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NEWSLETTER

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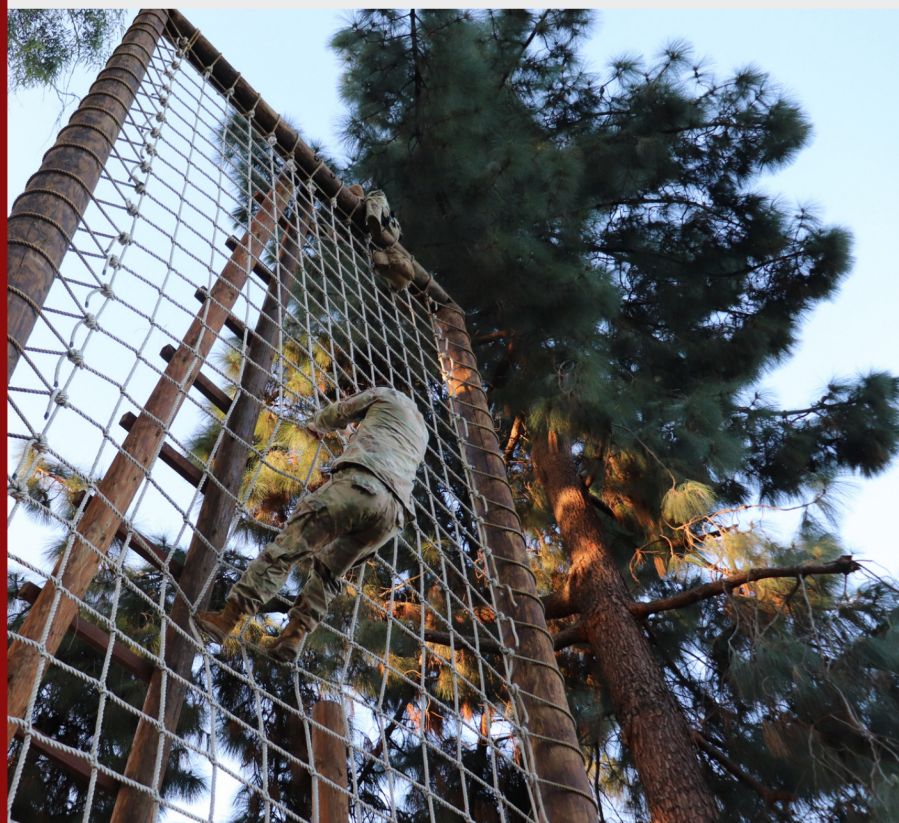
Welcome Back

As we begin the new year, the Aztec Battalion prepares to develop the finest leaders our nation has ever seen.

Returning from the holiday season, our Cadets embrace the opportunity to become the future of the United States Army. Enthusiastically, the Aztec Battalion greets you with a thunderous

"Tip of the Spear!"

Pictured: Ranger Challenge Team Captain, Cadet Arthur Davis makes his final descent down the "Tough One"



"I am the present – the scholar and apprentice soldier enhancing my skills in the science of warfare and the art of leadership. But above all, I am the future—the future warrior leader of the United States Army. May God give me the compassion and judgment to lead and the gallantry in battle to win. I will do my duty."

-Excerpt from The Cadet Creed

BATTALION LEADERSHIP 2023



Battalion Commander

My name is Anton Lieb and I am this semester's Cadet Battalion Commander (BC). I manage the training being conducted within the Army ROTC Aztec Battalion to ensure that we maximize our leadership training opportunities and develop future lieutenants in the Army. I am an avid gym-member and love to mentor junior Cadets in weightlifting. I take immense pride in watching my fellow Cadets and the Aztec Battalion develop for the better.



Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Greetings Everyone! My name is Aalia Gomez and I am this semester's Cadet Command Sergeant Major (CSM). I provide guidance and ensure the Battalion Commander's intent is being followed to standard. I am a Theater and Film Productions Major at San Diego State University. I am proud to serve as CSM this semester and use my knowledge to make our Cadets stronger leaders.

Battalion Executive Officer

My name is Arthur Davis and I am the Cadet Battalion Executive Officer (XO). I'm second in Command, taking charge in the Cadet Battalion Commander's absence. I also serve as Chief of Staff- supervising and coordinating efforts of the Battalion Staff. I was the Ranger Challenge Team Captain during the 22-23 Season, and was previously the San Diego State Alpha Company Commander.



ALPHA COMPANY COMMANDER



Josephina Padilla

I am the Alpha Company Commander. I attend San Diego State and study Psychology. I am currently part of the California Army National Guard and joined ROTC as a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet. My older sister attended and commissioned through the Aztec Battalion as well.

"Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you." -Ruth Bader Ginsburg

BRAVO COMPANY COMMANDER



Hunter Edmond

I am the Bravo Company Commander. I go to University of San Diego as a Biology Major. Some of the extra curricular activities I enjoy are ROTC Color Guard, USD Recruiting Officer, and Fantasy Football General Manager.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us." -unknown

CHARLIE COMPANY COMMANDER



Jael Ray Acuna

I am the Charlie Company Commander. I am responsible for all Charlie Company coordination, planning, and training to excel in Cadet standards to be the best company in the battalion. I am an Electrical Engineering major. I enjoy reading novels and video games.

"In order to thrive, jump into the unknown." - Michelle Henricks



8th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition

On January 25, 2023, the San Diego State University (SDSU) Army Ranger Challenge Team departed for Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to compete at the annual 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition. After placing second at the prior competition (Task Force South) the team earned a spot to perform against the six best teams from the West Coast, Alaska, Hawai'i and Guam. Helmed by Team Captain Arthur Davis and Co-Captain Andrew Tobia, the Cadets made immediate preparation for their new challenge at the next level. Cadets traveled north to California State University - Fullerton, where the team made use of the Obstacle Course located at CSUF. Further training conducted at San Diego State University included Rope Bridges, Land Navigation, and Map Familiarization.

Early Friday morning, the team sprung into action against five other schools; University of California Santa Barbara, Gonzaga, Oregon State, University of Hawai'i, and Washington State. The first test San Diego State faced was an eight mile ruck-march in the chilled, raining Washington countryside. Immediately after completion, the team had to show their ability to accurately fire and disassemble weapon systems while under pressure. Swiftly moving from one challenge to another, the team came upon a hand-paddled watercraft and were instructed to navigate obstacles while being timed. Once SDSU reached the shoreline, the team hoisted the 250lbs zodiac and ran almost a mile with it above their shoulders.



Pictured: Cadets Austin Cole (Right) and Devin Golding (Left) ascend the rope swing.





Ranger Challenge Competition

Throughout the day, SDSU Cadets displayed their physical excellence, adaptability, calmness under pressure, and overall desire to win. Events included Tactical Casualty Combat Care (TCCC), Marksmanship, Land Navigation at night, the Army Combat Fitness Test, and various other physically and mentally challenging events. Even after a grueling day of work, the team arose stronger on Saturday to sweep the competition. The most dominating victories of Saturday were a Rope Bridge assembled by Cadets to safely navigate across a river, as well as a team Log Carry and Tire Flip Race against last year's competition winners, University of Hawai'i.

By the time that the total points had been tallied across all the schools, the San Diego State Ranger Challenge Team came in a heartbreaking third place- even more painful when the loss was only by a single point. The defeat is still not perceived by any of the team members negatively, considering that 6 out of the 11 Ranger Challenge Competitors are only MS2s (second year students). Additionally, the team's Co-Captain Andrew Tobia will be returning as the Captain of the Team, bringing with him the experience gained this year as well as the two previous years he has been on the team. "The future only holds victory for us and the Aztec Battalion" -Andrew Tobia



Congratulations & Farewells

CAPTAIN PRICE

Congratulations Sir,

Your promotion from First Lieutenant to Captain is well deserved. We here at Aztec Battalion are grateful for the knowledge and expertise you bring to the program. Thank you for being patient, understanding, and helpful when we need you most.

-Cadet Command Sergeant Major
Aalia Gomez

CAPTAIN LAXAMANA

Farewell Sir,

Thank you for choosing to spend your time here at the Aztec Battalion. Without you the Bulldogs wouldn't have their bite, Battalion Barbeques wouldn't have their Chef, and many Cadets would not have a life-long mentor. We appreciate and recognize the continual support you always give us.

-Bravo Company Commander
Hunter Edmond



Pictured: Captain Laxamana (Left), Cadet Scott (Middle),
and Captain Price (Right) after Advance Camp
Graduation

"Tip of the Spear!"

