

A full-page background image showing a bright sun low on the horizon over a dark, choppy ocean. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is dark with white foam from the waves.

SURF REPORT

UCSB ARMY ROTC OFFICAL NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALLION COMMANDER



Letter From The Cadet Battalion Commander,

Following a unique year of adapting to the challenges of training a battalion spread across the country, the Surfriders were overjoyed to return to campus this quarter and gather as a single force. With summer training complete, returning MSIIIs and MSIVs brought back a wealth of knowledge to share with the rest of the Surfrider Battalion. As we began tackling Physical Training, Leadership Labs, our Joint Field Training Exercise, the Regional Ranger Challenge Competition, and more, we quickly learned that the passion and drive of each cadet had only grown in our time apart. The Surfrider Battalion jumped back into training the same way we do everything else: seeking to exceed the standard and set the example. With the majority of the school year still ahead, make sure to stay tuned because the Surfriders are only getting started.

Surfriders lead the way!

Gabriella Geach
Cadet Battalion Commander



RANGER CHALLENGE TRYOUTS

0400 25SEP2021



The Surfrider Battalion welcomed its new and returning cadets with the Ranger Challenge Tryouts. The battalion raced through the UCSB campus in six squads. Each squad was responsible for a 35 lbs. ruck, 35 lbs. weight vest, 5 gal water jug, as well as their battle buddies next to them. At 0400 the event promptly began. Cadets went through a series of exercises from flutter kicks to half jacks. Upon completion, the squads ran to a lawn 0.8 miles away. Here, buddy teams performed 2 mins of push ups, sit ups, burpees and power jumps. The next station was 0.5 a mile away, and the Battalion's first stop at the shore. Squad leaders led their team deep into the waves, then through the sand, creating the finest churros in Santa Barbara. Moving up the beach, the battalion executed countless freedom twists, lunges and military presses as individual cadets pushed themselves through a massive hill sprint. The third station was at Henley Gate. As a team, squads completed 150 push ups, 150 squats and 5 more grueling hill sprints.



Finally, the squads rushed to campus point. One by one, with surfboards in hand, cadets paddled out and back as the rest of the battalion interlocked arms in the rushing waves. The battalion roars, "UP! DOWN! UP! DOWN!" through sit ups and push ups. As the sun was rising, the final cadets made it back to land and the Surfrider Battalion proudly declared completion of the first event of the year. Ranger challenge tryouts allowed individual cadets to display their strength and push themselves past their limits. Squads start and finish as a unit, growing closer by the minute and building the foundations for the teamwork that will be essential throughout the year.



FALL FTX

15OCT2021-17OCT2021

The Surfrider Battalion traveled north along the coast to Fort Hunter Liggett for the annual Fall FTX (Field Training Exercise). Over three days, cadets are given opportunities to apply the lessons learned in LLAB. MS3s and MS4s develop their leadership as they guide the MS1s and MS2s through the new experiences.

The first event was Land Navigation. Cadets were assigned five points and allotted three hours to find them. With a map, compass and protractor in hand, cadets began by orienting themselves and plotting their points. With their objectives in mind, they planned and chose the most efficient route. As they stepped off, cadets used a combination of terrain association and dead reckoning to locate their points. After a successful afternoon, the difficulty was raised. The second part of land navigation began at 1930 as the sun was setting. Cadets returned to look for three more points under the night sky.



M16 Range

The following day, Cadets marched to the range and practiced shooting with the M16 rifle. 25 meters away from the target, cadets got down in the prone position and carefully aimed down the barrel of their rifle. Cadets timed each pull of the trigger with their breath: inhale, exhale, shoot. Cadets received feedback from their first two groupings and many were able to zero for their last two.





"My favorite event was the rappel tower. Not only did it help me conquer the fear of heights, it also was a confidence booster. If I can gather the strength and courage to rappel down that tower, then the only thing that's stopping me from succeeding within the program and beyond is just myself and my mind."

-CDT Ugalde



"I really enjoyed the o-course and rappel tower. It brought back some basic training memories and crucial knot tying capabilities. I want to improve my land navigation, especially at night."

-CDT Dang



RAPPEL TOWER

The next stop was the rappel tower. Here, Cadets were taught how to secure their own Swiss Seat. After weaving the rope into a harness, cadets waited in line for their turn, some eager with anticipation and others filled with dread, but all in discomfort from the rope harness they tied. At the top, with trust in their instructors, their equipment, and themselves, they took a huge leap off the 40 foot wall. With three big jumps, they controlled their descent to the ground. As some cadets faced their greatest fear - heights- there were smiles all around. After being released from the rappel line, cadets switched in to belay the next rappeler, arguably, the more daunting task. With their fellow cadets safety lying in their hands, the belayer helped the next cadet with their descent.

OBSTACLE COURSE

Finally, Cadets challenged their physical strength at the obstacle course. They expertly crawled under barbed wire, weaved through logs, and climbed up ropes. These obstacles required balance, timing, and a good amount of upper body strength. Cadets up for the challenge, could race each other through the obstacles to push one another even more.

On the third day, the Surfrider Battalion prepared to head home after a successful FTX. But not before cleaning the weapons from the previous day. The Cadets worked tirelessly to clean every inch of their weapon and once they had them checked off by the MS4 Cadets, they could finally relax as they packed up camp and boarded the bus. This weekend connected the lessons learned in class to the field and strengthened the battalion bonds.



PHYSICAL TRAINING

MWR 0630-0730

The Surfrider Battalion loves PT (Physical Training)! Cadets maintain physical readiness with PT three times a week. Cadet Command Sergeant Major Ian Hinds produces the Battalion's PT plans to ensure cadets meet and exceed the standards of the Army Combat Fitness Test. From hill sprints to circuit workouts to ability group runs; a variety of workouts are integrated to push Cadets in all categories of fitness. PT is also a time for CDT Platoon Sergeants and Squad leaders to refine their leadership by motivating and developing their peers.



LEADERSHIP LAB

Thursdays 1400-1700

Every Thursday afternoon, from 1400 to 1700, Cadets come out pumped up and ready to engage in a leadership lab that allows Cadets the opportunity to practice, experience, and execute hands-on Army Skills. This Fall Quarter, Cadets focused on learning basic Army conduct, etiquette, and tactics all while being led by the third year Cadets. The goal is to prepare MS3 Cadets for leadership positions during STX (Situational Training Exercise) lanes in the quarters to follow. All while MS1s and MS2s build fundamental tactics and leadership skills that will be essential in their MS3 and MS4 years. Leadership Lab is a place where Cadets can grow at their own pace with the right fundamental knowledge. It is something ROTC Cadets take pride in every single week because it is the core of their success.





RANGER CHALLENGE

05NOV2021-07NOV2021

On November fifth the Surfrider Battalion's Ranger Challenge team was up bright and early prepared to represent UCSB at the Task Force South Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Irwin. The team set out to the hot and dry Mojave Desert prepared to apply their training to a variety of army skills including: The Army Combat Fitness Test, marksmanship, land navigation, call for fire, tactical combat casualty care, obstacle course, and a 16 mile ruck. Despite the difficult events ahead of them, the team was prepared from their many hours of training. During the first 7 weeks of Fall Quarter the squad was up ready to train at 0500 on weekdays, before Garrison PTs, exercising and building upon their tactical knowledge.

Upon arrival at the competition, the team was tasked with completing two events on the first day. The first event was the ACFT, where the cadets powered through the 80 degree heat in their ACUs with no breaks. The next event was marksmanship. The team made way to the M4 range and put 40 rounds down range into paper targets. After these events the team made way to the bivouac site to rest up for a big next day. At 0400 the Squad was up and prepared for the land nav event. The team trekked through the desert with their rucks on their backs to find their land nav points. They then stepped off for their 16 mile ruck and only rested at the event sites scattered throughout the course. On the course, the team finished the call for fire, an M17 pistol range, an obstacle course, a medical lane, and a functional fitness lane that involved pushing a humvee 100 meters.

The event was completed late on Saturday night, and while the team was absolutely exhausted they were anxious to hear the results. The squad finished first place in land navigation and the obstacle course, and their 16 mile ruck time was second best. Performance in these events landed the team in fourth place out of 12 teams overall--just narrowly finishing behind the third place team. The Surfrider Battalion extends its congratulations to the members of the team and is excited to do even better next year!

"The most rewarding part of Ranger Challenge was seeing the amazing growth we all made to get to this point and time in our lives. It was only about a year ago where we were doing an intramural competition and training at 0500 every morning to be able to get to this day. I am glad we were able to leave it all out on the line and finish 4th place in a tough but memorable Ranger Challenge Competition."

-CDT Hawari

LTG WENDT

On November 16, 2021, the Surfrider Battalion welcomed former Surfrider and recently retired Lieutenant General Eric P. Wendt back to UCSB since his last visit five years ago! LTG Wendt has served as an active duty Army officer since 1986, beginning his military career in the U.S. Army Infantry and then continuing to serve as a Green Beret, Special Forces Officer.

He has left a positive impact on the Special Operations conducted within the military, and continues to leave an impact on past, current, and future Soldiers with his knowledge and wisdom on leadership lessons learned both in the Army and in life.



(above) 19AUG21 LTG Wendt Retirement Ceremony on Soldier Field, Presidio of Monterrey, Three Star 15 Cannon Salute. (below) Then, Cadet Wendt (second from the right) pictured with fellow Surfrider cadets (from left to right) Walker, Berrier, and Espinosa in 1986.



The Surfriders would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to LTG Wendt for his time and thank him for the knowledge and new skills he brought to us on this day!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter-Spring 2022

UCSB Army ROTC provides many opportunities to build the strengths and competencies of future leaders, by providing them with a multitude of quality training opportunities throughout the year. These events result in the commissioning of the most high quality cadets in the nation.

RANGE DAY

Range Day is a weekend training event that sees cadets traveling to Fort Hunter Liggett to both zero their weapons and qualify on a rifle qualification range. To pass the qualification range, cadets must shoot at least 23 of the 40 targets that pop up between 25 and 300 meters.

AVIATION DAY

Aviation Day is a fun experience provided to cadets, in which they are able to ride around the Santa Barbara area in National Guard helicopters at the end of Winter Quarter. It is a great time and a highlight of the school year.



SPRING FTX

Spring FTX is a weekend training exercise at Fort Hunter Liggett designed to prepare cadets for Cadet Summer Training (CST). Cadets practice land navigation, and then in platoon elements conduct missions to utilize the tactical knowledge they learned earlier in the year.

MILITARY BALL

Military Ball is a traditional event held in the Spring quarter as a fun way to honor the MS4 class before they graduate, cadets that displayed exemplary work throughout the year and the Battalion as a whole. It is a great time for cadets and cadre to reflect on the year and enjoy its end.

COMMISSIONING

Commissioning is the final event of the year that sees the commissioning of MS4 cadets into the Army as new 2nd Lieutenant Officers. Cadets, Cadre, Family, and Friends are able to celebrate these new Officers and welcome them into their new assignments in the "Big Army"



On behalf of the Surfrider
Battalion,
we would like to extend our gratitude
to all those who
have supported the Battalion and have
worked to help us start the year off
with a bang,

Thank You!

**UCSB ARMY ROTC
SURFRIDER BATTALION
SURF REPORT NEWSLETTER
FALL 2021**

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