



# Life as a Cadet in the Maverick Battalion Army ROTC

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## Become an Officer in the U.S Army



Life as an ROTC student is not that of a typical college student. You will be challenged physically and mentally over your time in the program. You will also gain leadership experience and knowledge that will give you a competitive edge and personal confidence that will last your whole life. Inside this newsletter, you will get an idea of what a Cadet does throughout the program, and throughout their day. If you feel like you were made for something more than being a typical college student, and you want to grow as a leader and scholar, this is the program for you, the Reserve Officer Training Corps at MSU Mankato.

## No Military Obligation to Experience the Program

If you are not sure ROTC is for you, the Military Science courses in the first two years (MSL 111/112 and 211/212) of the program, are open for you to try. You can participate in all ROTC-related events and then make your decision if you want to sign a contract to commit to becoming an Officer and a leader in the Army. Even if you decide not to contract, the experiences you will have in ROTC will help you with whatever career path you choose in your life.

## Having Fun

ROTC is not just about military training and discipline. It is a place to meet people on campus, develop friendships, and participate in volunteer activities that support the local community. You will undoubtedly have a fun time playing paintball, rappelling off towers, and playing ROTC-sponsored intramural sports. There are many ways to get involved, and it will be something different than the typical college life.



# Physical Training

## Staying Fit in Today's Operational Environment

As a Cadet training to become an Officer, you will learn that physical fitness is one of the most important aspects of your training. Monday through Thursday bright and early at 0600, you will meet up with your classmates and learn how to lead others in physical fitness training (PT). You will do combinations of running, push-ups, sit-ups and competitive games and drills like you would do on a sporting team.



## The PT Test

Three times a semester, you will test your physical fitness ability by taking part in the Army's official PT event. This test will measure your muscular and aerobic fitness. You will do a two-minute push-up event, a two-minute sit-up event, and a two-mile run event. You will be rated according to your age, and that score will determine if you have what it takes to be an officer. Don't worry though, you only take one test that goes on the record, and that is the last test of the semester, after you have been working out all semester.



## Broomball

During the Fall Semester, you will get a chance to show your skills on the ice rink where the Maverick hockey team plays at the Verizon Wireless Center for the annual Maverick Battalion Broomball game. It is just for fun, but it gets competitive, so practice your stick handling before the game.



# Leadership Labs

## Learn to Lead: Your MSI and MSII Year

Every Thursday evening, you will get a chance to experience leadership in action. Cadets who are further along in the program, will be leading simulated missions based on real-world military scenarios. You will be part of their squad or team, and they will lead you through the mission. These missions take place on campus in a wooded environment which is perfect for training. Some schools have to do their training in parking lots which limits the training quality. You will be part of one of the fortunate ROTC programs with a fully-functional training environment.



## Your MSIII Year

If you choose to stay in the program, you will be leading the missions, and your time in the classroom will prepare you for it. An expert instructor will make sure you understand the tactics, and teach you the tools of the trade to be successful. The instructor is a non-commissioned officer (NCO), and has experienced what he is teaching first hand over his

time in the Army. These are not your run-and-gun speed ball tactics, these are true-to-life U.S Army warfighting strategies. As a leader, you will develop a plan for the mission, brief your plan to your squad and lead them every step of the way. There is no feeling quite like the feeling of being solely responsible for the success or failure of a complex battle plan, and seeing your plan come to fruition.

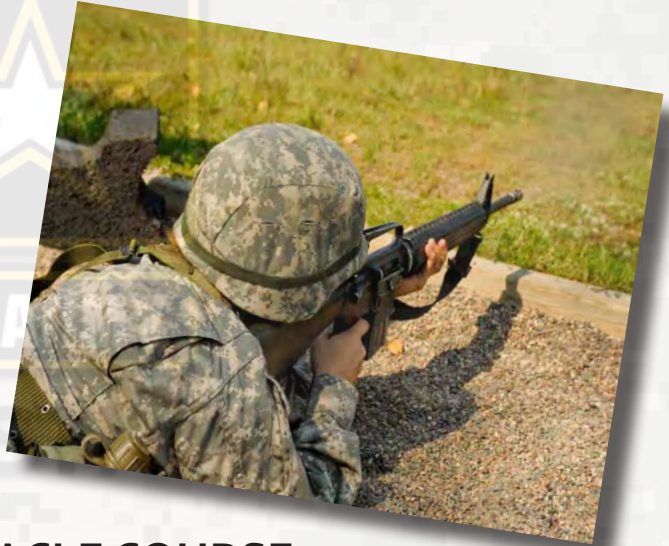


# Field Training Exercises

## FTX

Twice a year, you will participate in a Field Training Exercise. These training weekends are held at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, about 3 hours from Mankato. There is a Fall semester and Spring semester FTX. The Fall semester is more about having fun and team building. The Spring FTX is like a large-scale lead lab to prepare the MSIII's for LDAC. Here are some of the things you will do at the Fall FTX:

**WEAPONS TRAINING** - Have you ever wanted to fire an M16? Well, you came to the right place. You will learn how to hold the weapon properly, the fundamentals of marksmanship, and fire at targets on an actual firing range at Camp Ripley. The same range National Guard Soldiers use.



## OBSTACLE COURSE

Jump over rolling logs, climb across monkey bars, and test your physical strength at the military-grade obstacle course. You will run through with your squad and you will be timed, the team with the best time gets bragging rights.



## GRENADE COURSE

Learn how to arm and throw an M67 fragmentation grenade. Once you have mastered the techniques, you will test your newly learned skills on a course under stress (because you are running through the course). It is not a live grenade, but they are simulated ones that make a satisfying "pop!", the same ones the Army uses to train.



# Leadership Development and Assessment Course

## LDAC

The Leadership Development and Assessment Course conducted at Fort Lewis, Washington, is your final test in becoming an Army Officer. You will attend LDAC after your final MSIII semester during the summer. You have studied hard in class, trained hard in the field and you have pushed your limits at PT. After 6 semesters of preparation and learning leadership, you are ready for the final course of ROTC. The course is 30 days long and you must pass to commission. There are opportunities to re-take the course because of unforeseen circumstances such as illness, injury, or family emergency. After LDAC, you only have one more school year before commissioning as an Army Officer.

*At LDAC you will:*

### Hold Leadership Positions

*Garrison Leadership* - You will be in charge at least two times in what is called a “garrison” environment. Leading in Garrison is non-tactical but still requires you to be disciplined and develop effective plans so that the day runs smoothly. This means you will lead a squad, platoon, or company in some capacity to ensure your people are where they need to be, and the day goes according to plan. LDAC is a student-run course, so you and your peers will develop orders and the plans for each day and mission, with supervision.

*Squad Tactical Leadership* - As a tactical squad leader, you will plan and lead operations similar to the ones you already had practice with during lead lab on campus. They are held during the “STX” (squad tactical exercise) phase which is the last major phase of LDAC. LDAC consists of 6 days of missions through a wooded environment, it is a lot of fun and you will see how much you learned and will be surprised at what you are capable of. You will get three of these evaluations, and they will be added to your total performance packet for LDAC.



# LDAC Continued

## *Zodiac Raft course, Rappelling, and other valuable training*

At LDAC you realize your potential as a person and as a leader. You and your squad will be required to go through a Zodiac raft course where you will have to work as a team to get the raft around obstacles placed in a lake, and overcome a tip-over in the middle of the lake. Without proper teamwork, you will not make it through the course! You will be trained on the latest medical knowledge from the Army, weapons familiarization, and more.

## *Overcome your fears*

As a leader, you will sometimes be put in positions where fear may affect your leadership ability. So, at LDAC, you will scale high obstacle courses and drop from a rope into a lake 20 feet below you. It will be an exhilarating and rewarding experience.

## *Graduation*

After 30 days of training and showing your leadership abilities, you will graduate from LDAC and be one step closer to becoming an officer.



# Cadet Life

## Cadet Lounge

One of the benefits of being an ROTC student, is you get your own place to study, or just hang out with your friends in between classes. The lounge is equipped with a flat screen TV, a fooseball table, an Xbox 360, and brand new Dell computers for your use. You may print from the lounge also if you are working on an assignment.



## The Military Science Department

Located a quick walk from the Dorms, at Wiecking Center 316, the Military Science Office is a welcoming and professional atmosphere. You can come in anytime during the day to check it out and ask questions about the program.

## Other Fun Training

### Paintball Lead Lab

Once a year, you will participate in the Paintball Lead Lab held at local paintball field Tommy Guns. You will take the tactics you learned and put them to practical use. You will move as a squad or fire team, and have a certain mission or objective just like at lead lab. Teamwork is still critical to get the job done right.



# Commissioning

## The Final Step

You have trained and studied hard, completed the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, and effectively completed your senior year as an MSIV. It is at this time that you will receive your 2nd Lieutenant Rank, and finally become an Officer in the United States Army.

The Commissioning Ceremony is the largest official event for ROTC. Every cadet will attend, as well as anyone you invite to share the experience. There is usually a distinguished guest of some kind such as a retired officer or civilian leader. They will give you words of inspiration and thank you for your decision to serve your nation and lead Soldiers, because it is something worth being thanked for.

From there, you will either serve in the Active Army, or the National Guard or Army Reserve. Whichever route you choose, the things you learned during your time at ROTC and the dedication you put into your training, will carry with you for the rest of your career, and the rest of your life.

