

No Fear Alumni Newsletter Spring 2026



RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS IN NO FEAR!

SENIOR BRANCHING

Last semester, on DEC 4th, our senior cadets received their branches. Eight Cadets are going active duty, three are going into the reserves, and two are going into the National Guard. The list of all cadets' names and their respective branches and components is listed on the last page of the newsletter. Please consider sending a letter of encouragement to a senior by May 1 as they prepare for their future as an Army officer.

Ranger Challenge

Feb 20-22, 2026

Ranger Challenge is an annual competition between all 4th Brigade battalions and is a weekend-long test of physical fitness, general army knowledge, and basic soldiering tasks. It is a competitive opportunity for the best of the best in the program and those willing to go above and beyond to better themselves! This year, our team placed 18th out of 48 and in the top 3 in HUMMV Push and One Rope Bridge. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication.



Joint Field Training Exercise

March 27, 2026

JFTX at Camp Butner is a multi-day training event where cadets from The No Fear Battalion, Appalachian State, and North Carolina A&T are evaluated on tactical skills in a realistic field environment during platoon lanes. Cadets lead platoons through missions such as patrols and ambushes, navigating challenging terrain and facing simulated opposition. The goal is to build resilience, teamwork, and confidence, preparing them for the challenges of being a future Army officer.



No Fear Events!



Mountain Man Memorial March

April 11, 2026

The Mountain Man Memorial March is a rigorous 26.2-mile, 35 lbs rucksack challenge held annually in Gatlinburg, TN. This event serves as a powerful tribute to honor fallen service members and provide support to Gold Star families who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

Military Ball

April 23, 2026

The Military Ball is our premier opportunity to honor the Scholar-Athlete-Leaders who define our battalion's standard. We recognize outstanding achievements in Leadership and Physical Excellence, alongside those showing the most significant growth in Academics and Physical Readiness. Finally, we salute the grit of our specialized teams: Ranger Challenge, Color Guard, and the Mountain Man team.



Commissioning

May, 2026

This May, our program celebrates a defining milestone as we bid farewell to our senior class and welcome them into the US Army. After years of rigorous training, academic excellence, and leadership development, our seniors will officially pin on their gold bars.

- May 15th: We celebrate our Winston-Salem State University seniors
- May 18th: We honor our seniors from Wake Forest University and our first Salem College graduate in 26 years!

Scan the QR-Code below for a link to our No Fear giving page if you want to support upcoming No Fear events!



Scan the QR-Code below for a link to our No Fear merch store if you want to rep the No Fear Battalion!



Impact of Supporting No Fear

Thank you for considering a donation to the No Fear Battalion. Below are examples of how your contribution may be used to help support cadet training, development, and BN events!

\$10

Supports a cadet meal after a training exercise or a battalion polo.

\$25

Helps to fund battalion events like Military Ball and Branch Night to celebrate our cadets and their success

\$50

Supports a cadet to attend our annual Military Ball!

\$75

Supports registration for a cadet to attend Mountain Man Memorial March!

\$100

Supports registration for a cadet to attend the annual Army-10 Miler!

\$200

Supports training events for cadets and allows us to buy more advanced training aids like medical equipment.



Alumni Spotlight



CPT James H. Knight

A 1968 Wake Forest graduate, CPT (R) James H. Knight was a highly decorated 101st Airborne veteran of the Vietnam War. For his gallantry at firebases like Ripcord and Bastogne, he earned three Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Following his distinguished military service, Knight continued his legacy of leadership as a respected referee for both the ACC and the NFL, embodying the spirit of Pro Humanitate throughout his life.



LTC Laura C. Tilley

Lt. Col. Laura Cookman Tilley ('06) is a highly decorated Army physician who currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University. A magna cum laude Wake Forest graduate and valedictorian of her medical school class, the U.S. Army Surgeon General has recognized her as the most outstanding physician among her peers. Her military honors include the Combat Medical Badge, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Medical Department Iron Major Award. Throughout her career, which includes service as a Squadron Surgeon in Afghanistan, she has remained dedicated to advancing trauma care and military-civilian medical collaboration.

How to Nominate

If you would like to nominate yourself or another No Fear Battalion Alumni for our next Alumni Spotlight, please email weekpi24@wfu with the Alumni name and a brief summary of why they should be spotlighted and their recent accomplishments.

Our 2LTs



BOLC Graduates

Congratulations to 2LT Costello, 2LT Donahue, and 2LT Orr on graduating from the FA BOLC together.

Congratulations to 2LT Dailey for graduating AR BOLC on the Commandant's List.

Ranger Graduate

Congratulations to 2LT Pearson for graduating IN BOLC and earning his Ranger Tab



Encouraging Our Senior Cadets

Please consider sending a letter of encouragement to a senior by May 1 as they prepare for their future as an Army officer. Letters can be sent to 1834 Wake Forest Road, ROTC Building, Winston-Salem, NC 27109. Letters can also be sent via email to ROTC@wfu.edu



CDT Robert Trelo
Signal Corps
Reserves



CDT Dicie Peralas
Logistics
Active Duty



CDT Reesa Devers
Medical Corps
Active Duty



CDT Coloton Muzynski
Infantry
Active Duty



CDT Graham Milligan
Field Artillery
OH National Guard



CDT Joshua Samonte
Engineer
Active Duty



CDT Ben Strasser
Engineer
Active Duty



CDT Wednesday Smetak
Logistics
Reserves



CDT Shaan Soni
Signal Branch Detail Infantry
Active Duty



CDT Catherine Major
Logistics
NC National Guard



CDT Jayla Warren
Logistics
Active Duty



CDT Finn Ried
Infantry
Active Duty



CDT Courtney Gardner
Chemical Corps
Reserves

Join us for the

No Fear Battalion Military Ball

Where we will honor the hard work of
our cadets this year

APRIL

THURS **23** 2026

5-9 PM

106 Reynolda Vlg Wy, Winston-Salem, NC
27106

Tickets are \$15

Price Raises
to \$20
April 1st



Dress Code:
Black Tie

Donations are
welcomed

When purchasing a donation ticket
please use "Cadet" as the name