

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
TIGER BATTALION  
ROTC OFFICER  
COMMISSIONING



2 JUNE 2020

# OFFICER COMMISSIONING CEREMONY 2020

## **Introduction**

Major John R. Mauro  
Assistant Director  
Army Officer Education Program

## **Introduction of the Commissioning Speaker**

Major John R. Mauro

## **National Anthem**

Cadet Jack Bound  
Princeton University '22

## **Commissioning Address**

Lieutenant General  
Christopher G. Cavoli  
Commander of U.S. Army Europe

## **Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Theresa S. Thames  
Associate Dean of  
Religious Life and the Chapel  
Princeton University

## **Oath of Office**

Pinning of Rank  
2nd Lieutenants' family members

## **Welcome**

LTC Courtney E. Jones  
Director  
Army Officer Education Program

## **Silver Dollar Salutes**

Master Sergeant John B. Kirby  
Senior Military Science Instructor

## **Presentation of Senior Gift**

## **Remarks**

Christopher L. Eisgruber  
President  
Princeton University

## **Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Theresa S. Thames

Dr. Kathryn A. Foster  
President  
The College of New Jersey

## **Army Song**

Dr. Ali A. Houshmand  
President  
Rowan University

Mary Beth Daisey  
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs  
Rutgers University-Camden

## HISTORY OF THE TIGER BATTALION

From its conception in 1746, Princeton University's history has often paralleled the military history of the nation. The University became a battleground of the Revolutionary War in 1777. In 1783, the newly formed Congress received General George Washington at Nassau Hall and tendered him the Nation's gratitude for his wartime services.

In 1919, following World War I, The War Department established Princeton University Field Artillery Battalion as one of the 125 Army ROTC units. Stationed at Princeton that year was an instructional staff, which consisted of eight regular Army officers and an enlisted detachment of thirty men as well as ninety horses and a battery of four French 75mm guns. While many changes have taken place since its inception in 1919, the Princeton ROTC unit traditionally remained a Field Artillery unit until 1957 when the faculty approved adoption of a general Military Science Program.

Although some 9,972 Princeton men served in World War II, it was the 2,000 graduates of the ROTC program in the years between the world wars that stood at the forefront as battlefield commanders or in key staff positions. The record of Princeton men and women serving in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and, currently, Afghanistan has proven beyond a shadow of doubt Princeton ROTC's dedication to the University's informal motto: "In the nation's service and the service of humanity." On Veterans Day this past fall, the program celebrated 100 years of training, developing, and commissioning the Nation's finest Army officers.

Today, Princeton University is proud to be a host program that includes cadets from The College of New Jersey, Rider University, Rowan University and Rutgers University-Camden.



**Christopher L. Eisgruber** has served as Princeton University's 20th president since July 2013. He is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Public Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the University Center for Human Values. Before becoming president, he served as Princeton's provost from 2004-2013 and as director of Princeton's Program in Law and Public Affairs from 2001-2004. A renowned constitutional scholar, he is the author of *The Next Justice: Repairing the Supreme Court Appointments Process* (Princeton 2007), *Religious Freedom and the Constitution* (co-authored with Lawrence G. Sager, Harvard 2007), and *Constitutional Self-Government* (Harvard 2001), as well as numerous articles in books and academic journals. In 2014, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Eisgruber served on the faculty of the New York University School of Law for eleven years before joining the Princeton faculty in 2001. Prior to his time at NYU, he clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court. Eisgruber received an A.B. magna cum laude in Physics from Princeton, an M. Litt. in Politics from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. His wife, Lori Martin, is a distinguished securities litigator with the law firm WilmerHale, and his son, Danny, attends the University of Chicago.



**Kathryn A. Foster** became the 16th president of The College of New Jersey in 2018. A native of New Jersey and a scholar-educator with over thirty years of experience in higher education, Foster has supported a range of academic, administrative and facilities initiatives and created the college's first vice presidency for equity and inclusion. Foster served as president of the University of Maine at Farmington from 2012 to 2018, as Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and in faculty and administrative

roles at the State University of New York at Buffalo, her academic home from 1993 to 2012. Foster earned her B.A. in geography from The Johns Hopkins University, her M.C.P. (city planning) from the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in public and international affairs from Princeton University. Both her father and grandfather were in the armed services during wartime, one cause of her patriotism and staunch support for military personnel.



**Ali A. Houshmand** became Rowan University's seventh president in 2012 after serving for approximately six years as provost/senior vice president, CEO and interim president.

Inaugurated Sept. 20, 2013, Houshmand is a dynamic leader whose business acumen and student centeredness have become hallmarks of his presidency. A lifelong believer in the power of education, he holds masters and doctoral degrees in industrial and operations engineering and has applied an entrepreneurial approach to growing the University. Since becoming president he has

sought to do this with four goals in mind: increasing access, improving quality, ensuring affordability and promoting economic development.

And his success is evident. Under Houshmand, Rowan has evolved from a well-regarded state school to a top 100 Carnegie-classified national public research university with two medical schools and whose enrollment has grown from 11,000 students in 2012 to 19,600 students for Fall 2019, making Rowan the 4th fastest growing research university in the U.S.



**Mary Beth Daisey** is vice chancellor of student affairs at Rutgers-Camden, a position she has held since 2003. Daisey joined the Rutgers community in 1986 as a career counselor at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She then became acting regional office director, a position she held until 1991. She returned to Rutgers in 1993 and, prior to her current position, served as assistant dean of external affairs and career services at the law school.

As vice chancellor, Daisey oversees a wide array of student services, including residential

life, health services, office of military and veteran affairs, athletics, recreation, career planning, Campus Center, Dean of Students, and student involvement. She also serves on university committees on veteran students, academic integrity, campus climate, safety, retention and advising. In addition she acts as the student ombudsman for the Camden Campus.



**Lt. Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli** assumed command of U.S. Army Europe Jan. 18, 2018.

Commissioned into the Infantry in 1987, Lt. Gen. Cavoli has served in a wide variety of positions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

He's commanded the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment; 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division; 7th Army Training Command; and 25th Infantry Division.

He also served as the Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan, and as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations at 82nd Airborne Division.

Lt. Gen. Cavoli's staff experience includes service as the Director for Russia on the Joint Staff; Deputy Executive Assistant for the

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Coordination Group.

He's held fellowships at National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies and the Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Studies Group.

Lt. Gen. Cavoli is a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia, and speaks Italian, Russian and French. He holds degrees from Princeton University and Yale University.

His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab and Master Parachutist's wings.

Lt. Gen. Cavoli is married and has two children.





## THE 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 reservations 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.”

## THE SILVER DOLLAR SALUTE

The Silver Dollar Salute is an honored tradition — a brand 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 arguable, 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 that were retained by the newly formed American Armed Forces. One status symbol highly sought by newly commissioned British officers was to have a servant assigned to them. This servant was normally an enlisted Soldier to whom the new officer paid a small sum to ensure that the officer's kit, dress and field uniforms and personal equipment were within regulations and were serviceable at all times.

The enlisted man was also responsible for teaching his officer the regiment's history, traditions and customs. This custom continued to grow within the British military and newly formed American units. American second lieutenants in 1816 received monthly base pay of \$25, a \$3 ration allowance and \$1 for a servant. This servant's pay was later discontinued, but the responsibility for teaching the newly commissioned officers continued. The dollar-for-a-servant tradition may be the basis for the modern custom of a dollar for the first salute.

Authorized by Congress on April 2, 1792, the silver dollar traditionally is the only coin given in exchange for the first salute. In recent years, due to the unavailability of the original coin and later "Silver eagle" coins, the Eisenhower Dollar has become an acceptable substitute. Soon-to-be lieutenants go to great lengths to secure this coin which represents more than a dollar in currency. To every new officer, it has special significance. It represents the symbolic receipt of respect due the newly earned rank and position. It signifies a deep sense of gratitude of the new officer for the knowledge that enlisted Soldiers, especially NCOs, have passed on to them during training. It is acknowledgement from one professional Soldier to another that says, "Welcome to our service and to the profession of arms." Whatever the origin of the Silver Dollar salute, it is part of all Soldiers' love of duty and their respect for each other, and it strengthens their commitment and responsibility to serve their country.



## 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.  
For where e'er we go, you will  
always know that  
the Army goes rolling along.



## **Juan Carlos Belmonte**

Cadet Belmonte will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard as an Aviation Officer.

Cadet Juan Carlos Belmonte is from Absecon, New Jersey. He majored in Management and Political Science at The College of New Jersey. He enlisted as an 11 B Infantryman in the National Guard in April 2017 and joined ROTC at the beginning of his sophomore year. During his time at TCNJ, Cadet Belmonte has served in AmeriCorps as well as on the TCNJ Board of Trustees. He was inducted into three honor societies, graduated from air assault school, and earned the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. Cadet Belmonte will pursue his master's degree in Public Administration at Rutgers University and commission into 1-150th Aviation Battalion in the New Jersey National Guard.



## **Kasey Bersh**

Cadet Bersh will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as a Reserve Officer in the Adjutant General Corps.

Cadet Kasey Bersh is from Marco Island, Florida. She concentrated in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with an emphasis on conflict and cooperation at Princeton University. In addition to Army ROTC, Cadet Bersh was a Division I athlete on the Women's Varsity Water Polo team and a member of the Varsity Club. She was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate. Upon commissioning, Cadet Bersh will serve as an Executive Officer in the 492nd AG Company in the US Army Reserve. Additionally, she will begin her job at Goldman Sachs working as an analyst in the consumer and investment management division.



## **Eliza Ewing**

Cadet Ewing will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Officer in Armor.

Cadet Eliza Ewing is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She concentrated in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with an emphasis in Genomics at Princeton University. In addition to ROTC, Cadet Ewing was a member of Princeton's Division I Rugby team where she also served as an assistant coach after an injury her junior year. She conducted research on mosquito morphology and host preference and will be named as co-author on a paper slated for publication in the journal *Current Biology*. Upon commissioning, she will join 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division following her completion of LOGBOLC and Airborne School.



## **George Favetta III**

Cadet Favetta is commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Infantry Officer.

Cadet George Favetta III is from Clark, New Jersey. He majored in Finance at The College of New Jersey. He has served as the First Sergeant and Company Commander of Lion Company. During his freshman year, Cadet Favetta played on the Varsity Baseball team when they won the New Jersey Athletic Conference. He was a member of the Ranger challenge team for three years and received the Cadre Merit Award, the TCNJ ROTC Award for Academic Achievement, and the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award during his sophomore, junior, and senior year, respectively. This past summer, he participated in the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina.



## **Eric Flanegin**

Cadet Flanegin will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Infantry Officer.

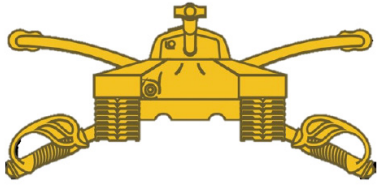
Cadet Eric Flanegin is from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He majored in Political Science at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey. Cadet Flanegin has been heavily involved in his University's Student Government where he served as the Treasurer during the 2018-2019 academic year. He successfully completed the Rutgers-Camden Leadership Institute Program in 2018, a two-year leadership and academic program offered by the University. Upon commissioning, he will be attending Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course (IBOLC) at Fort Benning, GA. He plans to attend Ranger School and Airborne School.



## **Daniel King**

Cadet King will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard as a Military Intelligence Officer.

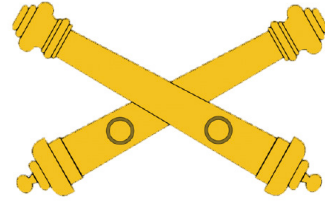
Cadet Daniel Michael King grew up in Waldwick, New Jersey. He majored in Law and Justice at Rowan University. King is prior enlisted and a soldier in HHB 3-112th FA. Prior to ROTC, he served as a fire control specialist. While in college, Cadet King had the opportunity to intern with the Federal Air Marshal Service where he learned about firearms training, volunteer opportunities with K-9 units, and physical fitness routines. Following his completion of the Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC), Cadet King will serve as a Platoon Leader in Delta Company at the 104th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) in West Orange, New Jersey.



## **Leo Li**

Cadet Li will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Armor Officer.

Cadet Leo Li is from San Diego, California. He concentrated in History and earned a certificate in History and the Practice of Diplomacy at Princeton University. On campus, Cadet Li was the Cadet Battalion Commander of Princeton Army ROTC, President of Princeton Mock Trial, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Princeton Historical Review. He was a fellow at the Center for International Security Studies and the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. Cadet Li also served as a Peer Academic Advisor in Wilson College and was the Activities Chair at Princeton's Tower Club. He was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate.



## **David LoCascio**

Cadet LoCascio will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard as a Field Artillery Officer.

Cadet David LoCascio is from Kinnelon, New Jersey. He majored in Marketing at The College of New Jersey. He was a member of the Varsity Men's Wrestling team during his freshman year. In his junior year, Cadet LoCascio enrolled in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) with the Army National Guard and continued with the program throughout the rest of his ROTC career. While in ROTC, he served as the Lion Company Executive Officer. Upon commissioning, Cadet LoCascio will be an assistant fire support officer with the 3-112 FA. Furthermore, he has plans to pursue a career in law enforcement.



## **Charles Mazzucco**

Cadet Mazzucco will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Officer in the Quartermaster Corps.

Cadet Charles Mazzucco is from Long Hills, New Jersey. He majored in Finance at The College of New Jersey. Prior to college, he served as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown. While at TCNJ, Cadet Mazzucco spent time on the Student Finance Board. He will graduate with magna cum laude honors. After commissioning into the Quartermaster Corps, Cadet Mazzucco will be traveling to South Korea with the 210th Field Artillery Brigade.



## **Emma Pannullo**

Cadet Pannullo will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Officer in the Quartermaster Corps.

Cadet Emma Pannullo is from Rockville, Maryland. She concentrated in Economics at Princeton University. She was a member of the Princeton Running Club, the Princeton Internships in Civic Service Student Advisory Council, the Campus Life Leadership Council, the Wesley Foundation, Athletes in Action, and the Next Generation Citizenship Fellow cohort. Additionally, she served as a mentor for Christian Union: Nova as well as for undergraduates in the Economics department. Cadet Pannullo was a recipient of the Henrietta S. Treen Merit Scholarship for students interested in law, medicine, or ministry.





## **Alexis Rysewyk**

Cadet Rysewyk will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard as an Officer in the Quartermaster Corps.

Cadet Alexis Rysewyk is from Springfield, Virginia. She concentrated in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University and will be the first female to commission through Princeton Army ROTC with an engineering degree. She earned a certificate in German as well as in Robotics and Intelligent Systems. Cadet Rysewyk was the captain of the nationally ranked Princeton Women's Rugby team. Upon graduation, she is excited to serve her home state of Virginia as an Officer in the Quartermaster Corps while simultaneously starting her new job as a Dynamics & Controls Engineer.



## **Henry Seifert**

Cadet Seifert will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Infantry Officer.

Cadet Henry Seifert is from Ridgewood, New Jersey. He majored in International Studies with a concentration in Economics and Trade at The College of New Jersey. Cadet Seifert has served as the Tiger Battalion Executive Officer, the Command Sergeant Major, and the Lion Company First Sergeant. Prior to attending Advanced Camp in the summer of 2019, Cadet Seifert participated in a Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program (CULP) trip to Estonia where he, alongside other ROTC cadets, trained with the nation's military and toured the country. Cadet Seifert received the Garrett DiMarco '10 Memorial Scholarship in 2019 and has earned the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate.



## **Matthew Tavarone**

Cadet Tavarone will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard as an Aviation Officer.

Cadet Matthew Tavarone grew up in Denville, New Jersey. He majored in Psychology at Rowan University. Prior to college, he played baseball and was a volunteer for the local fire department. In ROTC, he served as the Cadet Battalion Commander and earned the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. Cadet Tavarone is currently attending the Morris County Police Academy and will work as a patrolman for the Denville Police Department upon graduation. Following his completion of the Aviation Basic Officer Leaders Course (ABOLC) and flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he will be a Platoon Leader in 1-150th Aviation Battalion at Lakehurst, New Jersey.



## **Seyitcan Ucin**

Cadet Ucin will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as a Reserve Officer in the Adjutant General Corps.

Cadet Seyitcan Ucin is from Ocoee, Florida. He concentrated in Comparative Literature, pursued a track in Near Eastern Studies, and earned a certificate in Russian and Eurasian Studies at Princeton University. At Princeton, he served as an undergraduate fellow at the Center for International Security Studies where he worked on the program's flagship simulations series. In the fall, Cadet Ucin will begin a master's program in Late Modern Eurasian History in Turkey as a Fulbright Scholar. Additionally, he will serve as a Brigade Strength Manager for the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade.



## **Caleb Visser**

Cadet Visser will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Military Intelligence Officer.

Cadet Caleb Visser is from Williamsburg, Virginia. He concentrated in Politics and earned certificates in African and Latin American Studies at Princeton University. He served as a Residential College Advisor in Wilson College, an Undergraduate Student Government Executive Officer, and Student Coordinator for Vote100. He also volunteered as a tutor for ESL courses and on several student-faculty committees. Cadet Visser was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate as well as a 2020 Spirit of Princeton Award recipient. Upon graduation, he will be attending Tsinghua University in Beijing, China for a Masters in Global Affairs as a Schwarzman Scholar.



## **Anne Marie Wright**

Cadet Wright will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Active Duty Military Intelligence Officer.

Cadet Anne Marie Wright is from South Bend, Indiana. She concentrated in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with an emphasis on conflict and cooperation at Princeton University. Cadet Wright served as a fellow for the Center for International Security Studies, played on the club soccer team, and was the communications manager for Princeton Student Veterans. She was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate and received the Tiger Battalion George C. Marshall Award.



IN THE NATION'S SERVICE  
AND THE SERVICE OF  
HUMANITY



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT OF THESE  
NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.