

# WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE



ARMY AND AIR FORCE

RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

JOINT AWARDS CEREMONY

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

24 APRIL 2024



# **ORDER OF EVENTS**

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Entrance of Official Party

Presentation of Colors

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Invocation

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Service Songs

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# Lieutenant Colonel Keith Benoit

LTC Keith Benoit enlisted in the Army in 1993 as an Indirect Fire Infantryman. After assignments to Fort Benning, GA and Fort Drum, NY serving in various leadership positions up to Mortar Section Sergeant, LTC Benoit received a Green to Gold scholarship in 2000 and attended Worcester State College in Worcester, MA.

Graduating in 2003, LTC Benoit was commissioned as a 2LT in the Aviation branch, attended flight training at Fort Rucker, AL and qualified in the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior. Following flight school, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC as a battalion S2, recon platoon leader in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and as an aviation planner for a forward deployed special operations task force in the Joint Special Operations Command deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. He was then assigned to Fort Stewart, GA serving as a Brigade Aviation Officer and ground Cavalry Troop Commander in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Mosul, Iraq. Following command, he was assigned to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA where he served as an Observer/ Controller and commanded the flight detachment. After assignment to the Naval War College, LTC Benoit completed an aircraft transition to the AH-64 Apache and was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. During his time there he served as a Squadron Operations and Executive officer while deployed to Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria and later as the Brigade Operations Officer for the 16<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade. In his most recent assignment, he served as an operations officer in an assigned unit to the Joint Special Operations Command in the National Capital Region and is currently assigned as the commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment at Fort Drum, NY. He is slated to assume the position of Chief of Tactics Division for the Aviation Branch at Fort Novosel following this assignment.

LTC Benoit's awards include the Bronze Star (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Senior Aviator Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the Orders of St George and St Michael.

# **ARMY ROTC OFFICERS & STAFF**

**LTC Joseph T. Mazzocchi** - Professor of Military Science

**MAJ Daniel Challas Gimm** - Executive Officer

**MAJ Michael Dutile** - Assistant Professor of Military Science

**CPT Patrick Crews** - Operations Officer, Officer in Charge at  
UMASS Lowell and Assistant Professor of Military Science

**MSG James Conley** - Senior Military Science Instructor

**MSG Charles Dougherty** - Military Science Instructor

**SFC Donald Vota** - Operations NCO and Military Science  
Instructor

**CSM (Ret) Darryl Gill** - Enrollment and Scholarship Officer

**LTC (Ret) Fedencia Fitch** - Human Resources Assistant

**Mrs. Sharon Parry** - Unit Supply Technician

**Mrs. Kim Marie Adams** - Executive Assistant

# **AIR FORCE ROTC OFFICERS & STAFF**

**Lt Col Adam Messer** - Commander & Professor of Aerospace Studies

**Capt Matthew Anderson** - Ops Flight Commander and Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies

**Capt Ashley Olson** - Recruiting Officer and Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies

**SSgt DeAndre Tipton** - NCOIC Personnel

**Mr. Raymond Verrier** - Executive Assistant

# Army ROTC Cadets

## **MS IV ~ Seniors**

Angotti, Peter  
Benson, Coleman  
Bozorgzadeh, Aurush  
Bushe, Kellie  
Christianson, Luka  
Eckstrom, Joel  
Fahmy, Rafael  
Fernandez Scher-  
ington, Alyssium  
Flanagan, Edward  
Ford, Frank  
Goddard, Michael  
King, Seton  
Klier, Joseph  
Krueger, Jared  
Laren, Noah  
O'Neill, Anna  
Regan, John

## **MS III ~ Juniors**

Adan, Gaal  
Aing, Reaseyroth  
Assibey, Freda  
Azeggouar Wallen, Za-  
karia  
Benner, Ryan  
Bonney, Christopher  
Chang, Qi  
Chase, Russell  
Holohan, Keston  
Kosakowski, David  
Katende, Paul  
Manago, Giovanna  
Nguyen Som, Devin  
Prayner, Nicholas  
Salmon, Ajia  
Sanchez, Alfredo  
Swain, Braeden  
Suon, Sabatini  
Walker, Jacob

# Army ROTC Cadets

## **MS II ~ Sophomores**

Andre, Angelica  
Beaurpere, Tristan  
Black, Tiana  
Ceja, Angel  
Ciampa, Alexander  
Clermont, Manalie  
Driscoll, Nicholas  
Illanes, Dante  
Joseph, Theodore  
Kiley, William  
Lopes, John  
Lukas, Sean  
McGraw, Thomas  
Mokonchu, Ester  
McAlpine, Sean  
Nguyen, David  
Paranjape, Rohan  
Palencia, Mazinho  
Parish, Ian  
Pratt, Alexander  
Saunier, Elias  
Stroupe, Audrey  
Tarbrake, Kacey  
Thompson, John  
Tomellini, Alexander  
Walsh, Liam  
Wellerbrady, Dakota

## **MS I ~ Freshmen**

Carter, Logan  
Chaplain, Jenna  
Cortes Hernandez, Juan  
Doroski, Joseph  
Espinal, Luis  
Forsyth, Jack  
Hatem, Ryan  
Hubert, Samuel  
Kunin, Gabriel  
Kurek Bale, Benjamin  
Lebo, Thomas  
Morris, Anna  
Mullaney, Quinn  
Mendez, Ricardo  
Olmeda, Meli  
Ruban, Alisa  
Smith, Tanner  
Vilayvanh, Sawai

# Air Force ROTC Cadets

## **AS400 ~Seniors**

Chae, Carissa

Cohen, Brett

Daton, Michael

Healey, Patrick

Kim, Daniel

Latsis, Nicholas

List, Megan

Long, Hannah

McKevitt, Conner

Pulling, Abigail

Roberts, Joshua

Smith, Griffin

Varady, Erika

## **AS300 ~Juniors**

Doucette, Michael

Frey, Jesse

Furman, Benjamin

Miu, Philip

Ozcilingir, Eren

Phoummathep, Laersunder

Reppucci, Gregory

Saluzzi, Matthew

Sokolowsky, Sophia



# Air Force ROTC Cadets

## **AS200 ~Sophomores**

Busack, Tyler

Chiou, Nathan

Desrosiers, Claire

Engdahl, Eve

Fridberg, Biana

Gallagher, Kaylee

Gomez, Jacob

Hughes, Richard

Lyman, Gabriela L.

Loleng, Julian

Manxhari, Christopher

Quan, Xiyong

Schiller, Timothy

## **AS100 ~Freshmen**

Afriyie, Hannah

Chan, Selima

Ciovacco, Maximilian

Dahlin, Martin

Filep, Genisa

Ireland, Jonathan

Ko, Peter

Ko, Sangwoo

Mora, Peter

Painter, Charly

Pantano, Sofia

Pineda Delgado, Cristian

Sanchez, Nathaniel

Shieh, Lauren

Sunkugari, Shravya

Vashel, Cole

Vintimilla, Cristian

Yee, Kyle

# **AWARD DESCRIPTIONS**

## **Bay State Battalion Community Service Award**

This award recognizes a cadet who made an impact on their college campus or in their local community by living the Army Values and demonstrating commitment to the legacy of the Bay State Battalion and the United States Army.

## **Noncommissioned Officer Award**

This award is given to an Aerospace Studies Cadet who displays diligence, hard work, timeliness, and character in the eyes of the detachment non-commissioned officers.

## **Sergeant York Award**

This award recognizes the Cadet who has made a significant contribution to the battalion through unselfish giving of their time and effort.

## **American Veterans Award**

This award recognizes a first year Cadet who demonstrates a positive attitude toward ROTC and the Air Force or Army, a neat personal appearance, outstanding personal attributes and officer potential. To be eligible, a Cadet must have received an "A" in ROTC in the most recent grading period and be in good academic standing at school.

## **Military Order of World Wars Award**

This medal recognizes a freshman, sophomore, and junior Cadet who demonstrate an outstanding desire to serve ROTC and the United States. They must also be considered most improved in the categories of military and scholastic excellence.

## **Military Order of World Wars Senior Award**

This medal recognizes a graduating senior who is a Guard or Reserve member or will join a local Massachusetts unit upon graduation. The senior cadet must have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, all around excellence in ROTC studies and activities, and demonstrates patriotism, Americanism, and love of country.

### **Association of the U.S. Army National ROTC Medal**

This medal is awarded to a Military Science junior Cadet ranking in the top 10% in ROTC grades, top 25% in academic grades, and having contributed the most through leadership to advance the standing of Military Science at the institution.

### **Association of the U.S. Army Minuteman Chapter Award**

This award is given to an outstanding senior Cadet who personifies the ideals of the Association of the U.S. Army

### **Association of U.S. Army Military History**

This book is awarded to a Cadet who has completed the military history course in the current year and demonstrated strong military aptitude.

### **Sons of the American Revolution Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding junior Cadet at each unit. To be eligible, a Cadet must demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and all-around excellence in ROTC studies and activities.

### **National Society United States Daughters of 1812**

This award recognizes an outstanding Cadet who has demonstrated qualities of academic excellence, leadership, military discipline, dependability, patriotism and upright character in speech and habits, which exemplify the ideals upon which our nation was founded.

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart Award**

This award recognizes a ROTC student who displays exceptional leadership traits while active in school and community affairs.

### **Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding junior or senior at each unit. To be eligible, a Cadet must excel in the Aerospace Studies/Military Science class and demonstrate dependability, good character, discipline, leadership potential, patriotism, and an understanding of the importance of the American heritage.

### **Scottish Rite Award**

This award recognizes one outstanding sophomore or junior Cadet who excels in their academic class, demonstrates patriotism, shows potential for outstanding leadership, and exhibits dependability, good character and self-discipline.

### **National Sojourners Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding sophomore or junior Cadet at each unit who has contributed the most to encourage and demonstrate Americanism within the Cadet corps and on campus. A Cadet must rank in the top 25% of their academic class, encourage and demonstrate the ideals of Americanism, and demonstrate the potential for outstanding leadership.

### **General Society of the War of 1812 Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding sophomore Cadet in each unit who encourages and demonstrates the ideals of Americanism. The Cadet must rank in the top 20 percent of their academic class, rank in the top 10 percent of their AS class, and encourage and demonstrate the ideals of Americanism by deed, conduct, or both.

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding Cadet who is actively engaged in the ROTC program and possesses individual characteristics contributing to leadership. To be eligible, a Cadet must be in good standing academically and militarily. They must also have outstanding achievement in community service and/or the Cadet program, outstanding leadership in the Cadet program, high moral character, exceptional professionalism in appearance and actions, outstanding military bearing, potential and willingness to assume higher levels of responsibility, and be involved in patriotic programs, such as drill team, color guard, Arnold Air Society, or recruiting.

### **Military Officers Association of America Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding junior Cadet at each unit. To be eligible, a Cadet must be in good academic standing, be of high moral character, show a high order of loyalty to the unit, school, and country, and show exceptional potential for military leadership.

### **Reserve Officers Association Award**

This award recognizes outstanding Cadets at each unit. A Cadet must demonstrate a positive attitude, a neat personal appearance, officer potential, and military courtesy. Additionally, they must rank in the top 10% of their Aerospace Studies/Military Science class.

### **AFCEA International Honor Certificate**

This award recognizes a Cadet in a scientific or technical field who has demonstrated leadership and achievement in academics.

### **National Defense Transportation Association Award**

This award recognizes one outstanding junior or senior Cadet who demonstrates excellence in leadership, academics, aptitude for military service, and noteworthy service in the promotion of safety or security of people or property.

### **National Defense Industrial Association Award**

This award recognizes one outstanding Cadet at each unit. A Cadet must have received a B or better in all junior and senior Aerospace Studies/Military Science academics, and excel in their Aerospace Studies/Military Science class. Additionally, the Cadet must demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities

### **American Legion Military Excellence Award**

This award recognizes Cadets at each unit for general military excellence. To be eligible, a Cadet must rank in the top 25% of the respective Aerospace Studies/Military Science class and demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character and citizenship.

### **American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award**

This award recognizes a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior Cadet at each unit for scholastic achievement. To be eligible, a Cadet must rank in the upper 10% of their graduating class and in the upper 25% of their Aerospace Studies/Military Science class, must demonstrate outstanding military leadership qualities, and must actively participate in constructive student activities such as student organizations or sports.

### **Daughters of the American Revolution Award**

This award recognizes one outstanding senior Cadet at each unit. To be eligible, a Cadet must rank in the top 25% of both the Aerospace Studies/ Military Science class and the institution's graduating class. They must also demonstrate dependability, good character, discipline, leadership ability, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of ROTC.

### **Lexington-Concord Chapter Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Scholarship Award**

This scholarship recognizes a junior or senior Cadet who is majoring in a scientific or technical field and demonstrates outstanding officer potential.

### **USAA Spirit Award**

This award recognizes the Cadet who best embodies the concept of service to the unit, community, and nation.

### **Worcester Veterans Council Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding Cadet based on leadership, performance, aptitude, military bearing, and appearance.

### **Kenneth J. Kubilins Memorial Award**

This memorial award recognizes an outstanding Aerospace Studies freshman Cadet *as voted by their peers*, based on the following criteria: leadership, wing performance, attitude, military bearing and appearance. The award is named in memory of 2d Lt Kenneth J. "Kahn" Kubilins, a 1983 Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Air Force ROTC Detachment 340 graduate killed during training when his T-38 crashed at Vance Air Force Base in October 1984.

### **Bay State Ranger Leadership Excellence Award**

Awarded annually to the MS4 Cadet who served as the Ranger Challenge Captain; embodied the Ranger Creed, and demonstrated that Competence Breeds Confidence and Confidence Breeds Excellence.

### **General Curtis LeMay Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding Aerospace Studies sophomore Cadet *as voted by their peers*, based on the following criteria: leadership, wing performance, attitude, military bearing and appearance.

### **Armed Forces Committee of Worcester County Award For AFROTC and AROTC**

The Air Force award recognizes an outstanding Aerospace Studies junior Cadet based on the following criteria: leadership, wing performance, attitude, military bearing and appearance. The Army award recognizes an outstanding Army Cadet based on the following criteria: leadership, performance, attitude, military bearing and appearance.

### **Air Force Association Outstanding Cadet of the Year**

This award recognizes the most outstanding junior Cadet at each Air Force ROTC unit for outstanding achievement in leadership and academic standing in the Air Force ROTC program.

### **Air Force Association Paul Revere Award**

This award recognizes outstanding cadets at each detachment who demonstrate characteristics contributing to leadership and future potential as an officer. Nominees must have a positive attitude toward AFROTC, show initiative and self-confidence, be of high moral character, and reflect a positive image of the United States Air Force.

### **Society of American Military Engineers Award**

The Society of American Military Engineers award recognizes outstanding junior and senior engineering students in Army ROTC. The purpose of this award is to impress upon undergraduate engineering students, by appropriate recognition of meritorious promise of achievement in the field, the importance of engineering to national security. To be eligible, a Cadet must rank in the upper 25% of their engineering class and in the top 25% of their ROTC classes.

### **Steven J. Duso Memorial Award**

This memorial award recognizes an outstanding senior Aerospace Studies Cadet *as voted by their peers*, based on the following criteria: leadership, wing performance, attitude, military bearing, and appearance. The award is named in memory of Steven J. Duso, an Air Force ROTC Detachment 340 Cadet who died while soloing from Sterling Airport on 22 November 1980.

### **Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts Award**

This award is given to two Military Science senior Cadets who demonstrate outstanding motivation and military aptitude, preferably with National Guard service or aspiration to it.

### **Archibald R. Lemieux Award**

This award recognizes an outstanding Aerospace Studies junior Cadet *as voted by their peers*, based on the following criteria: leadership, wing performance, attitude, military bearing and appearance.

### **Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award**

This award is given annually to the outstanding ROTC Cadet in each year of Military Science at the institution. The Cadet must be in the top 25% of ROTC and academic standing. Selection criteria consist of ROTC Scholarship and GPA, Academic Scholarship and GPA, Military Leadership and Academic Leadership.

### **Laura Matejik Memorial Award**

CPT Laura Matejik Eberts was an alumna of the WPI Army ROTC Bay State Battalion commissioning class of 2004. She was a varsity athlete in field hockey and rugby at WPI, an avid long distance runner, and graduated with a 4.0 in Biomedical Engineering. After receiving her Juris Doctorate from George Washington University, she served as JAG Corps officer at Redstone Arsenal, AL and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010. She is remembered by all as a dedicated wife, Soldier, classmate, and friend. The individual receiving this award is an embodiment of the spirit of Laura and all that she stood for.

### **Professor of Military Science Award**

This award recognizes the outstanding leadership of the Cadet Battalion Commanders.



### **Brigadier General John E. Murray Award**

The Brigadier General John E. Murray Award recognizes excellence in the freshman class and is nominated based on academic GPA, athletic performance, and on-campus ROTC training.

### **Air Force Distinguished Graduate Award**

The Distinguished Graduate is nominated based on academic GPA, athletic performance, on-campus ROTC training and performance at the Field Training. Only the most outstanding Cadets in the top 10% of the nation earn the distinction of Distinguished Graduate. The Air Force ROTC Detachment 340 Distinguished Graduate is awarded the DG Saber and has their name engraved in the Commander's Trophy.

### **Department of the Army Senior Military Merit Award**

The Army Senior Merit Award is presented to cadets who rank in the top 20% of their national cohort.

### **General George C. Marshall Award**

This award is given to the most outstanding Military Science senior Cadet having completed the ROTC Advanced Camp who demonstrated those leadership and scholastic qualities that epitomized the career of General Marshall.

### **The Army Values—Superior Leadership Award**

This award recognizes the one Cadet in the battalion that best exemplifies the Army Values. We use the letters LDRSHIP to remember each one. Many people know what the words Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage mean; however, these values are not always lived up to. This award recognizes the one Cadet who epitomizes these words every day of their life.

# THE ARMY SONG

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.  
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to  
victory.

We're the Army and proud of our name!

We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

First to fight for the right,  
And to build the Nation's might,  
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting 'til the battle's won,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!

The Army's on its way.

Count off the cadence loud and strong,

For where e'er we go,

You will always know,

That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

## **THE AIR FORCE SONG**

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,

Climbing high into the sun;

Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,

At 'em now, Give 'em the gun! (Give 'em the gun, Hey!)

Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,

Off with one helluva roar!

We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

## **THE SPACE FORCE SONG**

We're the mighty watchful eye,

Guardians beyond the blue.

The invisible front line,

Warfighters brave and true.

Boldly reaching into space,

There's no limit to our sky.

Standing guard both night and day,

We're the Space Force from on high!



Thank you to all of our sponsors, administrators, faculty, friends, and family who joined us today.

We salute you!

Photos of the ceremony will be posted on our social media pages