

AZTEC ROTC

NEWSLETTER



HACU

On 8-10 October 2022 the Aztec Battalion participated in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Annual Conference. Cadets and Cadre manned a table promoting the ROTC program and attended networking dinners and brunches.

The event was a great opportunity to engage with the community and introduce people to the ROTC program. Many cadets participated over all four days and represented the Aztec Battalion and Army ROTC well.

Cadet LouAnne Lee was one of the cadets who participated in tabling. She had this to share, "the experience overall was great! I spoke to a lot of higher education professors from different states (like TX and Florida). I also spoke to a lot of undergrad students who were interested in various fields like agriculture. Everybody brought in a different background, profession and interest which was amazing because I got to help them and assist them with their questions about ROTC as well as college and life experience questions."



At one of the networking meals, MSI Cadet Christian Martin Del Campo was presented with a \$37,280 ROTC scholarship. This experience was very special to him. "It meant a lot to me to receive the scholarship while I was there," he said, noting, "you could visually see that I was super nervous to be there. Getting the scholarship was one thing, but receiving it at an event like this was extraordinary. I felt proud and hopefully I made my parents proud too. It felt like I achieved something that was worth celebrating. It was an amazing feeling that I'll never forget."



NORTH COUNTY VETERANS STAND DOWN

On 22 October 2022 the Aztec Battalion volunteered at the North County Veterans Stand Down, an event designed to give support to veterans in many ways including medical, financial and legal services. The event was hosted at Green Oak Ranch and there were many Veterans in attendance. Cadets were spread throughout the event guiding traffic, giving directions, aiding event staff, and engaging with the veteran community.

Cadet Jael Acuna spent some time with a Navy veteran, Dale. "Hearing about his experience in the Navy in the 60s was a pleasure and a reminder that we can always learn from those who came before us," said Acuna. "We should do what we can to lend a hand when they need it most. The veteran stand down gives that helping hand, giving some good back in the world," he added.

Many cadets shared Acuna's sentiment on the importance of the Veterans Stand Down. Cadet Shizi Zhang said, "It was an inspirational yet extremely humbling experience to visit our predecessors whom we admire and respect deeply and let them know that they are not forgotten." Cadet Timothy Lumibao noted "As a freshman in ROTC it was a great first experience volunteering and giving back to the community of veterans that were present. Overall it was a fun event and I would like to volunteer again in the future."

It was a great experience for all and most importantly the event was able to assist many veterans. The North County Veterans Stand Down team estimated that over 1300 veterans were served, and over \$800,000 worth of services were provided. The Aztec Battalion is proud to have supported such an important cause.



NOVEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS



2&4 Nov: Project Go

- The Courtyard by Marriot - Liberty Station

6 Nov: Honor Flight

- San Diego International Airport

9-10 Nov: 24HR POWMIA Run

- ENS Flagpole

10 Nov: Commanders Cup - DodgeBall

- ENS/Music Field SDSU

12 Nov: Joint March On

- Snapdragon Stadium

POC - CDT Padilla:

- jpadilla8997@sdsu.edu

RECENTLY CONTRACTED CADETS

Acuna

Ahn

Birdsell

Brown

Cho

Curry

Huang

Macagba

Macwhorter

Mahoney

Robles

Thompson

Zhang

A WORD FROM THE PMS:

L T C P A R L E T T E



Greetings Aztec Cadets, Cadre, Alumni and Supporters! I can't believe we're over halfway through the Fall semester already! I'm so proud of our program and our Cadets for the amount of enthusiasm and dedication they have shown through all of our many classes, PT, training and events thus far.

For the first time, we moved all Military Science classes to 0630 on Tuesdays and Leadership Labs to 0600 on Thursdays. Add physical training Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 0600 to the mix and our Cadets are up very early every day of the week. It's been an adjustment for everyone, but the feedback has been positive and something we'll maintain (with a few tweaks) for next semester. Way to stick with it and demonstrate your resilience and commitment!

Thus far we have contracted an astounding 19 Cadets this semester! That was our *total* number last year, but we've achieved it in just a couple of months thanks to our Recruiting Operations Officer and his team, our Human Resource Assistant and our Assistant Professors of Military Science. We now have 19 more outstanding Cadets committed to serving this great nation. I congratulate each one of you for excelling in leadership, athletics and academics to qualify for contracting, and thank you for committing to serve as a future leader in our Army.

Earlier this month, Mission Set 23 Cadets received their component results, with 12 accessing as Active Duty Eligible, four accessing into the Army National Guard and one into US Army Reserve. Congratulations to Cadets Powers and Van Houten (both from A Company) for achieving a ranking of top 20% in the nation and Distinguished Military Graduate status! Congratulations also goes out to Cadet Rodriguez for receiving an Educational Delay to pursue graduate school. For each of you, your hard work paid off and I'm extremely proud! For all of our Active Duty Eligible Cadets, we have something special planned for you on November 30th, when you will find out your branches. It's going to be a great day!

For Mission Set 24 Cadets, your Talent Based Branching will open on 1 November, which will allow you to take the Talent Assessment Battery and start inputting your information to advocate for the branch you want. This year is critically important for you, and the final year to impact on how you will be accessed and where you will fall on the national Order of Merit List (OML). Continue to do your very best and stay the course!

The Army Combat Fitness Test is finally approved and in full swing. We are sourcing additional PT equipment and looking at ways for our Bravo and Charlie Company Cadets who aren't co-located with ACFT equipment. I know the current situation is not ideal, but you are still finding creative ways to train and are crushing the test. The ruck progression incorporated into PT will also pay off when it's time for that 12-miler. Keep getting after it team!

I truly appreciate all of the Cadets who participated in HACU, the North County Veterans Stand Down, Massing of the Colors, Honor Flight Welcome Home, SDSU Army Appreciation football game, recent recruiting events, color guards and events at our local high schools. Getting out in the community not only shows our program's pride and support for this place we call "home" (at least temporarily), it also builds unit camaraderie outside of just classes and training, and serves as a recruiting tool for ROTC. Community service is an important part of our military and aligns with our Army Values. There are many more events coming up next month so I encourage you to come out and participate, make some new friends, recruit new Cadets and give back to San Diego!

Lastly, I want to wish our Ranger Challenge team the best of luck at the Task Force South Ranger Challenge competition from 4-6 November at Fort Hunter-Liggett. They have been training every day since early September to defend our title and bring back the bear that has occupied our main office for the past year. Go dominate Aztecs!

Tip of the Spear!
Aztec 6