

# Sun Devil Battalion

## Cadet Newsletter Summer 2024 - Vol. 5

### Upcoming Events

07 - 12 September '24  
- Tempe Healing Fields

26 - 29 Sep '24  
- Fall FTX at Fort Huachuca, AZ

04 October '24  
- Mogadishu March

8 - 10 October '24  
- ASU Cadet Contracting Board

11 October '24  
- Commissioning Ceremony

17 - 20 October '24  
- TF Jicarilla Ranger Challenge

02 November '24  
- Drill Meet JROTC Support

7 - 17 November '24  
- ASU Salute to Service

11 November '24  
- Veteran's Day Parade

06 Dec '24  
- Branch Night

18 Dec '24  
- Winter Commissioning Ceremony

To submit your program photos and/or historic photos, use the following link:  
<https://militaryscience.asu.edu/content/photo-submission>

To sign up for our newsletter:  
<https://militaryscience.asu.edu/node/355>

To participate in the Sun Devil Battalion overseas flag project:  
<https://militaryscience.asu.edu/content/overseas-flag-project>

To add/update your information in our database:  
<https://militaryscience.asu.edu/sun-devil-battalion-alumni>



### Find out what the Sun Devil Cadets accomplished during Summer 2024!

#### In this issue:

- Air Assault
- Army Space Cadre Basic Course
- Cadet Field Training - West Point
- Master Fitness Training
- Cadet Summer Training - Fort Knox
- Internships
- CTLT
- Project GO
- Summer Commissioning Ceremony

And more!

#### Did you know?

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



# Air Assault School

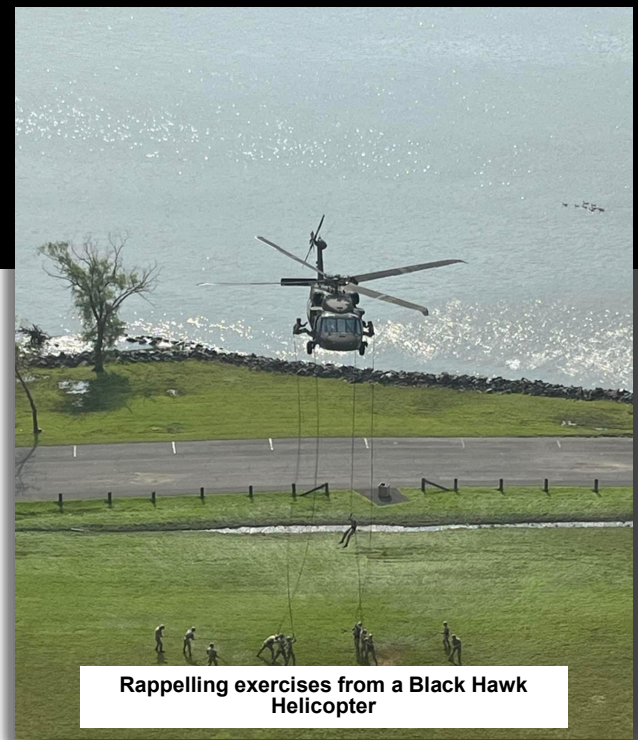
Ft. Moore, GA - West Point, NY  
26 May - 06 August



William Waddington Sr. pins CDT Waddington's Air Assault Wings at graduation ceremony



CDT William Waddington (far right) poses with 3 GCU Cadets after Graduation.



Rappelling exercises from a Black Hawk Helicopter

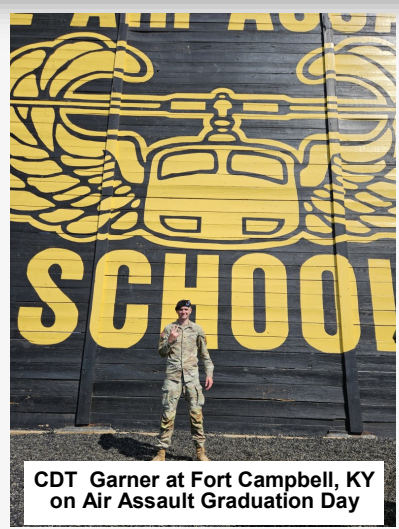
Over the summer break, four Sun Devil Battalion Cadets had the opportunity to participate in the highly-demanding, fast-paced Air Assault School at Ft. Moore, GA and West Point, NY.

Air Assault School focuses on equipping soldiers with the necessary skills to conduct Air Assault Operations. The curriculum focuses on attention to detail, helicopter operations, rappelling techniques, air movement planning, load planning, and physical fitness. Spanning approximately 2 weeks, the course includes rigorous physical training, classroom instruction and practical exercises. After a successful completion, soldiers and Cadets earn the Air Assault Badge, signifying their proficiency in these critical operations skills.

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. These phases are: the academic phase, the sling-load operations and rappelling. The Air Assault Course culminates with a 12-mile ruck march within 3 hours.

During these phases, Sun Devil Battalion Cadets **Cade Garner**, **Kyle Kozak**, **William Waddington**, and **Carson Wiggins** trained on combat assault, sling loads, rappelling, physical fitness and various other critical skills, and were awarded the coveted Air Assault Badge.

CDT William Waddington, who attended Air Assault School at (...)



CDT Garner at Fort Campbell, KY on Air Assault Graduation Day

(...) Fort Moore, GA from 26 May to 7 April, says that the most physical day of Air Assault school is Day 0, which started at 0330.

CDT Waddington says "the class quickly found out what to expect for the next two weeks, both physically and mentally. We had a 30 minute PT session, followed by a very hilly 2-mile run. Directly after the run was followed by another 30- minutes of PT." He adds that this course tested the physical and mental agility of the trainees who were also tested on their attention to detail.

He says that he enjoyed having the chance to meet with several Soldiers and Cadets from other ROTC programs, and the time they spent sharing their experiences at the end of each hard-working day.

"This experience helps prepare future leaders and officers of the Army by enhancing their tactical knowledge. We spent the majority of our time in the classroom learning about everything Air Assault operations related. This course helped to improve the decision-making in high-pressure situations. Following simple instructions and staying focused leads you to success."

CDT William Waddington Jr.  
MSIII - Major in Organization Lead



CDT Kyle Kozak gets his Air Assault wings at the graduation ceremony at Fort Campbell Sabalauski Air Assault School

# Air Assault School

Ft. Moore, GA - West Point, NY

26 May - 06 August



CDT Kyle Kozak getting his Air Assault wings at the graduation ceremony Fort Campbell Sabalauski Air Assault School



CDT Kyle Kozak (left) along with other ROTC Cadets at graduation day

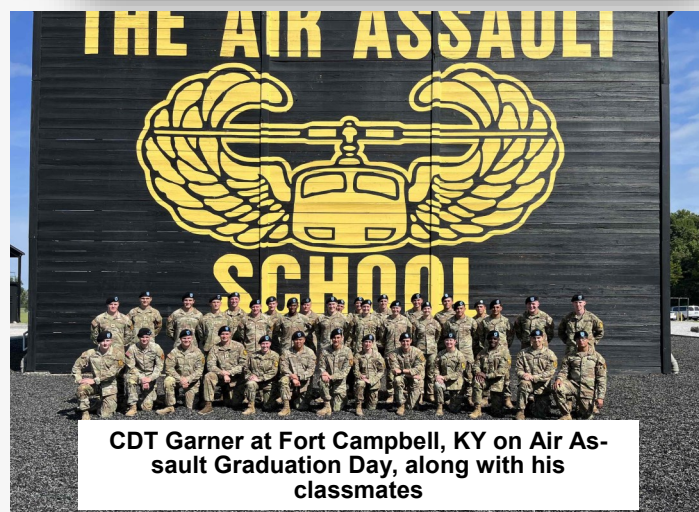
CDT Kyle Kozak, who attended Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, KY from 21 July to 3 August says that he learned a great deal during the rigorous training. CDT Kozak adds that he was taught about all types of aircrafts and their features such as the UH-60, CH-47, and the Ah-64. "I learned about how to properly and safely set up sling loads like the A22 Cargo Bag and the M1151 Humvee. I also learned how to properly inspect these loads for deficiencies. That was definitely one of the most stressful parts of the school."

CDT Kozak adds that the instructors also taught them rappelling operations, starting with bounding off of a wall, into an open side repel, then a combat repel (basically wearing combat equipment off an open side) and finally out of a UH-60 Blackhawk!

He comments that one of the best things he learned from this course was how to be mentally tough in a physically strenuous environment.

"My goal is to branch into a combat arms branch, so experiencing a mentally and physically taxing course like this is so impactful in preparing me for my career. I learned so much overall and I'm extremely thankful for getting the opportunity from the program! "

CDT Kyle Kozak  
MSIV - Major in Organization Lead



CDT Garner at Fort Campbell, KY on Air Assault Graduation Day, along with his classmates



CDT William Waddington (far right) poses with 3 GCU Cadets after Graduation



CDT Garner at Fort Campbell, KY on Air Assault Graduation Day

# Army Space Cadre Basic Course

## West Point, NY

### 27 May - 08 June



**CDT Brody Wilson receives his Certificate of Training from LTC Christopher B. Hassan, Director of the Space and High Altitude Research Center**

**Always willing to strive in different areas**, Sun Devil Cadets participated during this Summer in different Military courses around the country. One of them was **The Army Space Cadre Basic Course**, which taught the fundamentals of space to Cadets and Soldiers so they can enable a greater understanding of our reliance on space throughout the force.

According to **MSIII CDT Brody Wilson**, who represented the Sun Devil Battalion at Army Space Cadre Basic Course, the course covered basic orbital mechanics, the electromagnetic spectrum, and joint space policies, before they moved on to more advanced topics. The Cadets spent multiple days learning how the six warfighting functions are greatly enhanced by the space domain. The class then spent time looking at the Space Operations functional area and how they specifically augment Divisions, Corps, and Armies to sustain their modern warfighting capabilities.

CDT Wilson says that it was very interesting spending time learning about the capabilities of adversaries and how they could impose a denied, degraded, and disrupted operational environment upon the US forces. US Cyber Command and US Space Command are already fighting in their respective domains to maintain our military's competitive advantage. He opines that, "Preventing the loss of precision guided munitions, satellite communications, among other space capabilities is paramount to our ability to fight and win in the next war."

CDT Wilson says that the course helped him gain a foundational understanding of the Army's relationship to space, and how we may have to adapt to a degraded space environment. He says that it was very interesting learning about our adversaries' capabilities and that his favorite section of the course was the geospatial-imagery products. CDT Wilson indicates that this piqued his interest in Military Intelligence and that he hopes to learn more about the Military Intelligence Corps over this next year.

During the course, they were also taught extensively about Space Operations Officers and the role they play in Space Support Elements, Army Space Support teams and, and Space Control Planning teams. These Officers provide space planning support, space situational awareness and unique space products. CDT Wilson is very interested in learning about the job these officers provide and how it augments the United States Army.

CDT Wilson, **who is studying Supply Chain Management and is scheduled to commission in Spring '26**, believes that participating in this course will help him become a better leader once he commissions as a second lieutenant of the Army.



**CDT Brody Wilson receives his Army Space Cadre Basic Patch from LTC William Koch, professor at USMA**



**CDT Wilson (sixth from left to right, second row) along with Cadets from other ROTC programs and West Point Military Academy**

# Cadet Field Training (CFT) West Point 01 - 28 June



To further sharpen their military skills/ training, selected ASU Army ROTC Cadets spent four intense weeks at West Point Military Academy in New York, during Cadet Field Training (CFT).

CDT Cruz preparing to launch a mortar

The mission of CFT is to develop, train, test, and validate the foundational military competencies to prepare third-class cadets to assume duties as non-commissioned officers (NCOs) in the Corps of Cadets. Cadets who complete CFT are proficient in foundational military skills, can live honorably in austere field conditions, and are physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially ready to reintegrate into the Corps of Cadets. Cadets engage in life changing military training opportunities at several points during their time at West Point, honing their ability to serve as leaders of character.

CDT Julian Cruz, who is majoring in Kinesiology, was one of the three Sun Devil Battalion Cadets who participated in CFT. He indicates that through CFT he acquired significant knowledge in structure leadership, specifically in overseeing a team made up of non-commissioned officers (NCOs). He adds that adapting to night vision goggles (NVGs), learning the fundamentals of rifle shooting, and participating in team-building exercises were just a few of the activities that were included in the training.

“My grasp of leadership dynamics and the actual abilities required of an officer in the Army has deepened as a result of these experiences,” he says, adding that “I’ve learned how to lead well under a variety of conditions and have faced a variety of problems, which has improved my ability to manage the complexities of military leadership and make wise decisions in practical situations.”

But this fast-paced, intense training also provided CDT Cruz with aspects that he enjoyed greatly. He indicates that his favorite aspects at West Point seemed to be the unusual and thrilling encounters. He adds that “participating in unique workouts and interacting with cutting-edge equipment made for an unforgettable and enriching weekend.”

Also attending CFT were Cadets Ethan Hass and Andrew Tipsword. The latter says that this training was a great opportunity to learn and showcase the leadership skills he’s learned during his time at ASU Army ROTC.



Sun Devil Battalion Cadets (From left to right): Julian Cruz, Ethan Hass and Andrew Tipsword after CFT completion



Cadets spent a great deal of the CFT training in wood areas/outdoors like the one in this picture



CDT Tipsword (Front) during room clearing training

CDT Tipsword says that a great deal of time was spent on the field learning about how an infantry unit would operate. He indicates the most challenging aspects of the training were reduced sleep and long ruck marches, that were performed between each movement. He says that on the other hand, he enjoyed a great deal when he was able to learn the different branches and get hands on with what they do and the equipment they use.

CDT Tipsword, who’s working towards his major in Interdisciplinary Studies, opines that this training will surely help him become a more complete officer of the Army. “Being able to have another opportunity to use tactical skills that we have learned can definitely benefit any Cadet before they commission as an Army officer.”

# Master Fitness Trainer (MFT)

## Ft. Moore, GA - 08 to 19 June

Physical readiness is one of the pillars of the success of the United States Armed Forces. Master Fitness Trainer is a military training that helps to achieve high levels of success in this area. MFT includes all aspects of the Army's Physical Readiness Training System in accordance with (IAW) FM 7-22, Holistic Health and Fitness. Here, students learn how to perform as unit advisors to their commanders on overall physical readiness as it relates to their mission. Students also establish, develop, and monitor both unit and individual Physical Readiness Training Programs. Some blocks of instruction within MFT include Anatomy, Physiology, Exercise Science, Mobility, Accessories, Resistance Modalities, Needs Analysis, Mesocycle, Microcycle, Running Techniques, and Nutrition. We are blessed to have our Cadets attend this course and enhance our Sun Devil Physical Training program.

**MS IV Cadet Vydell Belcher**, explains that the MFT course covered a wide range of relevant topics that enable soldiers to assist their commanders in ensuring combat readiness while also fostering overall soldier well-being. The course began with general academic subjects such as anatomy and physiology. It covered all components of fitness and emphasized the importance of training the tactical athlete in all aspects of fitness, including mobility and flexibility.

He says that the Master Fitness Trainer (MFT) program has undergone significant changes in recent years, adding that "Originally, its focus was on equipping Soldiers with the knowledge to prescribe physical training to ensure physical readiness. However, the program has recently transitioned to a broader approach, now known as the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) – Instructor program (H2F-I). This new approach incorporates a comprehensive and holistic perspective, encompassing not only physical fitness but also mental resilience, nutrition, sleep, and spiritual readiness. These components make up the pillars of H2F and form the foundation of the MFT course."

CDT Belcher indicates that as the course progresses, more specific topics are introduced, such as periodization and the concept of program design variables, along with a level of education by teaching Soldiers how to assess, document, and brief their physical training plans to their commanders. He says that even though this sounds extensive, it only scratches the surface of what was covered during MFT.

**MSII Cadet Cade Garner**, who also attended MFT, views it as a course that focuses on teaching future and current leaders the fundamentals of building a workout program to prepare units for future operations that could physically stress a unit.

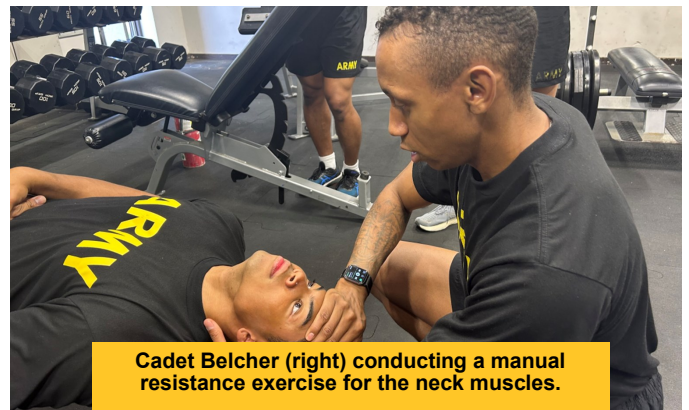
Some areas that he learned include how to build a program from a macro scale all the way down to a micro scale, as well as how to properly target specific muscle groups in effective ways to achieve the best possible gains.



Cadet Belcher conducting a bent-over barbell row



CDT Garner (5th from left) with ASU ROTC Cadets and Cadre on graduation day



Cadet Belcher (right) conducting a manual resistance exercise for the neck muscles.



CDT Garner (5th from left, last row) with his classmates the day they completed their Combat Fitness Assessment.

CDT Garner says that "the most difficult part was conceptually putting together a workout plan that focused on multiple different muscle groups and Heart Rate Zones." He adds that the aspect of MFT he enjoyed the most was learning how to include a meal plan that compliments the workout that is being built.

"This experience will help me as a future leader in dividends. Due to the fact that now I can hold my NCO's accountable more effectively knowing now how a workout plan should be built and what type of gains and accomplishments my soldiers should be seeing."

**CDT Cade Garner**  
**MSII - Major in Geographic Information Science**

Both Cadets agree that what they learned during this intense training will prepare them to become more complete leaders and will help them once they are commissioned to the Army.

"I believe that the curriculum not only prepares Instructors to ensure holistic fitness, but also to be adaptive. During the capstone, you brief a portion of your training program and explain the 'why' behind it. This requires the Instructor to have an in-depth understanding of the complex concepts surrounding physical readiness and to be a leader in fitness."

**CDT Vydell Belcher**  
**MSIV - Masters in Strength and Conditioning**

# Cadet Summer Training (CST)

Ft. Knox, KY  
28 June - 11 August



CDT Hayden Porter (far-left) along with Sun Devil Battalion Cadets Kyle Kozak, Giovanni Miranda and Sydney Francisco

**Sun Devil Battalion Cadets killed it at Cadet Summer Training at Ft. Knox, KY during this Summer Break!** As a result of their hard work and dedication, 12 ASU Army ROTC Cadets were recognized with coveted badges and awards!

**Cadets Andrew Napier and Hayden Porter**, were both awarded with the coveted RECONDO (RECONnaissance CommandDO) Badge. This honor is achieved when a Cadet demonstrates initiative in preparing for training and leading in Advanced Camp by displaying individual superior performance. Among the criteria to earn this badge is to score at least 80 points or higher on the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), and 90% or higher on the written land navigation test. **CDT Napier**- the Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Commander - was also recognized with **the AUSA Leadership Award**, which is given to the top Cadet in each regiment, as determined by the regimental cadre board.

But the recognition didn't stop there. Cadets Napier and Porter, along with other 10 Sun Devil Battalion Cadets, had an Outstanding Performance / top 15% out of all the Cadets attending CST. These Cadets are: **Eric Podyers, Giovanni Miranda, Caleb Robertson, Rigoberto Portillo, Brandon Kline, Joshua Dargis, Lucas Stettmeier, Olivia Mendez, Marko Ciprus and Jonathan Higgins.**

**Congratulations to all of you for a well deserved recognition!**

**CST is the single largest training event in the Army**, where Cadet Command trains more than 8,000 Army ROTC Cadets and 2,000 Cadets from other schools during a period of 100 days at Fort Knox, KY. 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.

**Cadets Alexander Mirigian and Hayden Porter attended Basic Camp and Advance Camp respectively.** During the 30+ days at Camp, both of them learned valuable lessons that they will be able to apply not only during their continuing training as Sun Devil Cadets, but also once the commission as 2nd lieutenants of the Army.



CDT Mirigian with is mother and recently commissioned brother 2LT Christopher Mirigian

**CDT Mirigian** attended Basic Camp from 28 June to 27 July. He says that CST taught him how to successfully apply basic leadership skills in a tactical environment.

He adds that the most valuable lesson he learned was how important adaptability is in the Army. One has to be able to adapt to various situations if they wish to be an effective leader.

"This experience helped me prepare to commission as a future leader and officer of the Army by giving me a sneak-peak at what the roles and responsibilities of an officer are. The skills and knowledge I attained will not only help me to just lead my Soldiers, but they will help me lead from the front."

**CDT Alexander Mirigian**  
MS III - Major in Civic and Economic Thought



CDT Porter (center wearing glasses) after the final mission of Grizzly Phase

**CDT Porter**, who attended CST from 15 June to 19 July, says that the part of the training he found most challenging was the STX lanes, and the part he enjoyed the most was the Warrior Task.

CDT Porter says that he found out that different programs will teach different things, thus it's important to learn from one's peers and apply that knowledge to the next task. He understands that this experience will help him to move forward with his career as an Army Officer.

"**CST taught me** there are many right ways to solve an issue, as well as learning to adapt to different situations. CST taught me how to identify my own strengths and weaknesses and effectively communicate with my team members to share what I know, and learn what I do not."

**CDT Hayden Porter**  
MIS IV - Major in Political Science



CDT Alexander Mirigian (back row, far-right) along with ROTC Cadet from other programs

# Cadet Summer Training (Cont.)

Ft. Knox, KY  
28 June - 11 August

## Can you picture yourself living under intense conditions for 30+ days

—during summer break nonetheless— at the same time you are preparing to become an officer of the US Army? That's exactly what Sun Devil Battalion Cadets who attended CST this past summer experienced! The training is filled with long days that start at the crack of dawn, tolerating heat and humidity, daily visits from friendly bugs and gourmet meals Army style!

A typical day at Cadet Summer Training in garrison starts with a 0500 wake-up, followed by breakfast and work on platoon Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for upcoming field exercises. The day is spent practicing skills for upcoming assessments, with lunch around noon, and continuing training and team-building with the platoon for the remainder of the day.

In the field, the day begins even earlier, around 0400, followed by breakfast, packing rucks, and pulling "stand-to" from 0500-0600. The first FRAGO (fragmentary order) comes at 0600, followed by three missions throughout the day, each lasting about three hours. After completing missions around 1500-1600, Cadets have a short break before resuming 30% security duty until another "stand-to" at 2000.

The day ends by maintaining 30% security and unpacking bags, hygiene and bed time around 2100.

**CDT Melanie Florez, the Sun Devil Battalion Executive Officer**, participated in Advanced Camp where among other tasks, she was assigned to the 4th Squad. Here she was in charge of pulling security at the 6 O'clock position. She recounts this experience as one that taught her a great deal of discipline and accountability for her post, adding that "It also instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility to stay alert and in order to care for my platoon members."

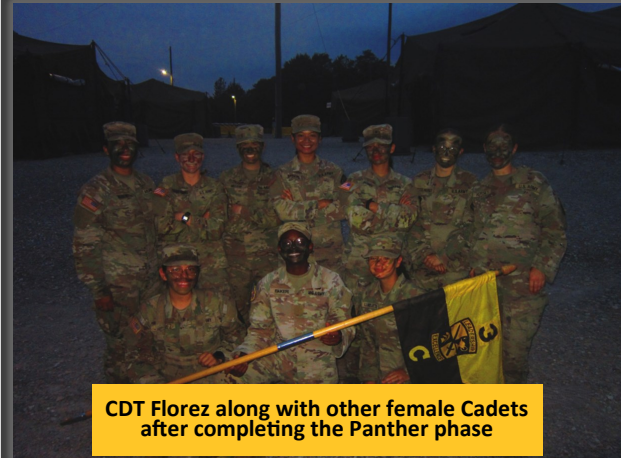
The intense training included different aspects meant to prepare Cadets for the responsibilities they will face as officers of the Army. CDT Florez says among the training, her favorite part was the Panther phase, the second animal phase. "Panther was probably my favorite phase. We were introduced to more challenging scenarios, including encountering IEDs. It also marked the halfway point of our field training." The Panther phase is the walk phase where Cadets are actively evaluated.

She indicates that their final animal phase was Grizzly where she had the opportunity to carry and shoot the M240B machine gun, which she recalls as "a lot of fun." This was the last mission she shared with her platoon before they completed their 12-mile ruck. The Grizzly Run phase trains Cadets on detailed military operations.

The purpose of these animal phases is to provide the Cadets with the opportunity to fill various leadership positions and hand-on training of what combat feels like. These skills will prepare Cadets for tactical methods, the proper use of camouflage face painting, and hand signals among others important military skills.



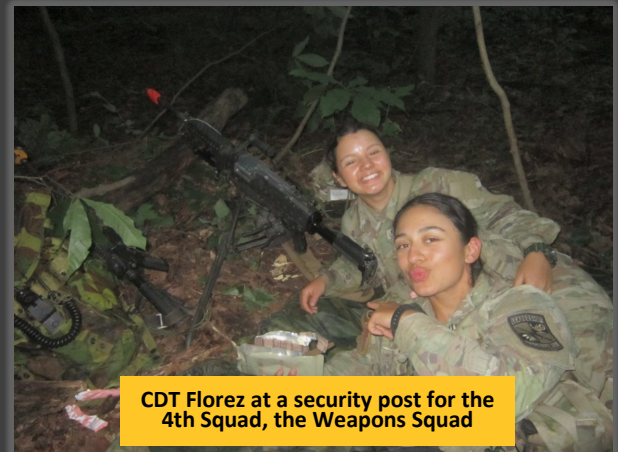
CDT Florez carrying a M240B machine gun



CDT Florez along with other female Cadets after completing the Panther phase



CDT Florez during her visit to the Assault Helicopter Battalion at Ft. Knox



CDT Florez at a security post for the 4th Squad, the Weapons Squad



# MS3 Leader Trainer

## Ft. Knox, KY

### 10 July - 11 August

**MS3 Leader Trainer offers Army ROTC Cadets** the opportunity to enhance their skills prior to commission as second lieutenants. Cadets get to shadow and learn from active platoon leaders on how to mentor Basic Camp Cadets.

**CDT Jesus Santos attended Leader Trainer** at Fort Knox KY, from 10 July to 11 August, after he finished Cadet Summer Training at the same location.

CDT Santos, a Graduate student working on his Masters in Education Policy, whole heartfully believes that his training taught him essential leadership skills and the ability to collaborate effectively with people he had never met before, all while working together to provide Cadets with the highest level of training. Among the physical training was an obstacle course, foot patrol and rope bridge.

He adds that this experience required him to think outside the box, fostering his creative problem-solving abilities. "By navigating unfamiliar situations and guiding others, I developed a stronger sense of leadership, honed my coaching skills to help develop Cadets, and learned the importance of teamwork in achieving common goals."

CDT Santos says that the most valuable lesson he learned during his time at Leader Training was realizing that he couldn't have completed the mission on his own without the support and collaboration of other Cadets. He emphasizes that this experience underscored the importance of teamwork and understanding that collective effort is often essential for success.

Even though the main point of this experience was to enhance his leadership skills, it was also a great opportunity for him to interact with Cadre and other MS3 Cadets which lead to building new bonds and friendship with people he hopes he'll meet again.



Obstacle course exercise.



Rope Bridge exercise during MS3 Trainer



CDT Santos (Center-right) along with other MS3 participants

"Leader Trainer taught me the importance of knowing when to lead and when to be a follower, recognizing that effective leadership often involves leveraging the unique skills and strengths that different people bring to the table. Understanding how to balance leadership with collaboration will be crucial in guiding my future team to accomplish any mission successfully."

**CDT Jesus Santos**  
**MSIV - Masters in Educational Policy**

# CDT Zachary Ray awarded at CST Fort Knox, KY / 24 July



**CDT Zachary Ray received his Reservist Award from the Deputy Chief of the Army Reserves, Major General Deborah Kotulich**

As a recognition for his hard work as a United States Army Reserve (USAR), Cadet Zachary Ray received the Reservist Award during Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY.

This prestigious award is given to the top USAR Cadet of each regiment and it's determined by the Regiment Cadre Board. CDT Ray's recommendation came from the 3rd Regiment, known in Military Circles as "The Old Guard." This Regiment is the oldest one in the US and was constituted on 3 June 1784.

CDT Ray explains that in order to qualify for this award, a Cadet has to show the best reflections of the characteristics of Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness. They demonstrate resilience and the lifelong pursuit of enhanced performance to cope with adversity, while best performing in stressful situations, and thriving in life.

CDT Ray, who contracted with Army ROTC in Spring Semester of 2022, will commission as a Second Lieutenant this upcoming Fall '24. He says that for him this award is a confirmation of all the work he has poured into his studies and into the ROTC program at ASU.



**CDT Ray's Cadet of the Month picture September 2022**



**CDT Ray enjoying some well-deserved family time**

He considers this award to be a statement to the Cadre, the support he has around, and the culture of the Sun Devil Battalion.

"If not for them, I would not be the leader I am at this moment. I am so proud to have been considered and selected for the award, I know that there were many other excellent Cadets in my Regiment. It means so much to me to have been selected and it just feels like a confirmation that all the sacrifices made over the last few years were not in vain."

**CDT Zachary Ray  
MSIV - Major in Civil Engineering**

# Internships

05 July - 05 August

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 San Antonio, TX, Costa Mesa, CA, and Washington D.C. to receive training in Army-related 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 preparing to become the leaders of tomorrow.

**CDT Andrew Napier, the Army ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander**, invested four weeks during this summer in a research internship that took place in both Costa Mesa, CA and Washington DC. The internship was organized by The Army Science Board, which falls under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology/ or ASA (ALT).

CDT Napier, a senior who is majoring in Liberal Studies indicates that since he is a non-STEM student, he didn't have a strong background in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related technologies, therefore it was a good learning experience in this developing area. He adds that it was also helpful to have a super well-versed advisor to teach and guide his research.

He says that during the internship the attendants were paired with a technical advisor and performed a brief investigation into a relevant topic to help direct further research. They were paired with LTC Nate Bastian from the United States Military Academy and researched future Army applications for Artificial Intelligence (AI). CDT Napier adds that he learned a significant amount about AI, and about the Army Enterprise, particularly in ASA (ALT)'s arena.

CDT Napier indicates that he got to tour DEVCOM's C5ISR Research Lab (formerly known as the Night Vision Lab) at Fort Belvoir, VA and see some upcoming technologies that ASA (ALT) is developing. CDT Napier says that the most challenging part of his internship was preparing multiple briefs.

Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.



CDT Napier during a break at his internship



CDT Napier during the Cadet Change of Command Ceremony

"First, we briefed HON Douglas Bush, the ASA(ALT), with our initial progress review. About three weeks later, we briefed his principal Deputy, Mr. Young Bang, in the Pentagon for our final report. They were receptive and asked thoughtful questions, but it was still a daunting task!"

On the other hand the best parts of his internship was getting to explore Washington, D.C., including a visit to the Pentagon, as well as the mentorship from senior Active and Retired Army Officers.

"The main experience that I am taking away from my ASB internship is an understanding of the broader Army Enterprise. As someone who started on an operational base in a Brigade Combat Team, it's important to remember that the Army is full of interesting and incredible opportunities if you seek them out!"

**CDT Andrew Napier**  
**CDT Battalion Commander**  
**MSIV- Major in Liberal Studies**

# Internships (Cont.)

05 July - 01 August

MSIV Cadet Carly Vigeant traveled to San Antonio, Texas to attend the Nurse Summer Transition Program (NSTP, nursing internship) at Brooke Army Medical Center. Brooke Army Medical Center serves as the largest and most robust military healthcare organization in the Department of Defense. It provides safe, quality care to military service members, their families, veterans and civilian emergency patients as the most robust and productive healthcare organization within the Military Health System (MHS).

CDT Vigeant spent 4 weeks of intense training that will prepare her to become an Army Nurse, once she commissions in Spring '24. CDT Vigeant says that this internship gave her the chance to experience many opportunities that the Nurse Corps provides to Army officers. She adds that through this training she was able to get "experiences that I would not get in the civilian hospitals, such as assisting in a real life trauma case with resuscitative devices, caring for critically ill patients, assisting in the operating room, having a full day in the Lab to practice my venipuncture skills," among other valuable expertise.

She says that other parts of the training included having a day in the field working on high-functioning mannequins, working in a bone marrow transplant floor, labor and delivery, mom and baby, PACU, the burn unit, and following a Wound Nurse and a CRNA.

This internship also gave CDT Vigeant the opportunity to get to meet 11 other Army ROTC Cadets from different schools from around the country, as well as to have the opportunity to explore San Antonio during her weekends off.

CDT Vigeant says that participating in this training was extremely helpful as it gave her a first look at what it would be like to be a nurse in the Army. She explains that she was given the opportunity to lead, and contribute, while experiencing high pressure situations.



CDT Vigeant (far right) along with other ROTC Cadets during tactical combat casualty care/C4



CDT Vigeant with her Certificate of Completion from the Brooke Army Medical Center on graduation day



CDT Vigeant (Center, fist row) enjoying some sightseeing at The Alamo Site, along with Cadets from other ROTC programs

She was also able to have valuable conversations with several high-ranking officers and retirees who talked about their own personal journeys and listened to their advice and tips.

"This has helped develop me into a stronger leader because I have a wealth of knowledge about the process of specifically becoming an Army nurse that I can now share and encourage other nursing students that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. This experience was definitely a launching pad into my passion for nursing and helped me feel more confident about my choice of becoming a nurse."

CDT Carly Vigeant  
MSIV - Major in Nursing

# Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT)

10 July - 19 August

**Seven Sun Devil Battalion Cadets gained valuable lessons when they had the opportunity** to participate in the Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) that took place in different Military bases during this Summer.

CTLT is an opportunity to gather practical experience from an actual Army Unit. CTLT provides Cadets with first hand experience into the everyday lives of Lieutenants from all disciplines. It is all about learning and being open to experiences that will help shape their future career.

CTLT also provides future officers the opportunity to learn what is like to lead a platoon with the mentorship of junior officers and experience the day to day responsibilities of being active duty.

**MSIV Cadet Thomas Rubeck**, who attended CTLT at Camp Humphreys in South Korea from 10 July to 6 August, considers this a great experience that taught him, among other valuable military lessons, that having effective communication throughout the Platoon is a key factor in a company's success. He also added that, "Making sure that squads are properly built to ensure leaders lead and develop the rest of the soldiers in their platoon. A solid NCO support channel is just as important as a solid Officer support channel. Making positive connections leads to having more and more connections for easier experiences as we move through the ranks."

CDT Rubeck comments that he also enjoyed being in another country and learning about other cultures first-hand. "Getting to explore Seoul was an absolute blast."



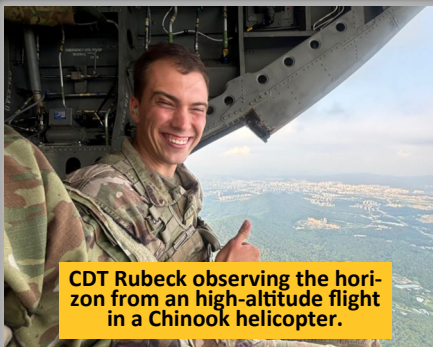
CDT Rubeck (far left) helping other CTLT attendees to build up a tent for Medical FTX.

**MSIV CDT Michael Lopez**, who attended CTLT at Ft. Ryley, KS, from 15 July to 4 August says that "I learned a lot of valuable information that I otherwise would not have been exposed to. My Lieutenant took the time to walk me through all of the administrative paperwork that we are responsible for as Lieutenants, such as OERs, NCOERs, and memos."

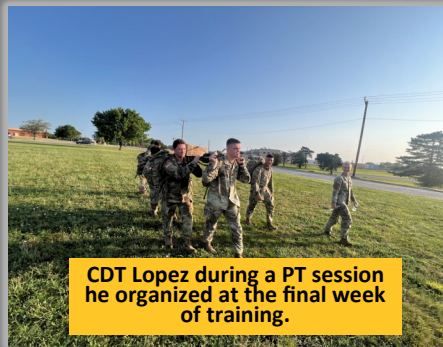
CDT Lopez adds that even though paperwork, as dry as it might be, is something that everyone must get proficient with as it is a basic task that has to be completed by leaders. He says, "I was also able to witness the entire process of running a range, from the initial planning process all the way through to rounds complete. I found these experiences very valuable."

CDT Lopez indicates that the part of the training that he enjoyed the most was the crew served ranges. "Not only did I gain some valuable experience by keeping accountability of our Company's qualified firers, I got the opportunity to actually get hands on with the different weapons systems. The MK-19, M2, and M240B provided memories that I will not soon forget."

Both Cadets agree that participating in this type of training will help them prepare to become second lieutenants of the Army once they commission next year.



CDT Rubeck observing the horizon from an high-altitude flight in a Chinook helicopter.



CDT Lopez during a PT session he organized at the final week of training.



CDT Lopez inside of a Bradley tank, where he learned, among other things, how to maneuver the turret.

**CDT Rubeck says that** "this experience helped better prepare me to become a future leader and officer of the Army by showing me what succeeds and what fails. I got to see what LT's struggled with and how to avoid certain pitfalls. Getting a letter of recommendation from the Battalion Commander of the branch you want definitely helps towards securing a slot in the branch of our choice."

**CDT Lopez opines that** "there is immense value in simply experiencing what an Officer does day to day. Not all of it is exciting or flashy, but being exposed to these parts of our future careers have provided us with the resources to attack these tasks with confidence."

Also in attendance to CTLT at other different locations were **MSIV Cadets** Bryce Miller (Ft. Cavazos, TX ), Hayden Porter (Ft. Riley, KS), Caleb Robertson (Ft. Stewart, GA), Christopher Simpson (Ft. Campbell, KY) and Lucas Stettmeier (Ft. Lewis, WA).

# Project Global Officer (GO) Morocco - Indonesia 07 May - 11 August



Project GO class outside of Bajra Sandhi Monument (Denpasar, Bali). Cadet Crabbe third from left, first row



Cadet Gibbs with some friendly camels in the background, at the City of d'Agadir

**CDT Faith Gibbs traveled to Morocco where she stayed from 7 May to 7 July** and learned how to speak and read standard Arabic. She also learned how to speak the Moroccan version of Arabic. She explains that most Moroccans don't speak or read standard Arabic, but a dialect called Darija. Darija, which is a mix of French, Spanish and Arabic languages.

CDT Gibbs says that this experience taught her to be open-minded about different customs and beliefs, and to be able to adapt and communicate in a respectable manner with people who have different lifestyles from those in the United States.

After their language class in the morning, the students would have a culture class; talking about Moroccan culture in foods, dress wear, holidays, etc. They had the opportunity to experience Eid with their host families and to celebrate the holiday with them, which for her was a hands-on invaluable experience.

"As a leader it is absolutely necessary to learn how to adjust and adapt. I believe everyone should take this opportunity to learn a different culture. It is an eye opener." As a future officer of the Army, she considers keeping an open mind to different cultures, and having a better understanding of where her future Soldiers are coming from is important. Those are invaluable lessons she learned from this opportunity.

CDT Gibbs plans to continue practicing standard Arabic by incorporating it as much as she can in her every day speech.

Both Cadets encourage their peers to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn about a different culture and language.

For more information about Project GO click <https://www.rotcprojectgo.org/>

**At the end of the Fall Semester '23, Cadets Isaiah Crabbe and Faith Gibbs** submitted their Project GO packets and found out mid-Spring that they had been selected for the adventure of a lifetime: A two-month long cultural immersion to another country.

**Project GO is a nationwide program open** to all qualified ROTC students offering fully-funded opportunities in critical language education, overseas study, and cross-cultural experience. Through Project GO, future military officers develop linguistic and cross-cultural communication skills required for effective leadership for all Services in the 21st century operational environment.

**CDT Isaiah Crabbe spent 8 weeks in Bali (14 June - 11 August), learning the basics of the Indonesian language.** He says that he didn't have much language experience outside of basic high school classes, but nonetheless applied for the opportunity to be part of this fascinating project. He indicates that many of these opportunities are beginner-level programs that teach everything one needs to know from scratch.

CDT Crabbe says that the most valuable lesson he takes from this experience is adaptability. He adds, "living with the host families in Indonesia was completely different from anything I was used to. Learning to adapt to the new environment and learn from everything around me was a valuable skill I learned to sharpen."

CDT Crabbe plans on continuing taking Indonesian classes at ASU in the upcoming semesters. He believes this experience will help his military career. "I will have higher cultural awareness and have an easier time understanding a wide range of Soldiers' cultures, backgrounds, and differences. I can also apply my Project GO experience to my career through better adaptability to foreign situations and people."



Project GO faculty and students outside Ngurah Rai University wearing Pencak Silat (Indonesian Martial Arts) uniform.



Project GO class traveled to the City of Fez to learn from local women the intricate art of making carpets

# Summer Commissioning Ceremony 20 August Armstrong Hall



Newly commissioned second lieutenants Andrew Ibarra, Cindy Mahr (ASU) and Jacob Sullivan (GCU) take the Oath of Office

After hard work and dedication, two Sun Devil Battalion Cadets and one GCU Cadet fulfilled their dream of becoming second lieutenants when they took the Oath of Office during the Summer Commissioning Ceremony at Armstrong Hall.

Summer Ceremony is the final opportunity in the fiscal year for our remaining Cadets that completed their degree requirements over the summer and completed all their ROTC pre-requirements.

The three newly minted 2LTs join ranks with our other 46 lieutenants this fiscal year and more than 3,000 Sun Devil and Lope officers across the total Army Force.

## Congratulations to our new 2nd Lieutenants!

2LT Andrew Ibarra - Armor  
2LT Cindy Mahr - MI (Branch detailed Infantry)  
2LT Sullivan - Medical Corps

**Feel the Heat!**



2LT Cindy Mahr pinned by her boyfriend and mother.



2LT Andrew Ibarra receives his Certificate of Promotion from the Sun Devil Battalion PMS, LTC Ryan Whipple.

# Sun Devil Battalion Alumni Corner

## Sun Devil Alumnus promoted to Brigadier General



Brig. Gen. Bryan L. Babich's wife Jenn (left) and father, retired Army Col. Jim Babich (right) pin stars on his shoulders during his promotion ceremony



Lt. Gen. Milford H. Beagle, Jr., (right) commanding general, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, reaffirms the oath of office with newly promoted Brig. Gen. Bryan L. Babich



A salute battery from the 500th Military Police Battalion fires rounds in honor of the promotion of Brig. Gen. Bryan L. Babich \*\*

Sun Devil Battalion Alumnus, Col. Bryan L. Babich, Mission Command Center of Excellence Director, was promoted to Brigadier General during a ceremony on Aug. 9, 2024, in the Lewis and Clark Center's Eisenhower Auditorium at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

A career field artillery officer, Brig. Gen. Babich commanded the Mission Command Training Program prior to joining MCCoE as its director in June 2023. He has commanded at battery, battalion and brigade levels; served on the Joint Staff; and held numerous other key leadership positions. His operational and combat deployments include Albania and Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster; the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Combat Action Badge, Ranger Tab, and Air Assault and Master Parachutist badges.

During his remarks, Brig. Gen. Babich said that he was fired up, "because I know the next chapter is going to be hard, thrilling, and filled with good and challenging days, but mostly I know it's going to be a ride. In other words, back to the work of 'taking care of my little piece of the Army and having fun!'"

Brigadier General Bryan L. Babich is from Sierra Vista, Arizona. He attended Arizona State University and earned his commission as a Field Artillery 2nd Lieutenant in 1997. This is a testament that Army ROTC produces the leaders of tomorrow.

**Congratulations on your promotion  
General Brigadier Babich.  
Feel the Heat!**

\*\*Pictures and story courtesy of U.S. Army Publication  
For more information on Brig. Gen. Babich's promotion, click on the link below:

[https://www.army.mil/article/278796/  
babich\\_promoted\\_to\\_brigadier\\_general](https://www.army.mil/article/278796/babich_promoted_to_brigadier_general)



# Meet the Sun Devil Battalion New Cadre and Staff Members



**LTC Ryan Whipple**  
Professor of Military Science



**MSG Ryan Harding**  
Senior Military Instructor



**CPT Zackary Guerrero**  
AZNG Liaison/ MIS II Instructor



**SFC Nicholas Wilson**  
Military Science III Instructor



**Venessa Franseen**  
Human Resources Assistant

## Mission Statement

A Proud History, A Bright Future: Arizona State University's Army Reserve Officers' 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.



Arizona State University  
Department of Military  
Science

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 874901  
Tempe, AZ 85287-4901

**Physical Address:**  
951 S. Cady Mall  
Social Science Building  
Room 330  
Tempe, AZ 85287

**Phone:** 480-965-0782

**Website:** <https://militaryscience.clas.asu.edu>



Follow us on social  
media:

 <https://www.facebook.com/asuarmyrotc>

 <https://twitter.com/ASUArmyROTC/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/>

