CARDINAL AND GOLD

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Introducing the Trojan Battalion

The Trojan Battalion recruits, inspires, and trains today's students to become commissioned leaders of character ready for service in the US Army. Our vision is to provide engaging recruitment, retention, and development for our cadets, and be a perennial top-5 US Army ROTC program on the West Coast.

The Trojan Battalion was established at the University of Southern California in 1914 and has since grown to include California State Univesity, Long Beach and California State University, Dominguez Hills. The program currently hosts 136 cadets across all three campuses. We strive to provide our cadets the necessary skills and leadership training to become Army officers in Active Duty, Reserves, or National Guard, to develop the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army, and to motivate young people to become better citizens.

IN THIS ISSUE

Battalion Leadership and Staff
Cadet Summer Training
Cadet Advanced Individual Training
Labs
Fall FTX
Ranger Challenge
Alumni Spotlight

TROJAN BATTALION LEADERSHIP

Battalion Commander

CDT Madeline Hood

Command Sergeant Major

CDT Thomas Marks

Battalion Executive Officer

CDT Jada Sefah

Alpha Company Commander

CDT Cameron Nelson

Bravo Company Commander

CDT Vincent Duong

Charlie Company Commander

CDT Malakhye Shine

TROJAN BATTALION STAFF

Battalion S1

CDT Ricardo Stamatis

Battalion S3

CDT Gavin Rowley

Battalion S4

CDT Travis Wu

Operations Sergeant Major

CDT Tyer Twiss

Assistant Battalion S3

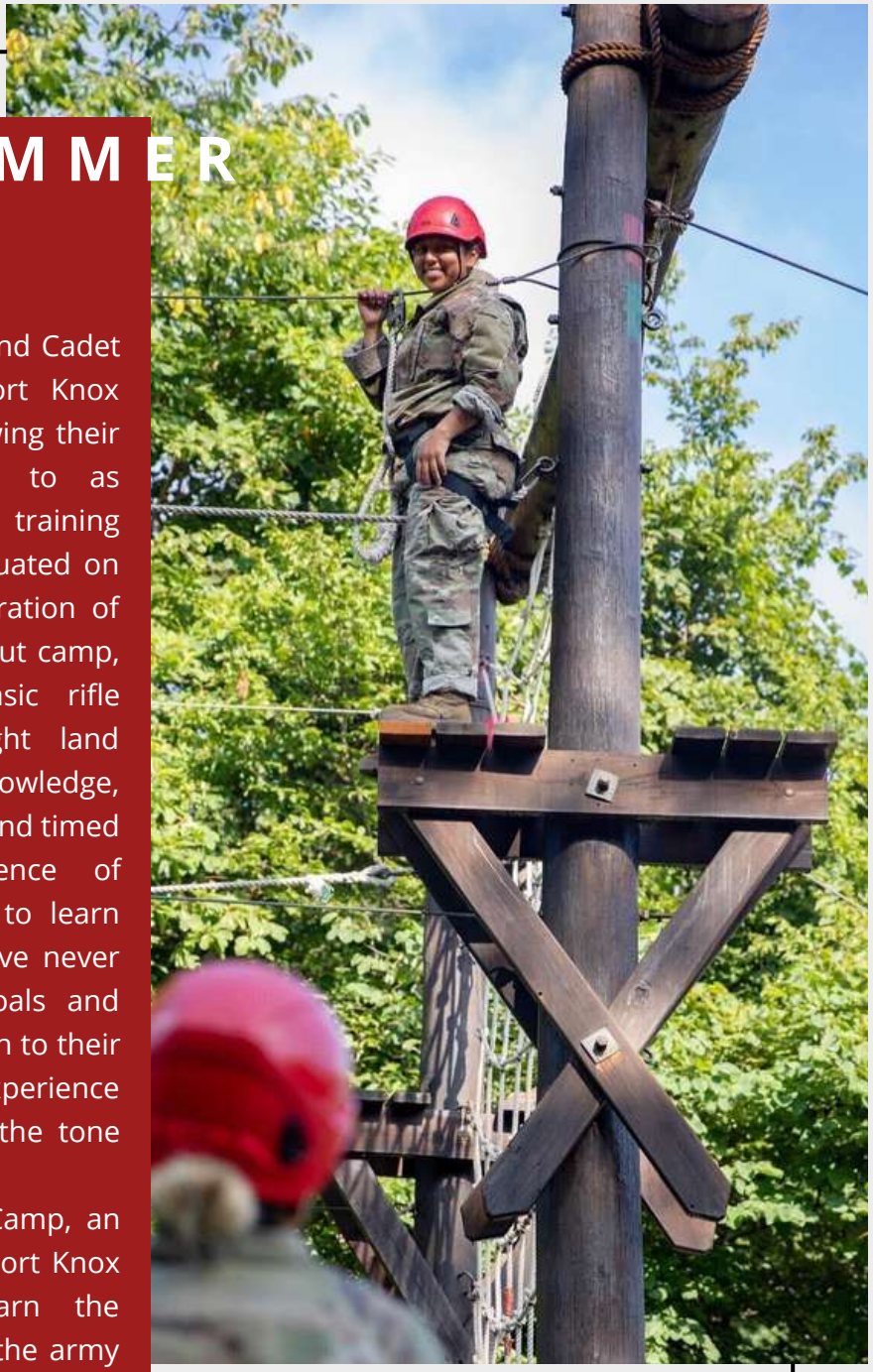
CDT Monica Kwan

CADET SUMMER TRAINING

CDT COREY VO

Cadets are required to attend Cadet Summer Training (CST) in Fort Knox Kentucky in the summer following their junior year. Often referred to as Advanced Camp, this 38-day training event allows cadets to be evaluated on their knowledge and demonstration of skills and leadership. Throughout camp, cadets are assessed on basic rifle marksmanship, day and night land navigation, chemical warfare knowledge, leadership skills, battle tactics, and timed ruck marches. The experience of Advance Camp allows cadets to learn how to work with cadets they've never met before to accomplish goals and missions as a unit. Cadets return to their university with a unique experience under their resume that sets the tone for their career in the Army.

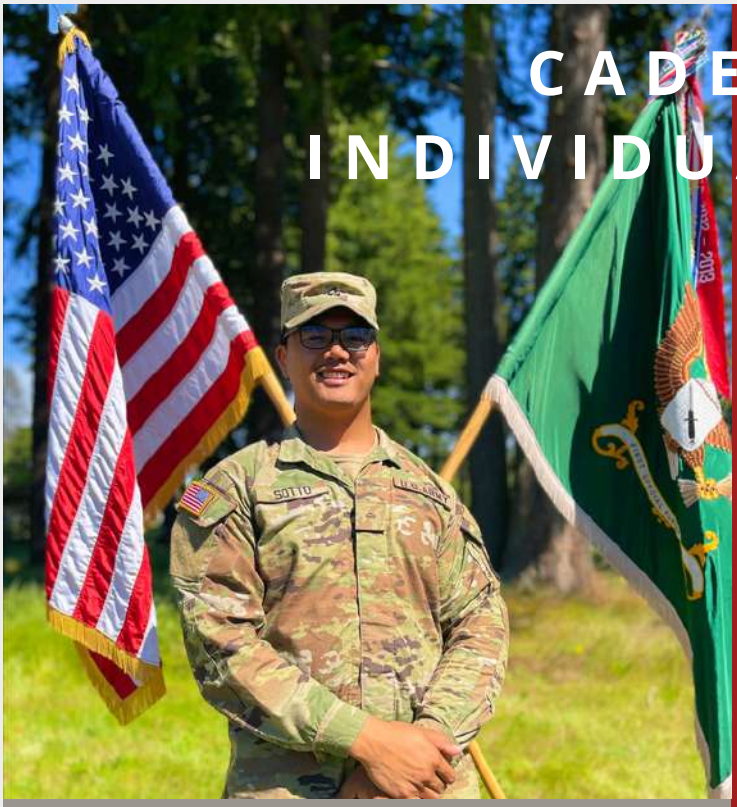
CST also includes Basic Camp, an introductory training event in Fort Knox for younger cadets to learn the fundamental skills required in the army and its culture. This 31-day training event is optional for MS1 and MS2 cadets who have the desire to improve their knowledge. Throughout camp, cadets learn to adapt and integrate with other individuals from different cultures and backgrounds. Basic Camp training focuses on formation movements, proper greetings to service members, rules and regulations, rifle marksmanship, day and night land navigation, confidence, teamwork, punctuality, accountability, and battle tactics.



The Army brings people from all around the country and world to work together under one uniform. Service members and future service members from various cultures and ethnicities put aside differences to achieve a common goal in efforts to defend and protect the United States Constitution, land, and people. Both Basic and Advanced Camp allow cadets to practice interacting and working with new people, sharpening their leadership and individual competency skills.

CADET ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

CDT KATELYN KYLLO



CDT Charlie Sotto (above) during Operation Sage Eagle with the 1st Special Forces Group and CDT Cameron Nelson (below) during CTLT with the 18th Military Police Battalion in Vilseck, Germany

Cadet Advanced Individual Training, or CAIT encompasses several summer training opportunities available to highly motivated cadets. These opportunities allow cadets to participate in Army specialty schools and gain active duty training experience. Throughout the summer, our cadets participated in a wide range of opportunities, such as Air Assault school, Maritime Assessment Course, USMA Cadet Field Training (CFT), Sage Eagle, and Robin Sage.

In addition to these opportunities, the Trojan Battalion sent several cadets to participate in Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT). CTLT allows select cadets to shadow Platoon Leaders in the active duty Army, receiving hands-on experience in a specific Army branch. Cadets travel to units and spend about 3 weeks in this program. The Trojan Battalion was represented all over the world with cadets spending time in Korea, Germany, and Alaska, as well as several locations in the continental US like Colorado, Georgia, and Virginia.

The Trojan Battalion was also able to secure a number of internships for cadets to partake in. Internships are a great opportunity for cadets to explore both academic and career related interests. This past summer, cadets were sent to various internships, including the National Security Agency (NSA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, AMEDD, and Advanced Cyber Education at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

LEADERSHIP LAB

CDT MICHAEL SACCONE

Every Thursday, Trojan Battalion conducts a leadership lab from 0700-0950. In this time, a pair of MS3 cadets at each school are given the opportunity to apply their knowledge on a specific military science concept and lead a lesson for the rest of their company. These lessons usually consist of an instructional period for the first portion of class, and a practical period where cadets are given the chance to apply and practice the concepts they just learned in a. These practical exercises are meticulously planned by the lab instructors. Examples of labs and their practical exercises include:

- Land navigation, followed by a scavenger hunt around campus
- Firearm safety in a national guard training facility, where cadets had access to unloaded rifles to practice reloading and clearing weapons
- Individual movement techniques, followed by a series of relays involving low crawls, high crawls, and bounding techniques under fire
- A tactical combat casualty care lab where cadets practiced evaluating casualties while applying bandages and tourniquets

The planning and execution of these labs allow MS3s to master their respective topics, create a lesson, and plan for its execution while keeping in mind the best way to teach and communicate with younger cadets. It also often creates fun, team-building activities, and even the chance to walk away with some candy if a cadet is able answer a question correctly after instruction.

FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

CDT CHARLIE SOTTO

From 21-23 October, cadets traveled to Fort Hunter Liggett Army Reserve Training Center to practice and refine their skills in land navigation and weapons qualification on the M4 weapon system.

The first major event was the Table VI M4 weapon system qualification. Cadets began by zeroing their weapons, ensuring that their sights were properly aligned to accurately shoot at the targets. The Table VI qualification tests the ability to engage targets as close as 25 meters and as far as 300 meters in various firing positions. Cadets were given 4 magazines with 10 rounds to engage the 40 pop-up targets.

The second major event during this FTX was land navigation. Cadets were given a map, a protractor, and 8-digit grid coordinates. The day phase allotted 4 hours to find 4 points throughout the training area, while the night phase allotted 3 hours to find 2 points. Night land navigation is significantly more difficult, leaving cadets with a only red lens headlamp to illuminate their maps and the terrain. The course provided challenging terrain with a mix of steep angles and heavy vegetation.

Closing out the weekend, Trojan Battalion took the opportunity to contract brand new cadets during the closing ceremony. The Professor of Military Science, Lieutenant Colonel Polk led the cadets in their oath as they raised their right hand in front of the formation. Officially contracting as a cadet is a monumental moment in the career of an Army ROTC cadet as their devotion and commitment to serve in the US Army is solidified.

Overall, Trojan Battalion's Fall Field Training Exercise was a mission success as we utilized the new environment to train our cadets on essential skills which will be evaluated during advanced camp between their MSIII and MSIV year.

"It was a nonstop, fast-paced, practical environment with a lot of opportunity to provide practice for advanced camp and our ranger challenge competition."

-CDT Johnson Chen

RANGER CHALLENGE

CDT ANDREW CABALLES

A cadet participating in Ranger Challenge is one seeking to test their mind and body through individual and collective skills as soldiers. After winning 2nd place last year at Ft. Irwin, the cadets of Trojan BN were eager for redemption at this year's competition at Ft. Hunter Liggett. Preparation for Ranger Challenge was divided into three main parts: initial tryouts, satellite physical training at the company level, and the final selection phase. As the team continued to rally every Friday at CSU Dominguez Hills with Charlie Company, the final selection, consisting of a modified ACFT and unknown-distance ruck, and Fall FTX were used to determine the cadets leading Trojan BN. The competition squad was as follows: Johnson Chen (SQD leader), Andrew Caballes (Alpha Team Leader), Gracie Kirazian, Brandon Bautista, Ethan Park, Carlin Thompson (Bravo Team Leader), Ryan Delos Reyes, Holden Harbison, and Jacek Obirek. Alternate cadets for the competition were Abby Delligatti and Eyal Gavshon.

The first day of competition consisted of various skill lanes, such as weapons assembly, M9 qualification, One Rope Bridge, and an obstacle course. Next up was land navigation, where the squad had to find 10 points during the day, and 10 points at night with a specified time limit for each. The team finished with a total of 15/20 points. The second day of competition started with a ruck march. By mile 3, the team had to complete two lanes: React to Contact/TC3 with 9-Line MEDEVAC and Call for Fire. The team continued to traverse the rolling hills of Ft. Hunter Liggett to finish with a gear layout inspection. Following the final road march, cadets zeroed their M4 weapon systems in preparation for the M4 qualification. This event, however, was withdrawn from the overall grading system due to a fire breaking out on an ajacent range. The Trojans finished the competition with a hand grenade event and the culminating physical event: 80 repetitions of the ACFT deadlift at 240lbs, max plank hold, and 2-mile run.

The Trojans fought with all their might, yet placed 5th amongst a total of 12 programs. Overall, cadets were able to overcome the physical and mental difficulties of competing to ultimately finish the season. They are ready to train for next year's competition.

Ranger Challenge is a model for maintaining physical and technical standards across the Army ROTC program. It is a means of strengthening relationships among cadets through adversity. Part of a successful RC competition team is the support from cadets and cadre onsite to provide sustainment, words of encouragement, and serve as a reminder that the Trojans are one team and one fight. Trojans Lead the Way!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

CDT SUL YOO

LT Tim Duong (center) recently graduated Air Defence Artillery BOLC in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He has since left for his first duty station in South Korea.

LT Jack Mahoney (right) recently graduated from flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He has now received orders to JBLM in Washington to begin his career as a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot. LT David Gillies (left) recently arrived at Fort Rucker to begin his flight school journey. Since this photo was taken, LT Gillies has passed SERE-C and is waiting on dates to start his flight education.

On a visit to Fort Gordon, former PMS LTC Christopher Gin (center) meets with LT Luke Wilson and LT James Dawson. LT Wilson (right) is currently attending Cyber BOLC and LT James Dawson (left) is currently attending BOLC for Signal Corps.

TROJANS LEAD THE WAY

From all our cadets and cadre, we thank you for your continued support of the Trojan Battalion.

This newsletter aims to give friends, family, alumni, and future cadets an inside look as to what the Trojan Battalion accomplishes throughout the year. Be on the lookout for future newsletters as we dive headfirst into Spring semester and 2023! If you have any questions regarding the program or if you are interested in joining, please email trojanbn.roo@gmail.com. Make sure to follow us on our social media platforms or visit our website to see more of what we do. Leadership Excellence!

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