One of the missions of the Royal Warrior Battalion is to provide support and assistance to three Junior-ROTC programs located at Washingtonville, Minisink and Central Valley High Schools in New York state. Part of this support includes conducting annual inspections of the JROTC supply operations and speaking with students enrolled in the program about scholarship opportunities offered through U.S. Army Cadet Command’s High School Scholarship program.

On Monday, 24 January members of the Cadre from the Battalion spent the day visiting with the student and Senior Army Instructors of the Washingtonville and Minisink JROTC programs. Major Bill Ramsey and Lieutenant Colonel Ryan-Remley took the opportunity to speak with the JROTC Cadets about Army ROTC scholarship opportunities for high school seniors, as well as, making the transition from the JROTC program to a SROTC program.

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A select number of JROTC Cadets from both high schools will attend and provide Color Guard support at the Royal Warrior Military Ball on 26 February. Members of the Royal Warriors will provide support to Minisink High School’s upcoming Drill Meet Competition in early March.
The Royal Warriors are proud to announce the addition of two new cadre to the team. LTC Philip Christensen joins the team to oversee operations at East Stroudsburg State University, including the instruction of Military Science 101/102 courses.

LTC Christensen is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve who just recently returned from a year long deployment to Afghanistan where his unit was involved in the training local Afghan police and military forces. LTC Christensen is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Chemical Officer Advance Course, as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. LTC Christensen holds a Masters Degree in Education from Central Michigan University.

LTC Christensen, along with his wife and children, reside in Kunkletown, Pennsylvania.

Captain Erin Leach joins the Royal Warriors following assignments at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Rucker, Alabama. An Active Duty Officer, Captain Leach is an aviator who has served two tours of duty in Afghanistan while assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. She is a graduate of the Aviation Officer Basic Course, Captains Career Course, U.S. Army Airborne School and the UH-60 Aviator Qualification Course. Prior duties include Platoon Leader and Assistant Battalion Operations Officer.

Captain Leach will serve as the Department’s Military Science 101/102 course instructor at the University of Scranton.

Captain Erin Leach is a native of Ollyphant, Pennsylvania and holds a degree in Physical Education from Cedarville University in Ohio.

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**Cadet Profiles - Marywood University MS IIs Prepare for Leader Development & Assessment Course**

**Andrew Wycheck**

**Major:** Criminal Justice  
**Hometown:** Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
**Campus/ROTC Activities:** Varsity Lacrosse, Criminal Justice Club, Treasurer, ROTC recruiting, Ranger Challenge, and Color Guard

**Why did you join ROTC?:** “I have wanted to be in the military since I was a child. After looking into all my options I decided that Army ROTC was the best route for me.”

**What are your doing to prepare yourself for LDAC?:** “To mentally prepare for LDAC I have been working hard to learn the OPORD process and also brushing up on my other Army information. To physically prepare I go hard at all PTs and I rage war on my body at the gym and on the mats at MMA.”

**Natasha Rivera**

**Major:** Biology (pre-med)  
**Hometown:** Vancouver, Washington  
**Campus/ROTC Activities:** Biology Club, Race For The Cure and Ski Club

**Why did you join ROTC?:** “Since my Father is in the Army I grew up in a military family environment, which I’ve always enjoyed. I joined ROTC because it is the perfect opportunity to acquire the skills and leadership abilities that I need in order to obtain a high position in my career and to one day have a military family of my own. Another positive aspect in joining the ROTC is that I get the satisfaction and pride knowing I will be able to serve my country.”

**What are your doing to prepare yourself for LDAC?:** “To prepare for LDAC I not only partake in physical training each week, but I regularly go to the gym on my own time in order to maintain my physical fitness. Also, some nights I read over and study battle drills from my leadership textbook.”

**Ben Slechta**

**Major:** Criminal Justice  
**Hometown:** Miller, Maryland  
**Campus/ROTC Activities:** Lacrosse, Color Guard, Ranger Challenge

**Why did you join ROTC?:** “I joined ROTC the end of my freshman year. When I was young I had always been interested in the military and had many conversations about the program with Jake Scott and Andrew Wycheck. Andrew ended up getting me to join and the rest is history.”

**What are your doing to prepare yourself for LDAC?:** “Going to camp this summer is something that has been on my mind since last summer. I try to always think of my battle drills and other important aspects that will be emphasized at camp in my every day life. Currently I read books about the war in the Middle East so I can try to apply techniques used in real battles toward the battle drills we learn in ROTC. I go to the gym three times a week as well.”
Cadets Team with Red Cross to Support Blood Drives
By MS II Cadets Alex Brown, Kelly Finno & Angela Bahlatzis

The Royal Warrior Battalion participated in its first American Red Cross Blood Drive at Marywood University on Wednesday, January 26th. Through the collaboration of Cadets, Red Cross volunteers, and the Campus Ministries from Marywood, the drive was a success.

Fifty-one donors participated in the blood drive event, making the total amount of 51 pints of blood collected, or a little over 6 gallons of blood. The recruitment for this blood drive was enhanced by Cadets raffling off prizes from the Department of Military Science, such as sweatshirts. There were also R.O.T.C. water bottles given to the donors, along with Domino’s pizza, delivered every hour for the donors to enjoy after their gift of blood to the American Red Cross.

On Thursday, January 27th Kings’s College Military Science Detachment comprised of Cadets from Kings College, Wilkes University, and Misericordia University participated in the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive held at King’s College. A number of Cadets devoted their time to support this Blood Drive ensuring it was also a success. Their efforts in recruitment of donors, volunteering time, and donations were truly appreciated by the Red Cross, Kings College and Military Science Department.

The goal at Kings for the January 27th Blood Drive was 112 pints, which was surpassed with 117 productive units. Over 127 students, staff and faculty registered as donors, with 38 first timers donors.

Domino’s Pizza of Wilkes-Barre donated their delicious pizza, Movies 14 donated movie tickets as prizes and the Royal Warrior Battalion provided sweatshirts, along with other giveaways for those who donated blood.

The University of Scranton is holding their event, February 15th 1000-1600. There will be additional raffle prizes for those who pre-register and keep their appointment.

Looking for Professional Reading Material?
MS IV Cadet Ryan Snyder recommends one of the following:
- A Chance In Hell by Jim Michaels
- The Good Soldiers by David Finkel
- The Fourth Star by David Cloud & Greg Jaffe
- Battle Cry of Freedom by James McPherson

Become a friend of the Royal Warriors on the Battalion’s new Facebook page. Search for Royal Warrior Battalion, Army ROTC and follow the latest news and highlights on Cadets and Cadre.