

# PANTHER PRESS

PANTHER BATTALION, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA  
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UNI ROTC NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013

## MAJ(P) Glen Keith takes command at UNI

Major Keith assumed duties as the Professor of Military Science at the University of Northern Iowa in August 2013. Major Keith is a native of Cookeville, Tennessee. He began his military career in 1992 as an enlisted Marine reservist. In 1997 he earned his commission in the Army from Tennessee Tech University and became a Transportation Officer. He has been assigned to a variety of units at the platoon, company, battalion, brigade, Army staff, and combatant command joint staff level. His assignments as a Lieutenant included the 27<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion and 181<sup>st</sup> Transportation Battalion in Germany where he deployed to both Bosnia and Macedonia. In 2001, he was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY where he served as the Division Support Command Support Operations Officer (SPO), Company Commander in the 710<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, and the S3 in 10<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion. He deployed with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Upon redeployment, MAJ Keith was assigned to the Army's Human Resources Command where he served as a Logistics Captains Career Manager.

Major Keith served as the Battalion Executive Officer and SPO with the 704<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 4/4 Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO where he deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan. His most recent assignment was with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and US Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, CO. Major Keith's military education includes the Transportation Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Captains Career Course, US Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Joint & Combined Warfighting School. Major Keith earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Tennessee Technological University. He also earned a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Military Studies from Marine Corps University.

His Awards and Decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (OLC), Army Achievement Medal (OLC), Valorous Unit Award, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (OLC), Meritorious Unit Commendation (OLC), Army Superior Unit Award (OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.



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<http://www.uni-foundation.org/>



Cadet Cameron Griffith (left) receives a Certificate of Appreciation.

## Cadet Griffith CULP Experience

Cadet Cameron Griffith was selected to take part in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program this summer. He had the unique opportunity to spend three and a half weeks in Togo, West Africa interacting with civilian and military leaders, visiting historical landmarks, and observing Soldiers of the Togo Army conducting training.

Cadet Griffith stated, the Togo military members were most interested in learning about how our Soldiers conduct physical training, U.S. rank structure, commissioning sources, and special schools such as Ranger and Special Forces.

When asked about the infrastructure of Togo, he noted that Togo has a capable electric system, but that the sewer and water system was poor. Cadet Griffith mentioned that drinking water is scarce and the citizens goal is to be able to eat one good meal a day. Cadet Cameron Griffith will be a Junior this fall at the University of Northern Iowa. CULP is an opportunity available to all contracted Sophomores in the UNI ROTC program.

## MSG Dyer to serve as Senior Military Instructor

Master Sergeant James Dyer arrived at the UNI ROTC program in July 2013.

He joined the Army in Aug. of 1990, shortly after graduating High School. His first assignment was with B CO 2/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA where he served in positions ranging from Rifleman to Weapons Squad Leader. In Jan. of 1995 he was assigned to 1/21 Infantry Regiment Schofield Barracks, HI where he served as Scout Sniper Team leader and a Weapons Squad leader. His next assignment was to Fort Richardson AK where he served as a Weapons Squad Leader in C Co 1/501 Parachute Infantry Regiment and as the Ground liaison Officer (GLO) and Tasking NCO in UASRAK. He was then assigned to Fort Campbell, KY where he served in 3/502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 1/506<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in multiple positions ranging from Weapons Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant and to Scout Platoon Sergeant. In 2007 he was assigned to Fort Benning, GA where he served as a Ranger Instructor in 4<sup>th</sup> RTB and as the First Sergeant for C CO 1/507 in the Airborne School. Following this he was assigned to Fort Riley, KS where he held the position of First Sergeant for A CO 2/16 and HHC 4-1 BSTB. Master Sergeant Dyer has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (3 Tours) and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Master Sergeant Dyer's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (3OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1OLC), Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Army Commendation Medal (4OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1OLC), the Valorous Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal (7<sup>th</sup> Award), National Defense Service Medal (1 Star) Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (4 Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (4<sup>th</sup> Award) and the NATO Medal. Master Sergeant Dyer has also been awarded the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and the Pathfinder Badge.



MSG James Dyer

## LDAC Highlights

UNI ROTC Cadets took the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) by storm this year. 18 Cadets traveled to Ft. Lewis, Washington to test their Leadership skills and prove they have what it takes to be Officers in the United States Army. This group of future Lieutenants pushed themselves to an average APFT over 287, higher than the BDE and USACC average. The following Cadets lead the way with scores over 300: Pinion, Starnes, Godoy, Paulsen, Madsen, Ostrander, and Wieneke. Over half of the Cadets received one or more Excellence (E) Ratings for a total of 28 earned during various training events. These four Cadets earned an overall E to qualify Recondo: Flores, Madsen, Stricker and Wieneke.

Cadet Maher, who is also a Soldier in the National Guard, felt that the Combat Life Saver (CLS) training received in Basic Combat Training (BCT) was an advantage at LDAC. As a Senior this year she intends to ensure the Cadets who haven't completed BCT get extra training on CLS before they attend LDAC next summer. Many of the seniors felt the hours spent in labs and field training during the school year prepared them well for the STX Lanes challenges. Cadet Reichle stated he was looking forward to passing on his experience in regards to Garrison Leadership.

Overall, the Cadets indicated they had learned more about themselves as leaders and they have a lot of ideas they will share with the next class.

“ Learn to be flexible and ready to adapt to any situation.”

-Cadet Knebel



Cadet Reichle (left front) leading the way during water survival skills training at LDAC

## CPT Nesdahl arrives at UNI to teach MS II

CPT Daniel Nesdahl was born in Hayward, CA. He enlisted in the Army in May 1998 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC. After Airborne school at Ft. Benning, GA, he completed Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Lee, VA. He was awarded the MOS of 92R (Parachute Rigger). His first assignment was with the 647<sup>th</sup> QM CO(A) at Ft. Bragg, NC from November 1998-June 2001. Upon completion of his tour at Ft. Bragg, he served as the Operations NCO in the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (A) at Ft. Carson, CO from July 2001 until June 2006. While assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> SFG(A), he deployed in support of OIF II from January 2004 until May 2004 and again in support of OIF III from November 2004 until June 2005.

CPT Nesdahl graduated Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA in 2006 and then attended the Field Artillery Basic Course at Ft. Sill, OK. Upon completion, CPT Nesdahl was assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE 4<sup>th</sup> ID at Ft. Carson, CO, where he served as the Company Fire Support Officer for E CO 1-68 CAB and the Fire Direction Officer for A BTRY 3-29 FA. CPT Nesdahl deployed with the 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE 4<sup>th</sup> ID in support of OIF from December 2007-February 2009. In September 2009, CPT Nesdahl attended the Captain's Career Course at Ft. Sill, OK. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 2-77<sup>th</sup> FA at Ft. Carson, CO. CPT Nesdahl served as the BN Assistant S3 and as the BN S4. He was then assigned to Ft. Sill, OK. CPT Nesdahl commanded A BTRY 1-19FA from 13 October 2011 until 24 April 2013. CPT Nesdahl is a graduate of Southwest Minnesota State University with a BA in Physical Education.

CPT Nesdahl's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 SLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (3 Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Ribbon. CPT Nesdahl has also been awarded the Parachutist Badge and the Parachute Rigger Badge.



Cadet Faley pulls security while at LDAC.

## CPT Degenhardt to teach MS I & II in Dubuque

CPT Clayton Degenhardt is a native of Dubuque, Iowa, he arrived to campus in July. He enlisted in the Army in August 1992 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Knox, Ky, followed by Airborne school at Ft. Benning, GA, and then Advanced Individual Training where he earned the MOS 11B. He served as an Infantryman at Ft. Irwin, CA (OPFOR), Camp Casey, Korea, and Vicenza, Italy. In 2000 he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course and was awarded the MOS 18D (Special Forces Medical Sergeant). Following this he was assigned to 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (A), ODA 064 from 2000 till 2004.

CPT Degenhardt completed OCS in December 2004 and was branched Engineer. He completed two Company Commands (30 Months) in the 10<sup>th</sup> SFG (A) Support Battalion. Deployment History: 30 months Iraq in support of OIF, 15 Months Kosovo, 15 Months Bosnia, 4 Months Africa, 6 Months Honduras, 6 Months Kuwait, and 6 Months Republic of Georgia. He has attended the following Military courses, Engineer Basic Course, Engineer Advanced Course. He completed his degrees at Regis University where he earned his BA and the University of Missouri where he earned his Masters.

CPT Degenhardt's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 SLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 SLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (4th Award), Nato Ribbon, Humanitarian Award, JSAM, JCOM, Kosovo Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (4 Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award), Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Ribbon (3<sup>rd</sup> Award). CPT Degenhardt has also been awarded the Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge with Combat Jump, EIB, CIB, CMB, Free Fall Badge, and his foreign badges follow: Nijmegen 100 mile foot march survivor badge, Italian Parachutists badge, Polish Parachutist Badge, Australian Parachutist Badge, Royal Netherlands Parachutist Badge, and Royal Netherlands Master Parachutists Badge.

## CTLT, LTC and Airborne

This summer several students took advantage of additional training opportunities. Cadets competed for the opportunity to complete the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) Program which is similar to an Active Duty internship. Cadet's Pinion, Starnes, Paulsen, Faley and Flood completed this training at several different U.S Army bases and a couple trained in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Cadet Edwards was selected for a very competitive Airborne slot, she successfully completed this training at Ft.

Benning, GA. Cadet West demonstrated her commitment to being a future leader by completing the Leader Training Course (LTC) at Fort Knox, earning herself a two year scholarship.

All of these future leaders came back with a kit bag full of lessons learned and have already started sharing their experiences with the underclassmen.



CPT Clayton Degenhardt

## Fall Training Highlights

### Fall FTX

27-29 September  
Camp Ingawanis

### Ranger Challenge

18-20 October  
Camp Dodge

### German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

1-3 November  
Western Illinois University

### BDE Ranger Challenge

1-3 November  
Camp Dodge

### Thanksgiving Break

25-29 November

### Commissioning

19 December  
University of Dubuque

20 December  
UNI-West Gym

### Christmas Break

21 December-13 January  
Home of Record



## UNI ROTC bids farewell to Mr. (COL) Keith Lostroh

After serving 14 years as a valuable member of the UNI ROTC Program, COL Lostroh is leaving in September to join the ROTC program at Truman State University in Missouri. During his time at UNI, COL Lostroh served as the Recruiting Operations Officer, Executive Officer, and has taught the MS II Class as well as the Survival Skills Class. COL Lostroh always brought a “can do” attitude to work everyday. Those who have worked with him know that he has made a direct impact on all cadets, not only in the program, but throughout their lives with his mentorship. COL Lostroh will tell you that this has been the most rewarding part of his job, “mentoring young leaders and continuing to contact them after they start their careers.”

COL Lostroh recently graduated from the Army War College. He is currently Commanding the 7302nd Medical Training Support Battalion (MTSB) out of Madison, Wisconsin. The Cadre and Cadets of the UNI ROTC Program would like to wish COL Lostroh, his wife Megan and his son Aaron the best of luck as they move on to future endeavors.



## Alumni Spotlight

**LTC Stephen Boesen** currently serves as the Operations Officer at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center. LTC Boesen was a Distinguished Military Graduate from the UNI ROTC program in 1992. He is currently attending the Army War College and is scheduled to graduate in May 2014. LTC Boesen has 27 total years of service. He has commanded at the Company and BN Level. LTC Boesen has deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Some of his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal(1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal(3 OLC), Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Order of St. Maurice-Centurion Level. LTC Boesen has two younger brothers that have also graduated from the UNI ROTC Program, MAJ Josh Boesen and 1LT (P) Jason Boesen. LTC Boesen's son Zach recently enlisted as an Infantryman in 1-168 IN

**LTC Jeffrey Abel** is currently assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) where he serves as the Force Integration Division Chief on the G3/5/7 Staff. LTC Abel was commissioned through the UNI ROTC Program in May 1993. He is currently attending the Army War College and is scheduled to graduate in May 2014. LTC Abel has 25 total years of service. He has held the positions of Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Assistant Professor of Military Science, and Force Development Officer. LTC Abel's deployments include Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia), Operation Joint Guard (Bosnia), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq), and Operation New Dawn (Iraq). Some of his awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Combat action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Basic Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Badge. LTC Abel's twin brother Marc is also a graduate of the UNI ROTC Program.

LTC Stephen Boesen (left) and LTC Jeffrey Abel (right) are currently attending the Army War College.



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## Contact Us

Alumni of the UNI ROTC Program, we want to hear from you! The UNI ROTC Program is currently updating the Alumni Contact Roster. Please send us your current contact information and share this newsletter with your classmates to ensure we reach everyone. We will be featuring Alumni in each edition of our newsletter so let us know what's new with you!

Information can be sent to Debbie Ackerson at [Debra.Ackerson@UNI.edu](mailto:Debra.Ackerson@UNI.edu)

## Military Science Fund for Excellence

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<http://www.uni-foundation.org/>

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