CRGED



A PUBLICATION FOR CADETS, ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS OF THE FORGED GOLD BATTALION

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Disclaimer

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Purpose

Forged serves as a forum for all past and present cadets and alumni and family and friends of the Forged Gold Battalion. The purpose is to show progress and development in a cadet and to cultivate a common understanding of cadets' ROTC experience.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMAND TEAM



LTC Alex Aquino

Department Chair and Professor of Military Science

Greetings cadets, alumni, friends, and family of the Forged Gold Battalion! It has truly been an honor over the last term watching the cadets grow and develop as future leaders. The cadre and I are extremely proud of the cadets and their ability to balance school, work, and personal lives with the Army ROTC requirements. This past term was particularly challenging with a Land Navigation Exercise, a Combined Field Training Exercise, and the planning and execution of our Military Ball. The Land Navigation Exercise occurred at Judge Davis Trailhead and the cadets were challenged by cold and rainy weather conditions, coupled with zero illumination at night. Despite these difficulties, the cadets persevered and are trained for what is expected at Cadet Summer Training. The Combined Field Training Exercise occurred at Stead, NV with the University of Nevada, Reno and University of Nevada, Las Vegas Army ROTC Programs.

The highlight for most of the cadets was the opportunity to fly in CH-47 Chinook Helicopters to begin and end the exercise. Our cadets quickly learned the effects of conducting military operations at 5,000 feet elevation. Despite the terrain, our cadets successfully completed the Situational Training Exercise Lanes, preparing the Juniors for Advanced Camp. The Military Ball was a project that lasted over four months. This was the first Military Ball the program executed in the last three years. The cadets worked diligently to raise funds through their student clubs and Cadet Sydney Strupp and her planning team did a phenomenal job planning and resourcing the event. The Military Ball was executed professionally by the cadets and all in attendance enjoyed the festivities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the 24 cadets graduating and commissioning during this Spring and Summer. These cadets are resilient and will make outstanding future officers in the US Army. The success of the program can only be accredited to their participation and leadership.

Unfortunately, this will be my last remarks for the newsletter. The last two years as the Department Chair and Professor of Military Science have been remarkable. As I venture off to my new assignment, I will be leaving the program in great hands to LTC Justin Ottenwalter who will take the program to new heights. It has been an absolute pleasure coaching, teaching, and mentoring cadets and cadre and the program will always have a special place in my heart! It was an honor and privilege leading this great organization and achieving the motto, "Forging Leaders!"

Senior Military Science Instructor

Once again, all of you have proven to be resilient and hard-working cadets. This term has been filled with time-intensive ROTC events in addition to your regular school work. You crushed the Joint FTX, and I was pleased to hear from all cadre at UCD, CSUS, UNR, and UNLV about your tactical proficiency and technical knowledge. This is an exciting time of year, specifically for the seniors getting ready to graduate and make their way into the United States Army. Regardless of whether you are going into the Active Army, Reserves, or National Guard, you are charged with incredible responsibility. Being responsible for our nation's sons and daughters is a great honor and privilege. You must invest the time and energy to make your Platoon or Section the best that it can be. Remember that Soldiers like challenges and want to learn, so enable that passion. Create tough, realistic training events that will prepare them for their job, and never dismiss their creativity. Watching you grow into young leaders has been exciting, and I look forward to seeing your success in the future.



MSG Robert Schultz

Like LTC Aquino, unfortunately, this will be my last remark. It has come time for me to part ways with the Army, and I will retire after you all graduate. I have been blessed with the opportunity to help shape our young leaders, and I am grateful. We have also been fortunate to have excellent cadre and staff that enable the learning environment and make ROTC where people want to be. Thank you. Take care of yourself and each other.

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure."

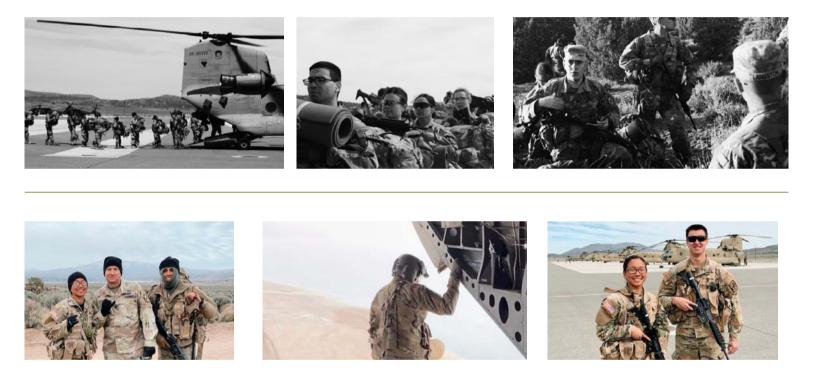
Colin Powell

FEATURED TRAINING EVENT Joint Field Training Exercise

JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

By Cadet Gill T.

The Forged Gold Battalion executed a Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) with the Reno and Las Vegas Army ROTC programs over a span of four days this past April. At the start of the exercise, Cadets flew to the training area in CH-47 Chinook helicopters. "Personally, it had not been something I had ever experienced before," said CDT Gill. "I have flown in an airplane before, but I had never flown in a helicopter." That experience was a phenomenal way to motivate the team prior to the start of the missions that they would be executing shortly after.



"A highlight of the flight was the heart stopping drop they gave to each platoon during the flight, but it's safe to say we got back in one piece. Moving on to the missions, I would say that it was an eyeopening experience to work with others whom we had never met before. By working with others from different locations, we were able to remember that there are different ways to see an issue at hand. We were able to work together on ideas and make helpful suggestions due to the different thought processes. A core memory from the FTX would have to be sleeping in our sleeping bags Saturday night when it was going to be below freezing. Since we did not have to pull fireguard, we were able to make plans by teaming up with our battle buddies to prevent ourselves from feeling too cold from the windy Reno weather. Lastly, it was a great positive experience being able to work with others from different schools. The joint FTX experience was worthwhile and it's an event that created bonds not only between cadets but between the universities as well."

CURRENT OPERATIONS CWST | Land Navigation | Military Ball | ROTC Outreach

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COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING

By Cadet Spurgeon

The cadets of the Forged Gold Battalion arrived at the "Schaal Aquatic Center" at UC Davis for Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) in late April.

This training included a three-meter drop that not many cadets have before experienced. The CWST is meant to prepare Soldiers for waterborne or hazardous operations. It's vital for every Soldier and future leader to familiarize and pass this test for their own safety and personal growth.

CWST consists of three major events: three meter drop with rifle, equipment ditch, and 15-meter swim with rifle while wearing a full uniform. When combined, these events test the courage and determination of all Forged Gold cadets.

Perhaps the most entertaining and nerveracking event was the three-meter drop. It's as simple as it sounds; drop three meters with a rifle and swim. A fear of heights and a wet grip on the rifle might make this event a little more intense than usual. The first cadets to go had



Cadet Thompson (UCD) conducts the equipment ditch event.



Cadet Soltani (CSUS) conducts the three meter drop event.

the wake-up call to get a grip, literally. Sometime between hitting the water and resurfacing these cadets lost the rifle in the impact and were cycled through to repeat the station. It wasn't until after the first cadets when the ever-motivating CPT Angerman shined through with his brilliant idea (he was the cadre running the station). CPT Angerman told the cadets to shout their preferred Army branch (e.g., Field Artillery, Engineer, Transportation, Military Police, etc.). I'm certain I heard someone yell "GO NAVY!" as they plunged into the water but the culprit has yet to be identified.

LAND NAVIGATION SHOOTING AN AZIMUTH TO SUCCESS

By CDT Dinh

Because GPS technology isn't always available or consistently reliable, Land Navigation is an essential skill for any Soldier or cadet to master. Basic navigation skills are critical and have many practical uses such as locating oneself or pinpointing a significant location. Armed with tools such as a compass, map, protractor, and headlamp, cadets are expected to demonstrate understanding and proficiency by successfully navigating to and identifying several correct points within the allotted time.

The Land Navigation course consists of two different events and they have literally night and day differences. During the day, cadets navigate to points that are highly visible. This affords cadets the opportunity to exercise skills like terrain association, identifying the elevation and relief features. However, the night Land Navigation course forces cadets to trust their pace count and their ability to accurately shoot an azimuth since visibility is very poor; any deviation from the route can lead the cadet several hundred meters away from their intended destination. These challenges allow for the MS3s excel at Advanced Camp during the summer where they will need to demonstrate complete understanding to be competent and successful leaders in the Army!

During the 2021 - 2022 school year. Forged Gold Battalion cadets completed two Land Navigation courses (both land and night courses) at two different and distinct locations. Camp Parks, although the terrain was clear of obstacles, contained numerous precipitous hills which were arduous to navigate. Meanwhile, Judge Davis Trailhead contained arguably more-difficult terrain and many obstacles such as dense vegetation and numerous boulders and slippery slopes. Each course had its own challenges that put the skills and knowledge that demanded cadets to demonstrate their understanding of how to navigate and find points on a map effectively.



Forged Gold Battalion cadets count their 100 meter uphill movements before they begin their land navigation course. Photo by CDT Rojas



Photo by CDT Rojas

MILITARY BALL

By CDT Rojas

On May 6th, the Forged Gold Battalion hosted our annual Military Ball for the first time in three years! Hosted by the Dante Club in Sacramento, both the cadets and cadre were excited to attend. There was plenty of excitement, laughter, and reflection as attendees were watching the end of the year motivational video created by Cadets Angara and Rojas.

The Forged Gold Military Ball was an exciting time to celebrate our hard work while announcing next year's staff position for both schools.

CDT Megenney holds the ending prayer for night.

"I enjoyed the montage of the clips and videos showcasing all the activities we did throughout the year." - CDT Aquiningoc-David

"As my first military ball, I thought it was a great experience." - CDT Teren

" I really enjoyed seeing the grog being put together and seeing everyone all dressed up. I had a good time" - CDT English







The oldest member of Forged Gold Battalion (Mr. Gleichenhaus) and the youngest (CDT Brar) sharing a slice of dessert as they embrace one of the Army's oldest traditions. Photo by CDT Rojas

ROTC OUTREACH

Cadets of the UCD Forged Gold Battalion conducted an organized Field Day for UC Davis at Russell Field in order to strengthen partnerships within the university and bolster esprit de corps within the program!

The cadets participated in various competitive games such as Kickball, Duffle Sack Relay, Tug O'War, and Water Balloon Dodgeball. They also conducted a pie-off in order to fundraise for next year's Tactics Club!



We of course can't have an outreach event without our furry friends. One of our cadets brought along their dog, Scout; she remains our honorary Mascot!

"I had fun pieing my friends while being able to raise money for our program! I hope next year's cadets create the same event which allows us to have fun together." Cadet Flores







Photos by CPT Rolls & CDT Rojas



US ARMY RESERVE BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE MS4S IMPACT ON THE PROGRAM

By CDT Rojas

On Branch Day, our UC Davis Reservist cadets got to see where they will begin their careers as Lieutenants in the United States Army Reserves! These are Citizen-Soldiers; they will have their full careers while still having the ability to serve part time in the Reserves. Forged Gold is proud to have them.

From Left to Right CDT Power - Quartermaster CDT Khuel - Engineer CDT Martinez-Perez - Military Police CDT Eng - Military Intelligence CDT Zhao - Transportation CDT Huang - Transportation Photo by CDT Rojas





Photo by Cadet Flores

These MS4s are often creative when it comes to our tactical labs which always increases training value. Utilizing training aids such as this "Unmanned Aerial Vehicle" adds realism to the situational training exercise conducted by the MS3s in preparation for Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

These seniors serve as mentors to their fellow peers just as they would to their Soldiers as lieutenants in the Army.

"The impact the MSIVs have had on their underclassmen have been extremely helpful," said CDT Matsumoto.

CADET CORNER

Scholar | Athlete | Leader

We focused on the experiences of several cadets and how they embody "scholar, athlete, and leader" attributes.

CDT ALLISON KWON

By CDT Matsumoto

CDT Kwon is an MS2 at UC Davis who is pursuing a B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She will be returning this Fall 2022 as an MS3.

As a cell culture assistant at Bio MEMS, how has this experience shifted your perception of modern medicine and the direction it is going today?

"If there is one thing being in school has taught me, it is that there is way too much to learn. In an academic environment, when you are frequently confronted with just how much we as a society know about a subject, it can be easy to feel like we have discovered all there is to discover. However, my experience at my lab (and with the UC Davis research environment in general) has shown me that there is still so much exciting research to be done. It has reignited my interest in biomedical research and reminds me what the end goal of my undergraduate years is. The scale of our research might not be as impactful to the field of science, and will probably never make it to textbooks, but the smallest findings could still have an impact on the efficiency and safety of research and life as a whole."





How do you handle being pre-med and being so involved in ROTC?

"My one biggest strength is that I am incapable of procrastinating. I do things as soon as possible, whenever I have the opportunity to, whether that means turning hangouts with friends into study sessions or reading documents and filling out spreadsheets on my phone while I'm walking to my next class. Getting things out of the way alleviates a lot of unnecessary stress and makes balancing school, work, ROTC, and a social life more manageable. I also try to embrace the challenge of my academic life and ROTC. There are times when I wonder why I'm putting myself through all this, usually when I have three exams in the same day or I'm shivering out in the middle of nowhere with only my ice-cold rifle to keep me company. Ultimately, though, I know that I am being pushed to be the best version of myself, and I focus on the fun aspects of things whenever possible. ROTC is such a unique experience, especially if you enjoy being challenged and the reward that comes from, if not being the best, then pushing yourself past your limits."

CDT HAOBIN ZHAO

By CDT Matsumoto

CDT Zhao is an MS4 at UC Davis who is pursuing a B.A. in Communications. He has earned his commission in Transportation and will be graduating in the Spring of 2022.



CDT Zhao during our Land Navigation Lab taken by CDT Flores.

What do you enjoy most about being a communications major?

"Being a communications major allows me to seek methods of communication that can better develop relationships with peers faceto-face as well as in an online environment. In my opinion, developing a good relationship with others is invaluable and certainly plays a major role in my future career and overall happiness. In essence, I am somewhat defined by the people who I hang out with."

What is the most memorable experience you've had in ROTC?

"Teaching my peers and underclassmen as an MS4. I learned a lot from my previous years in ROTC about what to do and what not to do as a leader. Being able to incorporate that is one of my greatest satisfactions and achievement so far."

Are you excited to graduate and commission?

"As an MS4 who is about to graduate and commission out of UC Davis, I feel excited and anticipative about the future. Having the privilege and honor to lead Soldiers in the future is certainly a feat that many would never experience in their entire lifetime. I value a lot in the ability to teach and develop others. Seeing the success of others keeps me motivated and happy."

What advice would you tell your freshman self?

"The most important single piece of advice I would give to my former Freshman self is to not be afraid to meet other cadets in the program. Establish that friendship earlier so that it is easier to work and help each other."



CDT ANDREW SPURGEON

<u>SCHOLAR</u>

By CDT Angara

What advice would you give to those wanting to join Army ROTC?

"Make sure you enjoy your time as a new Cadet. You should figure out a balance with ROTC. If you're not having fun, then you're not doing it right. Don't be afraid to inject fun into the situation."

How do you balance your time between ROTC and college?

"With long days, a bit of skill, and a little bit of luck. My average day is roughly 21 hours long; from early morning until late at night. I would focus on anything and everything that needed to be done. A well-made and planned schedule will save you more times than you can count."





*W*hat recommendations do you have for anyone placed in that peer-to-peer leadership role in the future?

"Communication is key. The more informed everyone is, the better decisions you and your team will be able to make. It's as simple as that."

CDT MARISSA DECRISTOFARO

What advice would you give to those wanting to join Army ROTC?

"Don't be afraid of failure; you're not supposed to be an expert on everything the first try. Take time to watch others and learn from MS3s and 4s."



What would you was the most difficult part of being a leader in the Forged Gold Battalion? What was the most satisfying?

"Difficult: I'd say the expectations to cadre and peers while also maintaining bearing around subordinates.

Satisfying: when a cadet asks me to be their mentor and say they learned something from me."

What obstacles did you face during your time in ROTC and how did you overcome it?

"The biggest obstacle is feeling overwhelmed. My first year I could not pass the APFT and I panicked. Take time to step-back and analyze your situation to remain calm and avoid unnecessary panic."

CADRE CORNER LTC ANDREW DOUGLASS

By Cadet Angara



What do you enjoy most at Sac State?

"Watching Cadets develop into leaders who possess the competencies and attributes required of service in the United States Army is, by far, the part of the job I enjoy the most. My time at Sac State has shown me that the United States Army is in good hands with the caliber of leaders graduating and commissioning from Sac State."

What advice would you give to cadets to succeed both in ROTC and in the Army?

"*Take care of one another*. No matter where you go in the Army, you will encounter your peers over and over again. Learn from each other and take care of one another. Never be the officer who does not assist their peers and chases positive OERs and awards by trying to outshine their peers. Those officers usually end up creating toxic environments.

Trust your NCOs and rely on their experience. What makes the US Army the best Army in the world is the amount of faith and confidence we put in our NCOs. They will lead you in the right direction and put you on the path to success. Never stifle their initiative, but embrace it.

When in charge, be in charge. Never hesitate to make decisions or shy away from making decisions. You are the leader and that means you are in charge. Never let your Soldiers think otherwise."

What are some little fun facts about yourself! We want to know!

"I'm an avid sports fan. My teams are from Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio and I never miss an opportunity to see my teams when they are in town. I love attending concerts and running with my dog. I will miss California and was so glad I had the opportunity to come out here."

Can you describe a challenge you have faced and how you overcame it?

"Serving as an instructor as Sac State. I was not commissioned through ROTC, but rather Officer Candidate School. The United States Army Cadet Command was a world I was not familiar with and I knew I would have a lot to learn, in a short amount of time, if I wanted to be successful and support the PMS and SMSI. I overcame this challenge by reading up on the ROTC programs at UCD/CSUS and familiarizing myself with USACC policies and requirements. In addition, I relied heavily on the other Cadre and Ms. Griffith to provide a lot of the knowledge and insight I was lacking. The PMS, LTC Alex Aquino, and SMSI, MSG Schultz took the time to get me up to speed and prepared me for the duties and responsibilities I was asked to fulfill. Without the help of the Cadre and Faculty at CSUS/UCD, I would not have succeeded. Never hesitate to reach out and learn from others in the Army!"

RECENT ALUMNI

2022

Citroen, Luc Flores, Melisa Huang, Christopher Huynh, Un Hutton, Hailey Kracke, Trevor Kuehl, Sara Lafaver, Bradley Lee, Dong Yeon Louie, Mathew Martinez-Perez, Daniela McCormick, Dillon Megenney, Timothy Power, Taylor Puerto, Maile Roberts, Dalai Rojas, Christopher Silva, Dennis Shea, Kyle Smith, Peter Strupp, Sydney Tanglao, Brandon Thrailkill, Joshua Zhao, Hao Bin

2021

Beltran, Carlos Bordas, Mark Castro, Fidel Della catena, Ilario Gonzales, Devyn Majumder, Rishav Montgomery, Logan Moore, Raymond Quinn, Jacob Summers, Carissa Vazquez, Stefanie Zalewski, Nicolette

2020

Arciniega, Madelyn Avillanoza, Kyle V. Chaidez, Eduardo Cornejo, Roman A. Cruz, Joseph Garner, Alex Guevara, Nikolas S. Huntsman, Nicole Lau, Brittany Luangphonh, Billy Luna, Josiah Nguyen, James Phillips, Ronald Quijas, Kaytlin Singh, Seth D. Tran, Hoang Valdez, Isaac Vigars, Joshua M.

2019

Bardo, Joseph A. Calderon, Eddy Do, Benjamin H. Dowling, Patrick M. Fox, Tyler M. Hong, Vincent Kim, Steve E. LaMar, Karly A. Lu, Esther Meech, Jacob Parry, Austin S. Perenon, Shiloh D. Rankin, Micah N. Serena, Elliot Smith, Daniel E. Stinfort, Guetchine Villegas, Jorge A. Xie, Emily Zhang, Kevin

Chare your Story

We want to hear from our Forged Gold Battalion alumni and graduates! Regardless of whether you're currently serving in uniform or now working in the civilian sector, we want to share your story.

Please reach out for the opportunity to be featured in our next issue!

Support the Team

If you would like to make a financial contribution to support our organization that will directly impact the Cadets, please contact our team at the emails below.



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2022 PROJECTED CALENDAR

August 26	Summer Commissioning
August 29	CSUS Fall Instruction Begins
September 7	CSUS Cadet Command Fitness Assessment (CCFA)
September 15	CSUS Contracting Ceremony
September 20	UCD Fall Instruction Begins
September 28	UCD Cadet Command Fitness Assessment (CCFA)
September 29-30	Ranger Challenge Tryouts
October 6	Combat Water Survival Test (CWST)
October 15-16	Land Navigation/STX
October 28-30	Basic Rifle Marksmanship Training
November 4-6	TF East Ranger Challenge Competition
November 12	CSUS/UCDC Military Appreciation Games
November 18	Turkey Bowl
December 5-9	UCD Finals Week
December 9	Winter Commissioning
December 12-16	CSUS Finals Week

CADRE AND STAFF

Professor of Military Science

Senior Military Science Instructor

Executive Officer

Operations Officer

Human Resources Assistant

Recruiting Operations Officer

Supply Technician

CSUS Liaison

UCD Assistant Professor of Military Science

UCD Assistant Professor of Military Science

UCD Assistant Professor of Military Science

CSUS Assistant Professor of Military Science

CSUS Assistant Professor of Military Science

UCD Military Science Instructor

UCD Military Science Instructor

CSUS Military Science Instructor

CSUS Military Science Instructor

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