



SURF REPORT

UCSB ARMY ROTC OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

2020 - 2021

LETTER FROM THE CADET BATTALION COMMANDER



Letter from the Cadet Battalion Commander,

This past year has been a challenge to ROTC programs around the country. Here at the Surfrider Battalion, we have met that challenge and then some. Our whole team has worked incredibly hard to provide quality training despite the necessary restrictions. Online and in-person, we have trained a great group of cadets who will continue forward in their paths to become US Army officers. I'd like to highlight that our program has conducted training replicated by few other ROTC programs such as the Surfrider Ranger Challenge Competition, the Bataan Memorial Death March, Tactics Club, and more. What has kept us going strong is our tradition of excellent training, and to never accept less. For anyone out there with an interest, you will find the Surfrider Battalion to be one of the best, and as proof, all you need to do is speak with one of our cadets. Come visit and you will find us still out there training hard and shredding some waves at our beautiful campus.

Surfriders lead the way!

C/LTC Christensen
Battalion Commander



LEADERSHIP LAB AND PHYSICAL TRAINING



Leadership Lab

Every week the Battalion conducts realistic tactical training that provides cadets with the opportunity to prove themselves as Army Leaders. Third-year cadets instruct and lead their platoons through situational training exercises designed to replicate real-life combat scenarios. Pictured to the right is one of the cadets in a leadership position moving his squad into place to conduct an ambush exercise.



Physical Training

Here at the Surfrider Battalion, we take great pride in maintaining the Army's physical fitness standards. We believe that our physical training curriculum is one of the best in the nation. This year our battalion adapted to restrictions by training in smaller groups. We maintained the standard of conducting physical training (PT) three times a week, and we incorporated training to prepare for the new Army Combat Fitness Test.



OPERATION AGILE LEADER



The Mission Never Stops

Since the 1950s, Army ROTC cadets from around the country have attended Leadership Development and Assessment Course (commonly called “Advanced Camp”) as a culminating assessment of their readiness to become Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. For the first time since ROTC's inception, all ROTC Battalions had to readjust and create and train our own Development and Assessment Course. Just before the beginning of the Fall Quarter at UCSB, the Army mandated Operation Agile Leader (OAL) in an effort to replicate the training environment of Advanced Camp while still adhering to national, state, and local safety guidelines. After a virtual training year of 2020, the Surfrider Battalion began its school year with a modified in-person training program. In the Fall of 2020, the Surfrider Battalion conducted OAL where they met many of their commissioning requirements.

At OAL, the Surfriders were joined by two other cadet programs. The main training conducted was day/night land navigation, situational training exercises (STX), and other common soldier skill training. During the STX lanes, cadets had multiple opportunities to lead platoons of cadets from all of the schools. For all of the STX leadership, this was the first time training cadets were able to lead with students outside of their own programs. It was very evident that the Surfrider cadets far exceeded the standards during OAL.





MAJOR SKILL TRAINING

Land Navigation has always been a cornerstone skill of the Army ROTC curriculum and the Army in general. Officers are expected to lead their men and women during all types of movements in peacetime and wartime. The Surfrider Battalion devotes frequent training of land navigation and orienteering training during all quarters throughout the year. This is accomplished by classroom training and practical application which enhances confidence within the cadet's ability to successfully pass these requirements.

Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) is another skill and requirement that cadets must meet, not only in ROTC but also in the Army in general. The Surfrider Battalion has its own internal BRM simulation and the ability to train marksmanship within our own facilities. Furthermore, we also have access to train on military installations with enhanced simulations and live-fire shooting. The Engagement Skills Training Range allows our program to give our cadets the extra training to build confidence and qualify during a live-fire qualification course.

RANGE DAY

Fort Hunter Liggett, CA



During the Winter quarter, the Surfrider Battalion traveled to Fort Hunter Liggett for range weekend. Battalion cadets trained on zeroing and qualifying with M4/M16 rifles. This was a great time and experience for all of the cadets to familiarize themselves with the weapons systems and the Army's new qualification standards. During this weekend training, the majority of virtual cadets attended the training event.

During this weekend cadets were introduced to a grenade familiarization and practical application range. At the Grenade range, cadets received information on the composition of grenades and the different grenade types. Cadets then were required to negotiate and pass a grenade combat course. Our cadets also received more common skill training during this weekend. As for the qualification course, it offered a more combat-oriented test of marksmanship ability. Overall the weekend was a great experience for both new and returning cadets.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The Surfrider Battalion is fortunate enough to be located right along the Pacific Ocean. The breathtaking views from Santa Barbara's campus provide a stunning backdrop for our training activities and ceremonies. The Surfriders take advantage of our unique coastal access by completing waterborne operations and sometimes surfing for PT.

During the Winter quarter, Santa Barbara County braced for an incoming storm and hosted a Surf PT for the battalion's more experienced surfers. Before sunrise on the morning of January 25th, members of the cadre and cadets from all classes joined each other at the Campus Point surf break just south of Henley Gate to catch some waves and share in good times.



AVIATION DAY



Near the end of the Winter Quarter, Surfriders and several VIPs had the opportunity to conduct airborne operations by taking to the skies in a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter. It was a great experience for all to see the Santa Barbara area from a bird's-eye view, and a great opportunity to interact with members of the University community and other special guests.

Spring FTX



Spring FTX is the Surfrider Battalion's culminating Field Training Exercise, again working with other California ROTC Battalions. This FTX focused on land navigation, common soldier skills, and STX lanes. This provided our Junior Class cadets to actually lead and be evaluated on their tactical and leadership abilities. The Senior Cadet Chain of Command provided the evaluations and mentorship for the Junior Cadets during the STX lanes. These STX lanes were conducted with simulation rounds (blanks), simulation grenades and artillery to replicate actual wartime scenarios.

Day and night land navigation was conducted and cadets trained on their ability to read maps, utilize compass bearings and locate points on a large military installation.

This FTX provided cadets with knowledge and training and troubleshooting on heavy weapons systems.

This Spring Quarter FTX was conducted during a 4 day weekend where cadets remained tactical during training as well as military night activities.

Overall the training was a great success, exposing both new and returning cadets to interactive and engaging training that was incredibly beneficial to all. The training also offered the opportunity to interact with cadets and cadre from other battalions, providing different leadership styles and unique knowledge.



Teams and Clubs



Ranger Challenge Team

Ranger Challenge is a competition held annually which pits the best of each battalion in the region against each other. This year the Surfrider Battalion conducted an internal competition where the overall Ranger Challenge Team was subdivided into three teams that competed against each other. Cadets meet in addition to normal ROTC academics and physical fitness classes in order to train in additional small unit tactics and physical fitness.



Bataan Death March Team

On April 9, 1942, 75,000 troops were forced to march a grueling 65 miles to prison camps following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. The Bataan Memorial Death March serves to commemorate the lives of the American and Filipino soldiers lost during this march. In the Spring Quarter, the Surfrider Cadets, in honor of the Death March, complete a 26.2-mile ruck march marathon to remember and honor the soldiers and their sacrifices.



Tactics Club

The Surfrider Battalion's Tactics Club meets once a week and conducts additional military tactical training in subjects ranging from soldier individual common skills all the way to platoon size mission-oriented leadership skills and training. This club also focuses on developing cadets' leadership potentials.

Commissioning

This year, the Surfrider Battalion conducted a formal commissioning ceremony and commissioned 15 Second Lieutenants. The ceremony was held at Goleta Beach Park, and it was attended by friends, family, and special guest speakers COL Chuck Matallana (UCSB class of 1996) and Congressman Salud Carbajal. The ceremony was conducted in three parts. First, cadets were introduced to the audience and they recited the sacred Oath of the Commissioned Officer - which marked their transition into becoming Second Lieutenants.



Next, the newly commissioned officer received their first salute from an enlisted soldier of their choosing. Finally, each Second Lieutenant addressed the audience with a short speech. The ceremony was an emotional and exciting experience for the Surfrider Battalion, who watched all of the hard work from our Class of 2021 finally come to fruition.



CLASS OF 2021

FUTURE LEADERS



UCSB Army ROTC would like to congratulate this year's MSIV class and new Army Second Lieutenants who have succeeded through the hardships:

Lukas Abatie
Martha Anaya
Cameron Bernatene
Joanna Chau
Nicholas Christensen
Jessica Gantt
Noah Good
Micah Haskins
Miles Hale
Tobin Hess
Dylan Manfredi
Jeremy Romash
Simon Shapiro
Broderick Shore
Sydney Stafford





**On Behalf of the Surfrider Battalion,
we would like to thank all those who
have supported the Battalion and have
worked to make this amazing year
possible,**

Thank You!



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