

# CRAMER'S SABERS

## Alumni Newsletter



Winter 2021

## ROTC Alumni Chapter Officers and Directors

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LTC (R) Paul McNamara PMS '81-'85  
MAJ (R) Gregory Couturier '02  
Asst. Dean Emerita Jane M. Stich '62, MA '69, MBA '83

## Cadet Battalion Staff: Fall 2020

**Battalion Commander:** CDT LTC Daniel Baglini  
**Command Sergeant Major:** CDT CSM Chase Vaillancourt  
**Executive Officer:** CDT MAJ Jacob Bliss  
**S-1:** CDT CPT Megan Klein  
**S-2:** CDT CPT Luis Hermoza-Torres  
**S-3:** CDT MAJ Christopher Claprood  
**Asst. S-3:** CDT CPT Skylar Realejo  
**Asst. S-3:** CDT CPT Geoff Ricciardelli  
**S-4:** CDT CPT Brian Hochmuth  
**S-5:** CDT CPT Patrick Hoffman  
**S-6:** CDT CPT Alex Martin  
**Operations SGM:** CDT SGM Raymond Williamson  
**A Company Commander:** CDT CPT William Christensen  
**A Company First Sergeant:** CDT 1SG Sierra James  
**B Company Commander:** CDT CPT Sean Conran  
**B Company First Sergeant:** CDT 1SG Benjamin Cortes  
**RC Captain:** CDT CPT Aidan Lynch  
**Public Affairs Officer:** CDT CPT Wyatt Doyon  
**Recruiting Officer:** CDT CPT Charles Dumas

## Cramer's Sabers Battalion Cadre, Fall 2020

**Professor of Military Science:** LTC Cornelius (Tad) Granai  
**Executive Officer:** MAJ Angela Anderson  
**APMS/Operations Officer:** MAJ Shea Leap  
**APMS/Asst. Operations Officer:** CPT Andrew Marsh  
**Sr. Military Instructor:** MSG Scott Carney  
**Operations NCO:** SFC Jonah Hudson  
**Sr. Military Science Instructor:** Mr. Matthew Brown  
**Enrollment & Scholarship Officer:** Mr. Matthew Higgins  
**Human Resource Administrator:** Vacant  
**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Joann Lachapelle  
**URI Liaison:** Ms. Mary Michelini  
**Supply Technician:** Mr. Justin Prosser

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THE CRAMER'S SABERS ROTC ALUMNI CHAPTER  
University of Rhode Island Army ROTC  
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Phone: 401.874.7682

### On the Cover:

Cadets in formation at the start of Fall 2020 training

# Message from the Professor of Military Science

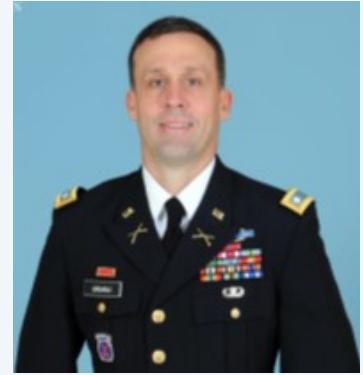
Hello everyone and thank you to all for your unparalleled support to the Cramer's Sabers Battalion. I am Lieutenant Colonel Cornelius "Tad" Granai, the new Professor of Military Science (PMS) at the University of Rhode Island. I am truly humbled and honored to return to my Alma Mater as the new PMS of this great organization.

Though COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for the country, I have been beyond thrilled with the performance and effort of the cadets and the ultimate professionalism of the largely new group of cadre. The cadets' and cadre's resiliency during the pandemic has helped to maintain the unwavering standard of excellence at the Cramer's Sabers Battalion. Consequently, the cadets performed brilliantly during summer training and first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, to include a strong showing at Operation Agile Leader (OAL), multiple training events and exercises, and in the Army's new Active Duty Branch selection model.

Due to COVID-19, Army Cadet Command cancelled the 2020 Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox. Instead, Cadet Command executed a regionally aligned, reduced version of CST known as OAL. The Cramer's Sabers Battalion partnered with WPI, Providence College, UMASS-Amherst, and UCONN for OAL at Joint Base Cape Cod. Key training events included day and night land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship, and multi-night field training exercises (FTXs), where all MS-4s were evaluated as leaders.

All MS-4s received multiple "GOs" from external evaluators, which keeps the entire senior class on-pace to commission in May. In addition, MAJ Shea Leap, a new cadre member, was recognized for his outstanding performance as a Platoon Observer during OAL.

Based on a relatively low positivity rate at URI, Roger Williams, Salve Regina, and within the Cramer's Sabers Battalion, the program was able to complete numerous training events and exercises. Of note, the cadets executed routine in-person physical fitness training and classroom instruction, 5 squad and platoon sized tactical training labs, a Halloween Run (in costume) at URI, a 3-day FTX to Joint Base Cape Cod in November, and the



battalion's first ever Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT).

The diagnostic ACFT took place at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich and was supported by the RI National Guard with a tremendous facility and graders. Cadet Malatesta recorded the top score with a near perfect mark of 584. Lastly, you will be proud to know that all nine of Cramer's Sabers Battalions soon-to-be 2LTs going active duty received one of their three top branch choices, with seven of the nine receiving their top branch. Statistically speaking, this is well above the Army average. This is testament to the cadet's hard work and dedication to excellence. Congratulations to all.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank URI ROTC Alumni for all the support they have provided. Your efforts are beyond anyone's expectations and are incredibly appreciated. We look forward to continuing this partnership and hope to have events like the Military Ball and Commissioning Ceremony in-person, along with the golf tournament this upcoming September. Additionally, a special thanks to the Alumni for its pledged support to the Cramer's Sabers Battalions first Zero Week training event at Camp Varnum in Narragansett in late-August. I would also like to thank our universities for the outstanding support to the cadets. The faculty and administration at all three schools have been extremely welcoming and supportive and very accommodating throughout a semester unlike any other. A special thanks goes to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Rhode Island, Jen Riley, for her steadfast backing of the program and the cadets. I would also like to thank the Associate Dean of Students at Salve Regina University, Jen Jensen, and Kevin Hayden, Director of Study Abroad Programs at Roger Williams, for all they do and will continue to do for the cadets at Salve Regina and Roger Williams respectively.

# Message from the Cadet Commander

The year 2020 has been a world wind of change from Coronavirus effects to changes in administrations. At each and every turn, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion has faced and overcome adversity with ease. With the arrival of a new Professor of Military Science and various Cadre members, the Battalion focused on navigating the environment and mitigating the effects of COVID through the fall 2020 semester, which saw a significant amount of change due to COVID restrictions, hybrid class environments, and dispersed physical fitness and tactical training. Through it all, the Battalion triumphed with a high propensity of success! During the fall semester, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted various



training events that included 5 Labs/Hands-on training events, a diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Test, a Field Training Exercise, and a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program Walk. The Battalion continues to prepare each year's cadets for future success. The MSIV's strive to complete all academic and commissioning requirements in order to graduate and become second lieutenants. The MSIIIs continue to perfect their skills and leadership in preparation for Cadet Summer Training during summer 2021. The MSIIs endeavor to develop and strengthen their communication skills and confidence in order to successfully lead their peers. And last but not least, MSIs will continue to develop basic soldiering skills and reinforce a strong foundation from which to build all subsequent ROTC training. Academics, tactical training, and physical fitness continue to be the focus as we move into spring 2021 semester. While COVID continues to deliver challenges and adversity, the cadets and Battalion are thankful for the support of the Cadre members, alumni, and prior training. Even though we've experienced some physical, mental, and emotional isolation as a result, the collective actions of the team have acted as a counterpoint to this trend. COVID may have required us to stand six feet apart, but it has also caused us to unify like no other time in recent memory. The focus that cadets have put towards protecting themselves and others has acted as a catalyst for success in the classroom, on the training field, and in our everyday lives. We give our sincere thanks to the Alumni Association for their continued support. Your generosity has been integral to our success.

**SABERS!**

**Cadet Daniel P Baglini**

# Alumni News

## Andrew Chevalier (URI '91) Promoted to BG



*Brigadier General Chevalier is pinned by his father Robert and wife Carol*

*(Photo: SGT Terry Rajsombath, RING)*

The Rhode Island National Guard held a ceremony promoting Colonel Andrew J. Chevalier to the rank of Brigadier General, August 14, 2020, at Camp Fogarty, East Greenwich, R.I. Big Rhody congratulations, Andy!

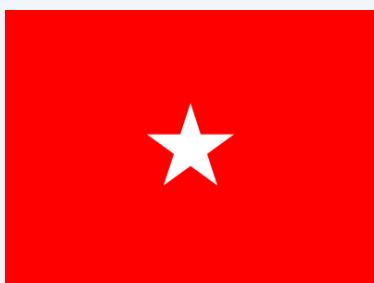
Brigadier General Chevalier serves as the Director of Joint Staff and Land Component Commander for the Rhode Island National Guard. His responsibilities include serving as the Principle Staff Officer and primary advisor to the Adjutant General for all matters pertaining to policy, operations, mobilization, State interagency contingency planning and support of civil authorities. He supervises all directorates level Joint-Staff officers to include the Army Chief of Staff, Air Director of Staff and Special Staff. As the Land Component Commander, BG Chevalier oversees operational, logistical and personnel matters affecting the readiness of the Rhode Island National Guard. He is also ready to serve as a dual status commander in the event of a Federal or State emergency declaration.

## Lawrence Connell (URI '86) Appointed Director, Providence VA Medical Center



Colonel (Ret) Lawrence B. Connell, a University of Rhode Island ROTC 1986 graduate, was assigned as Director of the Providence Veterans Medical Center in June 2020. He previously worked in the Veterans Health Administration in Washington, DC. where he was the chief of staff overseeing 174 hospitals, 1,234 healthcare facilities and 345,000 employees throughout the nation.

Colonel (R) Connell is from Middletown, he entered the Army and served more than 30 years including, 15 years as a medivac pilot. He also served as the Chief Operations Officer, Pacific Regional Medical Command, Honolulu, Hawaii; Chief Executive Officer Stuttgart U. S. Army Medical Health Clinic; Commander 43rd Area Support Medical Battalion; and other medical related staff positions. As the new director of the Providence the VA Medical Center, Colonel Connell is responsible for the care of more than 35,000 veterans from Rhode Island and southeastern new England. Congratulations Larry and welcome home!



# Alumni News

## COL (R) Philip Saulnier Inducted into The National ROTC Hall Of Fame

On Friday, August 14, 2020, Colonel (Retired) Phillip J. Saulnier was inducted into the United States Army Reserve Officer Training Corps National Hall of Fame in a ceremony held at the Robert J. Higgins Welcome Center at the University of Rhode Island. Originally scheduled for presentation at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the ceremony was moved to URI because of COVID-19. The ceremony was live streamed to numerous alumni and family including Colonel Saulnier and his wife Judy in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The United States Army established the National ROTC Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding ROTC graduates who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of leadership and service to the Nation.



*COL Phillip J. Saulnier*

Colonel (Retired) John Petrella, master of ceremony, began the event by briefly discussing Col Saulnier's career. Colonel Saulnier was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry upon graduation in 1962. He completed Airborne and Ranger training and twice volunteered to serve in Vietnam. Initially commissioned an Infantry Officer he transitioned into the Army

Quartermaster Corps where he served the remainder of his career. Colonel Saulnier exhibited exemplary leadership at every level throughout his civilian and military careers. He was a captain of the URI football team and Cadet Colonel of the ROTC Brigade while attending URI. He commanded at every level from Platoon to Brigade. In recognition of his outstanding leadership he was promoted early three times, achieving the rank of Colonel three years ahead of his peers. Following his medical retirement from the Army, Colonel Saulnier accepted a position with the National Institute for the Severely Handicapped/ National Institute for the Blind. As the East Regional Director, he undertook efforts to expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to obtain meaningful work at military and federal facilities. The results over time were extremely successful and live on today as a legacy to his success.



*President Dooley delivers remarks in honor of COL (R) Saulnier's induction into the National ROTC Hall of Fame*

URI President, Dr. David M. Dooley, was extremely complimentary in his remarks and indicated how proud he was on behalf of the University to make this presentation to one of its most distinguished and highly accomplished alumni. President Dooley said he is a strong supporter of ROTC Program, at America's universities and believes ROTC officers bring something special to the military as evidenced by Phil, as he preferred to call him. He praised Phil for his extraordinary leadership, courage, and the commitment he brought to the United States Army, the University of Rhode Island, and his community.

Representing the US Army ROTC Cadet Command, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Mehan, Professor of Military Science indicated this induction was for a lifetime of outstanding service to the Nation with sincere congratulations from Major General John R. Evans, Jr. Commanding General ROTC Cadet Command. Brian, a Delaware University Graduate, ended his presentation with **GO RHODY!!!**



*Accepting the Certificate of Induction from President Dooley and Plaque of Induction from Lieutenant Colonel Mehan for Colonel (R) Saulnier was Colonel (R) William A. MacKinlay, a Director of the ROTC Alumni Chapter, Past President, and a close friend of Colonel Saulnier.*



*LTC Brian Mehan delivers remarks in honor of COL (R) Phil Saulnier*



*Cadets Abbie Gallic (L) and Brook Marscher (R) checking out COL Saulnier's National ROTC Hall of Fame Plaque now on displayed in the renovated ROTC Classroom.*

# Rendering Honors To URI President Dr. David M. Dooley



In May 2021, the University of Rhode Island will bid farewell to its beloved President David M. Dooley who became the University of Rhode Island's 11<sup>th</sup> president in July 2009. During the past 11+ years, President Dooley has been a steadfast friend to and an ardent supporter of the Cramers Sabres ROTC Cadet Battalion and the URI ROTC Alumni Chapter.

The son of a World War II Veteran, President Dooley reached out early and often to offer advice and assistance to both of these vital programs. Dr. Dooley recognized the tremendous leadership development potential of our Cadet ROTC Program and the tremendous service URI ROTC Alumni have provided to our nation, community, and the University.



His strong support is greatly appreciated by both cadets and alumni. Dr. Dooley has been an active participant in numerous ROTC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies which have honored 186 "Rhody Heroes." His collaborative leadership style and executive skills paved the way for a 100% renovation of the ROTC classrooms which resulted in an increased quality of life for our cadets and cadre.

We thank President Dooley and wish him and his charming wife Lynn Baker-Dooley safe travels and look forward to seeing them once again on the high ground!

# The URI ROTC Hall of Fame Selection Committee

## Presents the Class of 2021

On Saturday, 6 November 2021 at 10:00AM in the University of Rhode Island Memorial Union, which was dedicated in 1954 to those who served, the URI ROTC Alumni Chapter will induct twenty-six patriots who have brought great honor to the nation, the military and the University of Rhode Island.

Details on the ceremony will be provided as we approach that date.



Selectees	Service	Class of	Selectees	Service	Class of
COL Mark Barbosa	USA	1982	Ensign John Karlson*	USN	1917
CDT Donald Carlton*	USA ROTC	1918	COL Robert Levalley	USA/USAR	1989
CPT Howard Catley	USA	1969	COL Lee Mongeon*	USAF	1952
CPT Neil Corry*	USA/USAR	1961	Lt Col Oscar Morel*	USMC	1943
Seaman Wallace Craig*	USN	1918	PVT Marcus Mullins*	USA	1915
CDT Edwin Davis*	USA ROTC	1921	LTC Charles Nelson	ARNG	1962
LTC Thomas Dombrowsky	USA	1966	CDT Chester Olsen*	USA ROTC	1918
Lt Col Walter Eddy*	USMC	1940	1LT Asahel Parmelee	USA	1969
PVT Edwin Green*	USA	1921	LTC Paul Riley	USA	1990
COL Mark Hayes	USA	1982	1LT Karl Steimle	USA	1962
PVT Walter Hayward*	USA	1917	CSN Harold Spaulding*	USN	1919
CPT John Heelan	USA	1964	CPL Preston Towne*	USA	1919
COL Raymond Horoho	USA/USAR	1982	CPL Fredrick Woods*	USA	1919

\*Deceased

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SELECTEES CLASS OF 2021**

# Cadet Training News

## Pre-Combat Checks and Inspections

On September 4th, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted their PCC/PCI lab to ensure all cadets were prepared for the Fall FTX that following weekend. The lab consisted of all cadets laying out their gear and their leadership conducting inspections to ensure no items were missing from the packing list. In this lab were various classes including Fundamentals of Marksmanship, Assembly and Disassembly of Weapons, and Dime and Washer drills. Prior to the lab starting the MSIV's put together a large Terrain Model of Joint Base Cape Cod, following the classes, they held a brief for the FTX. Each MSIV briefed out the even they were assigned as Officer in Charge. This lab was an extremely important training to ensure cadets understood what they would be doing the following weekend at the FTX and that they had all required gear.



## Leadership Lab 1— Basic Tasks and Military Fundamentals

The Cramer's Sabers Battalion kicked off the new school year with their first lab on September 23, 2020, in Cadet Park on the University of Rhode Island campus. During this lab, task organization was finalized, and the Cadre taught the new cadets formalities regarding officers, such as saluting. Select MSIII's taught round robin classes on the fundamentals of drill and ceremony, uniform standards, and the chain of command. MSIV's then taught round robin classes on crossing Linear Danger Areas, setting up Objective Rally Points, and executing a squad attack, to prepare the MSIII's and II's for their upcoming squad training exercises.



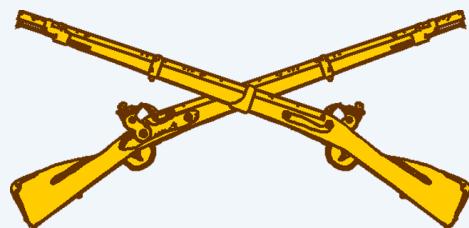
## Leadership Lab 2—Squad Size Maneuvers

On September 26, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted their second lab of the semester. MSI-I's and MSIII's rehearsed how to execute Battle Drill 1 Alpha, cross Linear Danger Areas and set up Objective Rally Points in the University of Rhode Island soccer practice fields. They then moved into the woods to conduct these operations in squad-sized elements, where the MSIII's received their first experience in a leadership role as Squad Leaders.



## Leadership Lab 3—Platoon Level Training

On October 7, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted Platoon movements. In this Lab, the cadets utilized their training in squad-sized elements and applied it to platoon-sized elements. The cadets rehearsed these movement techniques in the URI soccer fields. After receiving refresher instruction from the MSIV's, they moved into the woods to execute these movements themselves. They also executed LDA crossing as a full platoon. The purpose of utilizing the smaller squad-sized elements to introduce these maneuvers and techniques in the first two labs was to facilitate a more productive learning environment and foster a better understanding. By re-introducing these basic concepts in a larger-sized element, cadets should be more confident and understand when more complicated maneuvers and missions are introduced.



## Leadership Lab 4

### Complex Platoon Battle Drills

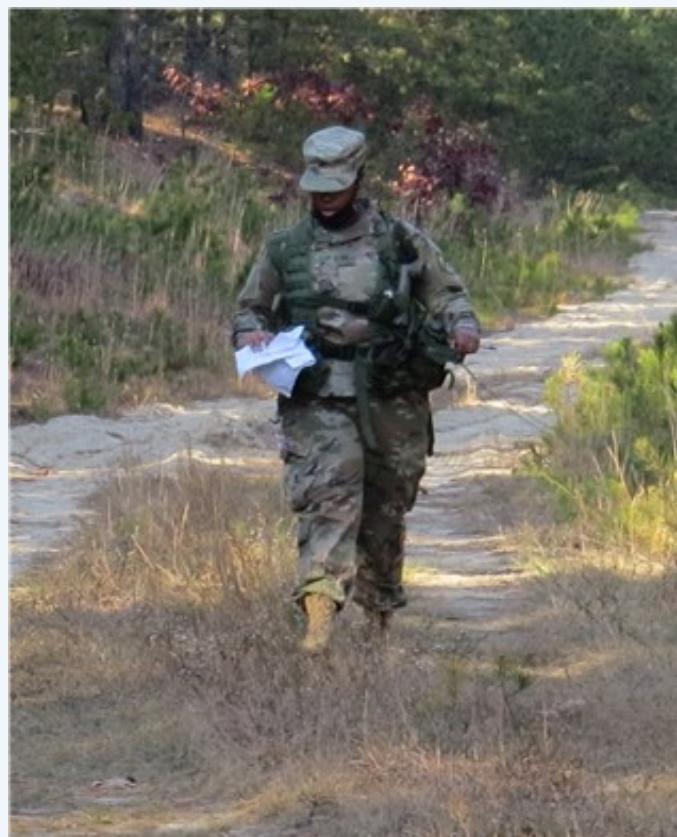


On October 21, 2020, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted its fourth lab of the semester. The cadets utilized their previous training earlier in the semester on squad battle drills and platoon movements to better understand and be more confident when involved in more complex platoon battle drills. The MSIV's lead rehearsals in the URI soccer fields to ensure all the cadets were familiar with the drills before moving into the woods. The MSIII's assumed leadership positions such as Squad Leaders, Platoon Leader, and Platoon Sergeant. To keep up concurrent training, the cadets were also required to execute LDA crossings, and practice various special teams such as EPW, Aid + Litter, and Demo.



## Field Training Exercise

On the weekend of November 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Cramer's Sabers Battalion conducted its annual Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). It is always a great weekend where cadets are able to take everything they have learned throughout the semester and put it into practice. The MSIV's put a lot of time and effort into planning this weekend and utilized the time available for maximum training. The cadets received training in a wide range of areas and came away from the weekend having learned new skills and gained more confidence, as well as, building more trust in each other.



On Friday, Nov. 6th, the Battalion initiated the FTX with a Land Navigation class to refresh cadets and make sure everyone was prepared. After the class, the cadets were then given points and went straight to plotting those points and formulating

their route plans before setting off for Day Land Navigation. After all cadets returned from finding their points, the Battalion waited until nightfall to do it all over again, with Night Land Navigation.

On Saturday, Nov. 7th, the Battalion split up. The MSI's and MSII's moved to the FLRC course to build confidence, leadership skills, and trust. The cadets had a blast trying to work together to solve the courses. To make things more interesting on the final lane, the cadets were required to complete it in silence and the designated leaders were unable to communicate the mission or the plan to their group. The cadets excelled even when faced with this challenge. After completion of this training event, the cadets moved on to EST.



The MSII's were conducting BRM training at the same time the MSI's and MSII's were at the FLRC. One of the biggest differences with this FTX compared to previous years is that the Battalion de-

cided to utilize the Virtual Battle Simulators (VBS3) that JBCC uses to conduct the Situational Training Exercise lanes, instead of doing this in the field. It was an interesting experience and a great training tool to utilize. After all cadets got to try out the VBS3, the cadets returned to TTB Kelly to conduct a few training classes before lights out. The MSIV's taught classes on how to use radios, radio etiquette, call signs, and First Aid training. On the final day of the FTX, Sunday, Nov. 8, cadets conducted a ruck march and then ran through the Obstacle Course. The Obstacle Course would not be complete without a race between the c/BC and the c/CSM on the "Tough One." The entire weekend was motivational for all cadets and a great training experience to end the semester!



# Program and Event Updates

## Uniform Program



2LT William Sangster proudly wearing his uniform at the virtual 2020 commissioning.

This year the program will commission 20 cadets as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants, one of the largest classes in recent years. The Army Service Uniform (ASU), also known as the Dress Blue Uniform Program, provides each graduating cadet with a set of ASUs, was begun by LTC Paul Helweg and has continued to be very successful thanks to the generosity of our alumni. This year with the number of graduates, we are hopeful more alumni will participate in the program. Thank you to the many alumni who have continually donated to this program. Each recipient will send a personal note of thank you to their donor.

***If you are interested in contributing to the Cadet Uniform Program please contact COL (R) Rob Levalley at [Rlevalley@gilbaneco.com](mailto:Rlevalley@gilbaneco.com) or 910-330-0610***

## Operation Connect Continues



The Alumni Chapter realizes it does not possess reliable information on many of its alumni, consequently, the Board of Directors initiated Operation Connect in 2015 to correct this situation. Utilizing a database containing approximately 1,400 names dating back to 1953, a small group of dedicated alumni reached out to fellow alums to verify their contact information. Considering the enormity of the task, it was highly successful allowing the Chapter to reach many more alumni than it had in the past several years. Help us continue this reach out effort. If you are in contact with ROTC Alums, please see if they have been contacted by the Chapter. If not, notify COL(R) John Petrella at [jpetrella2@cox.net](mailto:jpetrella2@cox.net) or 401-829-1115.



## 2021 LTC PAUL F. HELWEG, JR. MEMORIAL ROTC GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are looking forward to hitting the links at Green Valley Country Club **Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** so sharpen up your game!



*Major General John Capalbo and his band of merry men.*

The Army ROTC battalion on the URI Campus originated from the military training unit established at what was then the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Kingston in 1894. Under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862, better known as the Land Grand Act, State colleges across the nation set up military training units to prepare college students for leadership in the event of a national emergency. Led by the Captain William W. Wetherspoon, the first military training unit consisted of 14 men.

In accordance with the National Defense Act of 1920, the military training unit was re-designated as the Rhode Island State College Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). With ROTC mandatory for all male freshman and sophomore students, the program grew to as many as 1500 cadets. ROTC at RI State College consisted of a brigade of three cadet battalions with three companies each, as well as a provisional battalion consisting of the junior training company, the Kingston Rangers, the ROTC Band, and the Drill Team.

Initially focused on producing Infantry officers, in 1943 the program was expanded to include Quartermaster officers as well, and in 1952 Engineer officers were added to the commissioning program. In the 1960s branch specific military training was replaced by general Military Science instruction at what by then was the University of Rhode Island's ROTC Program. Today full college credit is received for ROTC courses by all students enrolled.



In 1986 the University of Rhode Island cadet battalion was named "CRAMER'S SABERS" in honor of First Lieutenant Parker Dresser Cramer, Infantry, University of Rhode Island Class of 1959. 1LT Cramer was serving as an advisor in the Republic of South Vietnam in the Spring of 1963 when he was killed in a roadside ambush near Ben Cat. In honor of 1LT Cramer's academic excellence, leadership, courage and dedication to duty, the Parker D. Cramer Memorial Award was established in 1965, and is presented to the URI ROTC cadet who has demonstrated the most outstanding officer potential, military leadership, and scholastic excellence. Every year since its establishment, a member of the Cramer family has presented the award.



# SABERS LEAD THE WAY!



KEANEY GYM HOME OF THE CRAMER'S SABERS BATTALION