



SURF REPORT

SPRING 2024
SANTA BARBARA, CA



UCSB ARMY ROTC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER





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LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER

Dear Surfriders and Supporters,

It is an honor to represent the Surfriders as the Battalion Commander. I carry a heart of gratitude for the Cadets and Cadre that make up this amazing organization. Our command team, consisting of myself, our XO, and CSM, created "Big 3's Big 3" as our goals for the Battalion: Integrity, Positive Feedback Loop, and Physical Fitness. As we near the end of the year, I am proud to say our BN has accomplished these goals:

"Integrity": As one of the Army values, maintaining a Battalion built on integrity was a priority for our MSIV class. Whether respectfully debating tactics, leading others, or admitting mistakes, Surfriders exude integrity in and out of training. Integrity should be the cornerstone of any successful organization, and the Surfrider BN is no different. By empowering honest and honorable Cadets, our BN produces successful, humble, and compassionate leaders. As Douglas MacArthur said, "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the quality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."

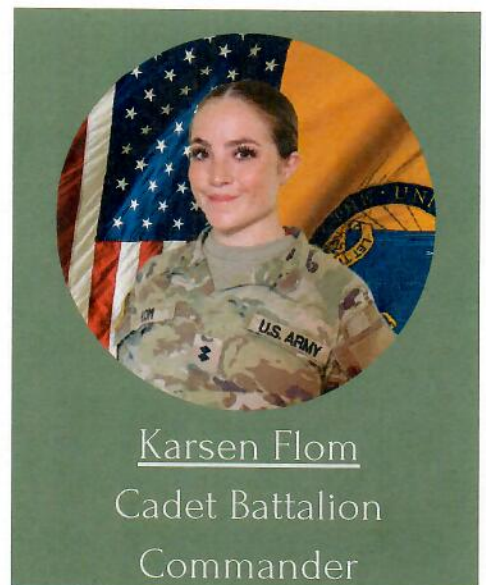
"Positive Feedback Loop": At the Surfrider BN, we use the phrase "standing on the shoulders of giants" to refer to past leaders and events that set a precedent. This year, our second priority was to continue the cycle of hard work being recognized and rewarded. We had six MSIVs honored as Distinguished Military Graduates, placing within the top 20% of all Cadets nationwide. Two MSIII Cadets were selected for the Psychological Operations qualification course, an opportunity rare for soldiers until they are at least Captains. Four MSII Cadets were selected for competitive developmental internships, and an MSIII cadet was chosen to attend the Combat Diver Qualification Course. These accomplishments attest to the Surfrider Battalion's excellence and the consistent effort of our Cadets, producing opportunities that will make them outstanding Second Lieutenants.

"Physical Fitness": What's the Army without morning PT? At least three times a week, the Surfrider BN trained at our local track, beaches, or recreation field. Whether preparing for the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), boosting morale with football, or running in Santa Barbara, the Surfrider Battalion has exceeded physical fitness standards. With a 94% pass rate for the ACFT, the Surfrider BN remains in excellent physical fitness standing. Our Battalion's Ranger Challenge and Bataan Marathon teams exemplify this success. The Ranger Challenge Team placed 3rd at the 8th Brigade Competition, excelling in several physical fitness events. The Bataan Marathon team pushed their limits as fifteen Cadets completed the grueling 26.2-mile race. By improving our physical fitness, Surfriders are ready to join the world's greatest Army.

As the MSIV class prepares to commission and begin our Army careers, we leave fulfilled and prepared for future endeavors. The Surfrider Battalion has been our home, where we have developed leadership skills, critical thinking, and a sense of family and support. We aim to join the "giants" before us and are confident that the Surfrider Battalion will continue to thrive, achieving greater accomplishments and proving that humble and honest leadership rooted in integrity pays off.

Enjoy reading the Newsletter, and thank you for supporting our Battalion.

Sincerely,
Karsen Flom
Cadet Battalion Commander, UCSB ROTC
King of Battle!





Cadre Surfrider Leadership



LTC JOE RUHL
PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE



CPT JOSE MARRERO
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE



SFC MYLES T MOORE
MILITARY SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR



MSG JEFFERY HARVEY, Jr.
SENIOR MILITARY SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR



MS. AMANDA BOVEE
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION



MS. PATRICIA DENT
BUSINESS MANAGER



MR. JOSH NIERATKO
LEADERSHIP ENROLLMENT OFFICER



CDT MICHELLE STORY
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



MSIV Surfrider Leadership



CDT MARK MARINO
CSM



CDT KARSEN FLOM
BC



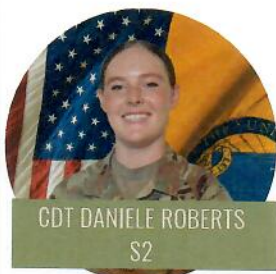
CDT JEREMIAH CANADA
XO



CDT SHANE HERUP
1SG



CDT JOEL TRUE
S1



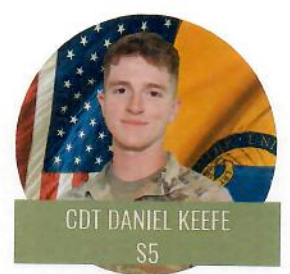
CDT DANIELE ROBERTS
S2



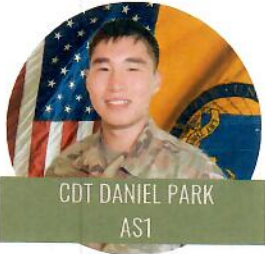
CDT AMGAD HAWARI
S3



CDT MICHELLE STORY
S4



CDT DANIEL KEEFE
S5



CDT DANIEL PARK
AS1



CDT EUNICE LEE
AS4/AS2



CDT MARK CULLEN
AS3



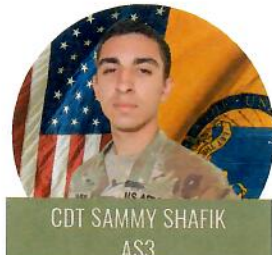
CDT JOANNA QIU
AS3



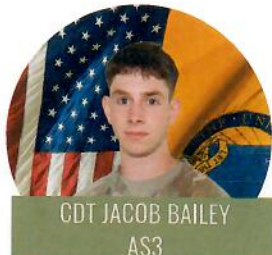
CDT BRYANT LE
AS4



CDT FRANK DANG
AS3



CDT SAMMY SHAFIK
AS3



CDT JACOB BAILEY
AS3



CDT JARED NOH
AS5



Surfrider Events



Fall

- 24SEPT Start of the academic calendar
- 13-15OCT Fall FTX
- 31 OCT Halloween PT
- 1DEC Branch reveal day

- 24JAN Engagement skills training (EST)
- 2FEB Range Weekend
- 28FEB-1MAR Ranger Challenge Competition
- 14MAR Bataan Ruck March

Winter



Spring

- 13-14APR Joint Field Training Exercise
- 19APR Combat Water Survival Test (CWST)
- 20APR Military Ball
- 28-30APR Alumni Weekend

- 25MAY Sedgwick Reserve
- 27-30MAY Army Combat Fitness Test
- 27MAY Murph Challenge
- 01JUN 12 mile ruck

Spring



Spring

- 07JUN Award Ceremony
- 14JUN Commissioning
- 15-16JUN Graduation



"RAPPELLING AND THE OBSTACLE COURSE WERE MY FAVORITE PARTS OF FTX BECAUSE THEY'RE STUFF THAT WE DON'T GET TO DO VERY OFTEN. IT'S A SUPER FUN TIME AND REALLY CHALLENGES YOU TO GO OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE."

MSII CDT ELLA BARBER

Fall Field Training Exercise

DURING THE FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE, OUR CADETS UNDERTOOK A CHALLENGING TRAINING REGIMEN DESIGNED TO CULTIVATE LEADERSHIP AND MILITARY SKILLS. THE FIRST DAY OF THE TRAINING EXERCISE INVOLVED AN OBSTACLE COURSE TO ENHANCE PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS, SUCH AS "THE TOUGH ONE," CLIMBING AN 18 FOOT ROPE, THEN DESCENDING FROM A 30 FOOT ROPE NET; "THE WEAVER," DIPPING OVER AND UNDER A SERIES OF ASCENDING AND DESCENDING WOODEN BEAMS; ALONG WITH A HOST OF OTHER OBSTACLES FROM THE ARMY AIR ASSAULT OBSTACLE COURSE, DESIGNED TO PUSH CADETS TO THEIR PHYSICAL LIMITS. CADETS ALSO RAPPELLED FROM A DAUNTING 40 FOOT TOWER.

DURING THE SECOND DAY, CADETS CONDUCTED A BATTLE MARCH & SHOOT DRILL TO REFINE MARKSMANSHIP UNDER STRESS, CONDUCTING A CHALLENGING RUCK MARCH THEN QUALIFYING WITH THE M4 ASSAULT RIFLE. DURING THE FALL TRAINING EXERCISE, MEMBERS OF THE RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM SHOWCASED THEIR TEAMWORK THROUGH A ONE ROPE BRIDGE EXERCISE, AS WELL AS A WEAPONS FAMILIARIZATION COURSE INVOLVING THE M240B MACHINE GUN AND THE M4 ASSAULT RIFLE. THIS FTX NOT ONLY BOLSTERED THE INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES OF ALPHA COMPANY'S CADETS BUT ALSO INSTILLED IN THEM THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.





Engagement Skills Trainer (EST)

AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF WINTER BREAK VACATION, THE SURFRIDER BATTALION WASTED NO TIME GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS! THEIR FIRST WEEKEND BACK, THE MSIII CLASS TRAVELED TO CAMP SLO TO COMPLETE LAND NAVIGATION AND ENGAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING (EST) WITH THE M4 RIFLE. CADETS VIRTUALLY PRACTICED ZEROING THEIR RIFLES AND COMPLETING THE 4 MINUTE QUALIFICATION COURSE USING TRAINING RIFLES ATTACHED TO A LASER AND COMPUTER SYSTEM WHICH EMULATED TARGETS POPPING UP IN REAL TIME. FOLLOWING MARKSMANSHIP, CADETS HIT THE HILLS AND DEMONSTRATED THEIR LAND NAVIGATION SKILLS SEARCHING FOR VARIOUS POINTS AROUND THE CAMP. PRACTICING THESE SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT FOR MSIIIS AS PASSING M4 QUALIFICATION AND LAND NAVIGATION ARE BOTH REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE FROM CADET SUMMER TRAINING.



"HARDEST PART ABOUT SHOOTING WAS ZEROING THE RIFLE, I ALWAYS ENDED UP SOMEWHAT BEING A LITTLE OFF AND ALWAYS HAVING TO ADJUST. THE COOLEST THING WAS WHEN I SHOT IN THE CENTER OF THE DIAMOND"

MSI CDT JAMES ZHEN

Range Weekend

THE SURFRIDERS' MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING WAS JUST GETTING STARTED WITH EST! IN THE FIRST WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY, THE BATTALION MET CAL POLY AT CAMP SLO TO CONDUCT LIVE M4 ZEROING AND QUALIFICATION. DESPITE THE RAIN, CADETS WERE ABLE TO ZERO THEIR RIFLE AND THEN ATTEMPT QUALIFYING ON THE US ARMY M4 QUALIFICATION COURSE WHICH CONSISTS OF 40 POP UP TARGETS AT VARYING DISTANCES. CADETS SPENT A FULL DAY PRACTICING WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED AT EST WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO ENHANCE THEIR MARKSMANSHIP EXPERTISE. SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT TO CDT ASHTON YIN WHO SHOT EXPERT WITH 38 OUT OF 40 TARGETS ON IRON SIGHTS!





Reagan Ranch

"IT WAS REALLY SPECIAL BEING WELCOMED BACK HERE AND GETTING TO TOUR SUCH A HISTORIC SITE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN!"

MSIV CDT MICHELLE
STORY

THIS PAST WINTER QUARTER, THE YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION GRACIOUSLY HOSTED OUR MSIV SURFRIDERS AT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN'S RANCH, RANCHO DEL CIELO, IN THE SANTA YNEZ MOUNTAINS. CADETS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR THE ORIGINAL HOME AND PROPERTY OF PRESIDENT REAGAN AND LEARN A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT HE STOOD FOR AND WHO HE WAS AS A PERSON THROUGH HEARTFELT AND HUMOROUS ANECDOTES. DURING THEIR TIME AT THE RANCH, CADETS WERE ABLE TO VISIT FORT DRONE, THE SECRET SERVICE'S HEADQUARTERS AT REAGAN'S RANCH. AFTER A FANTASTIC LUNCH, OUR SURFRIDERS WERE SHUTTLED TO THE TOP OF A HILL THAT SERVED AS A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE, AND PROVIDED AN AMAZING VIEW OF THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY. AFTER A Q& A WITH THE YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION, CADETS WERE GIVEN A COPY OF RIDING WITH REAGAN, WRITTEN BY JOHN R. BARLETTA, WHICH IS FILLED WITH WONDERFUL STORIES THAT EXEMPLIFY THE CHARACTER OF PRESIDENT REAGAN.





Bataan Memorial Death March

ON MARCH 16TH, A GROUP OF UCSB ROTC CADETS PARTICIPATED IN A GRUELING 26.2-MILE RUCK MARCH TO HONOR THE SOLDIERS WHO FELL IN THE DEATH MARCH OF BATAAN. THE EVENT WAS ORGANIZED TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE HEROIC SOLDIERS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE DURING WORLD WAR II. THE EVENT WAS SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. THE FIRST GROUP CONSISTED OF FIVE CADETS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEMORIAL MARATHON AT WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE IN NEW MEXICO: KARSEN FLOM (MSIV), DANIEL PARK (MSIV), MARK MARINO (MSIV), FRANCISCO ROMERO (MSIII), AND ALEC GARCIA (MSIII).

THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME IN SEVEN YEARS THAT THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO COMPETE AT THE NATIONAL EVENT AGAINST SEVERAL OTHER ROTC PROGRAMS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. BOTH TEAMS WERE CAPTAINED BY FRANCISCO ROMERO AND JORDAN JUCEAM WHO AIDED IN THE TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF THE MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH. THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION PAID OFF, AS THEY TOOK AN IMPRESSIVE FIFTH PLACE OUT OF 36 TEAMS, DEMONSTRATING EXCEPTIONAL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TOUGHNESS TO COMPLETE THE CHALLENGING RUCK MARCH.

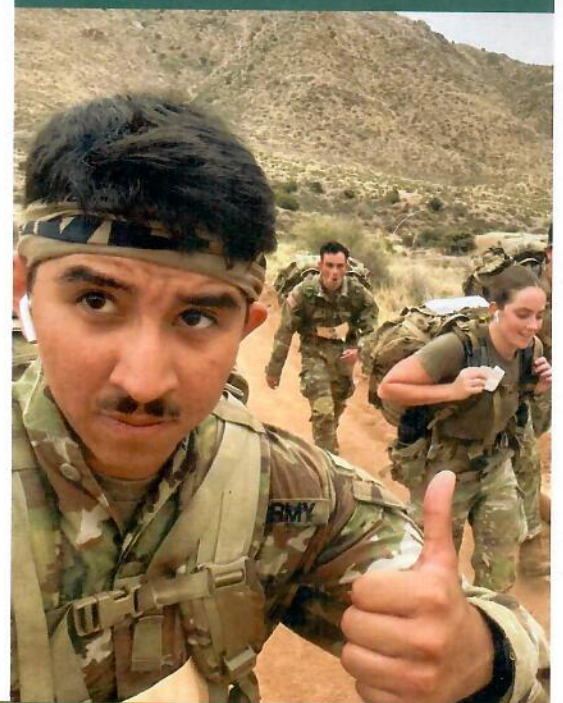


THE SECOND GROUP OF TEN CADETS COMPLETED THE RUCK MARCH IN THE SANTA YNEZ MOUNTAINS, WHICH FEATURED OVER 5000 FEET OF ELEVATION GAIN. THESE CADETS INCLUDED JORDAN JUCEAM (MSIII CO-CAPTAIN), AMGAD HAWARI (MSIV), MARK CULLEN (MSIV), MIN KIM (MSIII), LIA KUBITSCHKEK (MSII), YEVGENY BEAMS (MSII), JONATHAN SAENZ (MSII), NICOLAS GANDOLFO (MSII), JAMES ZHEN (MSI), AND WILL KING (MSI). THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY CHALLENGING COURSE, AND THE CADETS WERE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE EXCEPTIONAL PERSEVERANCE AND STRENGTH WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF THE BATTLE OF BATAAN WHO DEMONSTRATED UNWAVERING LENGTHS OF COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND DETERMINATION.

BOTH GROUPS OF CADETS DISPLAYED AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THEIR TRAINING, TEAM, AND COUNTRY. THESE CADETS SERVE AS A TESTAMENT TO THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UCSB ROTC PROGRAM AND TO THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE THAT DRIVES THEM FORWARD.

"THIS BATAAN SEASON HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL. I'M SO PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL'S DEDICATION AND SPIRIT THIS YEAR. FROM OUR LOCAL MOUNTAIN OF REFUGIO, TO THE DESERTS OF WHITE SANDS, THE SURFRIDER BATTALION SHOWED OUT THIS YEAR IN A BELOVED TRADITION TO HONOR THE SACRIFICE OF THOSE BEFORE US"

MSIII CO-CAPTAIN CDT FRANCISCO ROMERO





“EVEN THOUGH THE WEATHER FOR FTX WASN'T EXACTLY IDEAL, I STILL HAD A FUN TIME AND MADE MEMORIES WITH MY FRIENDS!”

MSI CDT KAYLEE MCNEELY

ALTHOUGH IT WAS FREEZING COLD AND RAINING THE WHOLE TIME, I THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY GOOD EXPERIENCE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN LEARNING FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS TO THE TEST.

MSII CDT LIA KUBITSCHEK

Spring Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX)

IN MID-APRIL, THE SURFRIDER BATTALION TRAVELED TO FORT HUNTER LIGGETT FOR A JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE ALONGSIDE TWO OTHER SCHOOLS, CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO AND FRESNO STATE.

WITH THE PURPOSE OF SPRING FTX BEING TO FURTHER PREPARE THE MSIII CADETS FOR CST, THE ADDITION OF THE THREE OTHER PROGRAMS CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT THAT MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE TRAINING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY WILL EXPERIENCE AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY. THE FIRST DAY OF THE TRAINING EVENT CONSISTED OF DAY AND NIGHT LAND NAVIGATION, GIVING CADETS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE PLOTTING AND FINDING POINTS BOTH DURING THE NIGHT AND DAY AND CULMINATED IN THE EVENING WITH SOME HOT CHOW!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, OUR MSIII CADETS WERE ABLE TO PRACTICE WORKING TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL WITH CADETS FROM OTHER PROGRAMS WHO HAD A WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFERENT TACTICS AND METHODOLOGIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE JUNIOR CADETS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFINE THEIR INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER SKILLS AND LEARN FROM THE MSIII'S MISTAKES AND SUCCESSES.

OVERALL JFTX 2024 WAS A GREAT MORAL BOOSTER FOR OUR BATTALION TO SHOW OFF ALL OF OUR HARD WORK THIS QUARTER!





Physical Training (PT) & Leadership Lab (LLAB)

THE SURFRIDER BATTALION CONDUCTS PHYSICAL TRAINING (PT) EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY AT 0630. MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND READINESS IS CRUCIAL, SO STRUCTURED PT IS ESSENTIAL. AT THE START OF PT, THE BATTALION DOES PREPARATORY DRILLS (PDS) AND MILITARY MOVEMENT DRILL 1 (MMD1) TO WARM UP AND PREPARE FOR THAT DAY'S WORKOUT OR RUN. HOWEVER, JUST BECAUSE THE SURFRIDERS MAINTAIN A HIGH FITNESS LEVEL, AS SHOWN BY THEIR HIGHEST AVERAGE ARMY COMBAT FITNESS TEST SCORE IN UCSB ROTC'S HISTORY, DOES NOT MEAN THAT PT CAN'T BE FUN AS WELL. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A QUALITY MIXTURE OF TEAM-BUILDING AND PHYSICAL EXCURSION. FOR THIS REASON, THERE ARE PTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THAT ARE MORE SO CENTERED ON FUN ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SURF PT, EASTER PT, BRING-A-FRIEND PT, AND OUR ANNUAL CONTRACTING PT. THE BRING-A-FRIEND TO PTS OCCURS A FEW TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND USUALLY INVOLVES A TEAM SPORT SUCH AS FOOTBALL OR SHARKS AND MINNOWS, WHICH IS ALWAYS A FUN TIME. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MOST SPECIAL PTS THAT THE SURFRIDERS HAVE IS THE CONTRACTING CEREMONY PT, WHERE THE BATTALION TAKES TURNS CALLING RUNNING CADENCES TO THE BEACH. ONCE THEY'VE ARRIVED, THE NEWLY CONTRACTED CADETS TAKE THE OATH OF ENLISTMENT WHILE KNEE-DEEP IN THE OCEAN AND GET TO CALL IN A FRIEND AFTERWARD TO SUBMERGE IN THE OCEAN AS A CELEBRATION. A HALLMARK OF THE SURFRIDER BATTALION IS OUR SURF PT, WHERE CADETS WILL PT AT THE BEACH AND SURF IN LIEU OF THE USUAL PT PLAN.



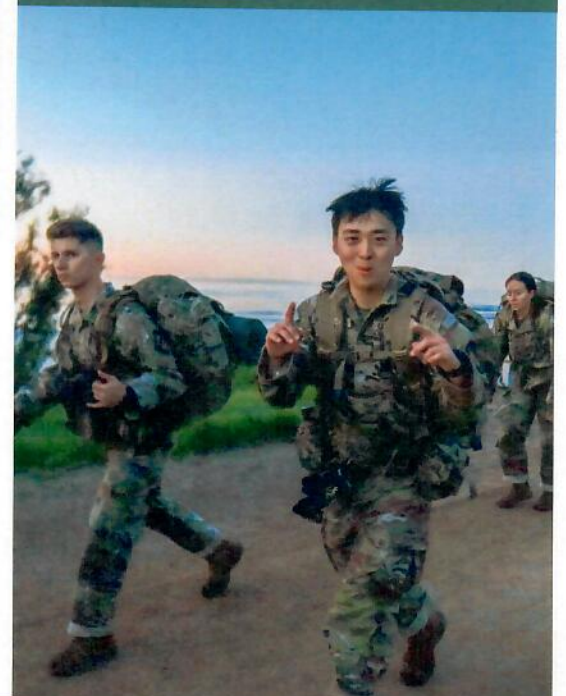
LEADERSHIP LAB, OR LLAB, IS ANOTHER REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. EVERY THURSDAY, THE BATTALION GOES TO ELLWOOD TO PRACTICE AND HONE IN ON THEIR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES AND USE THE SKILLS AND LESSONS THEY HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEAR. IT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR CADETS TO SHOW THEIR ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE WHILE GAINING HELPFUL FEEDBACK FROM THE CADRE AND ONE ANOTHER. DURING SPRING QUARTER, THE SURFRIDERS DID PLATOON SITUATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISE (STX) LANES THROUGHOUT THE QUARTER. FROM THE START OF THE YEAR, THE MSIII CLASS HAD BEEN LEARNING THE TECHNIQUES AND PROPER WAY TO LEAD PLATOON MISSIONS; SPRING QUARTER IS WHEN THEY PRACTICE THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS WITHIN A PLATOON TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR ADVANCED CAMP THIS SUMMER.

“I FELT MORE COMFORTABLE IN A TACTICAL SETTING AND MORE CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITIES. I FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD MORE OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED TO ME. IT’S ALSO BEEN FUN TO BE USED AS POINT MAN OR MEDIC DURING THE STX LANES.”

MSII CDT LIA KUBITSCHEK

“NOBODY MOVES TILL S3 MOVES.”

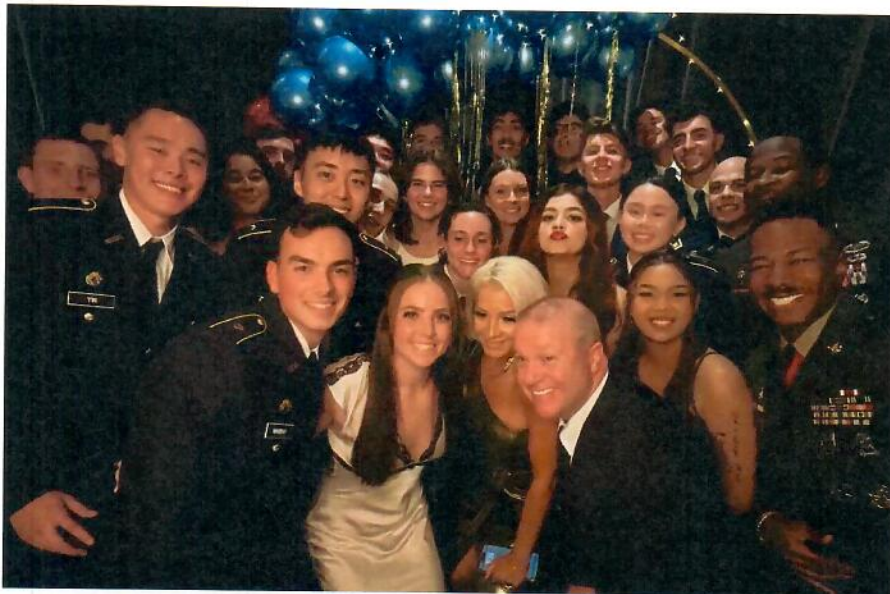
MSIV CDT AMGAD HAWARI





Pierre Claeysen's Veteran's Day Gala

THIS NOVEMBER, THE SURFRIDER BATTALION WAS INVITED TO THE PIERRE CLAEYSSEN'S FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL MILITARY BALL AT THE VFW BUILDING. THE NIGHT BEGAN WITH SPEECHES FROM SOME OF THE NIGHT'S ESTEEMED GUESTS, SUCH AS THE CHAIR OF THE PIERRE CLAEYSSEN'S FOUNDATION. GUESTS THEN WERE TREATED TO A COCKTAIL HOUR AS WELL AS A PHOTO BOOTH. SURFRIDER BATTALION'S OWN COLORGUARD PRESENTED THE COLORS. THEN THE SURFRIDER BATTALION ENJOYED A FANTASTIC DINNER, FEATURING PRIME RIB, AFTER WHICH, THE PIERRE CLAEYSSEN'S FOUNDATION HAD ITS ANNUAL AUCTION. THE SURFRIDER BATTALION WAS PROUD TO ATTEND AND TO BE ABLE TO UPHOLD THE TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AS WELL BUILDING ESPRIT DE CORPS WITHIN THE BATTALION.



“AS CADETS, WE’RE USED TO HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, BUT GETTING THE CHANCE TO CLEAN UP, DON OUR FINEST SUITS, AND DRESS UP WITH OUR FRIENDS FOR THE PIERRE CLAEYSSEN’S VETERANS DAY GALA WAS A TRULY SPECIAL AND UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.”

MSIV CDT MARK MARINO





Surfriders Military Ball

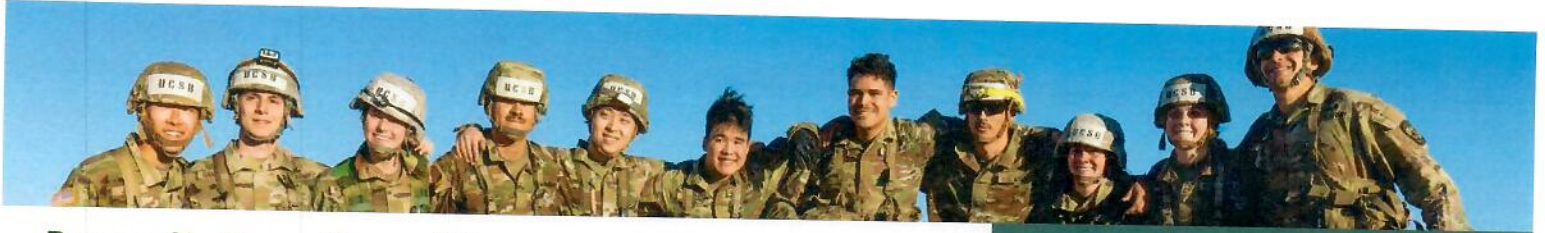
ON 20 APRIL 2024, THE SURFRIDER BATTALION HELD THEIR ANNUAL MILITARY BALL AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA. THE NIGHT KICKED OFF WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS BY THE SURFRIDER COLOR GUARD TEAM FOLLOWED BY A RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY OUR VERY OWN SFC MOORE. FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, CDT ASHTON YIN (MSIII) PERFORMED THE MISSING MAN CEREMONY TO HONOR FALLEN AND MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS. THE MSI THROUGH IV CLASSES THEN PRESENTED THEIR YEARLY SKITS. THE NIGHT CONCLUDED WITH AN INCREDIBLE DINNER AS WELL AS THE GROG CEREMONY, WHERE EACH CLASS PRESENTED A SPECIAL INGREDIENT TO BE MIXED TOGETHER AND CONSUMED BY OUR MSIV CADETS. MILITARY BALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS, CDTs AMGAD HAWARI (MSIV) AND CDT ALEC GARCIA (MSIII), AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE MILITARY BALL COMMITTEE, DID A PHENOMENAL JOB PLANNING THIS EVENT ALL YEAR AND WELCOMING SERVICE MEMBERS OF SEVERAL BRANCHES, THE COMMUNITY, AND OUR FRIENDS INTO THE SURFRIDER FAMILY FOR ONE SPECTACULAR NIGHT.



“MIL BALL WAS SO MUCH FUN AND IT WAS GREAT TO SEE EVERYONE TOGETHER ENJOYING A NIGHT OF TRADITIONS. THE COMMITTEE DID AN AMAZING JOB WITH THE PLANNING AND THE DECOR WAS BEAUTIFUL.”

MSII CDT RYLIE MURPHY



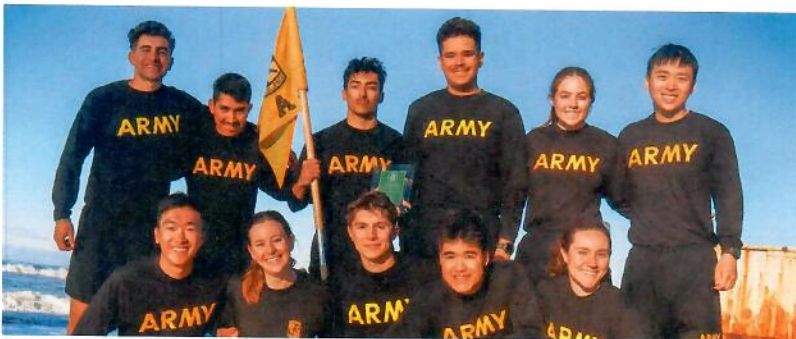


Ranger Challenge Competition

ON 29 FEBRUARY, 2024, OUR VERY OWN SURFRIDER RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM, LED BY MS3 CAPTAIN ALEC GARCIA, AND MS4 ADVISOR KARSEN FLOM, CONSISTING OF MS4 CADET: AMGAD HAWARI; MS3 CADETS: FRANCISCO ROMERO, MIN KIM, AND JORDAN JUCEAM; AND MS2 CADETS: TIMOTHY JOO, MEGAN SCHRECK, NICOLAS GANDOLFO, AND LIA KUBITSCHK, TRAVELED TO FORT IRWIN TO CONDUCT THE RANGER CHALLENGE SOUTH COMPETITION, (COMPETING AGAINST 19 OTHER TEAMS, TAKING PLACE THE 3RD PLACE TROPHY AGAINST 21 OTHER TEAMS.)

THE COMPETITION BEGAN WITH AN ORDER OF MERIT COMPETITION, TO DETERMINE THE ORDER OF COMPETITION. THEN, OUR SURFRIDER RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM COMPLETED A GRUELING 9 MILE RUCK OVER RUGGED, HILLY TERRAIN, PLACING 2ND IN THE RUCK. THEN, THE COMPETITION CONTINUED, WITH EVENTS SUCH AS THE OBSTACLE COURSE, WHERE THE RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM CARRIED TWO 180 LB "RESCUE RANDYS" ACROSS A BAYONET ASSAULT OBSTACLE COURSE, A TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE LANE, WHERE THE TEAM THEN TREATED AND CARRIED TWO "RESCUE RANDYS" DOWN A STEEP HILL TO A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE (HLZ), TWO MARKSMANSHIP COURSES, WHERE THE TEAM WERE TESTED ON THEIR ABILITIES WITH BOTH THE M4 CARBINE AND THE M17 PISTOL, A GRENADE ASSAULT COURSE, WHERE THE TEAM WAS CHALLENGED WITH A GRENADE ASSAULT COURSE, A HUMVEE PUSH PULL, WHERE THE TEAM TRANSPORTED A HUMVEE AND OVER 250 POUNDS OF EQUIPMENT BY PUSHING AND PULLING THE HUMVEE, AND A LANE WHERE THE TEAM TRANSPORTED BOTH PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT ACROSS A BRIDGE MADE OF ONE ROPE, CONSTRUCTED BY THE TEAM, TO CROSS A THICK RIVER. THE DAY ENDED WITH A TUG OF WAR, WHERE THE TEAM FACED OFF AGAINST THE SAN DIEGO RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM.

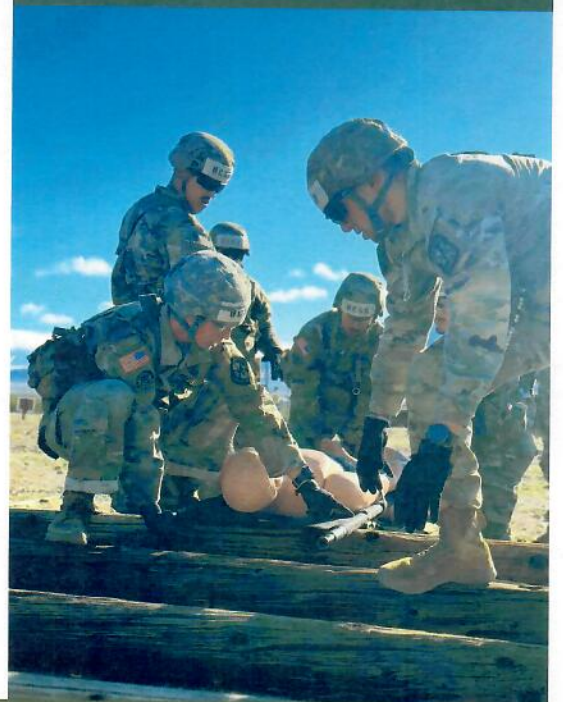
THROUGH THE ARDENT AND TENACIOUS LEADERSHIP OF ALEC GARCIA, AND THE TEAMWORK AND ESPRIT DE CORPS OF THE TEAM, OUR SURFRIDER RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM BROUGHT BACK THIRD PLACE HONORS TO THE BATTALION. THEY ARE SADDENED BY THE DEPARTURE OF 4-YEAR RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM MEMBERS, KARSEN FLOM AND AMGAD HAWARI, BUT THE MS2 AND MS3 CADETS ON THE TEAM ARE EXCITED TO RETURN NEXT YEAR AND ARE MORE THAN HOPEFUL OF BRINGING HOME THE 1ST PLACE PRIZE AND TO TRAVEL TO THE SANDHURST MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION!



RANGER CHALLENGE TEAM

“IT WAS A REALLY TOUGH COMPETITION AGAINST A LOT OF REALLY TOUGH TEAMS, BUT THE DEDICATION, SPIRIT, AND ENCOURAGEMENT WE GAVE TO EACH OTHER ALL ALONG THE WAY WAS INCREDIBLE. IT WAS AWESOME TO SEE SO MUCH TRAINING AND WORK FINALLY PAY OFF.”

MSII CDT TIMOTHY JOO





Clubs & Committees

THE SURFRIDER BATTALION HAS OVER 17 DIFFERENT CADET-RUN CLUBS AND COMMITTEES. CLUBS, SUCH AS COLOR GUARD, DRILL CLUB, AND TACTICS CLUB, ARE DEDICATED TO UPHOLDING THE STANDARDS AND TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY. THESE CLUBS EACH MEET THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, WITH COLOR GUARD PRESENTING THE COLORS AT EVENTS SUCH AS THE MILITARY BALL, AND AT UCSB SPORTING EVENTS. EMPOWERING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP HELPS TO CORRECT GENDER INEQUALITY WITHIN THE MILITARY AND REGULARLY HOLDS OUT OF OFFICE EVENTS, SUCH AS HANDING OUT WOMEN'S SANITARY PRODUCTS TO THE SANTA BARBARA HOMELESS POPULATION AND HOLDING TALKS FROM PROMINENT WOMEN IN THE MILITARY. THE ACFT CLUB WORKS TO UPHOLD THE BATTALION'S HIGH STANDARD OF PHYSICAL FITNESS.

OUR CADETS MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE THROUGH THE BATTALION WITH THE VOLUNTEER AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE REGULARLY VOLUNTEERS AT EVENTS, SUCH AS THE SANTA BARBARA ZOO, WHERE CADETS DRESSED UP IN HALLOWEEN COSTUMES AND VOLUNTEERED WITH THE SANTA BARBARA YOUTH. FUNDRAISING EVENTS, SUCH AS THE SURFRIDER BAKE SALE HELP TO RAISE MONEY WITHIN THE BATTALION TO FUND OUR INTRAMURAL SPORTS TEAMS AND HELP SEND A TEAM TO WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO FOR THE ANNUAL BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH MARATHON. THE MEDIA AND DESIGN COMMITTEE, LED BY OUR VENERABLE LEADER, MSIV CADET SHANE HERUP. THE COMMITTEE IS THE HARDEST WORKING IN THE BATTALION, WORKING TIRELESSLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO PROVIDE MERCHANDISE TO THE BATTALION, AS WELL AS DESIGNING FLYERS, UPDATING THE WEBSITE, AND RUNNING THE INSTAGRAM. THIS COMMITTEE ALSO CREATES THE YEARLY NEWSLETTER! THE MILITARY BALL COMMITTEE PLANS THE END OF THE YEAR MILITARY BALL FOR ALL THE CADETS AND CADRE TO ENJOY.



"Giving back to the community was very rewarding whether through service or financially! It was amazing being able to help both people and the program."

MSI CDT William King





Intramural Sports

THE SURFRIDER BATTALION IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN CAMPUS INTRAMURAL SPORTS, HAVING TOP BASKETBALL, SOCCER, AND VOLLEYBALL TEAMS. PARTICIPATING IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS ALLOWS SURFRIDER CADETS TO NOT ONLY CONNECT WITH THE GREATER UCSB COMMUNITY, BUT TO ALSO BUILD ESPRIT DE CORPS WITHIN THE BATTALION. DURING WINTER QUARTER, THE BASKETBALL TEAM, LED BY MS3 CADET MIN KIM AND MS4 CADET AMGAD HAWARI, AND THE SOCCER TEAM, LED BY MS2 CADETS NICHOLAS GANDOLFO AND LAUREN GRAVES, BOTH WENT UNDEFEATED. THE SURFRIDER BATTALION PRIDES ITSELF ON NOT ONLY ITS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BUT ALSO ITS TEAMWORK AND SPORTSMANSHIP, RAIN OR SHINE, WIN OR LOSE.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS HELP PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF TEAM-BUILDING, ALLOWING CADETS TO SHOWCASE THEIR LEADERSHIP IN SPORT. CADETS FUNDRAISE FOR THESE TEAMS BY THEMSELVES THROUGH EVENTS SUCH AS THE SURFRIDER BAKE SALE, AND VOLUNTEERING FOR THE END OF THE YEAR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. THEY ALSO ALLOW CADETS TO HELP STAY IN SHAPE WITHOUT HAVING TO DO THE USUAL RUN OR RUCK, AND HELP TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE ROTC PROGRAM!

"The highlight of my week is always playing soccer and basketball with some members of the Battalion! Rain or shine we are always out there! A lot of people come out to play but we also got a killer fan section!"

MSII CDT Connor Buckelew





Awards Ceremony

THE SURFRIDER BATTALION HOSTED OUR ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY WHERE SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED CADETS WERE AWARDED FOR THEIR PHENOMENAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE BATTALION AND ADHERENCE TO THE ARMY VALUES. AWARDS ARE GIVEN BY BOTH MEMBERS OF THE SURFRIDER BATTALION SUCH AS LTC RUHL, BUT ALSO BY SEVERAL HONORABLE SUPPORTERS AND SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SUCH AS THE LOCAL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, MILITARY ORDER OF WORLD WARS, AND THE PIERRE CLAEYSSEN'S VETERANS FOUNDATIONS. OVER THIRTY-FOUR CADETS WITHIN THE PROGRAM, THIS YEAR WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS; AWARDS CAN BE GIVEN FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING SUPERIOR PLACEMENT AT CADET SUMMER TRAINING, NOTABLE VOLUNTEER SERVICE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, ACADEMIC SUCCESS, OVERALL IMPROVEMENT, MILITARY BEARING, AND SO MUCH MORE. SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE AWARDS INCLUDE THOSE GIVEN BY THE FAMILIES OF FALLEN SURFRIDERS WHOSE FAMILIES GRACIOUSLY GRANT A CADET A MONETARY SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF THEIR LOVED ONE AS A WAY TO MEMORIALIZE THEIR SERVICE, ACHIEVEMENTS, TIME AS A SURFRIDER, AND INCREDIBLY HONORABLE LIFE. TO NAME A FEW, THIS YEAR, THE CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER C. WALTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WAS GRANTED TO MSIII CADET JORDAN JUCEAM, THE CAPTAIN DION J. BURMAZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WAS GIVEN TO MSII CADET, LIA KUBITSCHKEK, AND THE LIVE LIKE REGGIE AWARD WAS GIVEN TO MSII LAUREN GRAVES! ON BEHALF OF THE SURFRIDER BATTALION, WE WANT TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR BATTALION AND SO GRACIOUSLY HELPED AWARD OUR AMAZING CADETS.

"After my first year of ROTC, being able to receive an award and be recognized for my participation in the program means a lot knowing the hard work my classmates and I put in it does not go unnoticed "

MSI CDT Marcelo Mahl

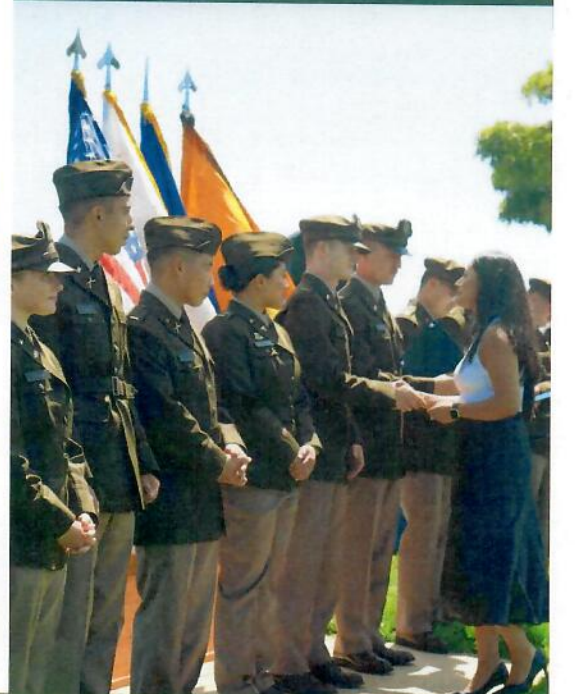




Commissioning & Graduation

WHAT A BITTERSWEET GRADUATION WEEKEND FOR OUR SURFRIDER FAMILY! THE SURFRIDER BATTALION IS PROUD TO WELCOME 18 NEWLY COMMISSIONED 2ND LIEUTENANTS INTO THE US ARMY! ON JUNE 14, CADETS AND PROUD FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, ALL GATHERED AT GOLETA BEACH TO HOLD OUR ANNUAL COMMISSIONING CEREMONY WHERE 13 MSIV CADETS OFFICIALLY BECAME 2ND LIEUTENANTS. WITH THE WAVES CRASHING IN THE BACKGROUND, CADETS RAISED THEIR RIGHT HAND TO RECITE THEIR OATH OF OFFICE, AND AFTER FOUR YEARS OF BEING DISPLAYED IN THE ROTC BUILDING, THE NEW LIEUTENANTS WERE FINALLY ABLE TO PIN ON THEIR OFFICIAL GOLD BAR RANKS. PER TRADITION, EACH COMMISSIONEE WAS RENDERED A FIRST SALUTE BY AN ENLISTED SERVICE MEMBER AND IN RETURN GIFTED THEM WITH A SILVER DOLLAR. MANY COMMISSIONEES HAD SOMEONE SPECIAL PERFORM THEIR OATH OR PIN ON THEIR BARS, SUCH AS 2LT KARSEN FLOM, WHOSE SISTER IS AN OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY! FOLLOWING COMMISSIONING, WE HAD A SMALL GATHERING CELEBRATING THE ARMY'S 249TH BIRTHDAY, BUT THESE OFFICERS WEREN'T DONE CELEBRATING YET! OVER THE WEEKEND, THEY CONTINUED THE FESTIVITIES AS THEY RECEIVED THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM UCSB AND TRADED THEIR SHINY GOLD BARS AND DRESS UNIFORMS FOR A CAP AND GOWN! COMMISSIONING AND GRADUATION ARE VERY MEANINGFUL EVENTS FOR OUR CADETS, CADETS' FAMILIES, CADRE, AND THE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN AS BOTH SOLDIERS AND SCHOLARS AND WISH THEM LUCK AS THEY KICKSTART THEIR CAREERS. AS SAD AS GOODBYES ARE, THE PROGRAM IS INCREDIBLY HONORED TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE JOURNEY OF THESE 20 OFFICERS AND KNOW THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES INSTILLED IN THEM AS A SURFRIDER.

ADDITIONALLY, WE HAVE TWO COMMISSIONERS THAT HAVE GRADUATED FROM WESTMONT COLLEGE AND ONE FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS. THE THREE NEWLY COMMISSIONED ARMY OFFICERS ARE JACOB BAILEY, JARED NOH, AND JEREMIAH CANANDA. SURFRIDERS LEAD THE WAY!

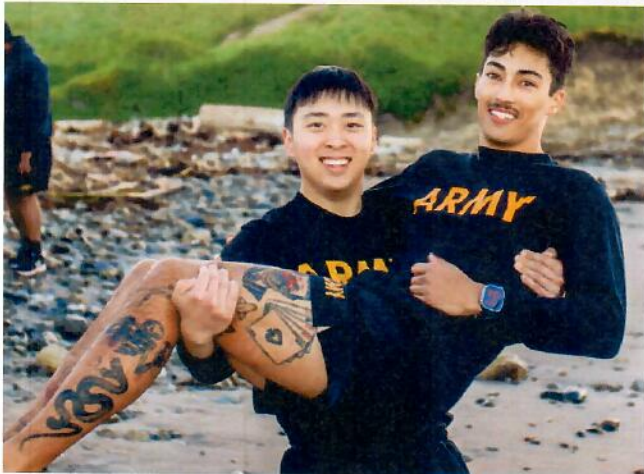




2024 NEWLY CONTRACTED CADETS



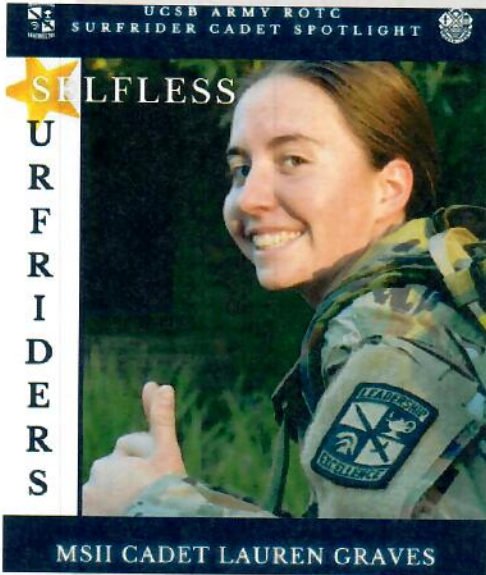
MSIII JORDAN JUCEAM
 MSIII LEON CEN
 MSII LIA KUBITSCHKEK
 MSII TIMOTHY JOO
 MSII JONATHAN SAENZ
 MSII ELLA BARBER
 MSI PEYTON CLARDY
 MSI JAMES ZHEN
 MSI KENNY ZENG





CADET SPOTLIGHT

-SELFLESS-



Lauren Graves (MSII)

Major: Psych and Brain Sciences

HomeTown: La Crescenta, CA

Looking to Branch: Aviation

What does Selflessness mean to you and how do you live it?

“Selflessness to me means that you do think about others and put them first. You take care of people and their needs first, rather than your own. Whether it's a small task or large one, I will always help those who need it because it does not hurt me to understand and reduce stress on others. This also influences why I want to become an officer—to take care of people’s sons and daughters who are being selfless enough to help and serve their country. If they are giving that up, the least I can do is take care of them.”

-UNDERSTANDING-

Francisco Romero (MSIII)

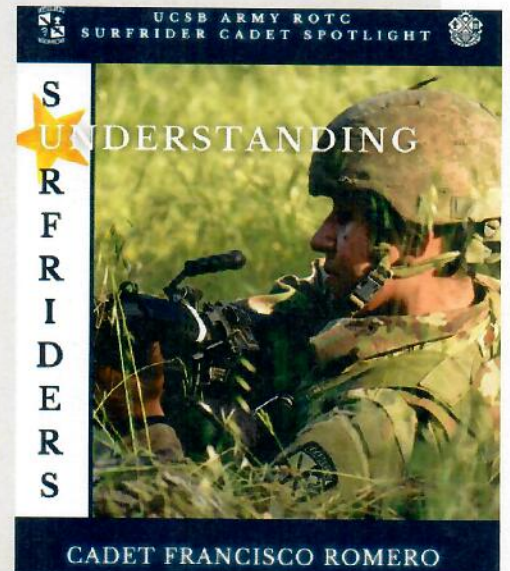
Major: History/Psych and Brain

HomeTown: Santa Clarita, CA

Looking to Branch: Medical Services

What does Understanding mean to you and how do you live it?

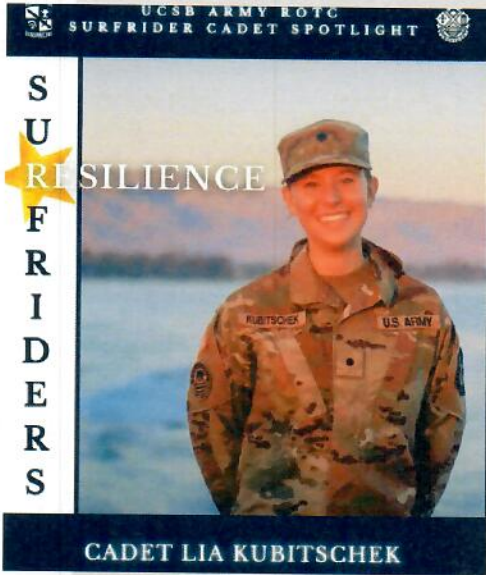
“Understanding to me refers to the ability to and willingness to comprehend, empathize, and appreciate the perspectives, feelings, and experiences of others. For me, to be understanding means being open minded and empathetic to the situations of others. This can be achieved with communication and emotional awareness.”





CADET SPOTLIGHT

-RESILIENCE-



Lia Kubitschek (MSII)

Major: Biology

HomeTown: Boulder, CO

Looking to Branch: Aviation

What does Resilience mean to you and how do you live it?

“To me, resilience is the ability to get back on your feet after something doesn’t go the way you want it to. I try to take every challenge I face as a learning opportunity and use it as motivation to be better equipped to face the next challenge in life. Resilience is rooted in having a good support system and people around you who will lift you up when you need it.”

-FEARLESS-

Amgad Hawari (MSIV)

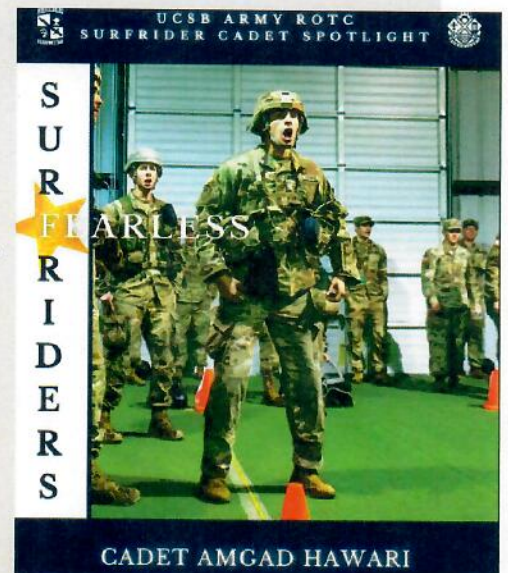
Major: Computer Science

HomeTown: Cypress, CA

Looking to Branch: Infantry

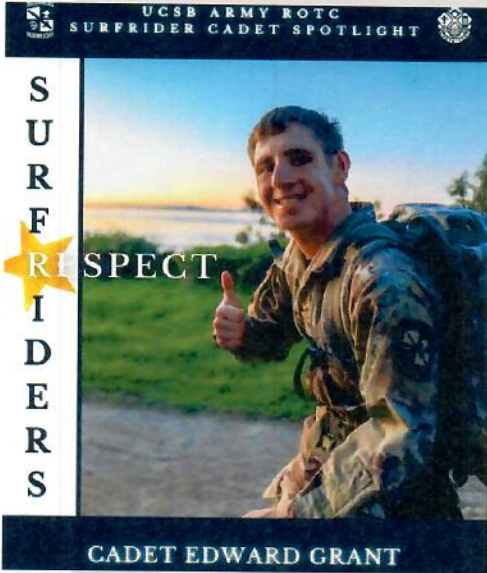
What does Fearlessness mean to you and how do you live it?

“Fearlessness means whatever is coming at me, I accept and recognize it no matter the situation. This means having the courage to face challenges, take risks, and step out of comfort zones. It’s not about being reckless, but about making calculated decisions even in the presence of fear.”





CADET SPOTLIGHT

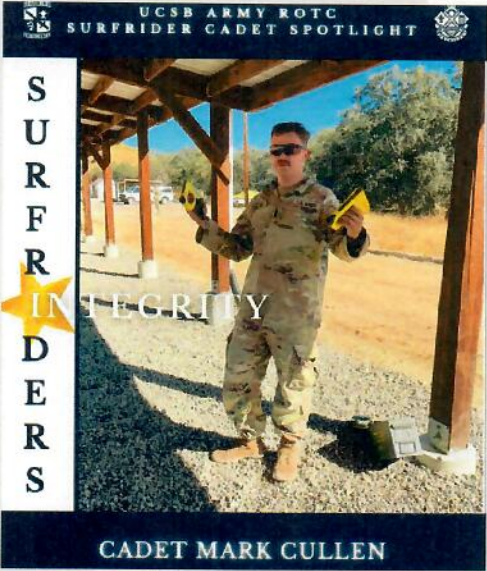


-RESPECT-

Edward Grant (MSIII)
 Major: History
 Hometown: Santa Barbara, CA
 Looking to Branch: Military Police
 What does Respect mean to you and how do you live it?
 "Respect means ordering one's interactions with good will towards the other foremost in mind. In and outside of the military this means thinking about more than your own immediate good but having a charitable disposition towards other people."

-INTEGRITY-

Mark Cullen (MSIV)
 Major: Mechanical Engineering
 Hometown: Marin County, CA
 Looking to Branch: Air Defense Artillery
 What does Integrity mean to you and how do you live it?
 "Integrity to me is staying true to yourself and always doing the right thing. It's not forgetting where you came from and everything that you've seen and learned no matter how many punches life throws at you. It's remaining honest with yourself and those around you in all the actions you take."





CADET SPOTLIGHT

-D-

UCSB ARMY ROTC
SURFRIDER CADET SPOTLIGHT

SURFRIDERS

DETERMINATION

CADET MIN KIM

Min Kim (MSIII)

Major: Physics

Hometown: Andover, MA

Looking to Branch: Engineer

What does determination mean to you?

"I think that everyone gets punched down from time to time, and I have faced quite a few setbacks in my life before. But I've learned that it's not about how you fall down, but it's about how you get back up. The struggles that I've faced in my life have only made me stronger in the end, and it's given me the opportunity to help out others who may be in similar situations that I have faced. It gets easier every day, but that also means that you have to try, every single day."

-E-

Major: Biology

Hometown: Norco, CA

Looking to Branch: Medical Services

What does empowerment mean to you?

"Empowerment to me means becoming more confident in making positive decisions that bring you closer to achieving ambitions. In my own life I try to empower myself and others through encouraging those around me to be the best version of themselves even when they don't feel their best. I always try to make it known to people around me that I am there to help and support and in turn I know that the people I surround myself with are there for me also."

UCSB ARMY ROTC
SURFRIDER CADET SPOTLIGHT

SURFRIDERS

EMPOWERMENT

CADET KAYLEE MCNEELY



Upcoming Summer Events 2024



June

- MSIII Cadets begin to depart for Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky

- MSI and MSII Cadets attend Project Go, A variety of Internships, and Specialty schools such as Airborne and Air Assault School

July



August

- MSIII Cadets finish Cadet Summer Training
- MSIII Cadets depart from Ft. Knox to attend Specialty schools and CTLT

- Surfrider BN Begins the new school year and welcomes new CDTs at out annual BBQ

September





CREDITS



Thank you to the Media and Design Committee
for creating this newsletter!

MS IV:

- 1) Eunice Lee
- 2) Frank Dang
- 3) Daniel Park
- 4) Shane Herup

MS III:

- 1) Min Kim
- 2) Jordan Juceam
- 3) Leon Cen

MS II:

- 1) William Nutcher
- 2) Nicolas Gandolfo

MS I:

- 1) William King

Committee Chair: Shane Heurp MSIV

Committee Advisor: Ms. Patricia Dent



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

SURFRIDERS CONQUER RANGER SCHOOL

WE ARE IMMENSELY PROUD TO RECOGNIZE FOUR EXCEPTIONAL SURFRIDER ALUMNI 2LT LAUREN LITTLE, 2LT JACK ROLLINSON, 1LT NATHAN CHERENZIA, AND 1LT JACOB SEMENZA WHO HAVE RECENTLY ACHIEVED ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING MILESTONES IN THE MILITARY: GRADUATING FROM RANGER SCHOOL. THIS PRESTIGIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT IS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR DEDICATION, RESILIENCE, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. RANGER SCHOOL IS KNOWN FOR ITS GRUELING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS, TESTING THE LIMITS OF EVEN THE MOST SEASONED SOLDIERS. THEIR ACHIEVEMENT SERVES AS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL, REMINDING US OF THE STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND PERSEVERANCE THAT DEFINE THE SURFRIDER SPIRIT. WE KNOW THEY WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITY WITH DISTINCTION WHEREVER THEIR PATHS MAY LEAD. AS WE CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESS, WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK, SACRIFICE, AND SUPPORT FROM THEIR LOVED ONES AND FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS THAT MADE THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT POSSIBLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WATCHING THEIR CONTINUED GROWTH AND SUCCESS IN THEIR MILITARY CAREERS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SURFRIDER RANGERS—YOUR COMMUNITY STANDS PROUD OF YOU!



2LT Lauren Little

2LT Jack Rollison

1LT Jacob Semenza

1LT Nathan Cherenzia



Join our Surfrider Family

**University of California, Santa Barbara
Military Science Department, 451 Mesa Road,
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-7070**



805-893-2769 (ARMY)



rotcscholar@milsci.ucsb.edu



www.milsci.ucsb.edu



@ucsbrotc

