



# Warrior Spirit

## Catching Up with the Class of '02

BY: CPT Jason Mammoser  
MSIII Instructor

16 August 2001 to 09 May 2002, 10 action packed months, 38 weeks, 266 school days that served as the final steps in the forging process of the ASU ARMY ROTC class of 2002.

What started as an ordinary academic year endured the nation changing event that began with the New York City Twin Tower attacks on the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Little did the MS IV class of the Sun Devil Battalion know that they would soon be thrust into leadership positions on the forefront of the Global War on Terror. As Aviators, Tankers, Artillerymen, and Infantry soldiers, the class of 2002 marched into an uncertain future; a nation reeling from an unexpected attack, an Army thrust into an unconventional war, and 20 newly commissioned officers pinned on the tremendous power and responsibility of military leadership for the first time.

Not that dissimilar from ROTC year groups past and present, what initially started as 50 loosely associated, college student individuals eventually emerged into a well-prepared, cohesive group of Army officers that continue to maintain contact despite both time and distance. Although their backgrounds, experiences, and career paths have varied greatly, their Sun Devil Battalion experience was almost the same as what current cadets endure today on their pre-commissioning journey.

From in-processing and diagnostic



Some members of the ASU Army ROTC class of 2002. CPT Jason Mammoser stands in the top left corner. Photo Courtesy of CPT Mammoser.

APFTs to the FTXs, Ranger Runs and Spring Commissioning - many of the training and leadership events exist as commonalities amongst Sun Devil cadets past and present.

The Fall FTX is still at Ft. Huachuca, Combat Water Survival Training is still conducted at Mona Plummer Aquatic Center, and Sun Devils still shiver in the snow of the JFTX at Camp Navajo Army Depot near Flagstaff. The proud tradition of ASU ROTC competing in the Bataan Memorial Death March (started by Desert Ranger Commander Carl Preciado in 1999) endures as well as the inter-state animosity created by the size and superiority of the Sun Devil Battalion as the premier ROTC program in the state of Arizona.

The Sun Devil headquarters building has changed; from Old Main to a demolished building where the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building II currently stands to

the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Social Science Building. The Battalion has grown, but no longer participates in the Tucson Marathon or the New Times 10K. Ranger Challenge has changed locations from Fort Hunter-Leggett, California to Prescott, Arizona; and ASU's Blackboard technology has replaced hard copies, word of mouth, and bulletin boards as the primary means of communication.

Ultimately the Cadet Command mission to commission the future leadership of the United States Army and motivate young people to be better citizens remains the same. Subsequent articles will detail the motivation, background, cadet experience, and Army careers of some of the outstanding officers that emerged from the ASU ARMY ROTC class of 2002.

### Inside This Issue

Bataan Highlights	2
Former Marine Cadets	3
Military Ball Pictures	4, 5
LDAC, Desert Ranger FTX	5, 6

## Bataan Marchers Finish Strong

BY: Kathryn Zurmehly

MSI

On Friday, March 28, twenty-one cadets took a very bumpy bus ride to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, for the Bataan Memorial Death March.

They took Saturday to acclimate to the higher altitude, as well as to visit nearby Fort Bliss, Texas. Saturday night was the last chance to prepare for the 26.2 mile march, and all the cadets checked and rechecked supplies, ruck sacks, and tried to sleep.

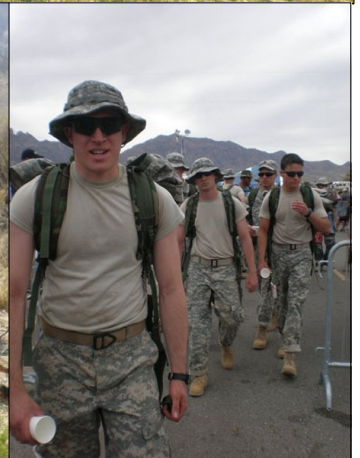
The opening ceremonies at 6:30 a.m. the next morning included a roll call of Bataan survivors and a flyover by a pair of F-22 Raptors. Around 7:00 a.m., the cadets and roughly 5,500 other marchers crossed the starting line on their way down the 26.2 mile route through the desert. The route included improved and unimproved roads, hills, and several miles of sand, complete with very strong winds. There were water stations roughly every two miles, and aid stations every six. Foot care and hydration were major concerns of all marchers.

All the cadets that attended from the Sun Devil Battalion successfully crossed the finish line, complete with blisters and aching muscles. Male Team One took 3rd place out of 25 teams, Team Two (cadre) took 19th out of 25 teams, and the female team took 2nd out of three teams.

The Bataan Memorial Death March commemorates the Bataan Death March, where 75,000 American, British, and Filipino prisoners of war were forcibly marched from the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines to prison camps. Thousands died under the brutal treatment they received and the memorial march remembers their sacrifice.

### Top Ten Things Heard At Bataan:

10. Are we there yet?
09. I gotta pee, again
08. They did WHAT to my car?!!
07. Does this bus go faster than 37 mph?
06. Sir, Sir..... Ashlee Simpson or Jessica Simpson?
05. What mile are we on?
04. Can we go home early?
03. What an Ugly T-shirt!!
02. SHUT UP NMMI!!
01. My Feet Hurt!



- Clockwise from Top:
- 21 Sun Devil Battalion members attended
  - C/Vitellaro, Russell & Hayes after crossing the finish line
  - CPT Mammoser drove the bus the entire way
  - The Ladie's team with C/Lee & the Devil
  - The Cadre team crosses the finish line
  - The Dirty Devil did Bataan with C/Lee

# Former Marines Have Advantage with Training

BY: Kathryn Zurmehly

MSI

At least three of the cadets in the Sun Devil Battalion formerly served with the Marines. Their experiences offer them a different perspective on military life as well as Army ROTC. Cadet Dean Hill, the third Marine cadet, could not be reached for comment.

**Sean Begaye**

*Why did you decide to join the Marines?*

I wanted to join the Military for a long time. My dad was in the US Army and was a Commander with the 5th Battalion 200 ADA at McGregor Range and I watched the movie "The Sands of Iwo Jima," with my dad and decided I wanted to join the Marines.

After my father passed on, my elder brother joined the Marines and I was impressed by the Marine Corps after this. I tried to join when I was 17, however my mom would not let me join, so I had to wait until I was 18.

*What did you do as a Marine?*

I worked as an Individual Material Readiness List Manager with several Harrier Squadrons, VMA-211, VMA-311, and VMA-513.

As an IMRL Manager I was responsible for the Support Equipment on hand and also for the Meteorology and Calibration of the equipment. I had to ensure the maintainers had all their special equipment to be able to keep the Aircraft ready to fly.

*Why did you choose to join the Army ROTC instead of a similar program for the Marine Corps? Have any differences between the two branches really stood out for you?*

I chose the Army because it felt right. My father was an Army officer and my godfather was my his First Sergeant.

The major differences are personnel temperament and training. Perhaps the temperament of personnel is more relaxed here because this is a training environment, however I shall find out when I get to my first duty station.

In training, an example of the difference is rifle qualification. The Marine Corps takes 1 week, with 76 rounds per day, shooting at a range consisting of 200, 300, and 500 meters to ensure training is conducted. On Thursday of that week, they qualify. Fridays are reserved for shooting with gas masks on (every year this changes, sometimes we shoot with tracer rounds). Another difference is the Physical Fitness Test. Marines run 3 miles, with crunches, and pull ups. However I've found that 2 miles, with push ups and sit-ups, is quite challenging.



**Jamon Sigler**

*Why did you decide to join the Marines?*

I joined the Marine Corp to follow in the footsteps of my uncle and father, who both served during WWII and the Korean War. It was after graduating high school in September of 1996 that I joined the Marines. I enjoyed the Marine Corps, it helped me become the leader I am today. People don't realize that being a Marine is a state of mind, they teach you to never give up and to use fear as an ally, making you believe that you can do anything, building confidence and courage in the face of your enemy, one mind any weapon. I joined for the challenge and obtaining a sense of belonging. The training I endured was demanding, consisting of some of the toughest training you will find in Ranger school, Linear Inter-Neurological Engagement (hand to hand) and Naval special warfare.

*What did you do as a Marine?*

My job in the Corp was Infantry, I also learned how to develop map making, topography and printing, but Infantry was and is still my primary job.

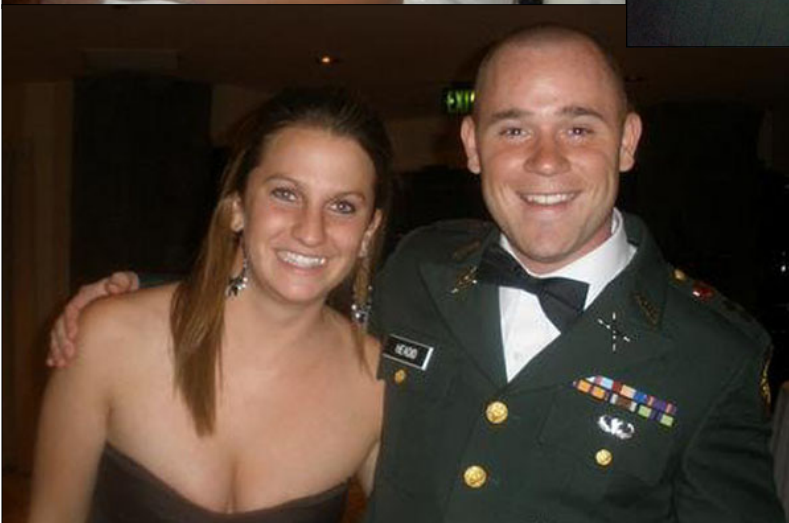
*Why did you choose to join the Army ROTC instead of a similar program for the Marine Corps? Have any differences between the two branches really stood out for you?*

Even though I am older and find ROTC to be rewarding and challenging, competing with some of the finest candidates this nation has to offer in the Marines has forged my spirit as a warrior. My confidence is high - never arrogant, and my training I received as a young man will always take me up any climb or to any place. I was taught to never give up or quit no matter the obstacle, to improvise, adapt and over come faithfully (the motto of the Marines). I joined the Army because of the opportunity and how the Army takes great care of their soldiers and families. I will now follow my dreams and goals of becoming an officer, my career will follow in the previous footsteps of what I have done before, and one day I plan to retire as a full bird Colonel in the Airborne Infantry. It has been a blessing to be amongst the ROTC cadre and cadets, and now until the day I die I will always train and show those in my command and others the spirit that makes me a leader, a man of God and a United States Marine.



**Coming  
Up  
This  
Semester...**

JFTX—Camp Navajo, Arizona—All Personnel	April 16-19
Staff Ride—San Diego, California—MSIVs and Cadre	April 25
Ranger Run—Tempe, Arizona—All Personnel	May 2
Commencement—ASU TBD—By Invitation	May 13
Commissioning—Place TBD—By Invitation	May 14



## Military Ball 2009

Clockwise from Top:  
C/Zurmehly and her date, a former Marine  
C/Byers, C/Henderson and C/Cunningham  
C/Hayes, C/Connolly and C/Russell  
C/Headid with his date  
C/Lee with her date



Clockwise from Top:  
 C/Borja with her date  
 C/Lee with his date  
 SFC Greer with his girl-  
 friend  
 CPT Otoshi, C/Fabiano,  
 C/Mead, C/Bonzeleske  
 and MSG Coleman  
 C/Muto and C/  
 Morehouse with guest  
 CPT Mayeaux with his  
 date



## Battalion Thanks Organizations for Awards

Each year, the Battalion holds an award ceremony at which outside organizations present cadets with medals, ribbons, plaques, certificates and scholarships for their outstanding devotion and accomplishments.

This year, 42 awards were given from various organizations, both to the Army Battalion and the Air Force ROTC. Nine cadets from the Sun Devil Battalion were also awarded scholarship money (totaling over \$13,000) to be put toward their education for their outstanding and meritorious displays of leadership and excellence.

Organizations such as the Association of the United States Army, the Reserve Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution and the American Veterans of World War II made presentations to deserving cadets.

The Sun Devil Battalion would like to thank all of the organizations and associations for their recognition and awards.

## Staff Ride Explores History

BY: Nicolas Rocha

MSI

Wikipedia defines a staff ride as “systematic analysis of the site of a battle or other engagement, ordinarily undertaken by members of armed forces for the purpose of learning about the impact of geography, weather and other physical influences on those events as well as using the location as a source of inspiration.” Each year, the MS 402 class has the opportunity to participate on a day long staff ride of a battle in the area.

This year, the MS 402 class travels to sunny San Diego to study the Battle of San Pasqual. Fought on 6 and 7 December 1846, San Pasqual was a pitched battle of the Mexican-American war which resulted in an American victory. MS IVs will have an opportunity to study the battle in depth before walking the actual ground the battle was fought over, learning from the successes and mistakes of the forces that actually fought the battle.

Staff rides are valuable tools that are great opportunities for Cadets to learn from history before commissioning. Ask MS IVs what they learn after the Staff Ride to provide ideas for future events.

## Former Sailor Joins Army Battalion

BY: John Pedraza

MSI

Many cadets in the Sun Devil Battalion are prior service – some from other branches.

Cadet Angel Alegre, at first glance just a college student attending Arizona State University, has an interesting background.

“I’ve been wrestling for about twenty years,” said Alegre, 27. “Both my dad and older brother wrestled.”

After high school, Alegre attended trade school and decided that he wanted to do more with his life.

“I figured that if this is what life was going to be like from now on - it’s pretty boring and I wanted to do more.”

So with that Alegre joined the Navy, serving for 4 years as an engineer on-board the USS Cleveland and the USS Denver. While he was in the Navy, he was selected to be part of the All-Navy Wrestling Team at the 121 weight class. In 2004, Alegre made the final Olympic team trials, and then the following year won the AAU Freestyle and was the Greco-Roman National Champion.

Alegre is currently a wrestler with the ASU wrestling team as well.

## LDAC Anticipation

BY: Jennifer Henderson

MSIII

The MSIII cadets are preparing for their accessions training this summer, and expectations are high for successful completion of camp.

The Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), also known as Warrior Forge, is 31 days and held at Ft. Lewis, Washington.

Training will focus mainly on leadership dimensions, land navigation and physical fitness. In a typical summer, the camp sees roughly 7500 cadets with an 85 percent success rate.

Preparation for LDAC has been intensive, with an emphasis on leadership dimensions, physical fitness, and empowering cadets to be in charge of the Battalion, said MSIII instructor CPT Jason Mammoser. Training has been conducted mainly at Tuesday morning On-Campus Labs (OCLs), when cadets have the opportunity to learn CTT training, individual movement techniques, how to lead an element on a mission, and various “ins-and-outs” of Army technique. The OCLs are also an opportunity for the MSIIIs to apply the skills they learned about in class.

CPT Mammoser anticipates this year’s 32 LDAC participants to have the most problems with PT and land navigation, while historically, he said, we have the most strength in STX and leadership.

MSIV Teri Cunningham briefed the MSIII class on what to expect at camp, including the difficulty level of some of the training. From her experiences, the only thing she thinks would send a Sun Devil MSIII home is a desire to quit.

Events that can send a cadet home from LDAC, known as “Go/No-Go Events,” include not passing the Army Physical Fitness Test, failing height and weight standards, a lack in English proficiency, or a cadet personally quitting.



Clockwise from Top:

The Desert Rangers include both AFROTC and AROTC

One cadet takes aim at the enemy  
The A&L team checks a downed team member

The Desert Rangers complete a road march around Papago Military Reservation

C/Zurmehly showcases her battle scars after the STX lanes.



**DESERT RANGERS**

The Desert Rangers was initially started as a program to prepare Cadets chosen to attend the US Army Ranger School. That focus has changed over the years as Ranger School slots disappeared for Cadets, but the core focus of the program has not. The Desert Rangers still serve the important role of training Cadets in basic Army skills and common collective tasks.

Why join the Desert Rangers? Why spend one evening a week doing tough PT and Army training?

Cadets Carlos Penuelas and Lee Silvers agree when they say "The Desert Rangers allows us to gain more knowledgeable training and crucial STX practice".

In addition to the training, Desert Rangers offers up to four credit hours and additional accession points.

*Interested in joining? See Cadet Matt Brown for more details.*

## Desert Rangers Showcase Skills at FTX

BY: Kathryn Zurmehly

The Desert Rangers had their semester FTX on Sunday, April 5. They started out with a six mile ruck march around Papago Military Reservation, which was the first march for the Air Force cadets now participating in Desert Rangers. Several mentioned that their feet would never be the same.

Following the march, all participating cadets were given paintball guns and began conducting STX lanes on the Papago land navigation course. This exercise was very instructive about the use of cover as well as the importance of violence of action—as well as the size of bruises that paintballs can leave.

At the end of the STX lanes, the two cadet squads competed against each other until everyone ran out of ammo, attempting to put their newfound lessons into use as well as have some fun. Most participants ended the fight stained with a lot of bright yellow paint. After an AAR and general clean-up, the Desert Rangers were dismissed and told to make sure everything was washed before lab the next week.

# TOP's Corner

In my first TOP's CORNER, I want to focus on STANDARDS and DISCIPLINE. Standards can be defined as an established norm or requirement that is usually backed up by Army regulation or a standard operating procedure or SOP. AR 670-1, Wear of the Uniform, prescribes the standard for wear and appearance of Army uniforms. The maintenance we perform on Army equipment is performed to a standard prescribed in the operator's manual. The training we conduct is done to a prescribed standard from field manuals. Virtually all that we do in the Army has an established standard.

After establishing standards, we need someone to enforce these standards. This is where the leader comes in, leaders at all levels from Corporal to General. It is in enforcing the standard that discipline and standards become inter-related. The leader must have the discipline to make corrections and identify short comings when standards are not met. If a leader enforces the standard, then the subordinate will become disciplined to meet the standard.

It is the Sergeant who conducts the pre-combat checks to ensure his or her squad is ready to conduct their mission. It is the Company Commander who ensures his or her platoons are trained to standard. Hopefully, it is that Corporal who makes that tactful on-the-spot correction of a superior. As you can see, the enforcement of standards is accomplished by leaders at all levels - officers and noncommissioned officers alike.

To uphold standards, senior leaders must hold junior leaders accountable in the enforcement of standards. To do this, leaders must inspect. The team leader or squad leader needs to conduct their pre-combat checks. But, the platoon leader and commander must also conduct a pre-combat inspection. It is through inspections that more senior leaders are able to hold their subordinate leaders accountable to upholding standards. If a Soldier goes on a mission without the prescribed amount of ammunition, it is a failure by both the junior and senior leaders to properly check and inspect their Soldiers. **DO NOT EXPECT WHAT YOU DO NOT INSPECT!!**

Lead by setting the example and being the standard for your subordinates to emulate. Your Soldiers should not have to look far to know what right looks like or to know what the standard is, because you should be what right looks like and the standard bearer. When a leader demonstrates a lesser standard; the lesser standard has now become the new standard. Leading by example empowers the leader to enforce standards and to have a positive impact on the discipline of the unit.

**BE THE STANDARD – KNOW THE STANDARD – ENFORCE THE STANDARD**

## Commander's Corner

Stay Focused Sun Devils. The semester is coming to an end and the summer is rapidly approaching. For some of you that means sun, fun, and little responsibility. But for those of you who will be attending one of the many training events, it means that the regular season is almost over and you're about to enter playoff season. And like in sports, you have got to be in playoff condition before the first tip off. Whether it's LDAC, LTC, Airborne, Air Assault, Mountain Warfare, overseas internships, language immersion, SAPPER school, NSTP, or CTLT, you've got to be on the top of your game and perform at your very best. If you truly wish to perform well at your summer training...you will, but you must continue to work at it right up to the day you arrive. Continue to focus on those skills that you will need this summer, such as TLPs, OPORDs, PT form, and land nav. In the end, your performance will directly reflect on how well you prepared and how much you really wanted it. Your performance also reflects on the battalion as a whole. Represent yourselves and the battalion well. Stay Focused.

**"Feel the Heat!"**

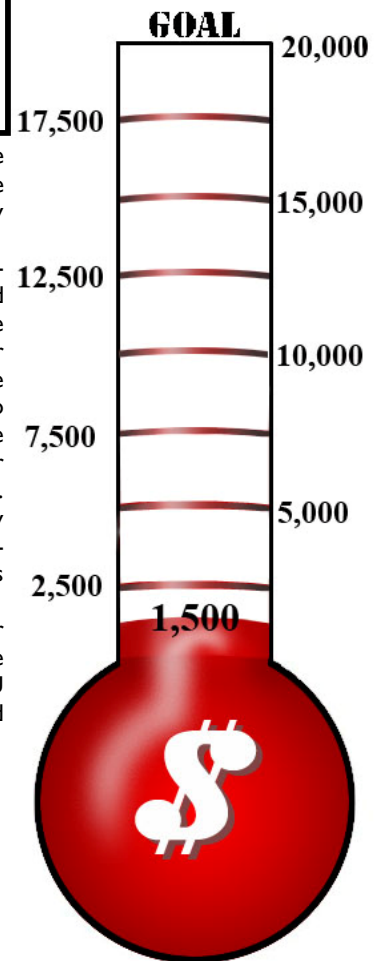
## Help Our Battalion

Last semester, cadets were required to work two or more fundraisers through the university and outside organizations.

By working sporting event concession stands, car washes, and other community events, we raised nearly \$8,000. But our funds were tapped out by the successful Military Ball, our trip to Bataan and Camp Navajo, the upcoming Staff Ride, and our Ranger Run—the semester finale. We anticipate approximately \$1,500 at the end of the semester, leaving our incoming class with little to work with.

If you would like to help out our Battalion with a donation, please make checks out to the "ASU Army ROTC Cadet Fund" and send them to:

Department of  
Military Science,  
Arizona State University  
ATTN: Cynthia Mitchell  
P.O. Box 874901  
Tempe, AZ 85287-4901



**Contact for Scholarship Information:**

MAJ Brian Witcher  
Office Phone:  
480-965-7648  
Brian.Witcher@asu.edu