

THE SURF REPORT

U C S B Army ROTC Surfrider NEWSLETTER

Ranger Challenge

The Surfrider Battalion sent ten cadets this year to the 1st annual Eighth Brigade Ranger Challenge, held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

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Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon

Twenty-two Cadets participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

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Summer Training and Community Activities

Cadets are provided valuable training opportunities in Army schools such as airborne and air assault. They also continue to build up awareness of Army ROTC on campus by volunteering in the community and fundraising.

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Surfrider Battalion Participates in Ranger Challenge Competition

In early March, eleven Surfrider Cadets arrived at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington to attend the first annual eighth brigade Ranger Challenge Competition.

This year's competition involved a total of eighteen brutal kilometers of rucking with various stations where Cadets were tested on basic military skills under pressure. These stations included the one-rope bridge, a World War II era Army physical fitness test, and a buddy carry that led Cadets up a hill while carrying all of their equipment.

In the midst of the challenging event, the Ranger Challenge team developed a strong sense of camaraderie. Cadet Joseph Potter said of the experience, "Being a transfer student I didn't know very many people, but now that I have done Ranger Challenge I have made a ton of new friends in the battalion." Cadet Jordan Gipe remarked, "I made a lot of close friends and I am now acquainted with people I probably wouldn't have gotten to know without Ranger Challenge."



Cadets work through the buddy carry – with one Cadet completely blindfolded



This Year's Ranger Challenge Team



Cadets During the Competition

The team performed admirably this year under intense pressure and despite unforeseen variables, did not place in the top ten teams for the brigade. Nevertheless, the experience is something none of the Cadets are likely to forget and the bonds that were formed will surely improve the battalion as a whole.

Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon

Cadets Compete in the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon

While the Ranger Challenge Team competed in Washington, another group of Surfriders prepared themselves for an equally difficult physical challenge. Eleven Cadets trained for the Bataan Memorial Death March, a twenty-six mile marathon in the high desert of New Mexico held in honor of WWII prisoners of war. The Bataan Memorial Death March honors these POWs and heroes, who were forced to march across the Philippines, many losing their lives along the way.



Bataan Team training for the marathon

Cadets trained six days a week, early in the morning, in order to prepare themselves for the event. They ran anywhere from four to twenty miles to build up their physical and mental endurance. Three teams with varying degrees of difficulty competed in the marathon. The light team ran the marathon in boots and ACU pants, while the heavy team ran the marathon with a thirty-five pound rucksack. The third group was made up of Ranger Challenge Cadets, who completed the honorary marathon, half the distance, with boots and a rucksack.

Cadets had to be in top physical condition to complete the March but it was also an exercise in time management as many Cadets missed school and in some cases rescheduled final exams to participate.



Cadets Rehydrate and Reenergize

This year every member of the Bataan Memorial Death March Team competed the grueling marathon. Cadet Taylor Holliday, who completed the marathon for the third time describes her experience, "Practice was hard, but it was well worth it in the end. Some of my fondest memories of ROTC come from my experiences with the Bataan Memorial Death March Team."



Cadets at the Start of the Marathon

Summer Training and Community Activities

Cadets attend Prestigious Summer Training Programs

Last Fall MSIV Cadet Braulio Martinez attended the US Army Airborne School. Often times UCSB Cadets are unable to attend winter schools due to UCSB's quarter system, but Martinez was able to balance his academic requirements with three weeks at Airborne School. He commented, "I was surprised I was given this opportunity this late in my time as a Cadet, but I am extremely grateful for it." Cadet Martinez is now the third Cadet currently in the program to become Airborne qualified.

Additionally, two more Cadets from the Surfrider Battalion will have the opportunity to attend additional training this upcoming summer. Like Cadet Martinez, Cadet Joseph Potter will take part in Airborne School. Cadet Joshua Pennell will participate in Air Assault School. These opportunities are largely attributed to a change in Cadet Command's criteria for assigning specialty school slots. Previously, each school in a brigade would be given a certain number of slots depending on the school's overall merit. Now all Cadets from all colleges will be placed on a brigade wide merit board. This will allow individual Cadets who demonstrate commitment to Army ROTC and their overall development to attend specialty schools based on their individual merit.



MS IV Cadet Braulio Martinez at Airborne School

Airborne School

A three-week long course that gives soldiers the proper expertise needed for parachuting out of an airplane and landing safely. Students conduct a total of five jumps. Three of those jumps are done with a rucksack.

Air Assault School

A ten-day course that teaches soldiers the basics of helicopter operations. Training includes a six and a twelve mile ruck march, rappelling techniques, and sling load techniques. If there is money for flight time, Cadets receive the opportunity to rappel from a Blackhawk helicopter.



MS III Cadet Joseph Potter

MS III Cadet Joshua Pennell

Summer Training and Community Activities (cont.)

Color Guard supports Local Community

The Surfrider Battalion Color Guard has continued to provide support for local community events. Last year they were formally invited to the Santa Barbara Veteran's Ceremony, at the Santa Barbara Cemetery. This year they started off by representing UCSB ROTC at the Goleta Little League tournament. They arrived at the field at 8:00am to rehearse their movements. "We wanted to show our appreciation for the community for having us at these events," says Cadet Nicole Frazier. Needless to say the Color Guard proudly presented the colors of the nation and will continue to do so at various events throughout the year.



Color Guard at the Opening Ceremony for Goleta Little League



Cadet Manuel Soriano and Cadet Taylor Holliday enjoy Boba from the UCSB ROTC Boba Fundraiser

Fundraising on Campus

Surfrider Cadets have been very active in raising awareness of the Army ROTC program on campus as well as fundraising in support of the program. Cadet Braulio Martinez of the Finance Committee has spearheaded fundraising efforts. The Finance Committee has hosted events at local restaurants like Woodstocks and Hana Kitchen. These local fundraisers not only help fund the program, but they also solidify our relations with the local community and help improve the program's visibility.

Some Cadets have also used their own talents and the talents of their friends to raise money for the program. Cadet Tweed has led an effort to raffle a surfboard custom shaped for the ROTC program. The one of a kind board includes ACU pattern and Surfrider decals. In addition, Cadet's Esther Yoon and Jay Kim made boba tea, which Cadets sold at the Pardall tunnel entrance to campus.

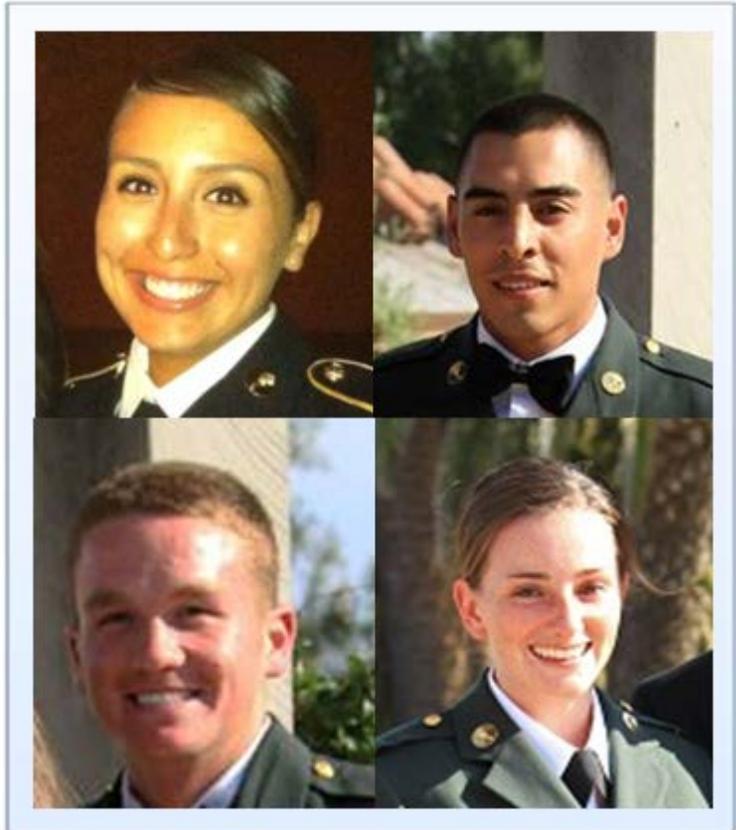
All of these fundraisers will help fund the commissioning ceremony and military ball so that Cadets can get a full Army ROTC experience during their time at UCSB.

Summer Training and Community Activities (cont.)

Four Cadets Selected for CULP

This year, Cadet Isaac Flores, Cadet Sarah Schreck, Cadet Declan Harris, and Cadet Joanna Martinez, have been selected to attend Cadet Command's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program (CULP). Cadets going to CULP will be led by Cadre members to various foreign countries and will conduct various activities ranging from training with local military personnel to providing humanitarian aid. Cadet Command has been expanding the number of countries that are available for Cadets to attend. CULP is a unique experience helping prepare Officers for the increasingly global nature of their jobs in today's Army.

Additionally, two Cadets have been chosen to attend engineering internships in the US. These internships will allow them to learn about their field in an Army setting. Cadet Dayquan Julienne will go to St. Louis, Missouri and Cadet Daniel Pavich will go to Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Clockwise from Top Right; Cadets Isaac Flores, Sarah Schreck, Declan Harris, and Joanna Martinez; all will attend CULP

CULP (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency)

CULP is a program that allows Cadets all over the nation to prepare themselves for the increasing need for cultural competency and language proficiency in the Army. Cadet Command has expanded this program as part of an overall Army effort to have Officers who have the cultural understanding to deal with a rapidly globalizing world.

CULP has quickly become one of the most popular summer training assignments available to Cadets providing Cadets a unique opportunity to travel abroad on orders before the start of their career.



Cadets Daniel Pavich and Dayquan Julienne