

# UCSB ARMY ROTC

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Department of Military Science  
BLDG. 451, Mesa Rd.  
University of CA - Santa  
Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106  
(805) 893-2769

## UCSB ALUMNI PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

In this Issue:

- Brigadier General Wendt
- UCSB Commissions 2LTs
- Spring FTX 2012
- New PRT Equipment
- Bataan 2012 Interview

BG Eric P. Wendt, deputy commander, Regional Command North, International Security Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, was recently promoted to Brigadier General.

A UCSB ROTC Alumni, he graduated with a B.A. in Law & Society and was commissioned into Active Army Infantry branch on 28 MAY 1986. BG Wendt was promoted in May and will be assigned as the Commanding General, Special Operations Command, U.S. Forces Korea. Congratulations Brigadier General Wendt!



Eric P. Wendt Pinning Brigadier General



## UCSB ROTC Commissions: From Cadets to Officers

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, ten more Second Lieutenants were commissioned into the US Army through the UCSB Army ROTC program. Of the ten, eight have been selected for Active Duty slots, one is joining the National Guard, and the other is staying with the Army Reserves. Congratulations class of 2012! Well done!



- 2LT Kopecky: Active Duty; Armor
- 2LT McCahill: Active Duty; Infantry
- 2LT Guzman: Active Duty; Transport
- 2LT Ksendz: Active Duty; Signal
- 2LT Janko: National Guard; Medical
- 2LT Brown: Active Duty; Military Intelligence
- 2LT O'Brien: Active Duty; Armor, branch detail Military Intelligence
- 2LT Deleon: Active Duty; Infantry
- 2LT Chapman: Active Duty; Chemical
- 2LT Wu: Adjunct General; Reserve

# Spring 2012 FTX - Camp SLO

## PREPARING MS3S FOR MASSIVE LDAC SUCCESS

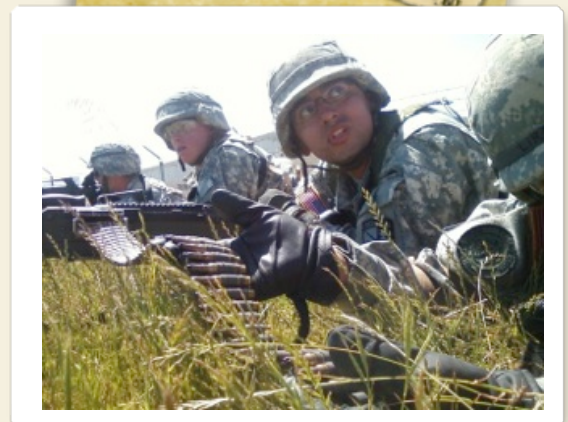
Cadets are still feeling the effects of their 2012 Spring FTX, with fatigue, poison oak, but above all a strong sense of accomplishment. Cadets of the UCSB Surfrider Battalion, along with Cadets from Fresno State and Cal Poly got together at Camp San Luis Obispo in order to prepare their MSIIIs (Juniors) and to teach MSIs and IIs (Freshmen and Sophomores) about Army doctrine and tactics. Events included Squad STX (Situational Training Exercises) lanes, patrolling lanes, day and night land navigation, weapons familiarization and patrol base operations. Leading cadets into battle was not the only task designated to the MSIIIs, as they were put in charge of platoons and squads for garrison and patrol base operations. In garrison, the challenges were logistical - disseminate orders,

distribute equipment, and get everyone to chow without missing hard times or denying subordinates sleep. Patrol base operations required cadets to set up camp for the night in a tactical manner.

Every cadet was held to a high standard throughout the weekend, as MSIII's took control of their squads and platoons and MSIV's supervised, assessed, and corrected their performance. The main focus of the training was on the MSIIIs, as this summer they will attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), and the scores they earn there will greatly affect their opportunities as they assess and commission as officers. Spring FTX was designed to

bring the feel of LDAC to the cadets, and this job was tasked to the MSIVs who went to LDAC last year.

(continue on pg. 4)





*Surfriders ready to engage in a mad minute*



*CDT Nyugen preparing to pull security*

MS IIIs took on roles such as squad leaders, platoon leaders, and assistant platoon leaders in order to gain a firsthand experience with the designated leadership roles within a squad or platoon. After a day of STX lanes and a day of platoon patrolling lanes, cadets felt more than ready to take on the challenge that is LDAC. UCSB MSIII Cadet Ganpule is quoted as saying, "I am ready to go now, after this I really have no problem being a squad leader anymore, let's go to LDAC and get this over with."

The core mission of ROTC is to create future leaders for America's military, and by placing the MSIV cadets into planning/supervisory roles, and MSIII cadets into leadership positions, all cadets gained a practical sense of what it means to lead men and women and the amount of work it really takes. For the MSIs and IIs, Spring FTX is considered to be more fun than Fall FTX because it is where they learn

how to be actual soldiers. The physical and mental strain placed on all of the cadets was considerable, yet all made it through with a strong sense of accomplishment. As their college peers were most likely spending the weekend on a couch watching TV or playing video games, the Surfrider cadets were out gaining tools of leadership and professionalism that will help them within their future Army and civilian careers. Morale amongst the cadets is higher than ever as UCSB finishes out the school year, and cadets are preparing for their respective summer training. The cadre of the Surfrider Battalion have all expressed confidence in each of the MSIIIs ability to lead and to fight. This time next year the IIIs will be the IVs, the IIs will be the IIIs and the cycle will continue as a new generation of Army officers are created. Taking what they have learned from the Spring FTX, the cadets of the Surfrider Battalion are now ready to take on their next challenge.

# New Physical Training Equipment

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 0630hrs, when most UCSB students are fast asleep (especially on Fridays), Surfrider Cadets are out conducting the Army's favorite pastime – Physical Training. PT with UCSB ROTC has historically followed the decades-old Army-wide approach, which tended to consist of long runs, and a multitude of push-ups and sit-ups. The all-important Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) which tests only a 2-mile run, and 2 minutes each of push-ups and situ-ups, along with a lack of creativity, lead the Army and ROTC programs nationwide into this rut of PT drudgery. At UCSB, cadet leadership has been challenged to do better, and have implemented creative PT sessions such as tactical PT sessions involving, for example, fireman carries, sprints, and log drags. Nonetheless, the notion that PT is boring, repetitive, even a waste of time, has been hard to shake.

The Army has finally begun to transition away from the

old "PT" doctrine and implement what is being called Physical Readiness Training or "PRT". The essence of The PRT program vice PT is that it is designed to more closely mirror actual functional fitness utilized by soldiers, rationale being; no one in Afghanistan runs 10miles or does 100 pushups during the course of a patrol, and a 130lb marathon runner who isn't able to get into the back of a truck while wearing 100lbs of gear, drag an injured 200lb soldier, or carry around 50lb boxes of ammunition is not an effective soldier. As such, the PRT program prescribes more sprints, intervals, and strength-building.

Cadre and Cadets alike have jumped at the opportunity to revitalize PT. One key step has been equipping the battalion. On the cadre side, a full set of kettle bells ranging from 5 to 30lbs were purchased, along with a shed, and the materials with which to build pull-up bars. Setting posts for the pull-up bars, getting together additional

equipment such as ammunition cans filled with sand and duffle bags filled with mulch, and of course planning varied, challenging workouts utilizing the new equipment have all been ongoing MSIV cadet-led initiatives.

Much like members of UCSB's athletic teams, Cadets put a large amount of time into ROTC, starting with early morning training, but training for the APFT doesn't hold a candle to training for practical warrior skills, or a sport for that matter. With the integration of new equipment and PRT protocols, the hope is that cadets will show up to PT motivated to train for their sport of war fighting, and more importantly that they will leave with higher levels of functional fitness, and a knowledge that waking up at 0600hrs and breaking a sweat was a good investment of their time and energy.

*Taylor Holliday is an MSI Cadet attending UCSB on a four year ROTC scholarship. During her spring break, instead of lounging on the beach like the average college student, she participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March. Like a true Surfrider, she let nothing get in the way of accomplishing her goal: finishing the marathon with the all-female light team. Ms. Holliday went on to place 1<sup>st</sup> in her age group.*

Crossing the finish line of the Bataan Memorial Death March with the opportunity to shake the hands of veterans who survived the actual march at Bataan was an unforgettable experience. At first, I was unsure whether or not I wanted to participate in the marathon training, but I am glad I stuck with it, as many memories came out of the experience. For three months we trained on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings in addition to our normal PT on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays. As we worked our way up to running long distances in ACUs and boots, we became experts at taping our feet and many of us endured knee injuries, shin splints, or foot pains

of some sort. After blisters, countless packs of moleskin, many flight delays, and personally being dubbed “Robo Knees” for wearing braces on both knees, we finally made it to White Sands, New Mexico. For our six member, all female team this challenging event was new to all of us. The course was rigorous, largely uphill, and hot - especially for us Gauchos who trained with ocean views in the beautiful weather of Santa Barbara! But after 26.2 miles of hard work and sweat, our team crossed the finish line with a feeling of accomplishment. We were the only all female ROTC light team and took 8<sup>th</sup> overall out of 56 male and co-ed teams. Cadet Alex Schmidt and I placed first in our age group for female light runners. Through Bataan, I learned a great deal about training, leadership, team cohesion, and how Army-organized activities are carried out. Accomplishing an event that requires such long term training with one’s teammates is rewarding, and certainly was worth the time and energy we put into it. The Bataan Death March has undoubtedly been one of the best experiences I’ve had during my freshman year here at UCSB!



All Female Bataan Light Team



CDT Holliday