

Thank you for attending



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

**SENECA BATTALION
U.S. ARMY ROTC**



16 MAY 2020

Sequence of Events

National Anthem.....	Video Presentation
Invocation/Blessing of the Bars....	Fr. James Vacco, O.F.M.
Welcome	LTC Sean Coulter Professor of Military Science
Keynote Address.....	BG Maureen LeBoeuf
Administration of the Oath.....	CPT Jared Kausner LTC (Ret.) Larry Johnson COL (Ret.) Gary Machina 2LT Christopher Rickicki
Pinning of Lieutenants' Bars.....	Individual Families
First Salutes.....	1SG (Ret.) James Walton 1SG Tad Levac MSG Kirklee Daubon MSG Nicholas Miller SSG Gary Walton
Benediction.....	Fr. James Vacco, O.F.M.



Oath of Office

*I, having been appointed an officer in the
Army of the United States, in the grade of
Second Lieutenant, 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 upon which I am about
to enter,*

So Help Me God.



Battalion History

The Department of Military Science has a proud lineage and supportive relationship with St. Bonaventure University, beginning in 1936 when Fr. Thomas Plassmann, the university president, submitted an application to the United States War Department requesting the establishment of an ROTC program on campus. Training began in September of 1936, and in 1939 the first class of seven second lieutenants was commissioned as United States Army officers.

During World War II, the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) temporarily suspended formal ROTC training when the university acquired the same status as an Army camp along with all of the rules and regulations in force at Army bases during the war. Robinson and Falconio residence halls were built as military barracks and are still used as student residence halls today. At the end of the war in 1945, the pre-war ROTC program was again instituted at St. Bonaventure with all ROTC graduates being commissioned into the Field Artillery branch.

The year 1970 saw many significant changes in the battalion. The University Board of Trustees voted to make ROTC an elective, rather than mandatory as in the past years. New Second Lieutenants could now be commissioned into all branches of the Army instead of just Field Artillery.



Guest Speaker's Biography

Brigadier General (Ret.) Maureen LeBoeuf, Ed.D.
U.S. Army



Maureen K. LeBoeuf was born and raised in Olean, New York. She graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1976 and received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

During her 28-year career in the Army she held various staff and leadership positions, and flew UH-1 helicopters in the continental United States and Europe. Most noteworthy was her assignment as Professor and Head of the Department of Physical Education from 1997 until her retirement in 2004. Her position carried the unique title "Master of the Sword."

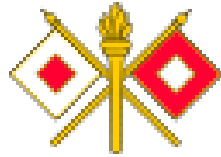
She was the first woman department head at the United States Military Academy since it was founded in 1802. Upon her retirement Maureen was advanced to the rank of Brigadier General.

While the Head of the Department of Physical Education at the United States Military Academy, Maureen had oversight of the four-year physical education and fitness development programs for the 4,400 members of the Corps of Cadets. Additionally, she was directly involved in the \$102 million renovation of the 500,000-square-foot Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center.

Maureen served for nine years as a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Bonaventure University, and for three years as the Executive Director of the Feagin Leadership Program at Duke Sports Medicine. She also served as Vice Chair of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. She presently serves as Chair of the board of the USO of North Carolina, and as a senior advisor and faculty member of the Thayer Leader Development Group at West Point.

Maureen is the author of the book: "Developing Your Philosophy of Living & Leading One Moment at a Time" (2019).

Second Lieutenants & their Branches



Signal Corps

Michael Douglas, a cybersecurity major from Litchfield, New Hampshire, who enrolled in ROTC on a 2-year scholarship in the fall of 2017. The son of Michael and Brenda Douglas, he commissioned into the United States National Guard as a Signal Corps officer. Administering the oath to Michael Douglas will be LTC Sean Coulter. Pinning his bars will be his parents. Rendering 2LT Douglas' first salute will be First Sergeant (Ret.) James Walton, US Army.



Medical Services Corps

Cierra Grimaldi, a health science major from Cuba, New York, who enrolled in ROTC on a 2.5-year scholarship in the spring of 2018. She served as a tactical instructor. The daughter of Joe and Dinah Grimaldi, she commissioned into the United States National Guard as a medical services officer. Administering the oath to Cierra Grimaldi will be CPT(P) David Endter. Pinning her bars will be her parents. Rendering 2LT Grimaldi's first salute will be First Sergeant (Ret.) James Walton, US Army.



Silver Dollar Salute



It's an honored tradition — a new second lieutenant proudly hands a shiny silver dollar to the first enlisted soldier who salutes him or her. The exact origin of the custom is unknown, but it probably began before the U.S. armed forces were organized. British regiments stationed in colonial America brought with them a number of customs and traditions. One status symbol highly sought by newly commissioned British officers was to have a servant assigned to them, normally an enlisted soldier to whom the new officer paid a small sum to ensure that the officer's kit, uniforms, and personal equipment were within regulations and serviceable. The enlisted man also was responsible for teaching his officer the regiment's history, traditions and customs.

This custom continued to grow within the newly formed American units. American second lieutenants in 1816 received a monthly base pay of \$25, a \$3 ration allowance, and \$1 for a servant. The dollar-for-a-servant tradition may be the basis for the modern custom of a dollar for a first salute. In *Army Lore* and the *Customs of the Service*, Maj. Mark M. Boatner III states: "For years it has been traditional for a new commissioned officer to give a dollar to the first man who salutes him. Many an old soldier has cashed in on his knowledge of this tradition by posting himself strategically near a graduation ceremony of an officer candidate school."

Authorized by Congress on April 2, 1792, the silver dollar traditionally is the only coin given in exchange for the first salute. The coin represents more than a dollar in currency. It represents the symbolic receipt of respect due the newly earned rank. It signifies a deep sense of gratitude of the new officer for the knowledge enlisted soldiers, especially noncommissioned officers (NCOs), have passed on during training, and it says, "Welcome to our service and to the profession of arms."

2020 Senior Class Members

St. Bonaventure University

CDT Michael Douglas - Signal Corps

CDT Cierra Grimaldi - Medical Services Corps

CDT Jacob Keenan - Armor

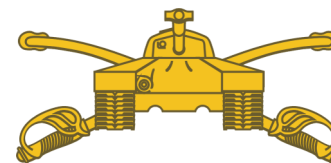
CDT Alexander Lombard - Armor

CDT Donovan Lowe - Armor

CDT Sarah Machina - Ordnance

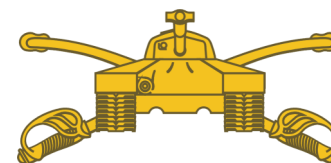
CDT Michael Rickicki - Infantry

Second Lieutenants & their Branches



Armor

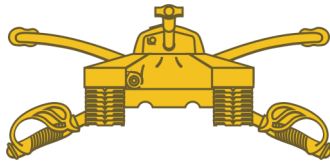
Jacob Keenan, an adolescence education and history major from East Aurora, New York, who enrolled in ROTC on a 3-year scholarship in the fall of 2016. He served as the battalion executive officer. He received the Association of the United States Army History Award and the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Decoration Award. The son of Susan Keenan and the late Jeffery Keenan, he commissioned as an active duty armor officer. Administering the oath to Jacob Keenan will be CPT Jared Kausner. Pinning his bars will be his mother. Rendering 2LT Keenan's first salute will be Staff Sergeant Tad Levac, US Army.



Armor

Alexander Lombard, a finance major and economics minor from Hamburg, New York, who enrolled in ROTC on a 2-year National Guard scholarship in the fall 2017. He served as a battalion tactics instructor. He received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award. The son of Richard and Tracy Lombard, he commissioned into the New York National Guard as an armor officer. Administering the oath to Alex Lombard will be LTC (Ret.) Larry Johnson. Pinning his bars will be his parents. Rendering 2LT Lombard's first salute will be Sergeant Robert Wutz, US Army Vietnam Veteran.

Second Lieutenants & their Branches



Armor

Donavan Lowe, a political science major from Chillicothe, Ohio, who enrolled in ROTC on a 3-year scholarship in the fall of 2016. He served as the battalion operations officer. He received the 8th District American Legion Award for Military Excellence. The son of Wendell and Tamra Lowe, he commissioned as an active duty armor officer. Administering the oath to Donavan Lowe will be LTC Sean Coulter. Pinning his bars will be his parents. Rendering 2LT Lowe's first salute will be Master Sergeant Kirklee Daubon, US Army.



Ordnance

Sarah Machina, a childhood education major from Clifton Park, New York, who enrolled in ROTC on a 3-year scholarship in the fall of 2016. She served as the Gold Bar Club president her sophomore year, and battalion Command Sergeant Major her junior year. She received the George C. Marshall ROTC Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Award, and the Military Science Award from St. Bonaventure University. The daughter of COL (Ret.) Gary Machina and Carolyn Machina, she commissioned into the New York National Guard as an ordnance officer. Administering the oath to Sarah Machina will be COL (Ret.) Gary Machina. Pinning her bars will be her mother and brother. Rendering 2LT Machina's first salute will be Master Sergeant Nicholas Miller, US Army.

Second Lieutenants & their Branches



Infantry

Michael Rickicki, a philosophy major from Bolivar, New York, who enrolled in ROTC on a 3.5-year scholarship in the spring of 2017. Michael served as captain of the battalion's Ranger Challenge team, then served as the battalion senior tactics instructor his senior year. He received the Military Science Award from St. Bonaventure University and the Reserve Officers' Association Award. The son of Pfc. (Ret.) Scott Rickicki and Michelle Rickicki, he commissioned into the Colorado National Guard as an infantry officer. Administering the oath to Michael Rickicki will be 2LT Christopher Rickicki. Pinning his bars will be his mother. Rendering 2LT Rickicki's first salute will be Staff Sergeant Gary Walton, US Army.

