Commissioning set at University of Montana for 33 Army ROTC cadets

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MISSOULA, Mont.

Brig. Gen. Richard L. Irby, deputy commanding general at Fort Lewis, Wash., will be guest speaker at the Army ROTC Commissioning Exercise Saturday (June 14) at the University of Montana. Thirty-three cadets are slated to be commissioned.

The 51-year-old general, who is a native of Blackstone, Va., will address the new officers, parents and other guests at 10 a.m. in the UM Music Recital Hall.

The commissioning launches weekend commencement activities at the University. Graduation ceremonies for Army and Air Force ROTC cadets and other UM students begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Harry Adams Field House.

Rev. Richard A. Jones, pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church in Missoula, will give the invocation and benediction. Master of ceremonies will be Col. Walter A. Pashley Jr., chairman of military science at the University.

Gen. Irby is holder of a number of military awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star.

Before joining the Army staff at Fort Lewis Gen. Irby served in Viet Nam. Between Aug. 1967-Feb. 1969 he was assistant commander and commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division. He has been in the Army more than 27 years.

Army ROTC cadets slated to be commissioned Saturday include Bruce W. Eide, Ralph G. Henderson, John W. Helms / Douglas A. Heyer, Missoula; James E. Buckland, Terry E. Hardy, Cornelius R. Loble and William T. Miller, Helena; Errol D. Bencke and Timothy D. Lacey, Deer Lodge; William J. Foy and Donald D. Lang, Great Falls.


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