

Links To ROTC's Past Return

Six members of the Army Specialized Training Program returned to Providence College on Wednesday September 10, to remember fallen classmates, visit the campus, and interact with the cadets in today's program. The Army Special Training Program was created during World War Two as a way to ensure that some of the Army's very best and brightest received college education. For the ASTP members at Providence College that college education would have to wait until after the war for in 1944 they were called to serve in Europe where many of them saw action at the Battle of the Bugle. Like many of their counterparts they returned home after the war to earn college degrees and go on to very successful lives in the civilian world. During their day long visit returning members took part in a luncheon, a remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial Grotto, a tour of the department's supply room, and a question and answer session with MS IIIs & IVs. For members of today's Military Science program the Army Specialized Training Program marked the start of the long standing bond between Providence College and the United States Army. Since 1951 Army ROTC has been offered every year to students and over 1,750 have gone on to earn commissions in the United States Army, Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Senior NCO Joins Cadre

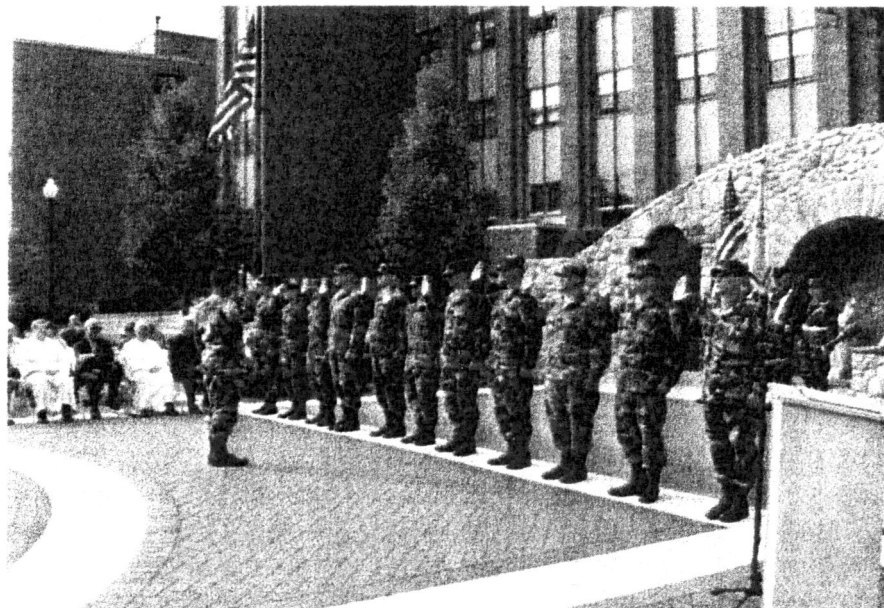
The Patriot Battalion is proud to welcome aboard Master Sergeant David DeFreitas. Bringing over twenty years of experience to the cadre, MSG DeFreitas has served in a variety of Armor units in both Germany and the United States. In addition to serving in the Armor community, he served three years at West Point as a TAC NCO in the late 1990s. Additionally he served as a company First Sergeant prior to arriving in Providence. While assigned to the Patriot Battalion MSG DeFreitas will serve as the Assistant MS III Instructor, Battalion Operation NCO, and oversee Color Guard Operations. MSG DeFreitas is married with two daughters and currently resides at Newport Naval Station.



Cadets Raise Their Right Hand

On Wednesday, September 3rd eleven cadets from the Patriot Battalion stood before friends, family, cadre, and fellow cadets taking the contracting oath. Cadets are eligible contact once they accept an Army ROTC scholarship or enters the program's advance course, which begin the junior year. In addition to friends and family members, the battalion was proud to have in attendance Providence College President Father Philip Smith, Vice President Father Stuart McPhail, Academic Vice President Thomas Canavan and History Professor Richard Deasy. The following cadets contracted this year:

MS III John Davis, Rhode Island College
MS III Robert Jacavone, Bryant College
MS III Richard Knightly, Providence College
MS III Robert Thorne, Providence College
MS II Brian Cotter, Providence College
MS II Peter Farese, Providence College
MS II Steven Gerry, Providence College
MS II Nicholas Loring, Bryant College
MS II Christopher Nelson, Providence College
MS II Philip Sepelak, Bryant College
MS I Mathew Kotowski, Providence College



Above: LTC McGonagle administers the loyalty oath to cadets during the Contracting Ceremony. Below: MS III Cadet Julie Conway leads the Color Guard during the Ceremony.

