The Blazer BN held the end of the year Awards Ceremony on 19 April to celebrate the end of the year and all of the hard work that the cadets put in throughout the year. Pictured above are cadets Russo and Shedd who received the Distinguished Military Graduate award for ranking in the top 20% of all cadets in the nation.

This semester, the cadets participated in the spring paintball FTX where they were transported to the area of operations by CH-47 helicopters. This adds a realistic feel to the training the cadets receive.
Commissioning Ceremony

Congratulations to the Army’s newest 2nd Lieutenants! On the 28th of April 2018, the Blazer Battalion marked the completion of hard work and dedication spanning years towards the goal of becoming an officer in the United States Army.

The program would like to thank the Adjutant General of Alabama, Major General Sheryl E. Gordon, for her insight and encouraging words at the commissioning ceremony and wish 2LT Steven Bugg, 2LT Cheyenne Daniels, 2LT Matthew Perley, 2LT Hunter Russo, and 2LT Austin Shedd only the BEST in their future endeavors!
Ranger Challenge

The Blazer Battalion Ranger Challenge team trains harder and longer than anyone else to be able to compete in the Ranger Challenge competition every year. This year’s team placed 4th out of 10 teams.

Already preparing for next year’s competition, the Ranger Challenge Team conducted a spring FTX consisting of a ruck march, combat casualty care, and one rope bridge to hone skills for the next competition.
Awards Ceremony
At the end of each year, the Blazer BN holds an awards ceremony to reward the cadets for all of their hard work.

A few of the awards given out are: highest PT score in the BN, Superior cadet award for each MS class, and the Airborne cadet of the year award.

Each cadet puts forth max effort to be able to achieve many great things over the last year. The Blazer BN is extremely proud of each and every cadet in the program.
BN Run

This year’s BN SHARP awareness Run was special. It both raised awareness of Sexual Assault/harassment program, but also marked LTC Stephen Skells’ last day with the program. His leadership will be missed as he heads to Hawaii to assume Battalion command following a successful tenure as UAB’s Professor of Military Science.

BN runs are meant to build morale and raise motivation, and this semester’s run did just that. Our cadets came motivated and ready to run and call some roaring cadences through the UAB hospital district and Birmingham.
Military Ball

Each year, the Blazer BN holds a ball to mark the closing out of the semester of training. This year’s ball was held at Ross Bridge Golf Course in Birmingham. The cadets and their dates were able to listen to COL (R) Sloughey share his insights as to what makes a successful officer. They also ate some delicious food and a few special cadets won some very funny awards, such as the foot in mouth award, cadet for life award, and best actor award. This was also the last formal event for many of the commissioning seniors.

Pictured to the right are all of the awardees of the night.
From left to right, front: Cadets Palmer and McQueen
Back: Cadets Clayton, Griffies, Jesky, Shedd, Guevara, Daniels, and Fowler.
Spring FTX

The spring FTX included paintball to reinforce tactics and leader training with more realistic and “stinging” consequence inherent with small unit tactics. This forces cadets to use teamwork, leadership, and fire superiority.

The acting Blazer BN PMS, Major Hayes, acted as one of the OPFOR (Opposing Forces) and cadets clearly took care of him during the platoon attack mission.

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