

SUN DEVIL BATTALION

Cadet Newsletter

Spring 2016

Upcoming Events

March 7-11– Spring
Break

April 7-10– JLTX

April 15– Dining Out

May 9– ASU Com-
mencement

May 11– Commission-
ing Ceremony

Lights, camera, cadets!



ASU's Night at the Open Doors is an event where various college departments and programs showcase what they are all about to future Sun Devils! At the Army ROTC station at West Campus, we had face painting and a fun pull up challenge.



Each year at the Waste Management Open golf tournament, ASU Army ROTC cadets can be seen working at all the golf pro-shops and tents. All the money raised during these shifts goes directly back into the program so cadets can enjoy formal events like dining-out!





(Left) Cadet Dexter on duty as a U.S. Marine. (Right) Cadet Dexter working for the U.S. Border Patrol. Photo Credit: CDT Dexter

From the U.S. Marines to Army ROTC—one man's pursuit of happiness

By: Cadet Gabriel Smith

While most high school graduates were enjoying summer vacation or preparing for college in August of 2006, 17-year-old Cadet Lee Dexter was traveling to Parris Island, South Carolina for Marine Corps. Boot Camp. He enlisted in the Marine Reserves as a Combat Engineer, allowing him to serve and attend college.

After completing his basic training and engineering school, he was stationed at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in his home state of Michigan. He worked some side jobs and went to community college then spent his weekends completing Marine Corps. training.

However, this lifestyle was short lived after his unit was deployed to Djibouti, Africa. Dexter was only 20 years old when he served as a Combat Engineer manning the entry control point at Camp Lemonnier. Upon his return, he transferred to Oakland University and started searching for a career advancement, which enabled him to apply to work for U.S. Border Patrol.

Knowing the application process would take an extended amount of time, he focused on working and continuing his education.

"I was working some odd jobs." Cadet Dexter said. "I did some recreational therapy for a while with people who suffered from traumatic brain injuries while attending college full-time and being in the Marine Corps. Reserves."

Two years later, he learned the only opening for U.S. Border Patrol was in Casa Grande, Arizona. Around the same time, Dexter had volunteered to deploy with the First Marine Special Operations Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California. They were set to deploy to Afghanistan for eight months.

Without a second thought, Dexter picked up his belongings in Michigan and went to in-process in Tucson, Arizona. Less than two weeks, later he was on his way to San Diego, California to prepare for deployment.

During his time in Afghanistan, Dexter's mission was to build a Forward Operating Bases where the Marines were conducting a majority of their missions. Through this deployment, he managed to build multiple successful defensive fighting positions.

"One of the biggest things that I'm proud of out of that deployment at least is that one of the fighting positions that I built withstood a hit from an RPG and everyone was fine." he said. "It was nice seeing my work be effective."

His deployment to Afghanistan also proved as a turning point in his life when switching from branches and deciding to pursue the career path of an Army Officer.

"A year after my contract ended, I knew I wanted to be an officer for the Reserves." he said. "I worked really close with the Army in Afghanistan, so I got to see how they operated and that had a big influence on my decision to switch over."

After completing the U.S. Border Patrol Academy, he enrolled at Arizona State University to pursue his Bachelor's degree.

Today, Cadet Dexter continues to pursue his passion to serve not only through working with The U.S. Border Patrol, but also as a Cadet for Arizona State University's Army ROTC program.

He balances working between 40 to 50 hours a week with the U.S. Border Patrol, attending school full-time and actively participating in the program. He anticipates to graduate with a degree in Sociology in 2016.

"When I look back on my life, I want to know that I made a difference, and a positive impact on people's lives. I want to make my family proud."

Commander's

Corner

What a great couple of weeks for the Sun Devil Battalion!



The OPTEMPO has been relatively high with the beginning of the semester and all of the stresses associated with it, as well as the annual WMO volunteer event.

The BN Staff conducted statistical analysis of the event and there are some key stats that I wanted to highlight. The MS3s had the greatest ratio of WMO participation in the battalion, with an average of 2.87 shifts served per MS3. Not a single MS3 failed to sign up for at least one shift – a fact that no other MS class can claim.

Lastly, the top performing Cadet for the WMO was CDT Harvey, who is a MSI Cadet by the way. Most importantly, I'd like to thank every member of this Battalion that contributed to the success of the WMO event, as I understand the amount of effort and time it took for many of the Cadets to participate. Moving forward, we have a few key events that we need to participate in to satisfy requirements dictated by Cadet Command, including the Night of the Open Door, Carl Hayden JROTC Skills meet, as well as the upcoming JFTX.

Stay motivated and continue to stay physically, mentally, and emotionally fit in order to close out the rest of this semester on a positive note. Feel the heat!

Marcos De Niza High School Drill Meet and Skills Challenge



This past month ASU Army ROTC cadets spend time at Marco De Niza high school as graders and evaluators for a local JROTC event. This was a great opportunity not only for our cadets to give back to the community, but to be role models for aspiring military members.

Carl Hayden Drill Competition



At the Carl Hayden High School Drill meet, JROTC drill teams competed for 1st place against other drill teams in the valley. ASU Army ROTC cadets who are experts at Drill and Ceremony were asked to attend at judges.

ASU Army ROTC in the news

[Discipline and diligence: ROTC students make their mark at ASU](#)

[ASU student cadets combine fields of study, ROTC training in weekend of leadership challenges](#)

[ASU Public Service Academy students train with ROTC cadets to understand combat](#)

[Behind the scenes of ASU ROTC](#)



Mission Statement

A Proud History, A Bright Future: Arizona State University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) recruits, educates, trains, and inspires cadets to become leaders of character, committed to the values of the United States Army and dedicated to a lifetime of selfless service to the Nation.

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