

*Patriot Battalion
Reserve Officers' Training Corps
Commissioning Ceremony*



*Providence College War Memorial Grotto
16 May 2025*

Sequence of Events

Entrance of the Official Party

Lieutenant Colonel Jason R. Kneib, Professor of Military Science

Rev. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., President of Providence College

Rev. Iriarte Andújar, O.P., Associate Dean of Admission & Patriot BN Chaplain

Brigadier General Kenneth P. Wisniewski III, Assistant Adjutant General, NYNG

Honored Guests

Brigadier General Andrew J. Chevalier, Adjutant General, RI National Guard

State Command Sergeant Major, Michael S. Wong, Rhode Island National Guard

Fr. Thomas More Garrett, O.P., Executive Vice President, Providence College

Dr. Sylvia Maxfield, Interim Provost/Sr. Vice President Academic Affairs, PC

Dr. Gabriela Torres, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, Rhode Island College

Dr. Daniel Ames, Interim Assoc. Dean of the College of Business, Bryant University

Ms. Becky Scheusner, Prog. Coordinator, Military Affiliated Students, Brown Univ.

Playing of the National Anthem

Invocation

Rev. Kenneth Sicard, O.P., President of Providence College

Introduction & Remarks

Lieutenant Colonel Jason R. Kneib, Professor of Military Science

Guest Speaker

Brigadier General Kenneth P. Wisniewski III, Assistant Adjutant General NYNG

Oath of Office

Lieutenant Colonel Jason R. Kneib, Professor of Military Science

Pinning of Rank, First Salute & Presentation of Awards

Honored Guests and Family Members

Benediction

Rev. Iriarte Andújar, O.P., Associate Dean of Admission & Patriot BN Chaplain

Playing of the Army Song & Departing of the Official Party

Reception

Patio of St. Dominic Chapel

Guest Speaker

Brigadier General Kenneth P. Wisniewski III Assistant Adjutant General, New York National Guard



BG Kenneth P. Wisniewski enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard at age 17, earning his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry Branch as he entered his senior year at Bryant University in 1996. BG Wisniewski has served at the company level as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Infantry Company Commander; and at the battalion level as an Infantry Battalion Executive Officer and Infantry Battalion Commander. His other notable assignments include Operations Officer for Joint Force Headquarters, Massachusetts National Guard; Chief of Sustainment Training Branch, Joint Force Headquarters, Massachusetts National Guard; Chief of the Training Division, Joint Force Headquarters, Massachusetts National Guard; S2/S3 of 79th Troop Command Massachusetts National Guard; Commander, 51st Troop Command, Massachusetts National Guard; and Chief of Joint Staff for the Massachusetts National Guard.

BG Wisniewski currently serves as the Assistant Adjutant General for the State of New York's National Guard at the Joint Force Headquarters in Latham, NY. In civilian life he is a sales director in the biotechnology industry. His notable awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

BG Wisniewski is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Advanced Operations and Warfighting Course, the Mountain Warfare School, the Army Airborne School, the Ranger School, and the Army War College. Along with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bryant University, BG Wisniewski holds a master's in business administration from Bentley University. He and his wife Holly have four children: Katie, Ava, Kenneth IV, and Emma.

Patriot Battalion Class of 2025

Suryawan Ang	Medical Services Corps, Regular Army
Alexander Coleman	Infantry, National Guard
Liam Doherty	Armor, Regular Army
Greyson Heinzer	Infantry, National Guard
Lily Johnson	Medical Specialists Corps, Regular Army
John Leone	Field Artillery, Regular Army
Alexis Mercedes	Adjutant General, Regular Army
Michael Sexton	Military Intelligence, National Guard
Linda Starrs	Adjutant General, Reserves
Greta Stubner	Medical Specialists Corps, Regular Army
Anna Vygoder	Military Intelligence, Regular Army
Keegan Walpole	Signal Corps, Regular Army

The following Cadets have branch detailed:

Alexis Mercedes	Armor, Regular Army
Anna Vygoder	Field Artillery, Regular Army
Keegan Walpole	Infantry, Regular Army

Patriot Battalion Distinguished Military Graduates

The following members have distinguished themselves by meeting the standards in displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, high moral character, noteworthy academic achievement, superior camp performance, and exceptional aptitude for military service.

***Liam Doherty, Providence College
Greyson Heinzer, Providence College
Lily Johnson, Brown University
Linda Starrs, Brown University
Anna Vygoder, Rhode Island College***

Presentation of Awards

The Department of The Army Distinguished Military Graduate

This prestigious distinction is awarded to the top 20% of all Cadets, nationwide for displaying outstanding qualities of leadership, high moral character, exemplary academic achievement, superior Advanced Camp performance, and exceptional aptitude for military service.

The Military Order of Foreign Wars Academic Excellence Award

Honoring a deserving Cadet for their outstanding leadership, loyalty, and devotion to duty.

The Rhode Island College ROTC Achievement Award

Awarded for attaining the highest standing of military aptitude, moral character, scholastic achievement, and leadership potential.

The Bryant University ROTC Achievement Award

Awarded for attaining the highest standing of military aptitude, moral character, scholastic achievement, and leadership potential.

The Brown University ROTC Achievement Award

Awarded for attaining the highest standing of military aptitude, moral character, scholastic achievement, and leadership potential.

The First Command Leadership Excellence Award

Awarded to a Patriot Battalion Cadet for their outstanding military leadership potential, scholastic merit and high moral character.

The J. Hull Family Award

Given to a Brown University Cadet who contributes to the overall success of the ROTC program. This award is a public display of support by the Hull family.

The Patriot Battalion Class of 1999 Award

Presented to a Cadet who exemplifies the value of teamwork and unquestionably upholds the legacy of the Class of 1999!

Providence College President's Trophy

This award was established in 1958 by the Very Reverend Robert Slavin, to recognize a Providence College Senior Cadet who has demonstrated outstanding ROTC achievement, honor, character, and leadership.

Presentation of Awards

The Rhode Island Chapter Association of the United States Army Award

Awarded to a Cadet for excellence in Military studies and for demonstrated leadership and their contributions to the program.

The Robert Riesman First Infantry Division Award

Given in memory of Colonel Riesman, an advocate of the ROTC college program, this award is an embodiment of his belief that quality leaders are educated, molded, and nurtured in educational institutions. Presented to a Cadet that was selected for active duty in a combat arms branch and who has demonstrated exceptional loyalty and devotion to the ideals of the First Infantry Division.

1LT Brian McPhillips (USMC) Memorial Award

Given in memory of Lieutenant Brian McPhillips, killed in action in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM on April 4th, 2003 as a member of the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. A Providence College alum who received his commission in the US Marine Corps in 2000 Presented to a Cadet who best exemplifies the qualities of Lieutenant McPhillips and demonstrated excellence in Scholastic and Military Studies.

Providence College “Class of ‘66” Award

Given in memory of the Providence College class of 1966, from which three graduates were killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam. Presented to a Providence College Cadet who best exemplifies the values of citizenship and service to the Nation.

The CPT John “Jay” Tobin Memorial Award

Given in memory of Captain Tobin, a native of Belmont, MA, commissioning class of 1998, who served as an Air Defense and Ordnance Officer with a combat tour to Kosovo in 2000. This award is sponsored by Captain Tobin’s family and presented by his classmates to honor his memory. Presented to a Cadet who best exemplifies and displays outstanding leadership, high moral character, and an exceptional aptitude for military service.

The 1LT Gregory J. Paredes Memorial Award

Established on March 31, 1988 by the Paredes family. Given in memory of Lieutenant Paredes, commissioning class of 1985, who gave his life in the line of duty in a heroic attempt to rescue a wounded American Soldier. Presented to a Senior Cadet who best demonstrates scholastic excellence and traits of moral courage, selflessness, and loyalty while a member of the Patriot Battalion.

Presentation of Awards

COL Gerald F. Dillon & COL Ryan S. Dillion ROTC Award

Presented to a Providence College Cadet who has been selected for Active Duty and will commission into either the Infantry or Combat Arms branch, and displays and extraordinary level of loyalty, duty, selflessness, and a general love for Military Service.

The Legacy Leader Award

Awarded to an individual who naturally puts others before self through simple acts of leadership. This Cadet has unknowingly laid the groundwork for other's success and leaves a significant impact on both the Cadets of Patriot Battalion and members of the local community, mission first, people always.

Grand Lodge of Rhode Island Sons & Daughters of Italy in America Award

Awarded to a Senior Cadet for their loyalty and service to the Patriot Battalion.

The LTC (Ret.) Joseph A. Cichon, Jr. Award

Awarded to a Cadet that displays an extraordinary level of loyalty, duty, and their contributions to the program.

The Providence College COL J. Gardner Conway Alumni Award

COL Conway enlisted in the Rhode Island National Guard in 1931, and served in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the 1/103rd Field Artillery. COL Conway committed himself to numerous military, Providence College and civic affairs. His life positively influenced many great organizations. In 1989, COL Conway received the Mal Brown Award from the Greater Providence Chapter of the Providence College Alumni Association. The award is the highest accolade given to PC Alumni "whose lives have exemplified the love and loyalty for PC that was characteristic of Mal Brown."

Presented to a superior Providence College Cadet who has achieved the highest standing in terms of military attitude, moral character, holistic achievement, and leadership potential; ultimately typifying the honor and humanity of COL J. Gardner Conway.

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 till 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 (TWO! THREE!)
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.



Front Row (L to R): 2LT Ang, 2LT Doherty, 2LT Starrs, 2LT Johnson,
CDT Feliz, 2LT Vygoder, 2LT Stubner

Back Row (L to R): 2LT Leone, 2LT Walpole, 2LT Sexton,
2LT Mercedes, 2LT Coleman, 2LT Heinzer

History of the Patriot Battalion

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia



A shoulder sleeve insignia (often abbreviated SSI), is an embroidered patch used by major formations of the United States Army. Each formation has a unique patch, and the U.S. Army is unique among the U.S. Armed Forces in that all Soldiers are required to wear the patch of their headquarters as part of their uniforms.

Shoulder sleeve insignia are often created with symbolism alluding to the unit's formation. Examples include the 82nd Airborne Division, which included an "AA" on its patch alluding to the "All American" Soldiers from every state that made it up, and the 29th Infantry Division, which included blue and grey to allude to Soldiers that made it up being from states on both sides of the American Civil War.

The shoulder sleeve insignia of the Patriot Battalion bears the Dominican Cross on a shield of black in honor of the Battalion's Dominican host school, Providence College. Above the shield is a scroll bearing the word "PROVIDENCE," the home to almost all of the colleges and universities supported by the Battalion.

Cadets receive the shoulder sleeve insignia of the Patriot Battalion during their contracting ceremony as a symbol of their entrance into Profession of Arms. From that moment on, they are required to wear it on their uniform as a visible reminder of their commitment to the Battalion, the U.S. Army and their newly chosen profession.

Patriot Battalion History

The Providence College ROTC Battalion has been proud to help develop the leaders of tomorrow.

ROTC at Providence College dates back to 8 January 1951, when the Very Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P., then President of the College, received word via Western Union Telegram that the Department of the Army had approved establishment of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps within the college curriculum. The first PMS&T, Colonel Roy P. Moss, was appointed to activate a Transportation Corps Unit on 1 March 1951. On 19 September 1951, Colonel Moss officially opened the Military Science Department of the Providence College Transportation Corps Unit.

The original student enrollment for the 1951-1952 academic year was 512 cadets. In 1953, the first ROTC graduating class, consisting of seven men, received commissions in the Transportation Corps. At the beginning of the 1954-1955 academic year the unit was re-designated as a General Military Science Program.

Before 1957, ROTC was required for all physically qualified freshman and sophomore students, except those engaged in pre-ecclesiastical studies and veterans of the armed forces.

In August of 1956, the Rifle Range was built, and in September of the same year, the Pershing Rifles had its official inauguration into the Providence College ROTC Unit as company K-12. During the early 1960s the Providence College ROTC Unit provided the U.S. Army with many qualified officers, who served in the Vietnam conflict. As a result of the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964, students from local colleges not offering an ROTC program became eligible to participate in the program at Providence College.

The Vitalization Act also resulted in both four-year and two-year ROTC scholarships.

ROTC programs around the nation did witness a decline in enrollment during the late 1960s and early 1970s, due to the changing public opinion toward military service. The revitalization of ROTC began in the 1973-1974 academic year, as women were allowed to enroll in the ROTC program.

In 1982, Bryant College (now Bryant University) was added to the Patriot Battalion and in 1983 the following were included: Brown University, Johnson and Wales University, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, Rhode Island College, Community College of RI and Bristol Community College. Throughout its history, the ROTC program at Providence College has been continually recognized as one of the top programs in the New England and New York area. To date 2,047 officers have been commissioned through the Providence College Program.



Graduation, January 28, 1944, Army Specialist Training Program collection, Providence College Archives and Special Collections

The National Colors



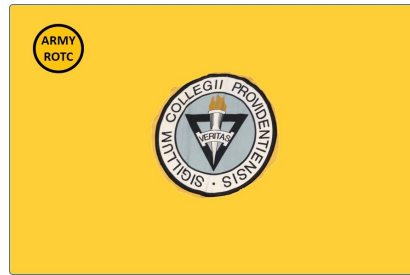
The flag of the United States is a living symbol that calls to our spirit, reminding us of the greatness of America. We cherish and uphold it because it is the standard of honor under which we live. The proper name of the nation's symbol is the United States Flag; however, it is sometimes referred to as Old Glory or the Stars and Stripes. We view the flag with devotion, for it represents our national heritage of noble deeds, splendid accomplishment, and untold sacrifices which combined to establish the moral character of our country. Our flag is a symbol that makes our past one with the present and makes the present a foundation for tomorrow. It signifies a people dedicated to liberty, justice and freedom for all.

The Army Flag



The Army flag was dedicated and unfurled to the general public on 14 June 1956, at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on the 181st anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Army by the Continental Congress in 1775. Measuring 4 feet 4 inches by 5 feet 6 inches, the flag is of white silk with a blue embroidered central design of the original War Office seal. "United States Army" is inscribed in white letters on a scarlet scroll, with the year "1775" in blue numerals below. The 188 streamers attached to the Army Flag staff denote campaigns fought by the Army throughout our nation's history. Each streamer (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and 4 feet long) is embroidered with the designation of a campaign and the year (s) in which it occurred. The colors derive from the campaign ribbon authorized for service in that particular war.

The Patriot Battalion Colors



The flag of the Patriot Battalion incorporates the seal of Providence College. The Triangle represents the Trinity, which teaches the student to live according to the higher principles of supernatural grace. The Torch, indicative of learning, is emblematic of the Dominican Order.

The motto, “VERITAS” means Truth, and is the proper objective of all intellectual activity.

The Guidon



Historically the guidon served as a point around which Soldiers of the unit would rally in battle. The guidon is traditionally in the forefront of a formation and signifies the continuity of the organization even as Soldiers move on to other units. The guidon is

a great source of pride for the unit and carries with it the lineage, history and home of the unit. The Patriot Battalion guidon features the Army ROTC “Leadership Excellence” patch worn by all Army ROTC cadets across the country.



United States Army Cadet Command



The shield (patch) symbolizes the Army mission of National Defense and is divided into quarters representing the four traditional Military Science courses comprising the Senior ROTC curriculum. The sword signifies courage, gallantry, and self-sacrifice intrinsic to the profession of arms. The lamp denotes the pursuit of knowledge, higher learning, and the partnership of Army ROTC with American colleges and universities. The Greek helmet is symbolic of the ancient civilization concept of the warrior scholar. The motto "Leadership Excellence" expresses the ultimate responsibility of Army ROTC in the discharge of its moral responsibility to the Nation.