

THE SURFRIDER

UCSB Army ROTC Surfrider

NEWSLETTER

CULP

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LDAC

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Veterans Day Activities

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Surfrider Battalion Doubles in Size



The Surfrider Battalion has seen a tremendous increase in Cadets since kicking off the 2013-2014 school year. For the first time in many years, the UCSB ROTC program has more than fifty Cadets. This year there has been a rapid increase of freshmen, sophomore, and junior Cadets.

Although there are now more Cadets, the Surfrider Battalion is still able to maintain the tight-knit community of UCSB ROTC. The MSIV mentors along with the current MSII and MSIII Cadets are working hard to integrate the new Cadets in the program. ROTC extra-curricular activities such as the Color Guard and the Ranger Challenge give new Cadets opportunities to get involved. Of the twelve Cadets on the Ranger Challenge team, four Cadets are new to the Surfrider Battalion.

The growing Surfrider Battalion also benefits in training activities. The greater number of Cadets provides more leadership challenges to the Battalion MSIV's and more leadership opportunities to the MSIII Cadets. The more leadership positions provided to MSIII Cadets will help them prepare for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky this summer. UCSB ROTC is continuing to increase the number of Cadets as the 2013-2014 year goes on.

Ranger Challenge Postponed

The 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge event, originally planned for November 1-4, 2013, was postponed until February or March 2014 due to the government furlough. The team of twelve Cadets led by MSIII Cadet Gabe Albertson has continued training to ensure they are fully prepared. The team is seeking to win first place at this year's competition, set to take place at Joint-Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The team has been training on the events One Rope Bridge, First Aid, Situational Awareness, Land Navigation, and Basic Rifle Marksmanship.



Summer Training

CULP, WHINSEC, AIRBORNE, AIR ASSAULT, PROJECT GO

Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency

The UCSB ROTC Program sent four Cadets on CULP this summer. Cadet Taylor Holliday travelled to Thailand, Cadets Daniel Pavich and Nicholas Brischler went to Romania, and Cadet Dayquan Julienne went to Cape Verde. UCSB Professor of Military Science, LTC George Davis, was Mission Commander of CULP in Cape Verde. All four of the Cadets participated in the Military to Military English Language Training. They worked closely with foreign militaries to teach English as well as gain first hand experience with foreign cultures.

The Cadets were able to do a little more than just teach while abroad. Cadet Julienne snorkeled at various beaches and hiked the tallest mountain on the island nation. Cadet Holliday toured an elephant sanctuary and visited historic temples. Cadet Brischler rock climbed in Romania and Cadet Pavich visited the Black Sea and went mountain biking.

Air Assault School

Air Assault School is a ten-day course designed to teach air assault operations, sling-load operations, and rappelling. Cadet Alexander Moore attended and passed the intensive course prior to attending the Leadership Development and Assessment

Airborne School and WHINSEC

Two Cadets attended the US Army Airborne School this summer. Cadets Gabe Albertson and Joanna Martinez attended the three- week long course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Both Cadets earned their Airborne wings.

Cadet Martinez also attended the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation's four-week Cadet course. WHINSEC gave Cadet Martinez the opportunity to work with other Cadets across the country as well as with students from Colombia and the Dominican Republic. She participated in various activities such as qualifying on the M-16 and land navigation. This course presented challenges due to the language barrier between Cadets, however Cadet Martinez excelled and acted as a translator. She scored an overall "E" (Exceeds the Standard) rating.

Project Global Officer

Project GO is an ROTC Language and Culture Project that provides various scholarships to ROTC Cadets in three services to study critical languages. Three Surfriider Cadets participated in Project GO this summer, learning a year's worth of language in 8 weeks of intensive study. Cadet Nicole Frazier studied Intermediate Arabic, equivalent to Arabic levels 4-6, at California State University, San Bernardino. Cadets Nadia West and Declan Harris both travelled across the country to the University of North Georgia. Cadet West studied Beginner Arabic, equivalent to Arabic levels 1-3, and Cadet Harris studied Beginner Russian, equivalent to Russian levels 1-3.



Cadet Julienne attended CULP in Cape Verde and Cadet Holliday travelled to Thailand.

Summer Training LDAC, CTLT, LTC

Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC)

Ten MSIII Cadets of the Surfrider Battalion attended the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Joint-Base Lewis-McChord, WA this summer. This course is designed to assess the Cadets on the leadership skills they learned during the first three years at UCSB. Cadets are tested on physical fitness, land navigation, and leadership during both tactical and garrison operations. This year, LDAC was slightly different than previous years. The course was more oriented towards developing leaders as opposed to assessing them. Cadets were also given the opportunity to qualify on an M-16, which was not done in previous years. All ten Cadets passed LDAC with nine receiving an overall rating of "S" (Satisfies the Standard) and one receiving an overall rating of "E" (Exceeds the Standard).



Cadet Alexandria Schmidt earned an overall "E" at LDAC.

Leader's Training Course (LTC)

Cadets Joseph Potter, Kathleen Guzman, and Kathy Chinchilla travelled to Fort Knox, Kentucky this summer to attend the Leader's Training Course (LTC). This four-week course is designed for Cadets who are not Basic Course qualified because they did not participate in ROTC their freshman and sophomore years of college. Both Cadets Potter and Chinchilla are transfer students at UCSB. All three Cadets excelled at LTC.

Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)

Of the ten Cadets that attended LDAC this summer, five participated in CTLT. Cadet Alexandria Schmidt attended CTLT at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Cadets Matthew Tweed and Dimitri Serrano visited Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Cadet Manuel Soriano took part in CTLT at Fort Irwin, California prior to leaving for LDAC, and Cadet Sergio Vergara travelled all the way to South Korea.

CTLT gives Cadets the opportunity to shadow Platoon Leaders in the Active Army. It allows Cadets to get a good look at how things work beyond ROTC. Cadets were given the chance to participate in Field Training Exercises (FTX), sit in on Battalion Training Meetings, and operate in a garrison environment.



Veterans Day Activities

Veterans Day Parade

The Surfrider Battalion marched in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Santa Barbara on November 10, 2013. This is the first year the Cadets have marched in a formation in the parade. In previous years, the Battalion walked single file. MSIII Cadets called cadence while marching and MSIV Cadets led the formation from the front. The parade gave the MSIII Cadets plenty of practice calling cadence loudly because they were competing with truck engines. This was the first time marching for most of the Cadets but thanks to several hours spent practicing, the Cadets represented Veterans and UCSB ROTC well.



Veterans Military Ball

On Saturday, November 9, Cadets attended the 18th Annual Military Ball hosted by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum. The Ball celebrates Santa Barbara Veterans and gave Cadets the opportunity to talk to Active military members as well as Veterans. This was the first formal military function for many Cadets and it acted as a good introduction to the Military Ball tradition.



Color Guard

Honors Veterans

The Surfrider Battalion Color Guard participated in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Santa Barbara Cemetery on November 11, 2013. The ceremony was led by CSM (R) Jon Church who is an avid supporter of the UCSB ROTC program. The Surfrider Color Guard, led by MSIII Cadet Jamie Paychev, rehearses on a biweekly basis to ensure they well represent the Colors and are prepared for all events. The Color Guard completed the Veterans Day Ceremony with a fifteen gun salute.