A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow Soldiers, Cadets, Family Members, and Friends of UCSB Army ROTC’s Surfrider Battalion, thank you all for your continued dedication, support and hard work. Because of you, the Surfrider Battalion continues to achieve excellence, maintain forward momentum and sustain a high operational tempo as we commence the exciting 2012-13 school year. Our primary focus this fall was to welcome back the eight Cadets who had an outstanding showing at this year’s Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) held at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington. Four Cadets followed their rigorous “Summer Camp” with Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT), where they shadowed and trained with active duty Lieutenants. Three other highly motivated Cadets are now Air Assault qualified having successfully completed the rigor of Fort Campbell and Fort Benning’s Air Assault Courses. Finally we welcome home four Cadets who deployed overseas via the new Cultural Understanding and Learning Program (CULP) which promises to provide future Army officers the foundation of cultural skills required to support global operations in the 21st Century. Our Cadets that attended LDAC performed exceptionally, scoring well over the national average. Cadet Dzwoniarek scored in the 1.5 percentile in the nation, securing his first branch of choice Infantry. Seven of our eight senior Cadets (Class of 2013) received Active Duty, and one will serve in the Army National Guard.

This year commenced with our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) where we conducted Land Navigation, Weapons Familiarization, Rappelling, the Field Leaders Reaction Course, and the Confidence Course; for many it was their first experience to Army training. This Veterans Day we participated in community outreach and honored our Veterans by marching in the Santa Barbara Veterans Day Parade.

I am proud to be a part of this historic battalion. To all Surfriders past and present I thank you. Keep up the great work. “SURFRIDERS!”

LTC George W. Davis

LTC George Davis
LTC Davis commissioned in 1996 from Missouri Western State University as an Aviation 2LT. He served as a M1A1 Abrams crewman in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and has served as an Apache Longbow pilot in Operation Iraqi Freedom. LTC Davis became the Professor of Military Science at UCSB on June 2011.
High Quality Cadets Joining the Surfrider Battalion

Major (MAJ) Ed Leo

This year has been an excellent year for recruitment. With seven National Scholarship winners and six other participating freshman we will make our target recruitment for this year with high quality Cadets. We have 3 physics and 1 biology major entering the battalion this year as we continue to attract STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) majors to our program. We also have a collegiate athlete that runs cross-country and track while participating in the ROTC program. Additionally, these freshman have been involved in Varsity athletics and in leadership positions in clubs at their high schools and all are looking forward to developing their leadership abilities as members of the Surfrider Battalion.

Senior Cadets Looking Forward to Further Education

Four fourth-year Cadets requested and received the ability to go to a Graduate School of their choice while on Active Duty. After these Cadets commission they will have an additional 3 year Active Duty Service Obligation. After they become Captains and have served as Company Commanders, they will have the option to go to the Graduate School of their choosing and study while remaining on Active Duty, and then return to continue their careers in the US Army.

New Cadet Weighs in on the ROTC Program at UCSB

Cadet Brischler is a first-year Political Science major, the newest contracted Cadet and a member of the Ranger Challenge team.

Major Edward Leo came to the University of California, Santa Barbara in September 2012 to become the new Recruiting Operations Officer for the Surfrider Battalion.
LDAC
Eight Cadets Return Successfully Beating All National Averages

Surfrider Cadets Successful at LDAC

This year eight Cadets from the Surfrider Battalion were sent to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, WA. All eight Cadets were successful at LDAC all receiving an “S” or higher, and beating all national averages.

- The Surfrider average PT score was 285 compared to the average of 270.
- The Surfrider Battalion had a pass rate of 87.5% for Land Navigation compared to an overall average pass rate of 75%.
- 25% of Surfrider Cadets received “E’s” compared to 17% of Cadets nationwide. All Surfrider Cadets successfully passed LDAC.

Branching

Thanks to our excellent performance at LDAC and our commitment to scholarship on campus, we had seven Cadets receive Active Duty and four Cadets receive their top branch choice with all Cadets getting at least their fourth branch choice. Three Cadets branched Infantry, and one Cadet branched each Engineer, Ordnance, Signal, and Quartermaster.

All eight Cadets are looking forward to their future as brand new Second Lieutenants in the US Army.

Cadet Michael Dzwoniarek

The Cadet Battalion Commander of the Surfrider Battalion performed exceptionally well at LDAC this year receiving an overall “E” at Camp. This amazing performance, combined with an excellent GPA, an APFT of over 300, and successful completion of both Airborne School and Sapper Leader Course led to Cadet Dzwoniarek being ranked in the top 1.5% of Cadets nationwide this year.
CULP
Cadets Talk About Their Experiences Across the World

Cultural Learning and Understanding Program
The CULP program is designed to have future officers learn about foreign cultures to develop foreign language skills.

Cadet Alexandria Schmidt Visits the Marshall Islands
Last summer I was chosen to be a part of the Army’s Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program, in which I was sent on a teaching mission to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. My team of seven cadets and one OIC were sent to the Kwajalein Atoll where we stayed on the island of Kwajalein, the site of the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site. As the first CULP group to visit this specific atoll, we created an ASVAB class on the island of Ebeye offered to anyone interested in joining the military. The agreement between the U.S. and the Republic of the Marshall Islands allows for Marshallese citizens, who achieve a ASVAB good scores, to join the US military. Meanwhile, as we were coordinating with the locals to set up the classes, we had the opportunity to spend time with the children of Ebeye. This was especially important because the population of Ebeye has a large proportion of children. In the cadet-lead ASVAB classes, I went over English comprehension and tips to consider when answering questions. My CULP experience allowed me to develop as a leader, since I was the one in charge of the lesson plan, the execution of those plans, and ensuring the understanding of the Marshallese students. I made all of the decisions for my lessons. Through our efforts, we established a good relationship with the people of Ebeye, and helped prepare them with skills they will need to become future Soldiers.

Cadet Matthew Tweed trains with the Romanian Military
I was lucky enough to be selected to participate in the CULP Romania program. My mission was to strengthen U.S. relations with Romania by teaching the English language to Romanian military. My trip began with a week of preparation and training in Fort Knox, Kentucky. During this week my team of 14 Cadets and 2 Cadre from around the country got to know one another and learn how to work as a cohesive unit. Upon arriving in Bucharest, we traveled about an hour north to the town of Buzau, where we’d be staying for the next 3 weeks. Our average weekday consisted of us traveling to the Romanian Special Forces base to conduct English language training with Romanian JTAC, Spec For, and Paratroopers. We were lucky enough to develop relationships with a handful of these Soldiers and share stories and culture with one another. In return, the Romanian Soldiers taught us survival tactics and participated with us in a joint-force STX lane. On the weekends, our team of Cadets and Cadre traveled the country. We visited the mountains in Buchech, Transylvania and the beaches of Costenesti and Mammai. A few of us were lucky enough to be invited into the homes of a couple Romanians to meet their friends and family and share dinner. The friends and memories I made on my trip are unforgettable and irreplaceable. The trip opened my eyes to new opportunities and gave me firsthand experience with foreign cultures.
Surfrider Battalion conducts training at Camp San Luis Obispo

From 19 October to 21 October, 2012, the Surfrider Battalion traveled to Camp San Luis Obispo to participate in a Field Training Exercise with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While first- and second-year Cadets learned about basic soldiering skills, third-year Cadets spent the weekend refining their skills in order to prepare for LDAC. Cadets learned skills such as Drill and Ceremony and Weapons Familiarization, conducted day and night Land Navigation, rappelled off of a 50 meter tower and completed Obstacle and Field Leaders Reaction Courses.

The third-year Cadets were able to use the experience to help familiarize themselves with events that they will participate in as part of their upcoming visit to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer.
Surfrider Battalion honors Veterans

The Surfrider Battalion spent this Veteran’s Day weekend volunteering, performing Colorguards, going to the Pierre Claeyssens Military Ball and marching down State Street in the Veterans Day Parade.

This weekend’s activities began on Thursday with Surfrider Cadets doing the colorguard for Raytheon’s Veterans Luncheon. On Friday, the Surfrider Battalion spent the day at the Earl Warren show grounds registering Veterans for the Santa Barbara Marathon, giving out dog tags and shirts to Veterans.

2LT O’Brien, a Surfrider Alumni of 2012, and Cadet Serrano, a third year Cadet, ran the Santa Barbara Marathon on Saturday and performed extremely well. That night the Surfrider Battalion went to the Pierre Claeyssens Military Ball, an event full of tradition geared toward honoring all Veterans, from every service and war.

Veteran’s Day Parade

The Surfrider Battalion participated in the Santa Barbara Veteran’s Day Parade again this year. Cadets marched down State Street carrying rucks and passing out candy to children along the route. The parade is sponsored by the Pierre Claeyssens Veterans Museum and Library.
Ranger Challenge

This weekend the Surfrider Battalion is sending 12 highly motivated Cadets to Camp San Luis Obispo to participate in Ranger Challenge against 10 other schools. The competition begins with a 0600 wakeup. Cadets then begin the grueling day with a PT test in ACUs. Cadets march from event to event with their rucksacks for a total distance of 6.2 miles. Cadets start with Map Reading and Land Navigation. They then continue on to First Aid, the One Rope Bridge, Weapons Assembly/Disassembly and a Mystery Event.

Alumni BBQ

The Surfrider Battalion is hosting a BBQ for all UCSB ROTC Alumni that will occur during the All Gaucho Reunion on the weekend of April 26 to April 28, 2013. All Surfrider Alumni are invited. If you are interested email us at: ucsbsurfriders@gmail.com and stay tuned for more information.

Surfrider Alumni Program in the Works

The Surfrider Battalion is working on focusing on its Alumni program to help improve the way that UCSB ROTC Alumni keep in touch and stay informed about the current activities of the battalion. Visit our Alumni Page to keep up to date with the latest information about the Surfrider Alumni program.

You can update your contact information by going to our webpage or email us at: ucsbsurfriders@gmail.com.

Alumni BBQ

The Surfrider Battalion is hosting a BBQ for all UCSB ROTC Alumni that will occur during the All Gaucho Reunion on the weekend of April 26 to April 28, 2013. All Surfrider Alumni are invited. If you are interested email us at: ucsbsurfriders@gmail.com and stay tuned for more information.