We are proud of the Army ROTC program here at the University of Alabama, and *The Crimson Guard* is our way of telling interested alumni, friends, parents, prospective students and current students, along with all of our faculty and staff on campus what our Cadets are accomplishing over the semester. We are forging new connections throughout the university and with off campus partnerships.

**KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:**

December Commissioning ~ December 11, 2020

I cannot begin to express how sincerely proud I am of how flexible, agile, and adaptive that each of you have been this semester amid so much uncertainty. Your steadfastness in becoming future Army officers is evident by how you tackled every obstacle you encountered. We have changed the way we operate in a virtual and socially distanced organization, the Army physical fitness test has changed, CST standards are changing, yet you are taking it all in stride. You make the work I do much easier. As you prepare for the holiday season and winter break, be sure to enjoy time with your friends, families and loved ones. This break is unusually longer than in times past, so be sure to maintain your physical fitness. Keep us posted on your physical progress through social media! Stay safe, and ROLL TIDE!
Hope everyone is doing well and living COVID free! This semester has been a challenge for everyone and our Cadets have performed well. With distance learning options and social distancing during morning PT and at Wednesday labs, we have had to adapt and overcome. The Freshman class has blown away my expectations and gotten more involved in the Battalion than any other class of Freshman I have taught in the last four years and I hope they keep up the motivation. The Battalion itself, is attacking physical training in preparation for the Army Combat Fitness Test and I know our Cadets will perform well. Around 50% of the Cadets voluntarily participated in the Army Ten Miler that was held here on Campus and that speaks volumes of their motivation and team spirit. The Fall FTX had five different universities attend and was a great success! This was only possible because of the great team of Cadre that we have at Alabama. I am thankful for our Cadre and our Cadets and I know that the Crimson Tide Battalion will continue to be successful in everything it does. Roll Tide!

The Crimson Tide Battalion’s Color Guard has continued to work very hard despite the circumstance that COVID-19 has posed. The Crimson Tide Battalion’s Color Guard has nearly tripled in size this semester, and they continue to strive to surpass the standard.
Fall FTX
The Crimson Tide Battalion’s MS III’s and MS IV’s conducted the Fall Field Training Exercise as apart of Operation Agile Leader, along with five other schools at Ft. McClellan. Despite limitations Cadets successfully completed OAL!
The Crimson Tide Battalion would like to recognize Cadet Andrew Tippett. Cadet Tippett is an MS II Cadet who has continuously shown what it means to be a dedicated, and well-rounded Cadet. He has been on The Crimson Tide Battalion's Ranger Challenge Team since the fall of his freshman year, and continues to exceed the standard that has been set both physically and mentally. His involvement, and humble leadership characteristics continue to show through his actions everyday.

"My favorite thing about ROTC is the people you meet. Everybody comes from all walks of life but everybody is working as a team. My favorite experiences here are with Ranger Challenge, because it is a really close knit group and you learn a lot about each other in that setting. My advice for incoming freshman is to take advantage of every opportunity possible in the program, it is really going to open doors for you in the future, above all do not be afraid to push yourself."
The Crimson Tide Battalion would like to recognize Mr. Vann Herring. Alabama ROTC Alumni, Combat Engineer, and CEO of Mckibbon Hospitality who is a true example of the University of Alabama's motto; "Where Leaders are made". Mr. Herring's humble yet deliberate leadership characteristics and capabilities have fallen nothing short of outstanding. Mr. Herring came from a family of exceptional military service members, most importantly his father; SGT. Max Herring. (right) Mr. Herring’s father inspired him to carry on the diligence, resilience and professionalism he was taught every man and soldier should have. Keep it up Mr. Herring, Roll Tide!

"It is better to do what is right, before you do something the right way."

"To serve was always a responsibility, an expectation to your country. Being in the service taught me a few things; you learn to grow up fast and take responsibility for not just your actions. It taught me that in order to reach the common goal you have to set all differences aside, and we were working with the absolute most diverse group of individuals. Not everyone sees the world through the same lens that you do, so you must walk in their moccasins. The second biggest decision you make in your life after who you chose to love, is who you work for. I looked at every position I was in as an opportunity to grow. My advice to younger Cadets and Soldiers is to be yourself always, be willing to take chances, go the extra mile, whatever it takes to set yourself apart. As a leader you can't solve everyone's problems, but you sure can listen. If there is one thing you remember, remember this, the most important person in the world is the one standing right in front of you. Roll Tide!"
9/11 Memorial

Cadets gathered on The Quad to memorialize this historic day in history where so many first responders and innocent people lost their lives. Cadets planted flags into the ground to symbolize that the American people will never forget not only the tragic loss The United States experienced on this day in history, but also the heroic first responders who managed to save many more lives.
This semester Cadets on Ranger Challenge have been hard at work despite the cancellation of the Brigade competition due to COVID-19. This has only kept the team optimistic, and taken this as an opportunity to offer more diverse training that will just help them get better prepared for next years competition. Ranger Challenge continues to train despite COVID-19 mitigations.
Combat Water Survival Training

The Crimson Tide Battalion successfully participated in CWST. This included a fifteen meter swim in full gear with a rifle held above the water, a three meter drop blindfolded without letting go of the weapon, and an equipment removal while staying beneath the surface of the water all while in full uniform and sneakers.
This past semester, the Cadets of the Crimson Tide Battalion have trained incredibly hard and adapted to the challenges presented this year due to the global pandemic. In September, Cadets participated in a tribute that honored those lives lost and sacrificed during the events of 9/11. Later that month, Cadets braved the Combat Water Survival Test, completing yet another commissioning requirement. In October, Cadets had the opportunity to run in this year’s “Virtual” Army 10-Miler. MS IIs and IVs attended Operation Agile Leader in late October, during which, Cadets were able to make up missed Cadet Summer Training events. The Corps of Cadets Color Guard has nearly tripled in size this semester and continues to practice, displaying professionalism and discipline. I am exceptionally proud of the Crimson Tide Battalion and all of its hard work it has done this semester and cannot wait to see what is accomplished in the spring of 2021.

**Halloween PT**

For Halloween this year, The Crimson Tide Battalion hosted a costume contest during PT. Cadets participated in a survival run from zombies who were played by the MS IV’s. Those who were captured by the zombies were to be carried on a littler. Additionally, Cadets participated in a costume contest, in which Cadet Ryan Page won.
Virtual Army Ten Miler

This fall The Crimson Tide Battalion was able to participate in the Virtual Army Ten Miler. Five teams virtually competed, and more than sixty Cadets competed individually. MS I Cadet Nathan Leis won first place overall, and the Ranger Challenge Team place first out of all five teams. The remainder of the Crimson Tide Battalion showed tremendous support by volunteering.
JOIN ROTC

INTERESTED IN ROTC?
SCHEDULE A VISIT

Whether you’re in high school, college or already in the Army, you can become an officer in today’s Army through joining ROTC. You can enroll your freshman and sophomore years without any obligation. You will learn the building blocks for leadership skills and tactics which will allow you to succeed as an Army Officer. ROTC offers merit-based scholarships that can pay up to the full cost of tuition and open educational opportunities. We are looking for Students who strive towards excellence and want something more out of their college experience. We want students who are leaders that are ready to be challenged physically and mentally as they learn what it takes to be an officer in the U.S. Army.

CAMPUS VISITS
We encourage future Cadets to visit campus to learn more about what the university has to offer and to see if becoming a member of the Crimson Tide Battalion is the right path for you. Schedule your visit today! Visit the website below to schedule a campus visit.

NURSING PROGRAM
The ROTC Program is also looking for highly skilled nursing students that are interested in serving as an Army Nurse. Please see the link below for information about the Nursing Programs at The University of Alabama.

HTTP://ARMYROTC.UA.EDU/