

# SURF REPORT

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FALL 2022



UCSB ARMY ROTC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



# LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALION

## COMMANDER



Chance O. Nelson  
Cadet Battalion  
Commander

After two years marked by the chaos of COVID, the start of the school year brought a unique excitement to the Surfrider Battalion. As Surfriders made their way back to campus, there was a palpable wave of infectious energy that set a strong tone for the remainder of the school year. With many Surfriders returning from summer training around the globe, it was refreshing to see both new and returning Cadets ask questions, listen, and learn from the experiences of their fellow Surfriders. Their pursuit of knowledge permeates throughout our training, as Surfriders regularly seek out opportunities to shine and demonstrate their knowledge at Leadership Lab, within Tactics Club, and on our Color Guard and Ranger Challenge teams. This mental curiosity has been matched by an intense physical determination across all levels of our program. Whether at Physical Training, during our Joint Field Training Exercise, or during extracurricular activities such as Intramural Soccer and the Army Combat Fitness Test Club, the resolute attitude and physical excellence expected of Surfrider Cadets remains strong.

What stands out the most about the start of this school year is that the values of loyalty, discipline, and commitment to excellence set by generations of proud Surfrider alumni remain pillars of our program that every Cadet strives to embody and uphold. The school year has only just started, but the tone has been set for a year filled with achievement and growth, and we look forward to sharing our journey with you.



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## Cadre Surfrider Leadership

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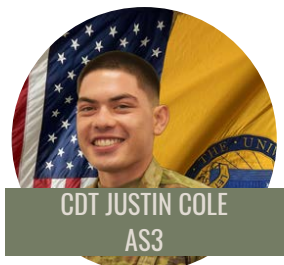
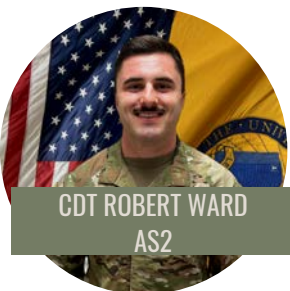


**MS. CHLOE FERRAIUOLO**  
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT





## MSIV Surfrider Leadership







## Fall 2022 Quarter Events

Summer

- MSIII completed Advanced Camp
- Cadets completed internships, air assault school, and Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)



- Sep 12-15th: MSIV Orientation
- Sep 21st: Welcome Back Orientation/BBQ
- Sep 22nd: First LLAB
- Sep 24th: Ranger Challenge Tryouts

September



October

- Oct 14-16th: FTX @ FT. Hunter Liggett
- Oct 31st: Halloween PT



- Nov 3rd: 4 mile Ruck March
- Nov 4-6th: Ranger Challenge Competition
- Nov 5th: Pierre Claeysens Military Ball
- Nov 14-17th: Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT)
- Nov 30th: Branch Release

November



December

- Dec 8th: End of Quarter
- Winter Break







"While camp may not be the most fun thing, the people you meet make it an amazing experience . . . And I am just one step closer to becoming a 2LT."

MSIV NICHOLAS  
LIZARRAGA



## Summer Training

### Advanced Camp

Throughout this summer, Cadets of all MS classes within the Surfrider Battalion traveled the world and completed various summer training programs. All MSIII's attended Cadet Summer Training (CST) or "Advanced Camp" that took place at Fort Knox, Kentucky for nearly forty days. Cadets spend their first three years in ROTC preparing for advanced camp as completing CST is a requirement of ROTC Cadets to commission as a 2LT in the US Army; with that, there was plenty of anticipation and excitement leading up to camp. CDT Quinn Schroeder described the anticipation as, "I was really anxious and nervous to get the summer started, but overall I felt very prepared by my Battalion." Once at Fort Knox, Cadets were separated from their home school battalions and were mixed with Cadets of all ages and backgrounds from across the country. From the very beginning, Cadets had to step out of their comfort zones and experience leading a group of Soldiers whom they had never met. While often intimidating, many Cadets were able to make lifelong friends and valuable relationships within their platoons throughout several weeks. CDT Justin Cole stated, "I was able to build wonderful friendships with amazing people whilst experiencing an entire side of the Army I had never seen before." At CST, Cadets spent the first week completing individual training, such as land navigation, hand grenade throwing, rifle shooting, and rehearsing real chemical attacks. Cadets are evaluated in 3 phases, "Wolverine," "Panther," and "Grizzly." These phases test tactical knowledge, mental toughness, and teamwork capabilities as Cadets conduct missions in the fields of Fort Knox for several weeks at a time. Upon completion of CST, Cadets leave one step closer to becoming 2LTs, and as stated by CDT Nick Lizarraga, "While camp may not be the most fun thing, the people you meet make it an amazing experience."

### Cadet Internships, CTLT, and Air Assault

Some Cadets had the opportunity to shadow a 2nd Lieutenant for three weeks in the branch of their desired choice during Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). At CTLT, Cadets were given a glimpse of what their lives may look like after they commission as a 2LT. One example is CDT Chance Nelson who was given the unique opportunity to be attached to the 4th Psychological Operations Group at Fort Bragg where he spent several days in the field preparing the unit for deployment and experiencing the life of a 2LT in Special Operations.

Cadets Jacob Bailey, Joel True, and Mark Marino attended and graduated from Air Assault specialty school at the US Military Academy, West Point. Air Assault is considered the "10 hardest days in the Army" and qualifies Soldiers to assist in the movement of ground-based military forces by vertical take-off and landing aircraft such as helicopters.

Internships are also a great learning experience. Cadet Karsen Flom interned for eight weeks at US Africa Command Headquarters (USAFRICOM) in Stuttgart, Germany and had the exciting chance to travel to eight different countries while there with ten other Cadets chosen from around the country. There, she shadowed the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, as they prepared for a near airborne deployment. While working with Special Forces, CDT Flom experienced rigorous physical training, classified briefings regarding macroscopic intelligence missions of the US Army on African grounds, and experienced the mission of the US Army from top down.

Another summer opportunity available to Cadets is Project GO, a language program that exposes ROTC students to different, key global cultures. Cadet Jeremiah Canada had the chance to visit Taiwan for eight weeks this past summer and learn Mandarin and learn about the Taiwanese culture.





## Ranger Challenge Tryouts

On September 24 at 4 am, the Surfrider battalion's first activity back from summer was the Ranger Challenge tryouts. Ranger challenge allows Cadets to gain physiological and psychological strength through training for and competing in physically demanding events. This physical fitness assessment included team-oriented activities and offered Cadets the opportunity to learn and practice skills beyond those taught in class and in LLAB. RC tryouts consisted of several different stations spread throughout campus and Goleta Beach, in which the Cadets had to run to, while carrying weights, rucks, or water jugs. Once at the stations they completed various different exercises, including paddling out into the ocean and completing various exercises in the sand.



Out of the whole battalion, twelve Cadets will form the team, which compete against other universities. The competition is conducted over two days on a non tactical course. The RC team spend those two days competing through various events including a written Land Navigation test, day orienteering, marksmanship, grenade assault, M16 disassembly, night orienteering, the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), and a mystery event. This year's team is composed of two MSI's, Nicolas Gandolfo and Lauren Graves, four MSII's, Alec Garcia, Jenny Pham, Francisco Romero, and Vincent Agrella, four MSIII's, Jacob Bailey, Jeremiah Canada, Amgad Hawari and Karsen Flom, and two MSIV's, Lauren Little and John Rollinson.

"It kicks off the year... working as one team to accomplish a goal. This emphasizes the hard work of the Ranger Challenge Team and the amazing cohesion and positivity our Battalion upholds, even at 4am."

RC CAPTAIN  
KARSEN FLOM





## Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX)

This Fall, over the weekend of October 14th through 16th, the Surfrider Battalion joined forces with Cal Poly, SLO at Fort Hunter Liggett to conduct a field training exercise (FTX). Upon arrival at Fort Hunter Liggett, the two Battalions were intermixed together and sent to complete day and night land navigation. During which, Cadets executed their topographical map reading skills and traversed several miles through the terrain of Fort Hunter Liggett to locate points. At night, the Battalion enjoyed the outdoors and spent the night in sleeping bags and tents underneath the California stars.

The following day, the Cadets woke up bright and early to begin a day full of training, all of which are events they will complete one day at Advanced Camp . These events included the rappel tower, where Cadets conquered their fears and rappelled off of a forty foot building using nothing but a rope, harness, and lots of encouragement. Perhaps the most physically demanding part of the day was the obstacle course, in which Cadets had to complete several obstacles as a squad. The obstacle course tests physical strength, creativity, teamwork, and agility. Nothing shy of its name, the "tough one," is an obstacle that includes a rope climb to a thirty foot tower in which Cadets must crawl a cargo net to safely land on the ground. Other obstacles include "the weaver" where Cadets must contort their bodies to fit over and in between various wooden planks.



A key fundamental of ROTC and the US Army in general, is an individual Soldier's rifle marksmanship; at FTX, Cadets were given the opportunity to zero their rifle on a 25m target. For many MSI Cadets, this was their first time handling a rifle, which was nerve-racking and an overwhelming responsibility. With the guidance of several Cal Poly and UCSB Cadre, as well as MSIVs, Cadets quickly became familiar and comfortable with the M16 rifle and were given multiple chances to improve on their marksmanship by working on trigger pull and breathing techniques. Overall, FTX was a weekend of hard work and quick learning. It was also an opportunity for the Battalion to bond together at the beginning of the quarter and set the precedence for teamwork for the rest of the year. As MSIII Cadet, Jared Noh described, "I loved getting to bond with my Battalion and meet more of my peers and the MSI class. Overall I was very proud of my class and Battalion!" As Fall FTX wrapped up, the MSIVs and Cadre presented various awards to both UCSB and Cal Poly Cadets for exceptional teamwork and Soldier skills.

"I didn't think I'd be scared to rappel, but once I was at the top of the building looking over the edge I could feel my stomach turn. I did it and rappelled three times after that!"

MSI NICKY GANDOLFO







## Physical Training (PT) and Leadership Lab (LLAB)

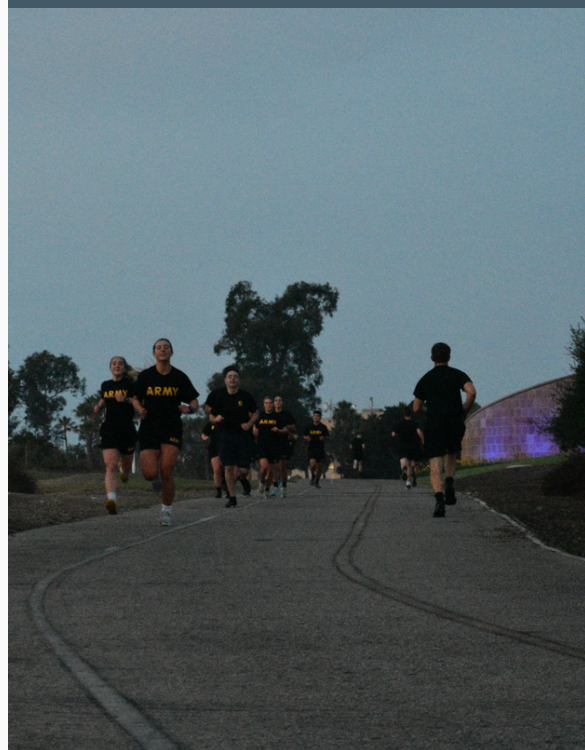
Throughout the quarter, the Surfrider Battalion has been consistently working to improve the Cadet's physical fitness standards and tactical knowledge, all in preparation for Cadet Summer Training and their future careers in the US Army. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 0630-0730 the Surfriders are up and at 'em training extensively, before most college students have even pressed snooze. Typically, physical training (PT) consists of strength training and cardiovascular endurance workouts to prepare for the Army Combat Fitness Test; this includes deadlifting weights, pushups, sprints, and a lot more! AT UCSB, PT isn't always physically straining... the Surfrider Battalion conducted Halloween PT, where Cadets dressed in their best Halloween costumes and played a spirited game of sharks and minnows. Other creative PT days include "bring a friend to PT day" where Cadets were allowed to bring a buddy to the track early in the morning, and show them what the Surfrider Battalion is about. Of course, the Battalion's favorite form of PT to do is "surf PT" in which the Cadets trade Pauley Track for Campus Point Beach and practice what the school is known for- surfing and swimming! UCSB ROTC is unique for its impeccable physical fitness, as many Cadets out max the ACFT standards through extensive physical training as collegiate athletes, personal trainers, competitive weightlifters, marathon runners, and more!



Following a tough week of PT, Military Science class, and standard university classes, the Cadets at UCSB meet at Ellwood Park in Goleta, CA for Leadership Lab (LLAB) from 1400-1700 on Thursdays. Here, Cadets extensively train tactics and prepare for real world missions by "running tactical lanes" where Cadets practice conducting a real mission in the microscopic environment of Ellwood. At LLAB, MSIIIs are responsible for preparing, learning, rehearsing, and ultimately teaching all three hour lessons to the MSIs and MSIIIs. LLAB lessons include squad attack, enemy prisoners of war, first aid, and so much more! MSIV Cadet Alexandra Daugherty described the first aid lesson as: "As an EMT, it was really interesting to learn how my training outside of ROTC has helped prepare me for possibly becoming a Combat Medic, and learning how different life saving procedures are in combat, as compared to in urban areas." During the Fall quarter, LLAB lessons are primarily taught at a squad level, which consists of 9 people, whereas in the Winter, lessons will switch to a platoon level of 30 plus Cadets. Whether it's early in the Santa Barbara sunrise, swimming in the Pacific ocean, or engaging tactically in the forest of Ellwood, you are sure to see the Surfrider Battalion working hard and preparing for a career of both physical and tactical excellence as an Officer.

**"Halloween PT was so much fun! Me and three other Cadets wore matching costumes. It was really great to see everyone, including Cadre, dress up and have fun."**

MSIII CDT DANIELLE ROBERTS







## UCSB Color Guard

As always, the Surfrider Battalion's Color Guard was busy this quarter! Since returning to campus after the COVID-19 pandemic, Color Guard's involvement has become more prevalent in the community. This quarter, the team presented the colors at various events across Santa Barbara, including the Pierre Claeysens Military Ball, Santa Barbara Veterans Day Ceremony, and Santa Barbara Club's Veterans Day Celebration. Color Guard is led by MSIII Co-captains, Joel True and Danielle Roberts. They described the team's involvement as, "amazing to see how proud the community is and excited to see the colors presented, especially on Veteran's Day, it added tremendous meaning to holding the American flag." The Color Guard team has many future events to look forward to, including presenting the colors at various UCSB sporting events and the Battalion's ROTC Military Ball in May.

"I love representing  
the community and  
our battalion through  
the Color Guard Team"

MSIII CO-CAPTAIN  
JOEL TRUE



## 25th Pierre Claeysen Military Ball

UCSB Surfriders Cadets were invited to the Pierre Claeysens Military Ball in the first weekend in November. The Surfriders were the Color Guard for the Ball, MS III Daniel Keefe presented the Missing Man Ceremony, and some Cadets painted portraits of Santa Barbara Veterans. Thank you to the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation and all who support our program and veterans!





## Ranger Challenge Competition

The Surfrider Battalion is proud to announce that our Ranger Challenge Team took home first place at the 8th Brigade Task Force South Regional Competition! The 12 Cadets Karsen Flom, Lauren Little, Jack Rollinson, Jacob Bailey, Jeremiah Canada, Amgad Hawari, Vincent Agrella, Alec Garcia, Nicolas Gandolfo, Francisco Romero, Lauren Graves, and Jenny Pham traveled to Fort Hunter Liggett, California and competed against 11 other teams from across the South western coast. The team began training for this competition in April 2022, and once they returned in the Fall, the intensity increased. Very quickly the team jumped into 6 days of training a week, often before 0700. On top of the training the entire Battalion does, being full time students, and several Cadets also being student athletes and employees. Come competition, the team was ready to take first place in nearly every event at the two day competition. The events in which the team competed in included: disassembly and reassembly of a pistol, two light machine guns, and a rifle; pistol shooting, one rope bridge, an obstacle course, day and night land navigation, first aid, adjusting indirect fire, rifle shooting, hand grenade throwing, a fitness test, and a 16 mile ruck march.



One of many reasons the Surfrider team was unique, is that it was lead by two females, CDTs Lauren Little (MSIV) and Karsen Flom (MSIII), a first for Ranger Challenge history. When asked about being the only female captain at the competition, CDT Flom described it as, “although intimidating at times, I had an amazing team of both men and women who were constantly supportive of my decisions, and made me feel no different in comparison to if we had a male captain. Ranger Challenge incorporates physical fitness, tactics, and complex problem solving. As a female captain, I came to realize that leadership doesn’t always come in the form of being the strongest physically; I can lead by example through my work ethic, intelligence, and critical thinking.” The team’s tenaciousness and success now leads them to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington State, as they compete for a spot at the national competition at WestPoint.

The Surfrider Battalion is proud to announce that our Ranger Challenge Team took home First place at the 8th Brigade Task Force South Regional Competition!







## FALL 2022 NEWLY CONTRACTED CADETS



**CDT FRANCISCO ROMERO  
MSII**



**CDT ALEC GARCIA  
MSII**



**CDT ASHTON YIN  
MSII**



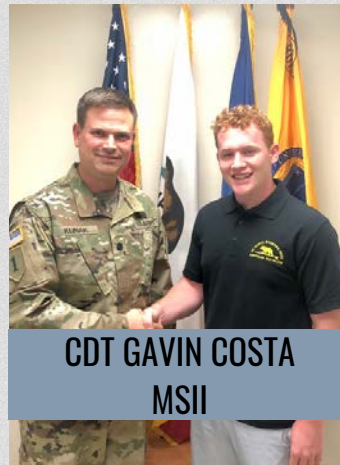
**CDT AALIYAH THURN  
MSII**



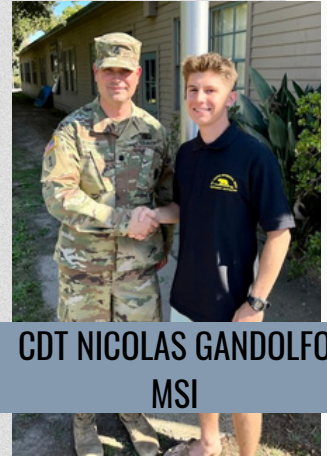
**CDT BYRANT LE  
MSIII**



**CDT JEREMIAH CANADA  
MS III**



**CDT GAVIN COSTA  
MSII**



**CDT NICOLAS GANDOLFO  
MSI**



**CDT DANIEL PARK  
MSIII**



**CDT MEGAN SCHRECK  
MSI**





## CADET SPOTLIGHT

### -SELFLESS-

#### UCSB Army Surfrider Cadet Spotlight

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SELFLESS



Cadet Karsen Flom



Cadet Karsen Flom (MSIII) undoubtedly exemplifies selflessness both in her personal and professional life. CDT Flom has volunteered countless hours to benefit Santa Barbara and the UCSB Community. Whether it's in Cheerleading at UCSB, serving as Captain of the winning UCSB Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team, being the creator and head of "Empowering Women in Leadership" Club, being a CrossFit coach, or a top cadet in her class, CDT Flom never ceases to place the needs of her peers first. She works tirelessly to ensure an environment which encompasses positivity and motivation for her peers to grow in. CDT Flom is a perfect representation of Selfless Service in the Surfrider Battalion and will make an excellent Army Officer in the near future.

### -UPSTANDING-

Cadet Jeremiah Canada (MSIII) embodies what it means to be an upstanding Army ROTC Cadet. Whether it be going abroad with Project-Go during the summer to study Mandarin as a second language, waking up early to train with the ROTC Ranger Challenge team, or ruck marching countless miles on the weekend to get ready for the Bataan Death March Memorial marathon, Cadet Canada is constantly striving to grow as both a Cadet and a future Officer in the U.S. Army. Outside of ROTC, CDT Canada is a full time graduate school student, pursuing an MBA at California State University, Channel Islands. CDT Canada also played varsity baseball as an undergraduate student at Westmont College. Cadet Canada exemplifies what it means to embrace the Army values, and he is a highly regarded member of our Surfrider Battalion!

#### UCSB Army Surfrider Cadet Spotlight

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UPSTANDING



Cadet Jeremiah Canada







## Upcoming Events 2023



January

- Jan 27-29: Ranger Challenge Team Competes at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)

- Mar 16th: Aviation Day
- Mar 19th: Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon

March



April

- Apr 21st -23rd: SPRING FTX
- Apr 29th: ROTC ALUMNI BBQ

- May 6th: UCSB Army ROTC Military Ball

May



June

- Jun 8th: Award Ceremony
- Jun 16th: Commissioning Ceremony





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- 4) Daniel Keefe

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