



**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Virtual Zero Week	27 - 31 July 2020
Mission Beach Clean-up	07 August 2020
Distributed Basic Camp	10 - 14 August 2020
First Day of Class PLNU/USD	17 August 2020
Virtual New Cadet Orientation	21 August 2020
First Day of Class SDSU (ROTC)	24 August 2020



San Diego State Army ROTC

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**Mission Beach Clean - Up**

**Who:** Past, Current, and Future Aztecs, Bring your family and friends

**What:** Trash removal from Mission Beach; Bring your mask and gloves, & wear a school shirt if you have one

**When:** 07 Aug 2020, 0630 - 0730

**Where:** Mission Beach Parking Lot South of Belmont Park

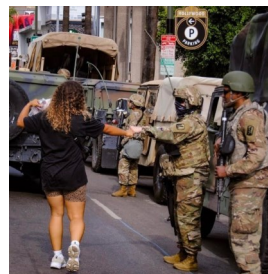
**Why:** Taking care of our community and keeping our beaches clean



**Defense Support to Civil Authorities**

**Aztec Professional Development Series**

Past and current Aztecs deployed to Los Angeles in early June to support local law enforcement officers with the California National Guard. Our cadets found themselves serving in a variety of roles from rear detachment, to support staff, to performing security patrols and point security alongside the Los Angeles Police Department and Sheriff's deputies. Their experiences ranged from direct contact with the local populace to working in tactical operations centers, from specialist in the platoon, to filling the shoes of the Platoon Leader and making decisions that affected the success of the unit's mission and safety of its Soldiers.



Their mission focused on two primary objectives: to secure life and property, and to protect the first amendment rights of our citizens to assemble and protest. When asked about their experiences, our cadets provided strong, insightful commentary that spoke to the heart of their mission in Los Angeles. "Beyond the military aspects, I became more aware of the society that we live in, and the situation as a whole." CDT Junseo Lee, our incoming Cadet Battalion Commander for the Fall 2020 semester, went on to say that "We've

come a long way, but there's still a great deal of racial injustice and social inequality that we need to be aware of, and we need to be ready to ask those questions of yourself and others." Our cadets also emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant, and ready for the call. Our missions and operational environment vary greatly. Since March of this year, our Cadre and Cadets have supported missions from medical support, to logistics, to civil disturbance and security, to wild-fire suppression. In the midst of everything, we continue to train so that we're ready for the next call.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LTC (ret) Dan Wilson - Class of 1991



## "AZTEC FOR LIFE"

**What advice do you have for our MS IVs preparing to go through accessions and branching?**



The core function of a commissioned officer in the US Army is to provide inspirational leadership to our young enlisted Soldiers, and there is an exceptional opportunity to do that in whatever branch you choose or are assigned. I was branched Infantry, but also served as a Battalion S-1 and Brigade S-4 which brought me into daily contact with Adjutant General and Logistics MOS Soldiers. Leading those Soldiers was no different than leading Infantrymen, and despite the friendly rivalry we have between branches, it really taught me that deep down all Soldiers want the same thing - to feel like they belong to something larger than themselves.

**Do you remember your top 3 branches when you accessed?**

My top three branch choices were 1. Infantry 2. Infantry and 3. Infantry! Seriously though, I had served four years of enlisted service in the 75th Ranger Regiment, so my goal was to go back there as a Platoon Leader, which I was able to do. I really don't remember what my other choices were, possibly Field Artillery since the Rangers have Fire Support Officer positions for 13As. Honestly, I really wanted to fly helicopters but am partially color blind so that eliminated that choice early on. I like to think that I'm hard, but I'm not stupid! Who wouldn't choose mandatory crew rest and a real bed to sleep in versus sleeping in the mud for only a few hours every night?

**Where was your favorite duty station? What made it memorable?**

Hands down my favorite assignment was Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. I grew up surfing here in San Diego, and all surfers dream about going to Hawaii. Funny story, I didn't make it there until I was a Major. I did CTLT there to look into being assigned to the 25th Infantry Division as a Platoon Leader, but the advice I received there was not to come over as a 2LT if I wanted to go back to the Ranger Regiment due to the requirement to remain on-island for three years for an overseas assignment. My next opportunity came as a Captain angling for company command, but even though I had a letter from the Commanding General requesting my assignment to his division, there were no slots for Captains Career Course. Thwarted again! However, we finally scored our dream assignment coming out of the Command and General Staff College, and ended up spending ten years in Hawaii, which I believe is close to a record for the longest continuous time in one location although for over three of those years I was deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq. No matter where we were stationed, we found things to like about where we lived, but for a beach bum family like ours, Hawaii will always be the gold standard. The moral of my story is to be patient on getting to where you want to go - it will happen!

**Name your most memorable training experience as an Aztec. How did it prepare you to lead Soldiers?**

I could never pick just one experience as my most memorable. My whole ROTC experience was memorable, and if it was not, I probably would not be sitting where I am today. As a prior service Ranger, I can tell you that I was a little skeptical of the ROTC experience, and if it hadn't met my expectations, I probably would have walked away before my MS III year. Fortunately, the Aztec Battalion cadre was top notch and everything they did for us was world class. From Ranger Club trips to go rock climbing and rappelling at Joshua Tree National Park, to Ranger Challenge competitions at Brigade and Region, to FTXs and Leadership Labs at Camps Elliot and Pendleton, every experience taught me something about myself and leadership, and motivated me to do my very best. Looking back, I can clearly see how much the cadre cared about the cadets, and I always used that as a standard for any unit I served in.

LTC (ret) Dan Wilson commissioned into the infantry as a distinguished military graduate in 1991. Over his 22 years of active federal service, LTC Wilson served in a variety of command and staff positions including, light and ranger rifle platoon leader, mechanized and ranger company commands, battalion S3 and XO, military transition team, team chief, detachment command, and Battalion Command. LTC Wilson deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, serving three tours in Afghanistan and one tour in Iraq.

**Where was your favorite place in San Diego as a Cadet?**

As a native San Diegan, I have a lot of favorite places around the county, but one of my favorites as a cadet was watching the sun rise from the top of Cowles Mountain after conducting a ruck run to the top with the rest of the Ranger Challenge team. Then we'd go hit a little breakfast place just off campus where you could get a killer breakfast for something like \$2.99. Always an epic start to another day in the Aztec Battalion!

**What was your favorite PT event/activity as an Aztec?**

We used to go do ruck runs from the Mission Beach jetty down to Crystal Pier and back, which was fun. But my favorite activity was probably practicing one rope bridges with the Ranger Challenge team between the palm trees over by what I believe is now the Fowler Athletic Center. The looks from the "civilian" students walking to class was priceless!

*Design Tradition*

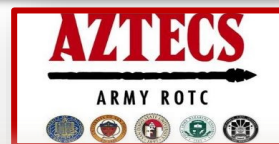
**Aztec Battalion Shirt**

*Design Competition*

Submit Design Ideas to MAJ Martos

Email: [jmartos@sdsu.edu](mailto:jmartos@sdsu.edu)

Contest Ends: 30 SEP 2020



## PMS CORNER

Aztecs,

I hope that you're all safely enjoying your summer with your Families. Despite several adjustments we are making for the Fall semester to align with our host-University (SDSU), local and state guidance, rest assured that ROTC is still happening! We look forward to welcoming you back in whichever format best supports both your health and ROTC training.

Just to give you an update, we will host our classroom lectures (MILS 101-401 and MILS 110) virtually via Zoom in Fall 2020. We are working with SDSU and the California State University System to obtain permission to conduct face-to-face Leadership Lab (MILS 96), with strict COVID 19 prevention and mitigation strategies, as your health is our top priority. As soon as we receive confirmation of any modality approvals we will let you know!

Regardless of our training and class format, our end goals don't change. The cadre and I are working hard through the summer to make improvements to the program and to support you on your journey to become a leader in the United States Army. Don't lose sight of your development or goals. Continue to take the necessary precautions to prevent COVID and stay resilient. It's going to be a great semester and we can't wait to welcome you back!

- LTC Parlette

