

AZTEC ROTC

NEWSLETTER



RANGER CHALLENGE

The Aztec Battalion Ranger Challenge Team, led by their captain, CDT Arthur Davis competed in the Task Force South Ranger Challenge Competition. They worked hard and came out second place. It was a tough result, but it was enough to move on to the 8th BDE Ranger Challenge Competition, and towards the team's aspiration of returning to Sandhurst. Assistant Editor, CDT Aalia Gomez interviewed CDT Davis about his experience so far.

Introduce yourself.

My name's Arthur Davis, I'm 24 years old and a Political Science Major at San Diego State University.

I know you are a green to gold cadet, can you talk a little bit about your prior service background for those who don't know?

I enlisted in July 2018 as a 13F, fire support specialist, and entered in the green to gold program Fall 2021. I had always planned to be an officer, this was just the route I wanted to go.

How has your prior service background supported you in being Team Captain for Ranger Challenge this year?

With my background I have a deeper understanding of the military which has been beneficial. Call for Fire is a major event in Ranger Challenge competitions, so I'm glad I get to support the team in that aspect.

Having just joined the program last year, your junior year, what encouraged you to try out for the Ranger Challenge team when you joined ROTC?

I decided to join to better myself physically and mentally in preparation to become an officer, and to take advantage of training that isn't available to the rest of the program.

What do you enjoy most about being a part of the Ranger Challenge Team?

I enjoy working with like minded individuals who care about physical fitness, maintaining a high level of physical fitness, and military expertise training opportunities.

How did your experience on the team last year impact how you're leading the team this year?

Last year I got to see how Ranger Challenge competitions are conducted, which has been huge in how I've modeled the training for this semester leading up to the Task Force South Competition. Last year I also saw how 2LT Hallmark and 2LT Nicoloff, former cadets of the SDSU ROTC program, ran the team, and how successful they were in leading the team to Sandhurst.

FALL 2022

FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE



On 18-20 Nov The Aztec Battalion conducted the Fall Semester FTX at Camp Elliot. Thanks to the CA National Guard, the FTX began with cadets riding in Black Hawks over the Pacific Ocean. Cadets braved the cold and stayed out in Patrol Bases on Friday and Saturday night, and participated in four STX Lanes across Saturday and Sunday. It was a great learning experience for all who attended.

For CDT Eddie Rosario, an MS3 heading to CST, it was all about getting leadership experience. "(FTX) allowed me and the squad to practice our leadership skills and tactics learned throughout the semester to our fullest extent," he said. He also appreciated the time developing connections outside of his company, noting, "I was able to work closely with cadets that I do not usually talk to on a weekly basis. In the end we grew closer to worked together as a team."

For CDT Angel Sanchez, an MS1 brand new to the program it was a culmination of all that he was taught throughout the semester. He said, "it was a lot of fun. The cold sucked, but I loved being able to use everything we learned in class in realistic scenarios." He felt supported by his MS2 and MS3 leaders who helped him along the way. "I felt that even though I was a first year, everyone was able to teach me what I didn't know," he said.

The exercise would not be possible without the herculean effort of CDT Chivas Powers, an MS4 serving as the Battalion S3. He planned for weeks in advance to ensure excellent training while maintaining safety and having fun as well. He had high praise for those who supported him in along the way, saying "I felt the FTX went very well and I had a lot of fun planning and watching everything come together. The Battalion Staff worked countless hours in the weeks leading up to FTX to ensure that all of their moving parts were in sync with my plan and after speaking to our Cadets and AFROTC cadets, everyone gained something from the training. Special thanks to MAJ Heath for coaching me as well as providing our amazing UH-60 opportunity and to CPT Laxamana for coaching CDT Moy while he created our seamless logistics coverage for the entirety of the weekend. "



CADRE HIGHLIGHT

DR. BRANTLEY



1. What is your name, occupation, and how long have you worked with our Aztec Battalion?

Michael Brantley, Recruiting Operations Officer, 2.5 years

2. Have you served in the military? If so, what branch, job, and numbers of years?

US Navy, Ship Serviceman (Logistics) then I started working in a Career Counseling role. I retired after 20 years.

3. How do prospects hear about our program and how do they get a hold of you?

There are a number of avenues that we pursue. Most importantly is social media awareness. In addition, we attend community events, schedule tabling events, and we do High School and Community College briefings.

4. What are some events you attend to promote our program?

I'd like to start offering more Green to Gold awareness briefs for those still not cognizant of the aspect of the program. Another plan is to extend our reach to all San Diego High Schools for the spread of the National Scholarship option. Lastly, we'd like to establish a stronger partnership with all SD recruiting offices and attend the different transitional courses for service members.

5. For High School students, how do they find out about Army ROTC scholarships?

Before, it was possibly through the High School briefings but we've really tried to grow our social media presence and spread as much about the Army ROTC scholarship opportunities as possible.

6. Are college students able to attend Military Science classes and over the summer training as a freshman or sophomore?

Unfortunately, the Military Science courses aren't offered over the summer, however, current university sophomores heading into their junior year or community college transfers that will be attending either SDSU, CSUSM, USD, UCSD, or PLNU can attend Basic Camp in Ft Knox in order to receive Basic Course (MS1 & 2 year) credit or for developmental purposes.

7. If prospects are enrolled at junior colleges can they still attend a Military Science class or in person lab at San Diego State University?

Yes. Students can participate in MS1 & 2 (ROTC Freshman & Sophomore courses) without any contractual commitment as a non-scholarship cadet and still receive elective credit for doing so while learning about the program.

8. How can a prospect prepare to be a Cadet? Do they focus on physical training, academics, and an education plan?

All of the above. In addition to seeking guidance from cadre and cadet leadership.

9. What advice would you give high school students seeking to join the military?

APPLY, APPLY, and APPLY to all Service Academies and ROTC Programs (Each Branch). It's all about options.

10. What inspirations or mentors do you have?

I've had a few mentors that urged me to take advantage of the military educational benefits. I also have 1-2 that have been significant in helping me enter higher education post military.

AZTEC BATTALION SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: San Diego Army ROTC | Instagram: sdarmyrotc | Youtube: San Diego Army ROTC

A WORD FROM THE PMS:

L T C P A R L E T T E



Where did the semester go?! It seems like we just started, with new Cadet orientation and Zero Week with our MSIVs. But that's now months in the past. What an amazing semester it has been!

I shared this with all at the Fall Awards ceremony, but for those who weren't there, I would like to express my thanks for the people and supporters who comprise the mighty Aztec Battalion and share the specific things that I am thankful for. I know Thanksgiving has already passed, and I shared some of this with our Cadre last week, but I want to share a few things that I am thankful for.

I am thankful to be in this position; stationed in beautiful San Diego, training the best future officers the Army will ever see!

I am thankful for our immensely supportive community and university partners, who attend our events, award and recognize our Cadets, and make donations to our program so that we can host fun activities and excel in training.

I am thankful for our Cadre; who were hand-selected to serve in their positions because of their professionalism, competence and passion for training and mentoring Cadets. The Aztec Battalion is the best ROTC program in the Nation because of you.

I am thankful for our new Cadets for persevering, despite probably feeling overwhelmed or out of place at times. Your motivation and positive attitude allowed you to endure survive very early mornings five days a week and a chilly FTX. You exceeded all of the expectations that I briefed at the orientation lab. I am thankful for our returning Cadets, for taking the new Cadets under their wings and showing them the way; for planning and executing quality training and fun program events; for stepping out of your comfort zone in order to develop and improve your leadership skills; and for getting everyone in the same uniform for the first time since I've been here so that every Cadet feels part of the Aztec team.

Lastly, I am thankful for the Aztec Battalion and its proud legacy that lives on through a collective team of highly determined and motivated Cadets, who go on to commission and impressively lead Soldiers across the world; lieutenants who are proud to say that they are Aztec Battalion alum!

We **ARE** the Tip of the Spear!

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday season and I look forward to absolutely crushing the Spring semester with you!

MOVING ON:

END OF SEMESTER HANDOFF



As the semester comes to a close with this final issue of the Aztec ROTC Newsletter written by our team, CDT Villanueva and CDT Gomez would like to thank you for reading everything so far. It was a lot of fun serving as the Public Affairs Team this semester and we hope you enjoyed the stories we shared.

To the current cadets, we wish you luck and success as you continue your journey to becoming an Officer in the US Army. It is a difficult task, but if you work hard, help your peers, and listen to people who want to help you, you will be successful.

To the cadre who have guided us along the way, thank you for your support. You entrusted us with a lot of responsibility and we certainly did our best.

To the incoming Public Affairs Team, we hope you have as much fun as we did and have a lot of cool stories to share. It is a lot of work at times, but it was rewarding.

And to the readers, thank you once again. We put a lot of effort into the past newsletters and sincerely hope you enjoyed them.



The Aztec Battalion Ranger Challenge Team and Cadre wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season!



November 2022 / Thanks for Reading!