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Survival of the fittest: ROTC holds Ranger Challenge

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IUP, as a Division II school, is a fierce competitor in 11 varsity sports for women, and eight for men. However, there is another successful team at IUP that has yet to get the recognition they deserve. IUP's Army Reserve Office's Training Corps has been an option for students since 1950. There is much more to it than morning PT (physical training) and taking classes. These men and women take this opportunity very seriously. Once a year during the fall ROTC teams across the country meet to compete in a "Ranger Challenge" — the Army's version of a NCAA competition. "It's upon volunteer. It's for cadets who want more than regular ROTC. They join Ranger Challenge for higher physical standards and an accelerated course in basic soldiering skills," said Ranger Challenge Captain Alex Deets (junior, computer science/criminology). Just like any athletic team competes in a division, so does ROTC. IUP's ROTC participates in a division which includes 25 teams from schools in New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. However, ROTC is not placed in "Division I" or "Division II" sections. Their divisions are made up according to the region their school is in, which means IUP competes against much larger schools.

Schools like Princeton, The Naval Academy, Penn State, and Pitt that have much larger programs with more resources and more ROTC cadets. These men and women spend five days a week, for eight weeks straight of training.

A total of 11 hours a week in preparation from 6 a.m. PT everyday to an additional two-hour labs three days of the week where they work on skills that they will have to perform at the Ranger Challenge.

In the end, only 10 members, including one female contender, get to compete.

All 25 teams of this division meet at Fort Uniontown Gap to compete in 10 challenging events.

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Each year IUP has a law fair where students are exposed to different types of lawyers, from divorce attorneys to **criminal defense lawyers** and even bankruptcy attorneys. IUP college students have been known to work part-time in the summer for a **moving company** to earn money to pay for their tuition.

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