

THE SURF REPORT

UCSB ARMY ROTC SURFRIDERS

NEWSLETTER

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<i>UCSB Army ROTC Cadets train for a 26.2 mile race through the New Mexico Desert in commemoration of the Bataan Death March.</i>	<i>Surfrider Cadets share first hand experiences of what a day as a UCSB Army ROTC Cadet is like.</i>	<i>New technology has enhanced the training experience for Cadets.</i>	<i>Events and programs including the Mentorship Program, a visit from MG Wendt, Range Day, and Color Guard provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.</i>	<i>The Ranger Challenge team competed in the 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.</i>
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A Letter from the Training Officer

Greetings to all of our fellow Soldiers, Cadets, Family members and friends. We thank you for your continued support and dedication of the Surfrider Battalion. This quarter the Cadets have been hard at work refining their navigation skills, Platoon and squad level standard operating procedures and patrolling operations in preparation for the Spring Leadership Training Exercise. Cadets gather once a week at their leadership lab to practice the art of leadership and reform their military tasks and drills. All of our Surfrider Cadets are placed in challenging positions to give them the best opportunity to lead and act as a member of a team. Third year Cadets will have the opportunity to test their leadership skills during their Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY, between June and August.

Our Ranger Challenge team competed in the 8th Brigade competition at Joint Base Lewis McChord in February, representing the Battalion well as they competed against Boise State University and the University of Alaska. The Bataan Memorial Death March team has been training for the past three months in preparation for their 26.2 mile trek at White Sands Missile Range, NM later this month. Both Ranger Challenge and Bataan teams train 5-6 days a week for these events. Cadets volunteer their personal time to compete and represent the Surfrider Battalion against other programs across the country. Fifty percent of the Surfrider Cadets are a part of either, the Ranger Challenge or Bataan team, which is a testament to the hard work and pride the Cadets have for the Battalion.

It is a pleasure to work with and train the Cadets of this program. Their energy and dedication to learning, understanding leadership, military tasks and drills is a breath of fresh air. The Surfrider Cadets are well on their way to becoming outstanding future Army leaders. Thank you once again to our alumni and supporters. "SURFRIDERS"



The Bataan Memorial Death March



The co-ed and male military heavy teams completing a 14 mile run.



The male light team runs by the trail vehicle without stopping, eager to reach the end of their 14 mile run.



The co-ed military heavy team.

The Bataan peninsula in the Philippines is most known for the tragic event that was responsible for the deaths of US soldiers in World War II. After the US surrendered the peninsula, the Japanese administered a forced march to a prison camp over sixty miles away. The physical toll on the soldiers due to the marching and the brutality of their captors was severe. Deaths of these soldiers impact Americans to this day as they seek to honor and remember those who fell during the Bataan Death March.

The Annual Bataan Memorial Death March is a standard 26.2 mile marathon on a physically demanding course through the desert hills of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Both civilian and military personnel gather to remember the fallen soldiers as well as personally interact with the few surviving veterans of Bataan. The Surfrider Battalion sends approximately 20 personnel to participate in this event each year.

This year the Surfrider Battalion is sending 25 Cadets comprising of one co-ed heavy team, two individual heavy runners, and three light teams. The light teams compete in ACUs, boots, and a camelback, while the heavy teams travel with a 35 lb. rucksack in addition to the equipment carried by light teams. All participants have been training since December 2014 and will conclude training with a 20 mile course in March.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is a difficult feat, but Cadets enjoy challenging themselves in honor of those that have fallen. This training provides excellent team-building opportunities and develops Cadets in ways that a classroom cannot. The experience of completing the full marathon with fellow Surfriders and shaking hands with Bataan Memorial Death March survivors makes the physical toll of the run worth every step in the end.

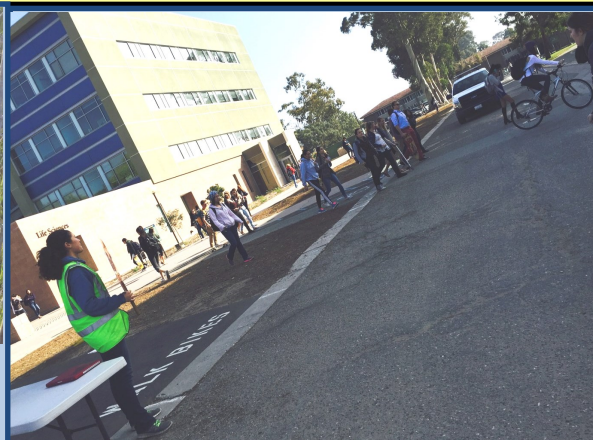
A Day in the Life of a Surfrider Cadet

Cadet Jamie Paychev, wearing a fluorescent green vest, sits in a metal folding chair, hunched over a hardcover textbook. The highlighter in her hand marks the pages to match her attire, when mid-word her attention shifts. Perhaps she heard the faint roar of the truck's V-8 or glimpsed in her peripheral a reflection of light off its windshield, but in the end it makes no difference. She springs into action, blindly snatching her double-sided sign off of the Rubbermaid surface, all the while visually probing the avenues of approach for incoming pedestrians and cyclists. She sees a skateboarder bee-bopping to the tunes of his iPod, so Cadet Paychev holds the "STOP" side of her sign toward the approaching truck, halting its motion, and allowing the oblivious rider to cross the road unscathed. Flipping her sign, the "SLOW" side of the sign beckons the driver of the truck forward, and all is well. Satisfied with her work, Cadet Paychev smiles and returns to her highlighting. Such is merely one instance in the job of the Construction Detail Volunteer.

In reality, life on the Construction Detail is nowhere near as exciting or heroic as the above tale has made it seem, but it is a necessary and great blessing for the Surfrider Battalion. Every weekday from 0730 to 1600, Surfriders of all classes volunteer their time in hour long shifts directing traffic at the construction site on the southeast corner of campus. It is by no means glamorous and deemed tedious by some, but it earns much needed money for the battalion to fund events, such as the Military Ball in the spring, and sets up future classes with liquid assets to begin the year. Though it might not be what we expected to be doing as Cadets, it builds rapport with the university and adds to the legacy to the Surfrider Battalion.



The support element prepares to open fire on their objective at the command of their Patrol Leader.



CDT Paychev directs traffic to halt as pedestrians cross the road at the campus construction site.

The Operations Order for Winter Leadership Lab OPERATION FAIRY TALE read, "A Co. will fall in at precisely 121400UFEB2015 and conduct accountability." The time was now 1401, and the company still stood half in formation, half out. "First Sergeant!" called the unreasonably angry Assistant S3, "What time is it?"

"Fall in!" Alpha Company's appointed Cadet First Sergeant responded. "Not exactly an answer," mused the First Sergeant's ever vigilant, ever annotating MSIV grader, but definitely a worthwhile response. Still, a minute too late.

As a light breeze rustled Ellwood's tall grass, Alpha Company completed accountability and the other Assistant S3 began to appoint squads and squad leaders for the upcoming tactical exercises. For a short while, Cadets would operate to wage war on the South Atropian People's Army. Dubbed SAPA, they are the Alpha Company's primary enemy from 1400 to 1700 almost every Thursday during Leadership Lab, shortened to LLAB for official documents and simply called "lab" in conversation.

It is against this enemy that the growing leaders of the Surfrider Battalion are tested. The tactical knowledge, while important for success, is not the main focus of LLAB. Rather, under the direction of Cadet Command, the Surfrider Battalion utilizes the infantry training model to test Cadets' ability to think quickly, give orders, and successfully lead in a stressful environment. While LLAB is not always tactical training, it is always leadership training. It is planned and coordinated weeks in advance by the Battalion S3 Shop, but requires full effort from the entire senior class to execute. During each LLAB, every third year Cadet is assessed and counseled by a dedicated fourth year grader. Arguably, LLAB is the most formative training that the Surfriders conduct and includes first aid training, land navigation, and building maintenance in addition to squad and platoon level tactics.

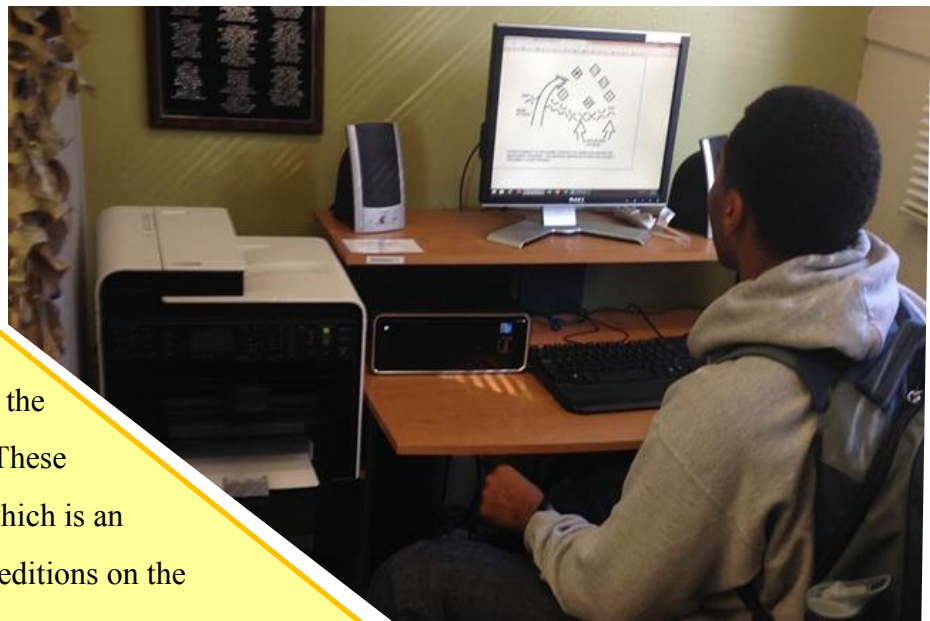
New Technology Enhances Training

Virtual Staff Ride

On January 20th, 2015, the Surfriders attended a virtual staff ride hosted by the UCLA Army ROTC program. This staff ride, led by Combat Studies Institute, was an in depth analysis of the Battle of Wanat that occurred six years ago in the Waygal Valley of Afghanistan. Since it was not feasible to take the Cadets to the Waygal Valley to get a first hand view of the area, the Waygal Valley along with its buildings and vantage points at the time of the battle were brought to the Cadets virtually. On one screen, details about the battle were projected while another screen had an interactive display of the entire Waygal Valley down to the location and size of shrubbery. Cadets were asked to look critically at the months leading up to the event and the decision making process that occurred during the battle. Most importantly, Cadets were asked to learn from the mistakes that were made and apply them to their own leadership styles. "While they covered a lot of what went wrong and why, I also enjoyed the human aspect," said MSIII Cadet Lewis following the staff ride. "Analyzing the mental state of the Officers and Soldiers in the battle was insightful." Although it meant a day away from school, Cadets took away invaluable lessons about leadership that will help them be successful leaders as they prepare for their duties as commissioned officers in the US Army.

Technology Upgrades

The UCSB Surfrider Battalion recently received six new Dell computers to replace the Army issued Dell computers. These computers run Windows 8.1 which is an Upgrade from the Windows 7 editions on the previous computers. Two of the new computers were set aside for administrative purposes, while four were placed in the ROTC lounge where Cadets have access to them. Another addition to the lounge is the two printers that are able to fax, scan, and make copies of documents. These printers replaced the three non-functional and one old printer previously used by Cadets. With the new technology upgrade, the lounge has been transformed into a more effective learning and working environment for Cadets.



The S6 CDT Julianne (above) and the assistant S6 CDT Pavich set up the new computers and printer systems.

Surfrider Training and Development

Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program has developed significantly since its establishment and has become a vital part of the UCSB ROTC Program. Each MSIV is assigned two to three Cadets from the MSI-MSIII class at the beginning of the school year to provide guidance and support. It also serves to build a personal relationship with those specific underclassmen and to integrate them into the program. Mentors are able to assist MSI Cadets with their transition into college life and aid MSII and MSIII in their preparation for summer training at Fort Knox. Since seniors have ample college and ROTC experience, Cadets turn to them for anything from course suggestions to rides to the train station or help assembling a ruck sack properly. The Mentorship Program also provides MSIVs an opportunity for development as leaders. The minimum requirement of each mentor is bi-quarterly counseling sessions, but the mentors have really gone above and beyond. This year, mentors have done everything from helping their mentees improve their PT scores by doing extra workouts with them, to planning fun events like mentorship bowling competitions or mentor group dinners.



Mentor groups meet up at IHOP for dinner after bowling.

Visit from MG Wendt

On March 2, 2015, Major General Wendt made a special visit to UCSB to talk to and teach Surfrider Cadets about the various leadership lessons he has learned throughout his career and even held a Q&A session afterward. This lecture provided an amazing opportunity for Cadets to gain insight on their future careers from the perspective of a high ranking Officer. As a graduate of the UCSB Army ROTC Program, we are thankful that MG Wendt was able to take time out of his busy schedule to return to the place where his Army career started 29 years ago. MG Wendt is currently the Commanding General of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS).

Surfrider Training and Development

Range Day

On February 13, 2015, Cadets joined the Cal Poly Army ROTC program for a range day at Camp San Luis Obispo, CA. The purpose was to familiarize Cadets with the qualification process they will be expected to do at Cadet Leader's Course (CLC, formerly called LDAC) at Ft. Knox. MS I, II, and III Cadets were able to apply the lessons learned during Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) from Leadership Lab to group and zero with the M-16/A2 rifle. MSIVs had the opportunity to serve as coaches and range safety officers. Over 3000 rounds were expended in this training exercise which proved successful in teaching Cadets how to group, zero, and qualify with 25 meter alternate course "c" paper targets. Cadets enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the classroom and dedicate the day to real hands-on training with weapons.



UCSB Army ROTC Color Guard

In Fall quarter, nine MSIs and MSIIIs were recruited and trained to create a reliable Color Guard team and form a strong foundation for future classes. The Color Guard team has done several events this year including a Memorial Ceremony at Raytheon and the Enrobing Ceremony for Judge Michael J. Carrozzo of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara. On campus, they have presented the Colors at UCSB Basketball games for the male and female teams.

On February 12, 2015 the Color Guard team presented the Colors for the televised UCSB basketball game against Long Beach State. Successful recruitment and training of Color Guard this year is led by MSIII Cadet West.

Ranger Challenge Competition



In the last Surf Report, we brought you glad tidings and congratulatory laud to the Surfrider Ranger Challenge team for their victory in the Task Force South Ranger Challenge Competition. This victory earned them a spot to represent UCSB Army ROTC at the 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Following their triumph at the task force competition, the Ranger Challenge team took a short hiatus to recover, then continued training three days per week, in addition to regular training, to finish off the Fall Quarter. Following Winter Leave, the team stepped up their training to four days from 0530 to 0730, plus Saturday practices. Team training mixed physical training with skills oriented events, such as the one rope bridge, medical assessments, and squad tactics, to name a few. While some mornings were rough, the team remained motivated and trained hard for the tough competition ahead.

Two other task force champions, Boise State University and University of Alaska, arrived at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to compete for the slot to represent 8th Brigade in the Sandhurst Competition at the United States Military Academy. The competition was two days long, the first of which was primarily a mental game, with a six mile ruck march to top the day off. The Surfriders had the fastest time on the march, though only one minute separated them from the second team to cross the finish line. The second day was ten hours long, consisting of numerous skills based events spread out across the Cadet Command training footprint. Teams had to navigate the course using map reading skills, with points for skills based events and the overall time on the course factored into the final score. Each team ran and marched the course with approximately forty pound rucksacks, tallying up approximately thirteen miles by the end of day. All the teams trained hard, and the competition was close, but in the end the Boise State team took home the trophy, followed by University of Alaska, with the Surfriders trailing both by only a small margin.

At the end of it all, the Surfrider Ranger Challenge team stands with their heads held high. They trained hard and competed with the best, and though the results of the competition were not as they had hoped, they recognize the bigger picture. Ultimately, Ranger Challenge is about training future Army Officers.

The competition is merely motivation to train even harder than before, push farther than before, and thereby build the greatest Officers possible. The entire team has emerged from the last five months of rigorous training and competition tougher, smarter, and overall better prepared for the challenges to come when performing their duties as commissioned Officers of the United States Army.



The Ranger Challenge team as they cross the one rope bridge they constructed during the 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Reception

The date is set and all UCSB Army ROTC alumni, friends, and supporters are invited to join us on April 25, 2015, for the Annual Alumni Reception. Cadets in the Alumni Committee work hard to ensure that this event is better every year. Cadets look forward to meeting the alumni and learning about the paths they have taken after they have commissioned from the UCSB ROTC Program. The event includes food and wine as usual, but this year Cadets plan to incorporate a few more fun and interactive activities. There will be bobbing for grenades, The Golden Days Station, and Pin the Bar on the LT. We look forward to seeing you there!



A former Cadet, now 2LT Moore, having an engaging conversation with a guest at the 2014 alumni reception.

Awards Ceremony

Every year exceptional Cadets are recognized and awarded during the awards ceremony, held this year on May 8th. It is a great opportunity to present the Cadets who go above and beyond in the program with awards and scholarships.

Commissioning

The Class of 2015 is preparing to commission as 2LTs in the US Army on June 12th. The ceremony marks the first of many important steps for our graduating Cadets. All family members, friends and supporters are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Military Ball

Cadets have spent all year fundraising for and planning this year's military ball, which will be held on April 18th. This event provides Cadets the opportunity to take part in military traditions and share the experience with a special guest.

Spring LTX

Every Spring quarter UCSB Cadets join forces with Cal Poly and Cal State Fresno at Camp San Luis Obispo to conduct a joint leadership training exercise (LTX) which will include land navigation and patrolling to prepare MSIII Cadets for Cadet Leadership Course.