

A Year in the Bronco Battalion

2016-2017

Santa Clara University Army ROTC

New Cadre, Promotions, and Retirement

It was an eventful year among the Bronco Battalion's cadre and staff. This year saw a plethora of new faces among the cadre. We welcomed MAJ Jose Alfaro, CPT Matthew Truax, and SFC Coby Carpentier to the Bronco Battalion at the beginning of the school year. LTC Jason Noble, our new "Bronco 6," took over as the Professor of Military Science soon

after the new year. Additionally, this spring we saw off our Senior Military Instructor, MSG Amin Henriquez, to the Sergeant Major Academy. He was replaced by MSG Ernesto Alvarez. Both our PMS LTC Noble and our recruiting officer, LTC Mario Morales, were selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Finally, Ms. Linda Renner, our long-

time HRA, retired after 44 years of government service, 30 of which were with the Santa Clara University Army ROTC department. A warm welcome to all our new cadre and congratulations to Linda on her retirement and to LTC Noble, LTC Morales and MSG Henriquez on their career progression.

1 September, 2017



ARMY ROTC

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PMS Remarks

Cadets, Staff, Friends and Families of the Bronco Battalion,

I am so excited to begin our next academic year here as the Professor of Military Science of the Bronco Battalion. We had many successes last year and I know we will build upon those this year. I want to congratulate all of our new MSIVs for their outstanding performance at Cadet Summer Training. It was a hot, muggy and very challenging course, but all of our Cadets excelled. These young leaders will now lead our Battalion over the next year as we prepare the rest of the Battalion. I would also like to welcome the new Cadets that are joining the Battalion. I recently conducted PT with our new class and they have arrived strong and ready to learn and lead. The Battalion has never been bigger and I could not be more proud of these outstanding student leaders. I look forward to getting to know each and everyone one of you and your families. Once again teammates- I am very proud of all of these outstanding young men and women who represent the best our Nation has to offer.

ALWAYS FORWARD!

-LTC Noble



Incoming PMS LTC Noble poses in front of the Mission Church

Cadet Battalion Commander Remarks

Broncos,

As we have finish up our summer training, we would like to share all our great accomplishments that we, as a team, have completed this past year. The outgoing MS IV class did an incredible job mentoring and training us for our Cadet Summer Training. We are sad to see them leave us but excited to see everything they will accomplish in their respected branches. The Bronco Battalion is excited to take everything that they have taught us and bringing our training to the next level. Looking back just one year from now, it is hard to believe that we have accomplished so much in such a small amount of time. We have successfully executed two FTXs, competed in both Ranger Challenge and Bataan Memorial Death March and in classic Bronco fashion, destroyed Cadet Summer Training. With our great cadre and hardworking Cadets, we are excited to see the program grow and achieve more this year!

Air Assault!

-Blake Smith

CULP

Cadet Nicolas Lozano-Landinez spent the summer participating in the Army's Cultural Understanding & Language Proficiency (CULP) Program. Through CULP, he traveled to Mongolia. Of the program, he says, "In 2016, I traveled to Mongolia under supervision of personnel from the Alaska Army National Guard and the Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron.



While there, we were attached to 3 different units of the Mongolian Armed Forces to accomplish PACOM Commander and U.S. Ambassador's goals. Throughout three weeks, we collaborated with over 300 personnel from the National Defense University and the Mongolian Ministry of Defense."





Fall FTX

In November, the Bronco Battalion conducted its annual Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Parks in Dublin, CA. The weekend included squad tactics and individual land navigation. Cadets also received a block of instruction from National Guard soldiers on how to clear a room and conduct Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) searches.



Ranger Challenge

This year's Ranger Challenge team travelled to East Miramar in San Diego to compete against teams from a dozen other ROTC programs. Cadets competed in a number of events, including a modified APFT, map reading and land navigation, construction of a one rope bridge, a grenade assault course, first aid, a situation report, a 10km ruck march, and a commander's challenge. The team spent months preparing and dedicated their early mornings five times a week to ready themselves physically and mentally for the competition.

Air Assault

Cadets Blake Smith and Sage Buzzini had the opportunity to attend the Air Assault course this year. Cadet Buzzini had the following to say about the course:

"My time at Air Assault School will forever be engrained in my mind as one of the most physically and mentally challenging, yet rewarding experiences I've ever had. Air Assault tested my mental fortitude and truly showed me how strong I can be in the face of adversity. There is only so much one can do to prepare for Air Assault because each class



receives an experience that is unique from those that have already gone through. Strenuous physical exercise seems to be the common denominator between every class and I'm thankful to be a part of an ROTC battalion that places so much emphasis on PT.

The Bronco Battalion provided tough physical training and the motivation to pursue fitness goals on my own time; and I don't think I could have passed Air Assault without them driving me to succeed."



Bataan Memorial Death March

This spring, Santa Clara sent two teams to White Sands, New Mexico to represent the program in the Bataan Memorial Death March. The teams, one heavy and one light, traversed 26.2 miles of desert terrain to honor those Americans who perished during the Bataan Death March in the Philippines during World War II. This was done, of course, in the spirit of friendly competition against other ROTC programs from across the country who also

had come to White Sands to participate in the memorial march. The heavy team, which completed the course with 35-pound rucksacks on their backs, finished in under 10 hours. The light team, which ran the course, placed 3rd with a time of 5 hours and 15 minutes.



From left to right: Noah Strong, Royce Stanfill, Blake Smith, James Middleton, Bahman Engineer, CPT Matthew Truax, LTC Jason Noble, MAJ Jose Alfaro, Joe Prose (back row), Romy Nguyen (front row), Michael Tran, Connor Pritchard, Luke Correnti

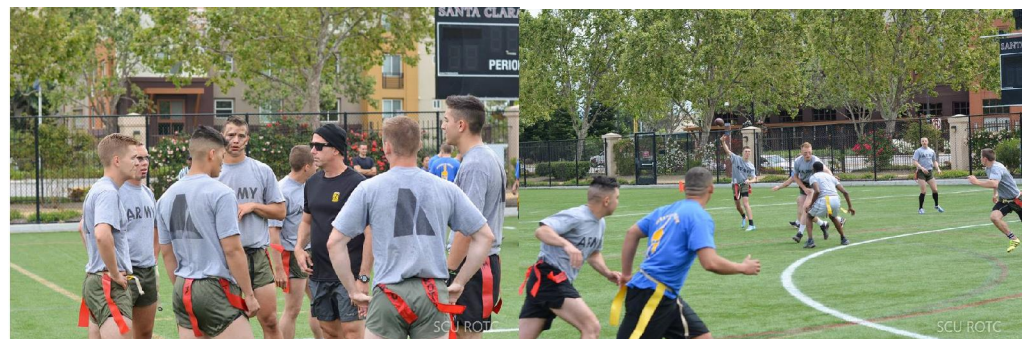
Spring JFTX

In April, the Bronco Battalion conducted its annual Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) with the ROTC programs from the University of San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley. The training gave cadets the opportunity to better their skills in mission planning and tactics. It served as essential preparation for the MS III

class, who spent their summer at Fort Knox, Kentucky being evaluated on their leadership and planning abilities.



Go Army! Beat Air Force!



The Bronco Battalion hosted the annual football game against San Jose State's Air Force ROTC program. It was a close matchup throughout, but in the end, the Army side edged out Air Force with both a scoring drive and a defensive stop in the final minutes. It must have been the ranger panties (although weeks of training undoubtedly helped)!

Military Ball

The annual military ball was held in May. It familiarized cadets with the proceedings of a formal military event as they looked back on all the accomplishments they had made throughout the school year.

Members of the Ranger Challenge and Bataan teams were recognized, and the Battalion took a moment to honor our nation's POWs with a moment of silence. Additionally, leadership for the upcoming school year was announced. Congratulations to Cadet Blake Smith, our Battalion Commander, Cadet Noah Strong, our Battalion Executive Officer, Cadet Pablo Lozano, our Battalion S-3 Operations Officer, and Cadet Nicolas Lozano-Landinez, our Battalion Command Sergeant Major. The night was not all business, of course. Cadets and their dates tore up the dance floor once the formal ceremony had concluded.



Advanced Camp

The MS III class and two MS IVs traveled to Fort Knox, Kentucky, home of Cadet Command, this summer for a month-long training and evaluation program known as Advanced Camp. During this month, the cadets demonstrated the leadership and planning skills that they developed over the previous three years in ROTC. They were evaluated against their peers and ranked at the camp's conclusion. This evaluation will have an effect on whether they are awarded the branch, or job, of their choosing this October. The MS IVs who went through Advanced Camp this year received their commissions upon completion.

At camp, cadets rucked as many as 12 miles at a time, ran through tactical lanes and patrol base operations, qualified with an M4, conducted land navigation, practiced call for fire, and completed a number of obstacle courses. It was a challenging experience, but cadets from the Bronco Battalion excelled.

Jungle!

“The Jungle Operations Training Course was an incredible opportunity and by far the highlight of my summer. The training was difficult and the environmental conditions were demanding, but I found the experience to be extremely rewarding.

We spent the first week learning survival skills in the jungle environment. These included fire and shelter building, knot tying, water filtration and purification, waterborne operations, tracking, and jungle land navigation. In the second week, we covered tactics and ran through squad lanes. By the third and final week, we ran through large scale, platoon sized lanes.

Between each week of training, we had the weekends free to recover and prepare for the following week. It was truly a blessing to be able to relax in Hawaii and I am still in awe of the fact that I was able to travel to such a destination for training.

Jungle!”

-Benjamin Lara



Pearl Harbor

CTLT

Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) provides cadets the opportunity to shadow Second Lieutenants for three to four weeks over the summer. These cadets, sometimes jokingly dubbed, “Third Lieutenants,” experience life in an active duty unit through the lens of an Army leader. CTLT allows them to gain insight into a branch that interests them and helps them to understand what day-to-day life is like as a Lieutenant in that branch. The Bronco Battalion sent four cadets to CTLT this summer.



Cadet Lara poses with his Jungle Buddies at Waikiki Beach



Cadet Lara shows off his Jungle tab upon the successful completion of the JOTC



Cadets James Middleton and Michael Tran participated in CTLT at Fort Sill, OK, where they were part of Field Artillery units. In addition to Field Artillery training, Cadet Middleton learned about Air Defense Artillery and Explosive Ordnance Disposal tasks.

Cadet Luke Correnti participated in CTLT with an Aviation unit at Fort Riley, KS. There he encountered our former PMS LTC John Tiedeman.

Cadet Morgan Kim had an especially unique CTLT experience. He traveled across the Pacific to South Korea where he spent time with a transportation unit. Of the experience, he said:

This summer, I went to Osan AFB in South Korea for CTLT, attached to the 25th Transportation Bn, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. During my time there, the Bn conducted a HMMWV convoy gunnery, sling load operations, an M4 qual range, Patriot Express and railhead missions, and a Movement Control Academy to train the soldiers in their MOS specific competencies. I had a great time and got to see a lot of the country!



Cadet Correnti poses with LTC Tiedeman



Cadet Middleton remotely operates a robotic arm (seen in background) that is used by Army EOD to safely dismantle explosive threats

Airborne



Top: Cadet Strong carries his equipment following a combat load jump

Right: Cadet Strong poses with his father LTC Strong who pinned his Airborne wings

“Attending the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, was one of the best experiences of my ROTC career. Jump School did a great job of training you physically and mentally through ground and tower weeks in preparation for jump week. This was my first real Army training and some lessons learned were to trust the Black-hats (instructors) because your training will work, PT is very important, and that you will make friends and meet great people everywhere you go in the Army. My platoon was very diverse and I had the opportunity to meet Marine Recon, Air Force JTAC, USMA Cadets, and Saudi Arabian soldiers. Fort Benning provided an amazing high-speed training environment and I would love to go back.

All the way!”
-Noah Strong



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Commissioning Class of 2017

This year, the Bronco Battalion graduated and commissioned a total of ten new Second Lieutenants. Eight were sworn in at a ceremony held at the University in June. Additionally, two more commissioned upon the successful completion of Advanced Camp. Congratulations to the following 2LTs:

Alexander Amoroso
Mitchel Bugaj
Christopher Egan
Jeffrey Jones
Bryant Kim
Justin Martinez
Stephen Montgomery
Britany Oliver
Robert Scalzo
Stephen Warnick



The Class of 2017



2LT Stephen Montgomery takes his Oath of Office at Fort Knox, KY