During two separate ceremonies held in the month of May the Royal Warrior Battalion commissioned twenty-three new Second Lieutenants into the Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

On Saturday, 17 May friends and family of the King’s College Detachment gathered in Burke Auditorium as eight new officers were commissioned. In a ceremony presided over by King’s College President Father John Ryan, guest speaker Colonel Joseph Shannon of the United States Military Academy, Professor of Military Science Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley and Senior Military Science Instructor Master Sergeant Roland Cuellar the new officers took the oath of office, had their new rank affixed by friends and family and received their first salute.

Colonel Shannon in his remarks spoke to the new officers about the importance of character, having fun at their jobs and taking care of Soldiers. He shared with the new officers his experiences from a career that has spanned nearly thirty years and included combat deployments.

On Saturday, 31 May the Royal Warrior Battalion conducted the University of Scranton commissioning ceremony as friends and family gather in the Houlihan-McLean Center to watch fifteen new Second Lieutenants enter the force.

Major General Michael Terry Commander of U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command—Life Cycle Management Command returned to his roots to preside over the ceremony. A native of Dickson City, Major General Terry attended the University of Scranton and commissioned from the Royal Warrior Battalion in May 1979. He shared with the commissioning class that it had been 35 years and four days since he commissioned on this very campus and began his Army career.

Major Terry spoke to the new Second Lieutenants and audience about the importance of character, taking care of Soldiers, spending time with your family and relying on your faith to carry you through challenging times. He also spoke to commissioning class about the importance of being not only a good communicator but how critical it is that as leaders they also be good listeners.

Following his comments the commissioning class presented Major General Terry with his official set of Royal Warrior Battalion Colors. After which he administered the oath of office to the new lieutenants.

The new officers of the King’s College Detachment are joined on stage by Father John Ryan the President of King’s College and Colonel Joseph Shannon as they celebrate their commissioning.
Immediately following graduation and commissioning from the University of Scranton in May of 2013 I began my career in the Pennsylvania National Guard as a Second Lieutenant. For the first few months I was considered a floater. I didn’t have a position yet because I hadn’t been to Medical Service Corps Basic Officer Leadership Course (MSBOLC). I attended Leader’s meetings, helped out with basic paperwork, and attended the family day that was held at the end of the summer.

In October, I drove down to Fort Sam Houston located in San Antonio, Texas. The first week mainly consisted of inprocessing and briefings. We were separated into platoons, which became our classes for the remainder of the course. Our TACs led the classroom instruction and guided us through the history of the Medical Services Corps. They taught us everything from branch structure to setting up a Combat Support Hospital.

Our three weeks in the field brought everything together, forcing us to utilize our knowledge from the first four weeks of classroom instruction. Of course, we had the basic land navigation course and weapons qualifications, but after the basics were out of the way we got to the good stuff.

We practiced the three roles in health care operations, which consisted of buddy aid on the front lines, setting up and operating battalion aid stations, as well as a combat support hospital. The best part was using the MEDEVACs in the simulations. BOLC was an amazing learning experience and I would go back in a heartbeat.

When I returned to my unit in January I learned that I was now the platoon leader for Headquarters Platoon which mainly consists behavioral health specialists. One of the most important pieces of advice I received from my father, as well as during the Officer/NCO brief we received in ROTC, was to listen and learn from your Non-commissioned Officers. Any time I have a question I know I can count on them, especially my Platoon Sergeant to lead me in the right direction. I am constantly being challenged and learning new things.

I was given the opportunity to attend a Suicide Intervention class and am now a certified Suicide Prevention Officer. I am also a member of ESGR, which teaches employers about USERRA Laws. These laws prevent soldiers from losing their employment positions when away for training or on a deployment. After the presentations, we were able to take the employers up in a Chinook and let them use the flight simulators and tank simulators. This gave them a chance to see and experience what our service men and women do when they go to training each month.

This year has flown by and now I am preparing for my first Annual Training in June. My unit will travel to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. This will be my first chance to be a Convoy Commander, which I am excited for. I felt I was one of the most prepared students when I attended MSBOLC. I had already learned a lot more than most from ROTC, which I greatly attribute to the Royal Warrior Battalion. I am very thankful that the transition from to Cadet to Officer was a smooth one.

New Second Lieutenant Joins Cadre to Assist In Recruiting Operations

Second Lieutenant Nicolette Pizzo was assigned as the Royal Warrior Battalion’s Gold Bar Recruiter immediately following her graduation from King’s College and commissioning on 17 May. Selected to serve on Active Duty as a member of the Adjutant General Corps, 2LT Pizzo will serve as the unit’s Gold Bar Recruiter assisting with recruiting events until she reports to her Basic Officer Leader Course in mid-August 2014. Following her AGBOLC course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, 2LT Pizzo will report to the Republic of Korea and be assigned to the Yong San Army Garrison in Seoul.
Royal Warrior Battalion
The Month In Pictures

Photo (Top—Left) Master Sergeant Roland Cuellar evaluates Military Science Level III Cadet Elizabeth Conn’s push-ups during the Army Physical Fitness Test administered as a part of Operation Final Check Ride on 28 May. Photo (Center—Left) Military Science Level III Cadets plot their land navigation points and plan their routes during the day land navigation training phase of Operation Final Check Ride.

Photo (Top—Right) Military Science Level III Cadet Brandon Souryavong of King’s College navigates to his next point during training at Lackawanna State Park on 28 May.

Photo (Bottom—Left) Major General Michael Terry Administers the oath of office to the new newly commissioned Lieutenants during the University of Scranton commissioning ceremony. Photo (Bottom—Right) Mrs. Tammy Remley is presented the Commander’s Award For Public Service for her support of the Royal Warrior Battalion.