbed bags, donned latex gloves, and got to work.



*ARMY ROTC CADETS WORK TOGETHER TO PICK-UP REFUSE FROM THE STANDS.*

CU Athletics contracts on an annual basis with the three CU ROTC units on campus (Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marines) to conduct the Stadium Clean-ups each football season. The clean-up includes inside the Folsom Stadium stands, the Franklin Field tailgate lot and the perimeter around the Stadium. Each ROTC unit is assigned two of the six total home games on the schedule. The Army ROTC department uses the money received from the clean-ups to fund equipment purchases, program enrichment and Cadet related events. The entire operation typically takes about 4-5 hours.

The Army ROTC Golden Buffalo Battalion would like to thank the CU Athletics Department for providing this “fundraising” opportunity.

## Cadets At Kickoff Show

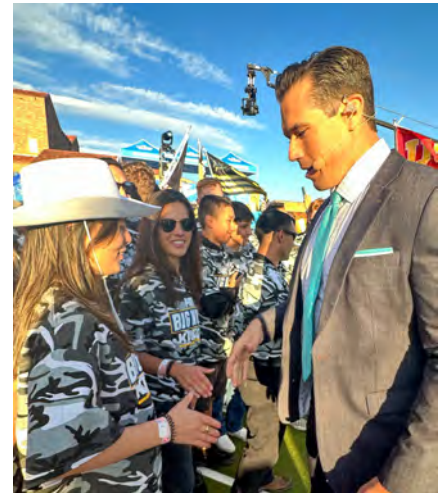
Our Army ROTC Cadets were invited to join the hosts of the Fox Sports Big Noon Kickoff Show for breakfast and a meet-n-greet before the CU Buff's home football game against USC on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

Our Cadets were ecstatic to be given the opportunity to meet the Fox hosts and actually participate on the live television broadcast during the noon kickoff show. 45 Cadets were able to attend and all received a black and white camo t-shirt with the Fox Big Noon Kickoff logo on the front.



CADET SELFIE TAKEN AT THE FOX SPORTS BIG NOON KICKOFF SHOW.

Brady Quinn, College Football Analyst shook the hands of the Cadets that were lined up along the small Wendy's football field below the host's broadcast panel set. Cadets also met the rest of the broadcasters, including Mark Ingram II, Matt Leinart, Reggie Bush, Urban Meyer, and Rob Stone.



CADETS MEETING BRADY QUINN.

## Annual Tri-Mil Competition

Again this year, the weather could not have been better – sunny with about a high of 70 degrees, for the annual Tri-Military Competition. Where

all three military ROTC departments compete on campus (Army, Air Force and Navy/Marines) – Farrand Field – October 05, 2023.



ACO CADETS WORK TOGETHER DURING THE SANDBAG CARRY.

From the get-go the Army ROTC's three competing teams gave it all they had to continue their winning streak. But, with such fierce competition, from both the Air Force and Navy/Marines teams, it just wasn't their year. In the end, the first team from Navy/Marines ROTC came out the top points winner. So, the Tri-Mil trophy will be displayed in their Midshipmen Ward Room/Lounge until next year.

The events for this year were the sprint-drag-carry (95 lbs weight drag, 2-10 lbs kettlebell run, 90 lbs sandbag carry). Following the circuit event came the pugil stick matches and the tug-of-war.

## Fall Leader Development Exercise (LDX)



*ARMY ROTC CADETS RECEIVE SQUAD INSTRUCTIONS FOR A QUICK MOVE-OUT AND REPOSITION PATROL BASE FRONT LINE.*

squad and platoon level movements, and patrol base operations.

All maneuvers were executed to fulfill the requirements laid out by Cadet Command. Cadets were able to experience the simulated scenarios in a realistic / hands-on manner. This type of “in-the-field” exposure to army combat techniques and unit exercises aid in the overall knowledge and leadership each Cadet builds within themselves. The MSIII Cadets use what they have learned here and apply it to their mandatory Cadet Summer Training (CST) that happens between their junior and senior year.



*CADETS RECEIVE UPDATED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NEXT EXERCISE.*

Army ROTC Cadets from the Golden Buffalo Battalion trekked down to the Jack's Valley Training Area at the U.S. Air Force Academy again to conduct their annual fall Leader Development Exercise (LDX) on Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, October 21, 2023.

This year's LDX was conducted under a modified timeframe and around a more thorough task specific training plan with only the MSIII (junior) and MSIV (senior) Cadets present. Cadets started the training with a written and field evaluation to test each Cadets knowledge and skills with land navigation. Once all Cadets mastered land navigation, they transitioned over to reviewing and planning different squad and combat tactical exercises that were mission specific. Numerous training lanes were coordinated to demonstrate, company,

## Army/Navy Flag Football Game

December 5, 2023 was the perfect day for a friendly game of flag football between Army ROTC and Navy ROTC. This year marked the third time these two ROTC units came together on the field. A huge thanks to the CU Athletic Department for giving the ROTC units permission to play on Folsom Field itself. Both teams most definitely brought their “A” game for this event.



ARMY/NAVY FLAG FOOTBALL GAME ON DECEMBER 5, 2023.

Navy received the ball first and moved down the field quickly to score the first touchdown. But they were unsuccessful with their 2-point conversion attempt. Army got their turn at the ball starting from the 10-yard line. They strategically moved the ball down the field to the end zone for 6 points. Army then ran it in again for the 2-point conversion. The score was Army 8 / Navy 6.

Navy and Army both scored another touchdown along with a 2-point conversion, so Army was on top again 16 to 14.

The game continued through the third quarter without another score from either team. With only 4 minutes remaining in the last quarter, Navy pulled out a miracle throw to an open receiver in the end zone. Followed by a completed 2-point conversion, this brought the game score to Army 16 / Navy 22. The game clock was down to the 2-minute warning with Army in possession. Again, the Army team was unrattled by this turn of events. They swiftly managed to move the ball down the opposite direction of the field, resulting in a short spiral throw an open Cadet in the far-right corner of the end zone. The score was now Army 22 / Navy 22 with only 30 seconds left in the game. Army effortlessly finished the drive with another 2-points. Army was now up 24 to 22.

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Summer Opportunity  
CAIT (AASLT) Experience  
By CDT Benjamin Morehart



CDT MOREHART POSING WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER DURING GRADUATION FROM SUMMER CAIT – AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL AT WEST POINT.

*The 10-day Summer Air Assault School was, at this point, one of the greatest experiences of my life. CU AROTC prepared me for all the physical, mental, and educational challenges I faced. We were pushed to our limits with constant exercising, a strict obstacle course where we had to overcome both physical and mental barriers, a 2- and 4-mile run, a 6- and 12-mile ruck, multiple written tests on different chapters of the Air Assault Handbook, hours of hands-on instruction covering sling-loads to attach to helicopters and rappelling out of hovering helicopters, and numerous hands-on tests to prove our retained knowledge.*

*My experience taught me more about my profession and improved my networking with my fellow leaders and soon-to-be fellow LTs. The biggest improvement to my leadership from my time there was my discipline. Air Assault taught me to put 100% of my effort into everything I work on. Along with discipline came improvements to my military and professional bearing, mental agility, and the ability to maintain a positive environment in the toughest of situations. On top of everything, it was fun and it will be an experience I remember for the rest of my career and beyond.*



ARMY/NAVY FLAG FOOTBALL TROPHY.

With the ball back into Navy hands, a last attempt was made to put more points on the board. The ball was snapped to the Navy quarterback, who proceeded to toss the ball into heavy coverage. Luckily, Army had a Cadet who had positioned himself in the perfect spot to make an easy interception. Resulting in the last play of the game since the play clock was down to zero.

The final score was Army 24 / Navy 22. Good job Cadets on a well-deserved win over Navy. The winning trophy (example shown on the left) will now sit in the Army ROTC's Cadet Lounge until these two ROTC units face off against each other next December.

Overall score: Navy ROTC 2 / Army ROTC 1.

## Fall Commissioning

The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (Golden Buffalo Battalion) commissioned a total of seven Cadets this fall 2023. Alpha Company at CU-Boulder commissioned five Cadets, Bravo Company at the Colorado

School of Mines commissioned one Cadet, and Charlie Company at the Metropolitan State University of Denver commissioned one Cadet (who actually graduated from CU-Denver).



ACO ARMY ROTC FALL 2023 COMMISSIONEES [LEFT TO RIGHT]: 2LT ISAAC MUN, 2LT EVAN KISTLER, 2LT RYAN KOWALCZYK, 2LT WYATT BOHREN, AND 2LT COURTNEY LUCAS.

The new Second Lieutenants were assigned to a variety of different branches, including Field Artillery, Military Intelligence, Infantry, Signal, Adjutant General, and Medical Services Corps.

The Cadets were sworn in by a ranking Cadre member, friend, or family member; along with their rank pinned onto their uniform by a chosen family member or friend. The final act of commissioning was to give the first "Silver Dollar Salute" to a Non-Commissioned Officer of their choosing.



BCO AND CCO COMMISSIONEES FALL 2023: [LEFT TO RIGHT] CPT NATE ILLIES, 2LT PETER ADAMS, MSG JOSH NEARHOOF, 2LT JONATHAN CATTAN, AND MAJ AUSTIN WESLEY.



## Contact Us

### The Golden Buffalo Battalion

Visit us on the web:

<https://www.colorado.edu/arotc>

<http://inside.mines.edu/MIL-Home>

<https://www.msudenver.edu/arotc/>

Facebook:

The Golden Buffalo Battalion



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@golden\_buffalo\_battalion



## Program Support

Our Cadets rely on your generous donations to help offset costs associated with events such as Commissioning and Awards ceremonies, annual Dining-Out, Military Appreciation/Veteran's Day events, leadership labs, orientation events, Cadet participation in Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March, and summer leadership training programs. Without your support, we would not be able to take advantage of these great developmental opportunities for our aspiring officers. To donate online, please visit

<https://giving.cu.edu/fund/army-rotc-program-fund-cu-boulder>

## Special Thanks

The Fall 2023 Golden Buffalo Bulletin would not be possible without the following individuals:

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*Photos courtesy of the Golden Buffalo Battalion, CPT Chris Head, CPT Nathan Illies, CDT William Vlad*

