

THE SURF REPORT

2019 - 2020



UCSB ARMY ROTC
SURFRIDER BATTALION

Official Newsletter

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**BUT ABOVE ALL
I AM THE FUTURE,
THE FUTURE
WARRIOR LEADER
OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY.**

U.S. ARMY CADET CREED



BARBECUE

WELCOME BACK SURFRIDERS!

New and familiar faces joined together late September for the annual UCSB Army ROTC Welcome Back Barbecue. Hosted right outside of the Military Science building on campus, the BBQ is the first official ROTC event of the school year.

The barbecue offers new cadets a way for new cadets to get to know their peers in a casual setting as well as get advice from older & more experienced cadets. Cadets mingle within their new mentor groups and catch up with each other over delicious food. It is a great introductory event for freshmen and prospective cadets to get a glimpse into the program & an even greater start to the year.



FOSTERING GROWTH

Our Mentorship Program

UCSB ROTC's Mentorship Program is designed to foster an increased understanding of the aims of the ROTC program while concurrently facilitating a space where cadets may have closer interactions with their peers. Cadets in their senior year (MSIV year) are assigned to mentor younger cadets, answering any questions that these cadets may have and serve as a role model and resource. In doing so, they provide guidance as well as an additional support system to junior cadets. This assistance proves especially valuable as college is a fun but equally stressful chapter of life.

Peer mentorship opens up an outlet for discussing personal matters; mentors' shared personal experiences in both college life and ROTC help their mentees navigate the college life and quickly get accustomed to the program. The small groups allow for trust-building and meaningful connections within ROTC and enable quick responses to any concerns that may arise throughout the year. Lastly, mentors arrange fun bonding events for cadets, including recreational activities, meals, and volunteer events. Mentors are the wisdom, the fun, and the embodiment of UCSB spirit - they 'Gaucho' back.



FALL 2019

85

CADETS



Photos: MSIV mentors and their mentees pose for the quarterly mentorship group photos

RANGER CHALLENGE TRYOUTS

A Test of Will

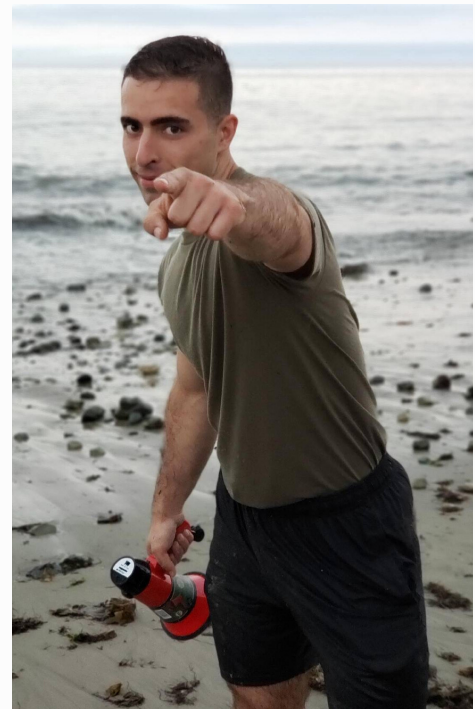
It was another warm Saturday Santa Barbara morning when cadets woke up at 0400 (4:00 AM) to test both their physical and mental abilities by participating in the notorious ranger challenge tryouts. Kicking off the year, tryouts serve as an introduction to the ROTC program and the Ranger Challenge team.

Upon arriving at building 451, cadets were divided into squads and proceeded to run to different locations on campus and perform a series of circuit workouts. Before advancing to additional stations, which spanned from the UCSB recreation center to Goleta Pier, cadets were tasked with running in formation while carrying two water tanks and wearing a weighted vest. Making the run more physically demanding, Cadets had to utilize leadership skills to divide the various equipment amongst their squads and quickly rotate the items to cadets who were not carrying anything.

After 3 hours of hard work, cadets watched the sunrise over goleta pier, marking the end of ranger tryouts. Ranger tryouts was a great feat accomplished by the Surfrider cadets and was an excellent introduction to fall quarter with the battalion.



The early morning workout for the Surfriders included circuits of push ups, sit ups, planks, burpees, hill sprints, and more.



*Photos:
(top) cadets perform push ups on the beach,
(bottom) CDT Johnson*

FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, CA

FTX

The first major event of the year was the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX), hosted in conjunction with Cal Poly SLO's Army ROTC program. Cadets spent 2 nights at U.S. Army Fort Hunter Liggett, conducting non-stop training during the day. Training evolutions included land navigation (day and night), a leadership reaction course, and an obstacle course. Additionally, every cadet was able to qualify at a zeroing range. For many cadets, it was their first time shooting M16s, and everyone showed great improvement. Cadets left feeling more confident about their marksmanship and better prepared for Advanced Camp.

The exercise culminated in all cadets completing the 60 foot rappel tower, with MS3s additionally descending the "free" side of the tower. Each training

evolution was intended to build and strengthen communication, team cohesion, and individual confidence. Cadets marched to and from each training evolution, and many Cadets got their first taste of MREs (meals ready to eat). With long days in the sun and cold nights under the stars, cadets rose to the occasion and performed exceptionally well - leaving Fort Hunter Liggett exhausted, but with a strong sense of belonging and team unity.



Photo: CDT Bouvier at the M16 zeroing range

RANGER CHALLENGE

CAMP PENDLETON, CA

COMPETITION

The Surfrider Battalion Ranger Challenge Team began their rigorous training regimen last Spring to prepare for the Ranger Challenge competition that took place during Fall quarter. Cadets sacrificed their time and their energy to compete in this year's Ranger Challenge Competition at Camp Pendleton. Waking up for training before PT and even utilizing weekends for further training, they trained for the competition's ten events. The events included both pistol and rifle marksmanship, a grenade obstacle course, waterborne operations, and a medical evacuation lane.

According to this year's Ranger Challenge Team Captain, CDT Nicholas Christensen, the team's training "focused on adaptability and mental toughness." On October 26th, 2019, their hard work came to fruition when they placed 4th out of the 12 competing ROTC programs. The team achieved one of the fastest times on the infamous ruck march, and scored highly in every additional event. "I'm excited to start next year's Ranger Challenge training where new cadets will have the opportunity to train hard and learn the Ranger Challenge skills," says CDT Christensen. The Ranger Challenge team begins training for the following year's Ranger Challenge Competition in Spring, continuing to work hard while pushing themselves to achieve better results. The Surfrider Battalion thanks these cadets who have worked to positively represent our program.



TEAM:

MSII: CDT Nicklaw

MSIII: CDTs Abatie, Bernatene,
Christensen, Shore, Romash

MSIV: CDTs Hanson, Johnson, Lazich,
Semenza

2019 PIERRE CLAEYSSENS VETERANS MILITARY BALL

SANTA BARBARA, CA

On Saturday November 2, MSIV and MSIII cadets of the Surfrider Battalion attended the 23rd Annual Pierre ClaeysSENS Veterans Military Ball. Cadets interacted with both active and prior service members, listening to speakers hailing from the various branches of the United States Armed Forces. One of the evening's highlights was a speech given by a daughter of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, an esteemed group of women who played pivotal roles during the Second World War. Surfriders used this opportunity to remember those who have and continue to sacrifice their lives to serve this nation. Lastly, Cadet Kirsten Annell performed the Missing Man Ceremony to honor those still missing in action. This Ceremony is to honor those who remain unable to be present in celebrations or to receive the embrace of their loved ones.



Photos: (top left) guests, CDTs Situ, Leak, Bernatene, Johnson, Joseph (top right) CDT Annell performs the Missing Man Ceremony (bottom left) CDT Hanson & guest (bottom right) CDT Gantt, guest, CDT Anaya, CDT Chau

**DOWNTOWN
SANTA BARBARA
CALIFORNIA**

VETERANS DAY PARADE



The Surfrider Battalion marched down State Street in Santa Barbara’s annual Veterans Day Parade on November 9th, 2019. With its Color Guard at the helm of the formation, the Surfrider Battalion marched to various cadences called by the MSIII cadets. These tunes are mementos of the past - heirlooms of heroes. Furthermore, this occasion showcased the participating cadets’ patience and diligence.



By participating in the Veteran’s Day Parade and other community events, the Surfrider Battalion expresses its dedication to the community. Moreover, this display specifically reminds audiences of the sacrifice and of the commitment of those who have served, currently serve, and will serve in the United States Armed Forces.



Photos: (top left) Battalion Commander CDT Miller leads the formation (bottom left) Color Guard CDTs Hinds, Wilcox, Geach, Davis, & Cullen (bottom) Surfriders march down State St.



UP & AWAY AVIATION DAY

Wrapping up Fall quarter, the Surfriders had the opportunity to see Santa Barbara from the sky. Thanks to the California National Guard, the Surfrider Battalion was able to spend their last Leadership Lab of the quarter in the seats of two Chinooks. The whirl of the helicopter blades on the 40 minute flight to Oxnard, met with enthusiasm and awe, was complimented by the setting sun on the Pacific.

Much anticipated this year, Aviation Day gives cadets a chance to glimpse into the future and consider their branch choices while providing a unique opportunity that many people will not have the chance to take.



"It was really cool because it was something I have never experienced before"
-CDT Little, MSI.



Photos: (top left) CDTs Powell, Hanson, Lazich, Johnson, & Joseph pose in front of a chinook (bottom left) one of the two helicopters the Surfriders boarded (right) CDT Situ posing from inside of the helicopter

..... RANGE DAY



In February, the Surfriders traveled to Fort Hunter Liggett and conducted a Range Day. Range Day allows cadets to practice and familiarize themselves with M-16 rifles. The cadets conduct preliminary marksmanship instruction (PMI) in their classes prior to the range and go over the fundamentals of marksmanship again at the range. Cadets learn how to properly carry, fire, (dis)assemble, and clean their weapons at the range. Cadets begin at the zeroing range to adjust their weapons before moving to the 300m pop-up range, where they have the opportunity to qualify as a marksman, expert, or sharpshooter. The range also prepares MSIIIs for Advanced Camp where qualifying on the pop-up range is a requirement.



*Photos: (top) Military Science Instructor MSG Scott briefs MSIIIs before they go to qualify on the pop-up range
(bottom) CDT Shapiro assumes a kneeling position in the third phase of the 300m pop-up range*

BATAAN

Physically & Mentally Tough

Founded in 1989, the annual Bataan Memorial Death March honors the Filipino and American soldiers and prisoners of war who were forced to march to confinement camps following the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula during World War II. The original sixty-five mile march resulted in nearly ten thousand deaths, as soldiers suffered the conditions of the Philippine jungle on top of their deprivation of food, water, and aid.

Despite the cancellation of the event this year due to COVID-19, the UCSB Army ROTC Bataan team completed a 26.2 mile ruck march along Refugio Road. Led by MSIV Cadet Hanson, the team began training in November in order to prepare for the Spring event. They focused on running in the Fall before incorporating twice weekly rucks during Winter quarter. Cadets dedicated themselves to early morning practices, long runs, and increasing ruck mileage over the course of five months. Their commitment paid off on March 15th when the team proved their physical and mental strength, as well as their dedication to honoring those who came and served before.



Team (pictured, middle): CDTs Park, Cherenzia, Geach, Penner, Hanson, Abatie, Hinds, Lizarraga

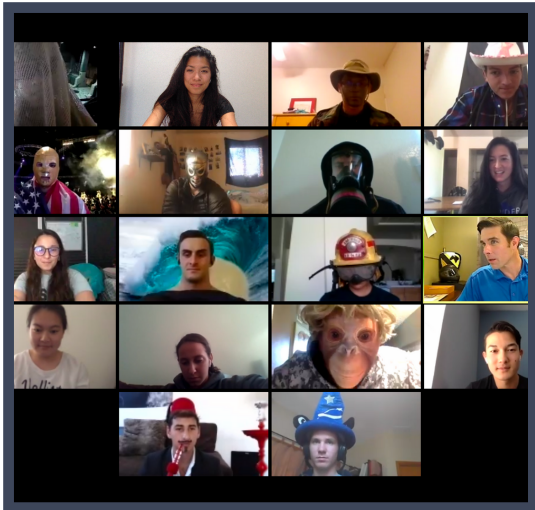
Adapt and Overcome

THE SURFRIDER BATTALION GOES DIGITAL

On March 10th, the UC Santa Barbara campus transitioned to distance learning for the remainder of winter quarter and through spring due to the increasing risks presented by Coronavirus. With the campus shut down, students, educators, and administration were forced to adjust to new methods of instruction. The Surfrider Battalion, heavily reliant on in-person instruction and training through PT, class, and Leadership Labs (LLABs), adapted to the online structure as well. While this may seem like a major setback for the battalion, cadet leadership and cadre worked tirelessly to make sure the Surfrider Battalion did not miss a beat.

One aspect of streamlining the transition to a virtual setting was implementing Zoom. The Surfriders maintained contact and accountability during this time using technology to communicate down the chain of command. The battalion continued training via video calls for Leadership Labs (LLAB), Military Science classes, committee meetings, and checking in on one another. PowerPoint-based LLABs put platoon-sized groups of cadets through different missions created by the MSIV class. The MSIIIs prepared for pre-established missions and led the platoons through each scenario - briefing an operations order, explaining their decision making process, and conducting knowledge checks with the MSIs and MSIIIs. Although the cadets were unable to physically meet, the virtual labs promoted participation and discussion among the junior cadets, keeping them engaged by asking for input on how to proceed with the mission.

Finally, UCSB ROTC cadets and cadre met over Zoom for the last time to conduct a virtual awards ceremony. Cadre presented outstanding cadets with various awards to acknowledge their achievements in and outside of the ROTC program, and each class presented a 'skit' highlighting the year. Cadets were able to stay after the awards portion for an optional social hour to play JackBox games with each other in Zoom breakout rooms.

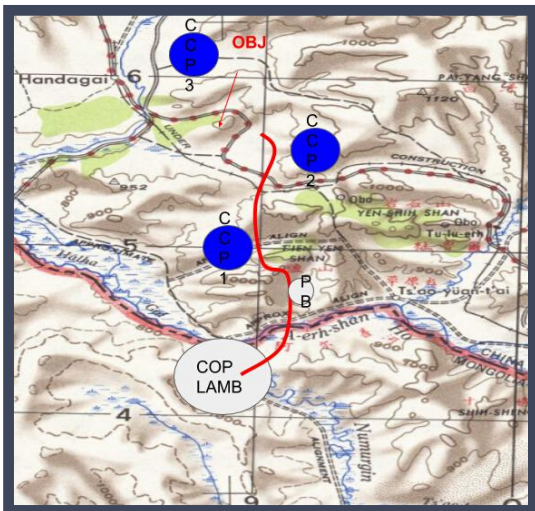


To boost morale, the MSIII class participated in a virtual costume contest. Cadets and cadre alike continued to find ways throughout the quarter to keep online classes interesting and engaging.

Winner: CDT Hale (2nd row, left)



Despite restrictions on large gatherings and the closure of both campus recreational facilities & public gyms, the Surfrider Battalion continued to conduct physical training (PT). Cadets recorded their progress weekly and built camaraderie by sharing and completing workouts with each other and on the Surfrider Battalion Strava group. CDTs Darsonval & Daugherty (pictured) completed a ruck together in Isla Vista.



Virtual LLABs were created to have different outcomes dependent on the mission and decisions made during the lab by MSIII leadership. Each slide introduced a new element to the mission and required cadets to think and act quickly. MSIII cadets were responsible for planning and guiding the platoons through each mission.





CLASS OF 2020

FUTURE LEADERS



Due to COVID-19, the MSIVs were unable to conduct a formal commissioning ceremony. UCSB Army ROTC would like to congratulate this year's MSIV class and new Army Second Lieutenants:

- Kirsten Annell
- Dahee Choi
- Jessica Hanson
- Tristan Jai
- Sam Johnson
- Zachary Joseph
- Michael Lazich
- Molly Miller
- Rob Nyvold
- Natalie Powell
- Delyla Rivera
- Jacob Semenza
- Benjamin Sheehan
- Huabin Situ
- Gayla Turner



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