

Joint Hometown News Release

Brice W. Kwiatkowski, an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet at B Company, 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, has graduated from the U.S. Army Air Assault School and earned the honor of wearing the Air Assault Badge.

The 10-day course of instruction focuses on combat assault operations involving hands-on, performance-oriented Army warfare operations associated with helicopters. The physically and mentally demanding training includes a nine-station obstacle course, a two-mile run in Army boots, phases in combat assault operations, sling-load rigging and inspection of prepared lift loads, and tower and helicopter rappelling fast rope operations. Students are familiarized with the capabilities, knowledge and recognition of Army helicopters, aircraft, airborne and airmobile operations, setup of parachute and landing zones, safety procedures, and aeromedical evacuation operations.

Students must complete a 12-mile foot march in three hours or less wearing the prescribed uniform with weapon, equipment and a 30-pound backpack. The foot march is a graded task and a graduation requirement of the air assault course, designed to test strength, stamina and endurance.

Kwiatkowski is the son of Jean L. Kwiatkowski of Pawnee City, Neb., and Dean A. Kwiatkowski of Loup City, Neb.

He graduated in 2009 from Lewiston Consolidated High School, Lewiston, Neb., and earned a bachelor's degree in 2013 from Jacobs University, Bremen, Neb.