For Cadets in the Royal Warrior Battalion, the balancing act to maintain academic grades and keep up with military responsibilities is a full time job. Between weekly leadership labs, Military Science classes, field training exercises and extra-curricular events, Cadets are required to maintain a level of focus and professionalism that is rarely found in their non-ROTC peers.

But some Cadets take this dedication a step further by participating in varsity sports at their respective universities. To their usual workload, these cadets add hours and hours of practice and game time each week along with the extra stress that comes with less sleep and decreased time with which to keep up with their academic classroom work.

“For me it’s really difficult.” Marywood University Military Science Level II Cadet Victoria Pezdirtz said, “I have little time to do homework, so any free time I have is spent working. Normally the only free time I have is at night so I have to give up sleeping to do homework. I really don't get much sleep (average 4hrs every night in season) and I'm exhausted, mentally and physically.”

Cadet Pezdirtz, who helped the Marywood University women’s varsity soccer team get to the Colonial States Athletic Conference semifinals said that she spends an average of 18 hours on soccer each week between games, travel time and practice each day.

Cadet Pezdirtz is just one of the many Royal Warriors who play a varsity sport. Cadets from across the Battalion and from each academic class participate in sports. From soccer to wrestling and cross country to football, Royal Warriors excel.

A particular example of excellence is Military Science Level III Cadet Eric Bach. A wrestler at Wilkes University, Bach dedicates an average of 25 to 30 hours per week to his sport. That dedication paid off this season, as Cadet Bach was an NCAA Academic All-American and qualified for the NCAA tournament.

“They all demand a fair amount of time” he explained, “and I can see a definite correlation of how focusing more on one causes my performance in the others to suffer, but the key is getting used to long days and managing my time correctly.”

These are just two examples of the 26 cadets in the Battalion who participate in varsity sports at their schools. Each shows a level of professionalism and dedication that outshines their peers and deserves recognition for their achievements.

Pictured above are just a few of the Royal Warrior Army ROTC Cadets who are also members of varsity athletic teams. Cadets Nicolette Pizzo—King’s College Field Hockey and Softball; Dominic Loughlin—Marywood University Baseball; Eric Bach—Wilkes University Wrestling; Victoria Pezdirtz Marywood University Soccer and Michael Shannon Wilkes University Wres-
The Month In Pictures

Photo (Left—Top): Captain Thomas Angstadt, Major Kristofer Thompson and Major Michael Dolan show off their Battalion Colors at the Battalion Farewell conducted on Saturday, 26 April. All three will depart the unit this summer to at Command and General Staff courses.

Photo (Left—Middle): Military Science Level IV Cadets present arms during the Battalion's Cadet Change of Command ceremony conducted on Friday, 25 April.

Photo (Below): Master Sergeant Roland Cuellar passes the NCO Saber to incoming Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major Ryan Bisio during the Battalion's Cadet Change of Responsibility Ceremony held on Friday, 25 April.

Photo (Left—Top): Captain Richard Heier of the 109th Field Artillery, PAARNG presents Military Science Level IV Cadet Donald Yestrepsky with the 109th Field Artillery Award during the Royal Warrior Battalion Awards Ceremony held on Friday, 25 April.

Photo (Left—Bottom): Captain Brian Marquardt the Officer Strength Manager for the PAARNG presents Military Science Level IV Cadet Jered Heater with the PAARNG SMP Cadet Award.

Photo (Right—Bottom): Cadets Christian Burne and Nicholas Constantino lead the Royal Warrior Battalion on final time prior to the Change of Command Ceremony.
Royal Warrior Battalion Happenings

Cadets and Cadre Take Part in Association of the United States Army Luncheon

On Thursday, 24 April 17 members of the Royal Warrior Battalion attended the Association of the United States Army luncheon hosted by the Tobyhanna Army Depot Chapter. Following lunch Cadets, Cadre and other invited guests had the opportunity to hear from Mr. Howard Taylor, the National Security Agency visiting Professor for the United States Military Academy, at West Point. Mr. Taylor spoke to the audience on emerging Cyber threats and steps the military and other governmental agencies are taking to combat the issue. He also discussed the recent decision to establish the Cyber Institute on the grounds of the United States Military Academy. Mr. Taylor served for over twenty-four years in the United States Navy before being his work with the National Security Agency.

Royal Warriors Honor Student Affairs Official

The Royal Warrior Battalion recently recognized Ms. Lauren Rivera the University of Scranton Student Conduct and Assessment Officer for her dedicated support of the Military Science Department. In a gathering attending be several members of the University of Scranton staff and faculty, as well as Cadre and the Cadet Battalion Commander, Ms. Rivera was presented a small plaque by the Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Remley for her commitment to the program over the past four years. Ms. Rivera also serves on the University’s ROTC Advisory Committee and has regularly met with member of the 2nd ROTC Brigade Command Group during their visits to the Royal Warrior Battalion.

Assistant Professors of Military Science Selected For Command & General Staff Programs

Congratulations to Major Kristofer Thompson and Major Michael Dolan who were both recently selected to attend Immediate Level Education/Command & General Staff College courses this summer. Major Thompson will attend the ILE/CGSC course offered at Redstone Arsenal located in Huntsville, Alabama, while Major Dolan will attend the course offered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Major Thompson, an Armor Officer, has served with the Royal Warrior Battalion the past three years starting as the program’s King’s College Detachment Officer In Charge and then serving as the Battalion Executive Officer and Military Science Level II Instructor the last two years. Major Dolan a Field Artillery Officer has spent the past two years as the Recruiting Operations Officer and Military Science Level I Instructor.