



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Winter Break
- UCSD Winter Quarter Begins
- PLNU Spring Semester Begins
- Spring 2021 Zero Week (MS IVs)
- SDSU Spring Semester Begins
- MSIV Assignment Preferences Due
- Commissioning Ceremony
- CSUSM & USD Spring Semester Begins



AZTEC BATTALION

- 20 DEC 20- 03 JAN 2021
- 04 JAN 2021
- 12 JAN 2021
- 11-15 JAN 2021
- 19 JAN 2021
- 20 JAN 2021
- 23 JAN 2021
- 25 JAN 2021

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Fall FTX 2020

From 20-22 November 2020, the Aztec Army ROTC program held their Fall 2020 Field Training Exercise at Camp Elliot. Twice a year, the Aztec Battalion takes to the field to conduct field training in order to prepare cadets for Cadet Summer Training (CST) at Fort Knox. These three-day training events introduce cadets to the soldier skills they otherwise wouldn't be able to get on campus. For the first two days of the field training, Cadets conducted squad-level missions which included laying in ambushes, conducting reconnaissance, and reacting to enemy contact. Emphasis on individual and squad level training provides a solid foundation for our cadets to progress to collective, platoon-level tactics in the spring.

During the second night in the field, cadets had hot chow and also competed in a competition against other squads. The competition consisted of a grenade assault course, radio assembly, calling up a radio report,

night land navigation, and concluded with a pie throw at the senior cadet leadership. It was a great morale booster after two hard days of training on tactics. On the final day of FTX, cadets ended



their training with a six or twelve mile ruck march through the Camp Elliot terrain. MSI and II cadets completed the six mile ruck march while MSIII and IV cadets completed the twelve mile ruck march. Overall, the Fall 2020 FTX was a great training event that provided invaluable experience to everyone. For many cadets, it was their first experience in the field and they endured many different challenges that will help prepare them for Cadet Summer Training and future FTX's. We look forward to another great training event in the Spring!



Active Component Branch Results are in!!!!

Congratulations MS IVs

 CDT KINDEL, BRANCH DETAILED: CDT ERNST, CDT TWISS


 BRANCH DETAILED: CDT BASILIO, CDT DE JESUS, CDT GARCIA

 CDT FERNANDO

 CDT GARCIA, CDT NADONG

 CDT DE JESUS

 CDT BASILIO, CDT ERNST, CDT TWISS

 CDT DATU, CDT MAKUUCHI, CDT VEJAR

Quick Stats

- 100% received one of their top two branch choices
- 7 of 11 received their #1 branch choice
- 4 of 11 received their #2 branch choice
- 5 branch detailed
- 4 ADSOs charged

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LTC George Zuniga - Cadre 2008 to 2014

"AZTEC FOR LIFE"



LTC George Zuniga is a LTC in the United State Army Reserves, and commander of the 304th Special Troops Battalion. He earned his Master's Degree in Global Leadership at University of San Diego and a second Master's Degree in Human Resource Management through National University. LTC Zuniga served with the Aztec Battalion from June 2008 to May 2014 as a Human Resource Leader, Recruitment Operations Officer, and Executive Officer.

1. What assignment(s) stand(s) out in your military career that meant a lot to you?

There are two assignments that have meant the most to me in my 26 year career. The first was when I was on Active Duty and assigned to Heidelberg, Germany. The assignment at the Special Troops Battalion, S1 in support of V CORPS was a tough job for a newly appointed lieutenant. The experience of operating at that level was invaluable. Secondly, traveling all over Europe for the three years that i was assigned to Germany was absolutely amazing. The other assignment is my current position as the 304th Special Troops Battalion Commander. I have had to draw on all of my past military experiences in order to be a successful commander. The whole experience has been incredibly rewarding.

2. As a platoon leader, what was your favorite and worst thing that you experienced?

My favorite platoon leader memory is my time with the 129th Transportation Company. It was my first leadership position and I was forward deployed as a part of Operation Iraq Freedom in 2003. I remember that I was always terrified to make a mistake, especially one that would let my soldiers or my company commander down. One thing that platoon leaders need to keep in mind is that they do not need to be afraid of making mistakes. It is the only time in your career that your Senior Leaders will underwrite your mistakes or help you learn for those mistakes.

3. While on deployment or away from home, how important are friends and family?

Having just come back from a deployment to Kuwait this past year I can tell

you that our family members and friends were everything. For many of us, the "Why" for being in the military and deploying in the first place is our family and friends. On deployments you are going to have some tough days where you need to dig deep to stay motivated. Having a strong relationship with your loved ones is all the motivation many need.

4. As a Reservist, what advice would you give SMP cadets in ROTC?

I would recommend that while you are an SMP cadet, choose units to drill with in which you are interested in the particular jobs that they support (Branches). For example, if your goal is to be a logistical officer then find a reserve unit that supports those functions such as a sustainment brigade or expeditionary sustainment command (ESC) position.

5. What is something you miss from San Diego while you're away?

There is no way you can leave San Diego and not think about its beautiful weather and beaches. I also miss eating a fantastic carne asada burrito, which I haven't been able to get anywhere else in my travels.



PMS CORNER

Aztecs,

Congratulations! We made it through a very challenging Fall 2020 Semester! I am so proud of each and every one of you for maintaining your patience, resilience, flexibility and motivation during very trying times. I also appreciate you taking our COVID mitigation strategies seriously for the safety and well-being of your fellow Cadets, their Families, our Cadre and our community, as we were able to successfully and safely execute a number of in-person activities and training throughout the semester.

We accomplished all of our training objectives for the Fall, including two very successful Field Training Exercises, an M4 range, Combat Water Survival Training, STX lanes, our first Army Combat Fitness Test for winter commissionees and a grueling road march throughout East Miramar. We were also able to participate in a number of other fun volunteer and community service projects, including a Veteran's Day drive thru parade, beach and community cleanups and wreath-laying in support of Wreaths Across America. I'm so thankful that we've been able to stay engaged in our communities despite the pandemic!

Our end of semester awards ceremony was cancelled for the second time, but know that your accomplishments have not gone unnoticed! The Cadre captured all of the great things you've done throughout this semester, as well as those from Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. We will have a huge ceremony at the end of the Spring semester, with lots of awards and ribbons to give out to recognize your hard work, stellar grades and physical prowess!

As we enter the holiday season and a well-deserved winter break, I ask that you take a breather and safely enjoy time with your Families, but also remain focused. COVID cases are on the rise so continue to do everything necessary to remain healthy. Keep doing PT! Staying fit is not only a requirement for ROTC and the Army, but it helps you stay healthy and overcome illness faster. Throw on your ruck and go for a hike. Run on the beach. Ask Santa for some resistance bands or do an internet search for utilizing common household items for weightlifting. Guaranteed that a gallon of water or cans of soup will feel like 50lbs after several repetitions of squats and overhead presses!

I can't wait to welcome you back in January. We will have a few new Cadets joining our ranks and a few that aren't so new who are returning to San Diego after spending a semester out of the area. We can't wait to see you all! Stay safe and happy holidays!

- LTC Parlette

