



**We're
Back and
Ready to
Train!**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Combat Water Survival Training	08 & 15 October 2020
MSG Reinhardt Retirement	16 October 2020
Q & A with WWII Vet, Mr. Tom Rice	19 October 2020
MS IV Component Results	20 October 2020
Small Unit Leadership (TM/SQD)	22 October 2020
Operation Agile Leader	22-26 October 2020
Land Navigation Lab	29 October 2020



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Training in a Digital Environment

Hello Aztecs, My name is Cadet Ernst and I'm your Cadet S-3 this semester! ROTC has taken a unique twist this year as we conduct our first month's training in an entirely virtual environment. (with great success!)

Our Cadets are effectively navigating this ever-changing environment, creating and scrapping plans at a moment's notice to accommodate the COVID-curveballs.

The main challenge we've experienced with virtual training is how to keep the material engaging and interactive for everyone. It's too easy for Zoom lab to become just another three-hour lecture, and it's easier yet to become unmotivated in light of the virtual shift.

Another challenge is that it's been more of a process developing ways to teach and practice material normally done in person, like Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).

To mitigate this, we've

had to get creative with how we structure training. MSIVs collaborate at every step to create meaningful training, and now more than ever we rely on Cadet feedback since this platform is still so new. We've found that lots of videos, practical exercises, competitions, and smaller Zoom groups when possible to be the most effective in a virtual environment.

Virtual training actually lends itself easily to some topics like radio reports, and allows for greater participation from our Cadets. MSIVs have more opportunities to practice their presentation skills, and MSI and II Cadets are more included in the practical exercises than they normally would be. They're getting a better picture and understanding of the training, instead of sitting in a bush pulling security.

In some unexpected ways, the virtual environment streamlines the planning process. MSIV Cadets experience much greater flexibility with how we meet and discuss training. In years past, this would look like a

mad dash in between classes or trying to catch someone the one time a week you might actually see them, but now most of our meetings are on Zoom when it is the most convenient for us, whether that be 0600 or 2100.

While it's been an invaluable learning experience, I know many of us are very excited for in-person training to kick off again this month. Now more than ever it's important we keep our COVID case numbers low so that this is still a possibility! Make sure you wash your hands and mask up, Aztec Battalion!

Since publishing, conditions in San Diego County have allowed us to return to in-person labs. We remain flexible to the moment, and are prepared to execute training in the safest way possible. The health and welfare of our cadets remain among our top priorities as we continue to focus on preparing our next generation of leaders for the United States Army.



Emerging Opportunities in Cyber

The West Point Cyber Leader Development Program
Written By: Cadet Keith Tyser

What is the Cyber Leader Development Program?

The Cyber Leader Development Program is an opportunity for Army ROTC cadets to participate in cyber-related activities such as academic conferences, major design projects, and internships outside the traditional classroom environment. The goal of the program is to create a framework for cyber enrichment and extracurricular opportunities to holistically develop, grow, and inspire emerging Army leaders to succeed in the technical domain of cyberspace. While participating in the program, cadets have the opportunity to be mentored by a cohort of Cyber officers working at the Army Cyber Institute.

In order to successfully complete the program cadets must: participate in a cyber-related internship lasting at least 3 weeks, participate in a Cybersecurity club or study group for at least 2 years, attend a multi-day Cybersecurity training event or conference, and participate in a significant Cybersecurity project or capstone. Upon completion of the program, cadets receive the C1 skill identifier enabling the Army to effectively identify Officers across branches who have an academic background in cyber-related technologies and experiences.

How can I participate in the Cyber Leader Development Program (CLDP) as an MSI/MSII?

You can participate in the program as an MSI or MSII by signing up and registering through West Point. Then work with your

Assistant Professor of Military Science to complete the local registration requirements and gain Professor of Military Science approval. Once registered, you will be put into contact with Army Cyber Officers who will mentor you during your time in ROTC and help you create a plan to complete the requirements for the program.

Can I still participate in the CLDP if I am an MSIII/MSIV/MSV?

If you are an MSIII/MSIV/MSV you can still participate in the program, but you will not receive any mentorship like traditional program participants. I did not learn about the program until my MSIII year, but I was still able to participate in the program by completing all of the requirements. For cadets participating without mentorship, you are expected to complete all of the requirements on your own and must submit an Army Skill Identifier (ASI) request packet.

What advice do you have for Cadets participating in the program?

I would recommend cadets create a plan as soon as possible in order to stay on track and ensure they complete all of the requirements on time. Knock out some of the easier requirements like participating in a Cybersecurity club and attending a Cybersecurity conference early on! Additionally, I'd recommend pursuing entry-level Cybersecurity certifications because they can help you stand out and get internships later on.

LETTER TO THE CADETS

Cadet/Command Sergeants Major

Aztec Battalion,

As we are now rolling into the 5th week of the semester, I am very proud to see everyone pushing through during these unprecedented times. Stay focused and stay motivated. Your cadet and cadre leadership will continue to work very hard to deliver quality PT and labs.

To the MS I's, become a sponge. This is your time to observe and learn from those above you. Take note of what kinds of things you'd like to implement yourself, but also take note of the things you'd like to avoid. Create PT goals and make a continuous effort to exceed all standards.

To the MS II's, practice your leadership skills. You're a school year away from leading a platoon. I promise you that it will come quicker than you anticipate. Try things out, get out of your comfort zone, work on your command voice and presence.

To the MS III's, HIT THAT RANGER HANDBOOK. Although learning the steps on how to conduct an ambush or an attack is only half of the battle, that's half the battle you have already won. You will have a much easier time during your lanes at labs and FTX if you take the time to learn the steps/motions that are required.

In hindsight, these are all things we should all continue to do as we progress through our years in ROTC. It will pay off.

-c/CSM Sanchez



CDT Keith Tyser is currently an MSIV serving as the S-6/S-9 for the Aztec Battalion and is studying Industrial and Systems Engineering. He recently completed the Cyber Leader Development Program through the Army Cyber Institute at West Point earning the C1 Cyber Skill Identifier. CDT Tyser is the first cadet from the Aztec Battalion, and one of the first cadets in the country to complete the program. He will commission next spring into the Army National Guard and hopes to serve as a Cyber officer.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

2LT Monica Smith - Class of 2019



"AZTEC FOR LIFE"



2LT Monica Smith commissioned into the Army as a Military Intelligence Officer with a 3-year branch detail in the Infantry. Since commissioning, she completed Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Benning, GA and became the first female Ranger in the Aztec program's history. 2LT Smith is on her way to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii where she will serve in the 25th Infantry Division. "Tropic Lightning"

Do you have any advice for new cadets beginning their ROTC journey?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Always show up at the right place, at the right time, and in the right uniform. Most importantly, have fun every day! As long as you are motivated to learn and willing to work hard, you'll do great!

What advice do you have for our MSIVs preparing to go through accessions and branching?

Enjoy your last year of freedom, especially in gorgeous San Diego! You'll miss it every single day when you leave. I miss the perfect weather and the beach. Georgia weather is not so pleasant.

What was your favorite place in San Diego as a Cadet?

My favorite place was definitely the Mission Beach-Pacific Beach boardwalk. I ran there almost every day and it was a great place to relax and study.

Name your most memorable training experience as an Aztec. How did it prepare you to lead soldiers?

My favorite experience was being a member of the Ranger Challenge team. It pushed me every day to be physically and mentally tougher, and forced me to keep up with the boys—something my current job requires daily.

What should cadets selected for the Infantry branch do to prepare for Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course (IBOLC)?

Work out as much as you can! Do your best to score well on your APFT, meet "Heavy" standards on the ACFT, and make sure you can run 5 miles in under 40 minutes. Start preparing for ranger school as well. If you want a career in the Infantry, you have to get your Tab.

PMS CORNER

Aztecs,

Greetings Aztec Family! I can't think of a better way that we could've kicked off the month of October than with our first in-person Leadership Lab since early March! It was so refreshing to meet our new Cadets for the very first time, and to reunite with our returning ones. I have to applaud our MSIV (senior) Cadets, who demonstrated incredible flexibility as we asked them to simultaneously plan for both virtual and in-person training over the past several weeks.

October is jam packed with more training, volunteer events and some significant activities. We will test our MSIVs as part of "Operation Agile Leader", a decentralized series of tasks intended to replace Advanced Camp (which was cancelled this summer). We will spend 4.5 days at Fort Irwin evaluating their ability to lead platoons through tactical lanes and completing M4 qualification. It's destined to be a challenging, but rewarding experience for all participants!

On October 16th, our Senior Military Science Instructor (MSG Reinhardt) will retire on the deck of the USS Midway after 23 honorable years of service to the Army. He had an incredible impact on the lives and development of several Cadets and now 2nd Lieutenants from our program, and we are honored to send him off. MSG Reinhardt's replacement (SFC Brown) will also get promoted to MSG this month. Congratulations to both of our fine Non-Commissioned Officers!

On October 19th, we will host local WWII veteran and SDSU alum, Mr. Tom Rice, for a question and answer session during our Military History class. On June 6, 1944, Tom jumped into Normandy with the 101st Airborne Division (Screamin Eagles), and at the age of 97, jumped into Normandy again for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Cadets are so fortunate to hear the experiences and stories from this true American hero.

And finally, around October 20th, our seniors will learn which component of the Army they will be entering into upon graduation (Active Duty, Army National Guard or US Army Reserves). This is always an exciting announcement, which will set our seniors on their path towards branch selection and their ultimate future in the Army.

Needless to say, we will have a lot to recap in November, with plenty of pictures and stories to share. Continue to monitor our Social Media pages for current posts about all of October's events. We look forward to recognizing our Cadets, their commitment, and all of the hard work they're putting in.

"Tip of the Spear!"
LTC Parlette

