

SURF REPORT

UCSB ARMY ROTC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER



Letter From The Cadet Battalion Commander,

As the Surfrider Battalion wraps up the school year, we can look back at our accomplishments and development over the past several months and recognize the collective and individual growth throughout the program. Whether at the Bataan Memorial Death March, one of the many Surfrider volunteer events, or our Military Ball, the Surfrider Battalion has repeatedly displayed our dedication to and enthusiasm for supporting the broader community and each other. From routine training to major annual events, each gathering of the Surfriders has felt like a culminating moment, showcasing the benefits of our preparation, problem-solving, and teamwork across levels. These shared attitudes and achievements speak to the notable strength and potential that the Surfrider Battalion will undoubtedly continue to exhibit in the years to come.

The opportunity to lead this battalion this past year has been a point of tremendous pride and joy. To those that have kept up with us along the way, thank you for your unwavering support for our program and the development of Surfrider leaders.

Gabriella Geach
Cadet Battalion Commander



RANGE DAY

12FEB2022-13FEB2022



On the 12th of February, the battalion departed to Fort Hunter Liggett. The UCSB Surfriders, alongside the Cal Poly Mustangs, were looking forward to a weekend at the Range. On the first day, Cadets solidified their basics through zeroing with the M16A2 rifle. On the following day, they honed their marksmanship skills at the pop-up Range. Cadets attempted to hit at least 23 out of 40 targets to qualify under the new Army marksmanship standard. While Cadre and MSIV's ensured safe and efficient operation of the range, MSIII's ran lessons for their MSI and MSII peers. After diligently cleaning their rifles, the Surfriders headed home having gained new levels of confidence in their marksmanship abilities.

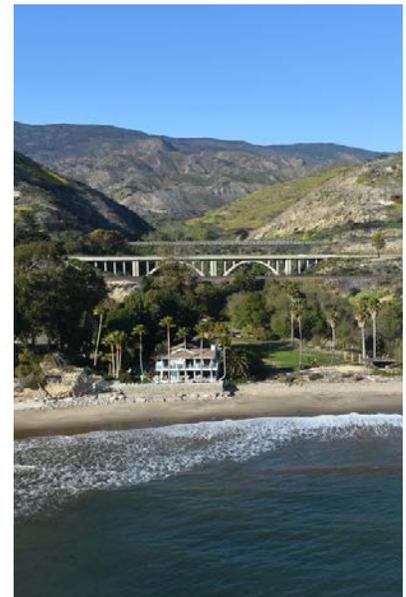




AVIATION DAY

10MAR2022

From the waves to the skies, UCSB Surfriders arrived at the Santa Barbara Airport, delighted to participate in the yearly Aviation Day. Cadets loaded up with anticipation into a Boeing CH-47 Chinook and as the Chinook took flight, smiles lit up on the faces of Cadets. For many, this was their first time flying. Being in the air gave them a taste of what the Aviation branch has in store.



BATAAN

0500 20MAR2022



In 1942, 70,000 Filipino and American soldiers were captured and forced to march 60 miles to internment camps. The annual Bataan Memorial Death March commemorates the soldiers who sacrificed their freedom and health to defend the Philippine Islands during World War II. In preparation for this year's event, the Surfriders Bataan team amped up the training. Members tracked and completed weekly ruck marches and runs in addition to PT, steadily increasing the mileage of the rucks from 4 miles to the main event of 26.2 miles.

Team captains Cadet Gabriella Shore and Cadet Daniel Marshall ensured that the team was ready to reach their goal by leading the training events that emphasized physical wellness through hydration, nutrition, rest and recovery.



On March 20th, 2022 the team met at the base of Refugio State Beach to begin their ruck march. For 26.2 miles, Cadets trekked up and down the trail. Roughly seven hours later, the team crossed the finish line filled with pride and accomplishment. The Surfrider Bataan team embodies the respect and gratitude the Battalion has for all the soldiers that have come before us.

LLAB STX LANES

Thursdays 1400-1700



With Advanced Camp this summer, the Surfrider Battalion ran tactical lanes in order to prepare the MSIIIIs for their momentous summer. These weekly exercises allow Cadets to gain proficiency in the five mission sets: attack, ambush, raid, movement to contact, and defense. By planning and leading these lanes, MSIIIIs build confidence in their tactics and leadership abilities. These lanes are especially useful in teaching the MSIIIIs how to work together regardless of the position they hold within the platoon. In addition, MSIs and MSIIIs are given opportunities to master their individual movement techniques and soldier skills as they employ the materials gained from the Leadership Lab lessons in the preceding Fall and Winter quarters. The culmination of each Cadet's hard work and training are recognized at the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX).





CROSSFIT CLUB

Mondays 1915-2015

Once a week, some Surfriders attend MSIV Cadet Tally Darsonval's Crossfit Club at Innate Fitness in Santa Barbara, CA. To begin the one hour session, Cadets conduct 3 minutes of their chosen cardio exercise. From jump roping to stationary biking, Innate Fitness has it all. After the short cardio session, Surfriders focus on any given power lift for an additional 30 minutes. During this time, Cadet Darsonval focuses on correct form to prevent injury and impart knowledge on junior Cadets so they can properly do the lifts on their own. This club is meant to test the dedication of Surfrider Cadets and prepare them further for the Army Combat Fitness Test.



"Cross fit club offers a variety of workouts using a variety of equipment. Darsonval leads the class and helps us master form."

-CDT Elena Barnes

COLOR GUARD

Thursdays 0800-0900

The Color Guard can trace its prestigious origins back to the Revolutionary War. Charged with instilling discipline and order in the Continental Army by General George Washington, Baron Friedrich von Steuben spearheaded the framework to transform Washington's Continental Army. Today, UCSB Surfriders strive to carry on those enduring values and tradition. Led by their captain, Cadet Chance Nelson, the Color Guard team consists of 16 Cadets. As the school year concluded, they participated in the Pierre Claeysens Military Ball and Veterans Day Tribute, the Santa Barbara Club Veterans Day Event, and the ROTC program's very own military ball, just to name a few. The team started the year with many Cadets knowing nothing about drill and ceremony. However, weekly practices and dedication have transformed them into a confident, disciplined, and organized unit.

"I am proud of the Cadets who have taken initiative and seized leadership positions whenever possible. When the UCSB ROTC Color Guard team arises in conversation, I hope they think of a group of organized and detail-oriented Cadets who seek to represent their program and community with honor."

-CDT Chance Nelson



SPRING FTX

22APRIL2022-24APRIL2022



From Friday April 22nd to Sunday April 24th, UCSB Surfriders alongside Cal Poly Mustangs and Fresno State Bulldogs, traded in their laptops and meal swipes for M16 rifles and MREs. In the fields of Fort Hunter Liggett, Spring FTX was a chance for MSIIIs to put their preparation for advanced camp to the test, gaining experience with land navigation, running lanes and collaborating with Cadets from different schools in a new tactical environment. Running from point to point, land navigation around the hills of Fort Hunter Liggett acted as the years final opportunity to put land nav skills to the test. MSIs and MSIIIs got to experience leadership positions such as Radio Telephone Operator (RTO), Medic, Pointman, and Team Leader.



Cadets were able to demonstrate proficiency in the skills learned throughout the year during LLAB. It was also the first time younger Cadets got to experience the intensity, adrenaline, and exhaustion that only comes with Spring FTX. Cadets were pushed above and beyond their limits as they marched from mission to mission with their rucksacks on, spending the majority of the night securing their Patrol Base. Select Cadets were trained on M240 and M249 weapons and got to experience the thrill of firing rounds from a machine gun. Given the opportunity to handle and respond to enemy fire with an M249 squad automatic weapon other than an M16 rifle was exhilarating. After completing five missions, four on Saturday and one Sunday morning, the Surfriders were able to enjoy a ride home equipped with newfound confidence under their (riggers)belt.



"The M249 also gave me an opportunity to familiarize myself with this weapon system in its functionality and components."

-Cadet Frank Dang

ROTC MILITARY BALL

1700 07MAY2022

For the first time in three years, Cadets were able to attend the highly anticipated UCSB Surfrider Military Ball. Hosted at the Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday May 7, 2022, this year's theme adopted the "Old Mission Style." The Military Ball Committee, led by Cadet Tally Darsonval and Cadet Connor Wilcox, spent the year carefully coordinating and planning the event. The committee arrived in high spirits to set the stage. As the sun was setting, the Surfriders arrived in ASUs and formal attire, and enjoyed an hour of socialization.



The Ball commenced with the formal Receiving Line and was followed with steeped Army traditions like presenting the Colors, the Missing Man Ceremony, the grog and the Army Song. Following a delicious dinner was the presentation of the class skits. The skits are a highlight of the night as each MS class was able to reminisce about the best and funniest times of the year. Finally, the Surfriders broke out their dance moves as the night came to an end and a successful Military Ball was over.



AWARDS CEREMONY

Spring 2022

The last LLAB of the year served as a day to recognize the Cadets who throughout the past year showed exemplary leadership and excellence in both ROTC and school academics among their peers. Awards ranged from national Army awards like the United States Army Cadet Command Top Cadet Award to awards given by private organizations like the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum Foundation Alex Newsome Award (Cadet Ian Hinds, pictured right with John Blankenship, Director). Also presented at the awards ceremony were the Veterans Portraits (shown on bottom) hand-drawn by Cadet volunteers, led by Cadet Alexandra Daugherty, and presented to Santa Barbara military veterans in appreciation for the sacrifices they made for the United States of America.



COMMISSIONING

Spring 2022

SECOND LIEUTENANT LEE PARK

One thing that makes the Surfrider Battalion so unique is our large presence at multiple schools. While our home base is at UCSB, we have many Cadets proudly representing our program at Santa Barbara City College, CSU Channel Islands and Westmont College. On 07May2022, we had the honor of commissioning 2nd Lt. Park as an Army Officer. It was a beautiful afternoon in the Montecito Hills, and we were joined by his family, friends, and fellow Surfriders. After taking the oath of his new office from LTC Eric Kunak, Second Lieutenant Park's family pinned his gold bars onto his uniform, and he rendered his first salute to MSG Justin Turner. With support from his fellow MSIVs, Second Lieutenant Park officially became an Army Officer, a unique and proud moment for everybody at the Surfrider Battalion.



UCSB COMMISSIONING

1400 10 JUNE 2022

Soon after 2LT Park's commissioning, 12 more Cadets of the MS4 class took the stage at Goleta Beach on the 10th of June for their Commissioning Ceremony. About 150 friends, family, and supporters of the program gathered to support this transition from Cadet to Second Lieutenant and it was a day that the Surfrider Battalion will remember. The ceremony itself consisted of receiving congressional certificates of recognition, the Oath of Office, followed by the pinning of the gold bar rank of a Second Lieutenant done by close friends or family, and a First Salute also known as a Silver Dollar Salute, rendered by an enlisted soldier that has meant a lot to the Cadet's growth and success throughout their life. Commissioning certificates were then presented in frames to each Officer and a long line of handshakes, pictures, and words of congratulations ended the day. The Surfrider Battalion wishes all their new 2nd Lieutenants the best in their future endeavors and looks forward to seeing where life and the Army takes them!





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