

SUN DEVIL BATTALION

Cadet Newsletter Summer 2023 - Vol. 2 September 2023



**Cadet Summer Training (CST)
May 26 - August 18**



Cadet Summer Training (CST) is the single largest training event in the Army. Cadet Command trains more than 8,000 Cadets in 100 days at Fort Knox and approximately 2,000 in other schools and professional development opportunities. CST cadre from across the Army bring their specialized expertise to train, teach, coach and mentor the young men and women attending camp. While designed to introduce cadets to the Army Profession, the training focuses on developing leadership skills and building the foundation of a future officer.

During summer break, Sun Devil Battalion cadets participated in 2 types of CST: Basic Camp (32 days/ sophomore) and Advance Camp (35 days/Juniors into their senior year). During both CST camps, Sun Devil Battalion cadets participated in different training activities that challenged them both physically and mentally. CST is a fast-paced, rigorous and challenging program that includes a wide range of subjects that focus on abilities, academic success and physical fitness. The cadets' power of reasoning, ingenuity and endurance are put to test during these courses.



Upcoming Events

October 20 - 22

-TF Jicarilla Ranger Challenge

November 3 - 5

-5th BDE Ranger Challenge

November 8 to November 18

-Salute to Service Through Service

December 1

-ASU Branching Ceremony

December 12

- ASU / GCU Commissioning Ceremony





Air Assault School Summer 2023



Over the summer break, Sun Devil Battalion Cadets had the opportunity to participate in many different Army Schools around the country. Congratulations to the cadets who completed Air Assault and Airborne School!

At the end of Spring Semester, Army ROTC cadre selects the cadets who qualify to attend both the Air Assault and Airborne schools; they evaluate them in 3 areas: Scholar, Athlete, and Leader (SAL). Those chosen are cadets that excel in academics, physical fitness, and presence and participation in the program.

Known as the "Army's 10 toughest days" Air Assault School prepares students for air mobile operations. It's a physically and mentally demanding three-phase course. During these phases, Sun Devil Battalion cadets trained on combat assault, sling loads, rappelling, physical fitness and various other critical skills.

Phase one: an academic phase that gives the students a foundation for basic air assault planning, aircraft capability, memorization and math. Trainees practice hand and arm signals to guide helicopters to a landing zone and pick up a load.



The final step before graduation, is a pre-dawn, 12-mile ruck march that has to be completed in less than three hours, while carrying 40 lbs. of combat gear!

Cadets who graduated from Air Assault School were Carson Wiggins and Jonathan Smith-Jimenez (Fort Moore, GA); Curtis Wilkerson and Caleb Robertson (West Point Academy).

"The best part of the training was rappelling out of the UH-60. The most difficult part of Air Assault School was the sling load inspection test. This school left me with a greater understanding of the importance of perseverance and it provided me with skills to conduct future Air Assault operations in my military career."

CDT Caleb Robertson
MS 3 / BS in Public Service and Service Policy



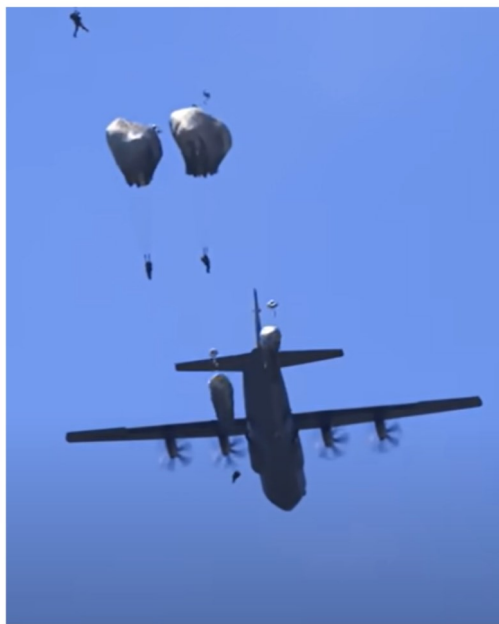
Phase two: sling-load operations. Here students learn to prepare a heavy payload and hook it up to a helicopter, which hovers as low as 8 feet from the ground during the maneuver.

Phase three: focuses on rappelling with three separate stages: rappelling from a 14-foot ramp, from a 34-foot tower and finally, rappelling 60 feet from a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk.





Airborne School Summer 2023



Airborne School it's an intense, fast-paced, three-week course, designed to train students to become paratroopers. The school is divided into three phases of training with a series of classes: Ground Week, Tower Week, and Jump Week.

Ground Week: it's an introduction where students get familiar with their equipment, learn how to land and what procedures to take. But first, students have to pass two physical assessment tests. Once this is achieved, the students practice the proper way to jump from a mock door. Next they practice Parachute Landing Force (PLF) from a 3-foot height to develop a safe way of landing. Next is the Lateral Drift Apparatus, a zipline that slides across until they're ordered to let go and land.

Tower Week: the techniques learned during ground week are put to test when students simulate jumping from an airplane, while leaping from a 34-foot high tower. While clipped to a zipline, students not just confront their fear of heights, but also get a feeling of what is to be attached to a parachute that is rapidly descending into the ground. Another component of this week is the improved swing landing trainer, which practices their landing in a more realistic way.

Jump Week: training culminates with five live jumps from an AC-130 airplane flying at a 1250-foot altitude; here students apply everything they learned in the past two weeks. Students jog to the airfield where they pick up their main and reserve parachutes, which had been thoroughly inspected by riggers. Then students head to the harness shed where more inspections take place. Here they wait sometime for hours before boarding the plane that will fly them to a drop zone to take their first out of five jumps.

CDT Christopher Simpson attended Airborne School at Fort Moore, GA. In order to successfully get his Airborne Wings he had to successfully complete 5 jumps from an AC-130 airplane flying at a 1250-foot altitude. CDT Simpson had to accomplish this task from jumping to landing in less than a minute with no room for errors, while carrying an additional 35 lbs. of combat gear.

In a group of 300 participants, CDT Simpson was the sole Army ROTC student from Arizona. The trainees came from all the branches of the Armed Forces, ROTC programs throughout the country, and West Point Academy.

"As a future U.S Army Officer with the intention to branch a Combat Arms job, graduating from Airborne School has added to my versatility as a leader and proves that I am capable and willing to go the extra mile to achieve my goals. This experience has also greatly empowered my conviction to be all that I can be and to lead and serve our nation's finest."

Cadet Christopher Simpson
MS 3 / BS in Health Solutions / Kinesiology

Summer Training 2023

Sun Devil Battalion cadets seized opportunities to grow

During summer break, Sun Devil Battalion cadets took advantage of opportunities for growth and leadership improvement. After completing their Cadet Summer Training (CST), they traveled to Germany, Indiana and Kentucky to receive training in both Army and civilian jobs.

Summer training provides our cadets with the tools and experience they can successfully use as they move on with their professional lives. While many college students take a break from their studies to engage in different activities once the spring semester ends, Army ROTC cadets at ASU continue their training that will help them become the leaders of tomorrow.



CDT Hayden Shedd



CDT Ruby Torres

CDT Hayden Shedd flew to Vilseck, a U.S. Army post in Germany, to be part of the Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT). For twenty-eight days, he trained with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Sapper Platoon, which primarily works with demolitions to clear routes and reduce obstacles in support of ground forces. During his training, CDT Shedd helped with a series of tasks that involved equipment and vehicle maintenance. He also participated in a 4-day Field Training Exercise (FTX), focusing on creating obstacles to prepare the platoon to maintain defensive posture.

CDT Ruby Torres applied for a broadcasting internship with WEVV-TV in Evansville, Indiana, a position that was posted by the Army ROTC program. She found this position interesting since she already had some public affairs experience while being enlisted with the Army. CDT Torres was able to see how the creative team made promos and edited videos for commercials. She also learned how the sales people go about getting clients to advertise with the station. Additionally, CDT Torres shadowed with the news team and learned how reporters cover stories and put them together before going live.

CDT Jose Gonzalez participated in the Cadet Troop Leadership (CTLT) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his CTLT training, he shadowed an active duty officer; this gave him the opportunity to learn what a lieutenant does on an everyday basis, and what his future military life will look like. CDT Gonzalez was also able to get hand-on experience with attack helicopters and train with a Green Beret dive team to conduct waterborne operations.



CDT Jose Gonzalez

Read more:

<https://news.asu.edu/20230828-sun-devil-life-what-i-did-summer>

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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ARMY ROTC
LEADERS FOR LIFE



Did you know?

ASU Army ROTC commissions over 45 Army Second Lieutenants (2LTs) every year.