WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS

JOINT SERVICE
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
Dear Parents, Family and Friends,

On behalf of the WPI community I am pleased to welcome you to the Reserve Officer Training Corps Joint Commissioning Ceremony. This ceremony recognizes the hard work and dedication of these fine young graduates, and accepts them into the ranks of the officers in the United States Army and Air Force.

These students have successfully managed college careers that have challenged them academically, as well as prepared them for future military service. They possess the highest levels of excellence, sense of duty, leadership, and devotion to family and nation.

Their successes that we celebrate today mark them as deserving of our every confidence. They are assuming the mantle of leadership in our Armed Forces during a time of great complexity and uncertainty. I am confident that they have developed the skills they’ll need to navigate their path ahead. Please join me in wishing them success in their future endeavors as they lead our nation’s military in the preservation of freedom.

Sincerely,

Grace J. Wang, Ph.D.
President
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Opening Remarks
Arrival of Commissionees
Arrival of Official Party
Presentation of the Colors
National Anthem
Invocation
Introduction
Lieutenant Colonel Adam Messer
Professor of Aerospace Studies
Commissioning Officer Remarks
Brigadier General Andrew J. Leone
Mobilization Assistant to the Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition,
Technology and Logistics
Oath of Office
Official Pinning
Presentation of Commissions
Benediction
Retiring of Colors
AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS
DET 340 “GODDARD WING”

Department of Aerospace Studies

Lt Col Adam Messer, Commander
Capt Matthew Anderson, Operations Flight Commander
Capt Ashley Olson, Recruiting Officer
MSgt Andrew Moody, ROTC Training Instructor
SSgt Deandre Tipton, ROTC Training Instructor
Mr. Raymond Verrier, Executive Assistant
ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS’ TRAINING CORPS “BAY STATE BATTALION”

Department of Military Science

LTC Joseph Mazzocchi, Professor of Military Science
MAJ Daniel Challas-Gimm, Executive Officer
MAJ Michael Dutile, Assistant Professor of Military Science
CPT Patrick Crews, Operations Officer and Officer in Charge at UMASS Lowell
MSG James Conley, Senior Military Science Instructor
MSG Charles Dougherty, Military Science Instructor
SFC Donald Vota, Military Science Instructor
CSM (Ret) Darryl Gill, Enrollment & Scholarship Officer
LTC (Ret) Fedencia Fitch, Human Resources Assistant
Mrs. Sharon Parry, Unit Supply Technician
Mrs. Kim Marie Adams, Executive Assistant
Brigadier General Andrew J. Leone
Mobilization Assistant to the Military Deputy,
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air
Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Leone is the
Mobilization Assistant to the Military
Deputy, Office of the Assistant
Secretary of the Air Force for
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics,
the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. He is
responsible for assisting in research and
development, test, production, product
support and modernization of Air Force
programs worth more than $60 billion
annually.

Brig. Gen. Leone received his
commission in 1991 through the
Reserve Officer Training Corps
program at Worcester Polytechnic
Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts. His
first assignment was Acquisition
Program Manager for the Air Force’s
Shelter Technology Office at Hanscom
Air Force Base, Mass. where he
directed all acquisition and procurement activities for several tactical shelter
programs. In 1995, Brig. Gen. Leone attended Specialized Undergraduate
Navigator Training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In 1996, he was assigned
to the 16th Airlift Squadron, 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB, South Carolina
as a Wing Navigator in the Special Operations Low Level II program. He has
flown combat missions supporting operations in Kosovo and Macedonia. In 2001,
Brig. Gen. Leone joined the Air Force Reserve in Charleston AFB, S.C. and was
assigned to 315th Wing Plans. Brig. Gen. Leone commanded the 315th Logistics
Readiness Flight where he was responsible for all activities of the logistics
readiness function. In 2007, he deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba supporting the
Defense Department’s Office for the Administrative Review of the Detention of
Enemy Combatants.

Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Leone was the Mobilization Assistant to
the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Contracting. He also served as
the Director of the Joint Reserve Directorate in the Office of Under Secretary of
Defense for Research and Engineering at the Pentagon. Prior to serving in OSD,
Brig. Gen. Leone was the Deputy Commander of the 315th Mission Support
Group, 315th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, S.C. where he provided
leadership as second in command of 600+ members.
OATH OF OFFICE

"I, ______________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."
To Be Commissioned
Second Lieutenant, United States Air Force:

Carissa Chae
Universal City, TX
Brown University
Statistics
Health Services Administrator

Brett Cohen
Manhattan, NY
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mechanical Engineering
Maintenance Officer
**Michael Daton**  
Jackson, NJ  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Aerospace Engineering (BS) & Mechanical Engineering (MS)  
Developmental Engineer

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**Patrick Healey**  
Atkinson, NH  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Mechanical Engineering  
Acquisition Manager
Daniel Kim
Valencia, CA
Brown University
Environmental Sciences
Air Battle Manager

Nicholas Latsis
Burlington, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Data Science
Acquisition Manager
Megan List
Fayetteville, PA
Brown University
Biochemistry
Medical School Scholarship

Conner McKevidt
Stafford, VA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Computer Science & Robotics
Engineering
Intelligence
Abigail Pulling
Hanson, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Civil Engineering & Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Civil Engineer

Joshua Roberts
Chicopee, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Chemical Engineering
Developmental Engineer
To Be Commissioned
Second Lieutenant, United States Space Force:

Hannah Long
Ligonier, PA
Brown University
Mechanical Engineering
Developmental Engineer

Griffin Smith
Melbourne, FL
Brown University
Computer Science
Space Operations
Erika Varady
Huntington, NY
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Aerospace Engineering (BS) &
Mechanical Engineering (MS)
Space Operations
Distinguished Graduate
To Be Commissioned
Second Lieutenant, United States Army:

Peter Angotti
Arlington, MA
Clark University
History
Armor

Colman Benson
Scituate, MA
College of the Holy Cross
Political Science
Infantry
Distinguished Military Graduate
Kellie Bushe
Holden, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Biomedical Engineering & Professional Writing
Medical Service Corps
CT Army National Guard

Luka Christianson
Katy, TX
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mechanical Engineering
Ordnance Corps
Joel Eckstrom  
Shrewsbury, MA  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Mechanical Engineering  
Armor  
MN Army National Guard

Rafael Fahmy  
Westborough, MA  
Worcester State University  
Biology  
Corps of Engineers  
MA Army National Guard
Edward Flanagan
Needham, MA
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mechanical Engineering
Corps of Engineers
MA Army National Guard

Franklin Ford
Allentown, NJ
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Architectural Engineering
Air Defense Artillery
Distinguished Military Graduate
Seton King
New Hartford, NY
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Architectural Engineering
Transportation Corps
U.S. Army Reserve
Distinguished Military Graduate

Joseph Klier
Cohasset, MA
College of the Holy Cross
Political Science
Transportation Corps
Jared Krueger  
Bristol, CT  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Mechanical Engineering  
Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Army Reserve

Noah Laren  
Blackstone, MA  
Assumption University  
Political Science  
Military Intelligence  
MA Army National Guard  
Distinguished Military Graduate
Anna O’Neill
Mashpee, MA
College of the Holy Cross
Political Science
Adjutant General’s Corps
NJ Army National Guard
THE AIR FORCE SONG:  
Wild Blue Yonder

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!
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: Semper Supra

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.
THE ARMY SONG:
The Army Goes Rolling Along

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.