

UCSB ARMY ROTC

Winter 2012 Newsletter

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New Senior Military Instructor

MSG Manes has replaced MSG Parra as the Battalion Senior Military Instructor. MSG Manes hails from Salem, Oregon and brings 19 and a half years of Army service to the table. MSG Manes says that he has "big boots to fill" as MSG Parra has departed the SMI Position and moved into the recruiting officer role. He is, however, very excited to work with energetic and active cadets that have a high desire to be in the program and serve in the Army. MSG Manes aims to maintain the excellence of the program and even expand it to have a bigger presence in the community. In the next academic year, MSG Manes sees Surfriders volunteering for the community quarterly. MSG Manes places emphasis on the core values of family and integrity, and wishes to remind all cadets that his door is always open.



Admiral's Visit



MSG Manes



Mr. Sulaimon

Surfriders Prepare For Bataan Memorial Death March

HEAVY TEAM, LIGHT TEAM, & FEMALE LIGHT TEAM

While most college students plan for a relaxing Spring Break on a beach or back home, 19 Surfriders have been preparing for their own Spring Break plans – competing in the annual 26.2 mile Bataan Memorial Death March through the desert of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The march commemorates the Bataan Death March, a 60 mile forced march conducted by some 76,000 American and Filipino POWs captured by the Japanese Imperial Army after the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during WWII. Thousands of POWs died at the hands of the Japanese due to physical abuse, murder, and the physical strain of the march itself.

In keeping with its legacy, The Bataan Memorial Death March is an extremely challenging event. All participants in the military or ROTC cate-

gory are required to run with authorized uniform and boots. Those who enter in the “heavy” category must also run with a rucksack weighing a minimum of 35lbs, not including water. Teams of 5 or more must also operate as a true team, with all team members finishing within 20 seconds of one another to avoid disqualification. In addition to the physical strain, the logistics and planning of Bataan have been a challenge for Cadet Officer in Charge Chapman. On race weekend alone, 19 cadets and 2 cadre need to fly from Santa Barbara to New Mexico and back, and arrangements must be made for food, lodging, and transportation, all this over the Spring Break.

This year, UCSB ROTC is sending one six-person male light team, seven individual heavy runners, and for the first time, an all female six-person

team. The female team is composed of cadets Guzman, Wu, Janko, Smith, Schmidt and Holliday, all of whom will be tackling the Bataan course for the first time. On the male side, cadets Albertson, Flores, Graves, Julianne, Kopecky, Martinez, Perez, and Serrano will be first-time Bataan participants, and cadets O’Brien, Chapman, Dzwoniarek, Aldinger, and Clark will be returning, some for their third time.

The number of newcomers, coupled with the already strenuous nature of marathon-distance training, has presented obstacles during training, including injuries such as blisters, shin splints, and knee pain. On any given Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning at 0515 hours, athletic tape, knee braces, and mole skin are donned by Bataan team members as they prepare to step off for their 0600 work outs.



MALE BATAAN
LIGHT TEAM
AFTER FINISH-
ING ALMOST 20
MILES IN LESS
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(cont. of Bataan Memorial Death March, pg. 2) In light of this reality, Cadet Chapman, the Cadet Officer in Charge of Bataan, adopted a training schedule which focuses more on weekly mileage than on individual high mileage runs to avoid unnecessary risk of injuries. With such a large team, emphasis is on team captains to constantly monitor their team members for early signs of injuries, and adjust training strategies accordingly. Due to consistent issues with blisters, female light team captain Guzman added what she calls, "boot-day Tuesdays" on which female participants are required to

wear their boots around campus. But despite the pain, Guzman says the team has, "Really been pushing themselves to continue and keep together as a team."

Despite the challenges, morale and excitement is running high on the Bataan team. Cadet OIC Chapman summed it up best, "To have 19 cadets come out and commit to train throughout the quarter just goes to show how valuable and enjoyable this event is. Last year we had a much smaller team, so this year we are looking forward to bringing a much larger and equally successful Surfrider team to White Sands Missile Range."

Training Officer

Mr. Sulaimon, a National Guard Military Intelligence Captain with 11 years combined service in the Army as an officer and as an enlisted combat medic, is the Surfrider Battalion's new training officer. Mr. Sulaimon has been immensely impressed by how "squared away" all of the cadets are and is looking forward to working with them. Mr. Sulaimon hopes to pass on his lessons learned as a young lieutenant and to help cadets avoid making the same mistakes. Loyalty is the most important leadership trait for Mr. Sulaimon as it is a strong base for respect, duty, and communication. On his R&R time, Mr. Sulaimon enjoys reading and fishing.

Ranger Challenge

Fall quarter, the Surfrider Battalion sent one team to represent UCSB in the 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Camp San Luis Obispo. The team's nine cadets placed third out of the six teams present at Camp San Luis Obispo.

The nine team members jumped headfirst into the competition with a strong start to their first event, the Army Physical Fitness Test consisting of 2 minutes of Push Ups, 2 minutes of Sit Ups, and a 2 mile run, while wearing ACUs and boots. Upon completing this event the team went on to complete a strenuous 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) road march on rolling hills with a ruck weighing roughly 35lbs. Along the course, the team completed several skills-based events.

These events included a written map reading exam, an open-course land navigation event, a first aid assessment, the "one-rope bridge" in which the team an-

chored a rope between two telephone poles and then crossed that bridge safely with all team members and equipment, M16A2 rifle disassembly/assembly, an uphill obstacle course which also required each team member to carry two sand bags from start to finish, and finally the "leaders reaction course" in which cadets had to overcome an obstacle using given equipment and rules - essentially a life-sized puzzle for an added mental challenge after physical exhaustion.

Despite the challenging events, the Surfrider team went into the event confident in their skills and competitiveness. The team leader, Chapman recalls the event as challenging, requiring, "a high level of performance from the team both physically and mentally." The Surfriders placed third, and came away with the motivation to win in 2013.



Zero Dark Thirty at Camp SLO

Chapman praised the experience, noting its ability to foster, "Leadership, teamwork and esprit de corps."

Rear Admiral's Visit

The Surfrider Battalion was proud to host Rear Admiral (RDML) Herman A. Shelanski, commander of Carrier Strike Group 10, on February 24th. At a 6pm ceremony at the Mosher Alumni House, RDML Shelanski gave a speech to the 30 or so guests in attendance, including 20 Surfrider cadets and several VIPs from the Santa Barbara Navy League. The speech outlined themes including national service, the future of Army-Navy joint operations, and the unique dedication and spirit of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Shelanski was followed by Professor Military Science Lt. Col. Davis, who spoke on the topic of "Why We Serve" – addressing his own reasons for serving in the Army,

and framing the question in the broader context of all those who serve and the various backgrounds which they bring to the table.

Following prepared speeches, RDML Shelanski fielded questions from Surfrider cadets in an informal setting. The RDML answered questions ranging from his own experiences in OCS and as a Naval Aviator, to his thoughts on Iran's naval capabilities and advice to new officers. The Surfrider cadets impressed the Admiral just by voluntarily showing up to see him speak on a balmy Friday evening in Santa Barbara. The Surfriders, however, continued to exemplify professionalism, asking astute questions and giving well thought-out answers. Freshman cadet Jerney Davis, when

asked by the RDML what she thought of women "on the front lines," replied without skipping a beat, "Sir, on the modern battlefield for all intents and purposes there is no front line," with which the RDML fully agreed. The RDML concluded by telling the cadets that he was "jealous" of the opportunities that lay before them to lead American servicemen and women. The event was a great opportunity for cadets to not only interact with a General Officer, but also to gain exposure to Navy culture and better understand joint force operations.



RDML Shelanski & LTC Davis