On Saturday, 05 March, members of the Royal Warrior Battalion volunteered their time to judge the Junior ROTC Drill competition at Minisink High School. Most of the Cadets had previous JROTC experience from their high schools days. They were well prepared to judge the color guard, armed and unarmed exhibition, armed and unarmed inspection, new cadet, dual, and knock out drills. High School students from Minisink, Washingtonville, O’Neil, and Newburgh Free Academy all competed to be number one at each event.

At the inspection event for both armed and unarmed drill, Cadet Hope Oliver and Cadet Mario Brooks served as judges along with an Army Reserve Recruiter. The judges inspected JROTC Cadets’ uniforms, asked them questions regarding their military science classes, and evaluated whether the Cadets knew how to properly clear their weapons. Cadet T.J. Heintz, and Cadet Jeremy Liggitt judged the color guard. Each team of JROTC Cadets had to perform the process of uncasing and casing the Colors properly while their commander was assessed on his or her ability to issue the proper commands. Cadet Liggitt said “I can’t believe such young Cadets could be so passionate and eager to win these events.”

In the “New Cadet” event, Military Instructor SFC Travis Griffith and Cadet Lisa Delbridge stood as judges to determine how well the freshman from each team performed the tasks they have learned so far in the JROTC program. According to Cadet Delbridge, formerly a part of one of the JROTC programs which was competing at this event, “the Cadets were great at handling the stress and performed at a high level for being freshman.” She said “It was like they didn’t even notice the judges were there watching and grading them, it was just another practice.”

The more colorful events included “Unarmed and Armed Exhibition,” and “Armed Dual.” Cadets from each high school were allowed to make up any drill they wanted and perform it for the judges. The event was all about ingenuity and team work, at which the Cadets excelled. The “Armed Dual” involved a three minute performance from a team of two Cadets using their rifles to perform whatever drill actions they chose.

Saving the best for last, the “Knockout” event served as the capstone. All the Cadets from The University of Scranton judged every Cadet from every high school. The JROTC Cadets lined up around the gym and followed commands given to them by a judge. One by one the Cadets would be “knocked out” for incorrect execution of a particular command. Eventually there was only Cadet left standing, and that was a young lady from Washingtonville High School.

The JROTC Cadets performed to the highest standard, which made the judges’ jobs pretty tough. At the end of the day Washingtonville High School triumphed as the Drill Competition Champion. Judging competitions affords Senior ROTC Cadets the opportunity to speak with and mentor these high school Cadets so that they perform to the best of their abilities.

JROTC Cadets also get a chance to demonstrate their talents, as well as everything they have learned from JROTC.
On Tuesday, 15 March Dr. Michael Anderson, the Deputy Commanding Officer for 2nd ROTC Brigade, headquartered at Fort Dix, N.J. conducted his annual visit to the Royal Warrior Battalion.

The visit began with an overview briefing of the Royal Warrior Battalion by the Cadet Battalion Commander, as well as the Cadet Battalion S3, MS III Tactical Officers and Kings College Detachment Commander. Some of the particular points the MS IVs addressed included training highlights from the Fall Semester, the Cadet mentorship program and the status of upcoming events like the Spring Field Training Exercise and Joint FTX.

Dr. Anderson also had the opportunity to observe the Spring Semester ROTC Advisory Council Committee meeting, where he fielded questions for University of Scranton staff and faculty about ROTC and explained the role of the Brigade Headquarters.

As the day progressed the MS III Instructors and the Professor of Military Science provided an overview of the unit’s MS III training program and a detailed assessment of each MS III Cadet and his or her current state of readiness in terms of attending Leader Development and Assessment Course this summer.

Dr. Anderson also spoke with instructors about their issues and concerns. Additionally, he was also help provide guidance and mentorship to the Cadre.

The visit culminated with 15 Cadets from all Military Science levels participating in a one-hour sensing session with Dr. Anderson. Cadets had the opportunity to speak with him about the Military Science program, discussing their likes and dislikes.

Dr. Anderson provided positive feedback for both the Cadre and Cadets in terms of where the program currently stands and the direction it is headed.
On Saturday, 05 March, the Cadets and Cadre played host to local high school students enrolled in the University of Success. University of Success, run by The University of Scranton, is a precollege program designed to provide academic, social, and cultural enrichment to local high school students. The students attend various sessions presented by a wide variety of departments at the University. Through talks and hands-on demonstrations, the students were exposed to what the Military Science program is about and the opportunities for those who join the Royal Warrior Battalion.

Captain Erin Leach, the instructor for MS I Cadets, started the students off in the morning session with some questions and some great Army prizes for answering them. Videos about the Army and the Royal Warrior Battalion were also shown. The students clearly were excited when they saw all the possibilities open to them through Army ROTC. Next came a Q&A session with MS I Cadets Morganne Hedden, Sean McKee, Christian Burne, Nicole Thomas, and Francis Ambrico. Cadet McKee recalls the session: “We were almost shocked by some of the questions, such as, ‘So, uh, what’s Iraq like?’ or, my favorite, ‘Are you guys allowed to eat lunch with everyone else?’” Once some of the misconceptions had been explained, the students began to get increasingly excited about Army ROTC and Army life in general. Cadet Thomas remembers some of her group’s ideas: “None of the students thought that it would be enjoyable to miss a shower for a week or leave family for extended periods of time. But they all thought it would be great to be part of such an amazing leadership program.” The morning session concluded with LTC Remley addressing the students about his experiences with the Army and his vision for the Royal Warrior Battalion. The students left for lunch clearly inspired and eager to learn more in the afternoon session.

The afternoon featured hands-on drills for the students that were organized by Cadet Evan Dimakas, joined by Julian Campoli, Francis Ambrico, Alexander Flynn, and Sean McKee. The events consisted of a high crawl relay race, a drill and ceremony lesson, a tug-of-war, and a lesson in which the students were able to get into “combat mode” by camouflaging their faces with face paint and putting on a typical combat vest, helmet and rucksack. The students enjoyed the activities and learned about teamwork while doing them, a skill essential in the Army.

By the end of the day it was clear that both the students and Cadets had gained much from their participation in the University of Success. Many of the students said they left with serious thoughts of joining ROTC when they entered college. In turn Cadets said they felt privileged to have worked with the students and to have helped spread the word about their experiences in the Royal Warrior Battalion.

Captain Leach summed up the day for everyone: "Most students in high school are simply trying to figure out the best way to make it through each day, not having the foresight or the tools to set a successful course towards higher education. I admire and support what the University of Success program aspires to do for its participants, opening doors that these kids didn't even know existed. Army ROTC does the same thing and the Cadets at the University of Scranton could not be better examples of the kind of leaders that America needs. I hope that today the students in University of Success saw a glimpse of what they might become if only they put their heart and mind to a goal and never give up."