

Sun Devil Battalion

Cadet Newsletter Fall 2023 - Vol. 3

Upcoming Events

05 -11 February '24

-Waste Management Open Support

23 February '24

-BRM and Land Navigation at Florence

-16 February - 1 March '24

MS I & II Contracting Ceremony
(Non-Scholarship + SMB)

03-10 March '24

-ASU Spring Break

04-07 April '24

-Joint FTX at Fort Huachuca

13 April '24

-Pat Tillman Run

19 April '24

-Joint National Awards Ceremony
(JNAC)

19 April '24

-Cadet Change of Command and
Change of Responsibility

8 May '24

-ASU Commissioning Ceremony

Did you know?

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



Find out what the Sun Devil Cadets accomplished during the Fall Semester 2023!

In this issue:

- New Cadet Orientation (10 - 11 August)
- Tempe Healing Fields (11 September)
- Fall Field Training Exercise (28 Sept - 1 Oct)
- 1st Mogadishu Mile Run (4 October)
- Task Force Jicarilla Ranger Challenge (20 - 23 Oct)
- Salute to Service (Nov. 8 - 18)
- Branch Night (01 Dec.)

And more!



Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Orientation 10 - 11 August '23

On August 10-11, the Sun Devil Battalion Cadre welcomed its newest ASU Army ROTC Cadets.

During a two-day period, 23 new cadets were introduced to what they can expect in be the Sun Devil Battalion, one of the largest ROTC programs in the nation. The schedule included early move-in at different ASU dorms, off campus cadet check in/lunch, parent brief, National Guard reserve briefing, uniform fitting, reception with cadre, Cadets and parents. On the second day, the new Cadets took part in the army combat fitness test familiarization, the introduction to tactical athlete program, club intro brief and team building event among others.

These events, led by our Senior Cadets (MSIV's), set conditions for our newest Cadets to excel in our rigorous program.



Contracting Ceremonies

Army ROTC Cadets were contracted throughout the Fall Semester. The contracting ceremonies mark the beginning of a Cadet journey to receiving a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. This milestone unlocks the benefits that allow them to receive their Cadet stipend and, depending on type of contract, their scholarship or National Guard / Reserve tuition assistance.

Congratulations to all the new contracted Cadets!



Army ROTC transforms Students into Leaders for Life

On September 27, 2023, ASU's Jerry Gonzalez interviewed Colonel Erich Schneider, Professor of Military Science, to celebrate his promotion this last September. During the conversation, Colonel Schneider talked about the ROTC program and highlighted how it transforms students into leaders for life. Below is an extract of the full interview.

Question: What would you say to someone considering joining Army ROTC?

Answer: I would say, what are you waiting for? Take that first step. Come join our program. We are producing quality leaders, we are giving you skills to give you a competitive edge in a very complex world. It is going to make you better physically and mentally, regardless of whether you choose a life of service and stay in the military like I have. You can always move on out of the military, and you're a leader for life to go contribute to the communities and causes which you're passionate about.

Q: What are some of the benefits of being part of Army ROTC?

A: What we're producing in Army ROTC is scholars, athletes and leaders. We are building that skills in everybody and basically producing that quality leader of character for future service in the Army. And that's active duty, Reserve, National Guard. There are so many opportunities and benefits through Army ROTC. You'll have world-class cadre members, Army civilians and university employees investing in you every day to make sure you're doing well in academics. We're investing in you physically and mentally. You will have the opportunity to serve something bigger than yourself, creating lifelong friendships, building confidence and experiencing the satisfaction that only comes from hard work and dedication.

Ultimately, we're going to make you into the leader that our young Soldiers need in the United States Army.

To read Colonel Schneider's complete interview, please click on the following link:

<https://news.asu.edu/20231116-sun-devil-life-army-rotc-transforms-students-leaders-life>

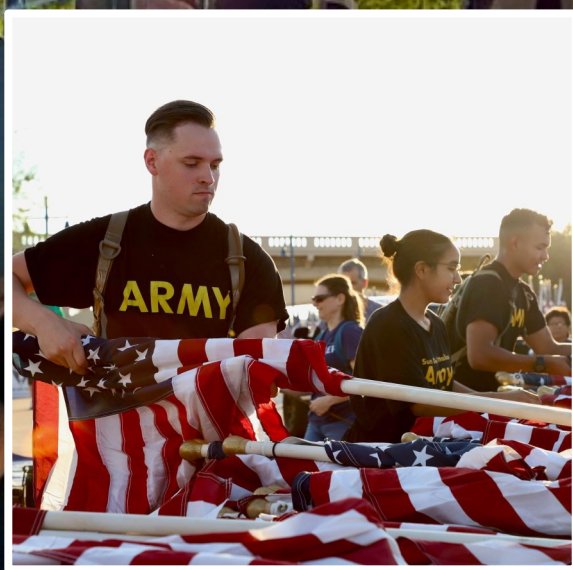


Tempe Healing Fields 11 September 2023 (Tempe Lake Park)

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets were instrumental in supporting the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 during the Tempe Healing Fields Ceremony. ASU Army ROTC Cadets continue to play an important role in volunteering alongside the community to emplace U.S. Flags honoring the 2,977 lives lost on September 11, 2001. We support this event each year in honoring all lives lost during the attack by standing up flags, attending the candlelight vigil, and standing down the flags.

“The vigil made me sad but also appreciative in the sense that we’re still remembering those who were lost that day and to never forget that effect it had on families and the country. In my opinion, the important of remembering 9/11 and the 2,977 victims is to never forget that it wasn’t just one group of victims that were affected; service members that risked their life trying to save those in need, as well as all civilians trapped in the towers doing their best to help get each other out. This made a mark in our country and it has impacted all of us in various ways, good and bad. We lost people, but we also gained a purpose to never let such a thing happen to our country again.”

CDT Mia DeCesare
MS IV - Geography Major



Fall Field Training Exercise 28 September -1 October (Fort Huachuca AZ)

From September 28th to October 1st, Cadets from ASU and GCU practiced their skills and demonstrated their field craft at Fort Huachuca during the Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX).

Field Training Exercise (FTX) is a 4-day long survival exercise in which Cadets learn the fundamentals and master the basics of shoot, move, communicate and medicate. Cadets learn radio communication, orienteering, how to build improvised shelters out of materials found in the woods or in nature and patrol base operations.

During this exercise Cadets put to practice the skills they previously learned during the semester and labs such as tactics, tactical combat casualty care, and troop leading procedures.

Great job Sun Devil Cadets!



1st Joint Mogadishu Mile Run

4 October 2023

(Mountain America Stadium, Tempe)

Teams from Arizona State University Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine ROTC participated in the first annual "Mogadishu Mile" competition at Mountain America Stadium, to honor the fallen warriors in the Battle of Mogadishu.

The event commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu, which took place on 03-04 October 1993, between members of the United States Armed Forces and the Somali National Alliance along with armed irregular civilians. As the operation was ongoing, Somali forces shot down three American helicopters resulting in a defense of the downed helicopters and a rescue mission. No battle since the Vietnam War had killed so many U.S. troops.

The Battle of Mogadishu culminated in members of the 75th Ranger Regiment and Delta Force soldiers moving from a helicopter crash site to an appointed rally point secured by the 10th Mountain Division. During the run Soldiers were attacked with small arms fire and suffering from sleep deprivation and dehydration.

During the "Mogadishu Mile", 54 Cadets and Midshipmen participated with six 9-person teams and moved 3.2 miles, carrying a variety of heavy objects and completing several exercises throughout the competition.

Follow the link below to watch the news clip of the First Mogadishu Mile:

<https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#!/report/3bbae474-911d-4b0b-8886-1f6ae007d5d7/clip/458b99f2-b2e3-46ef-bd23-927e0df9974d/play>

Check the link below for the Three Ranger Foundation:

<https://www.threerangersfoundation.org/mog-mile-history>



Task Force Jicarilla Ranger Challenge Competition 20 - 23 October 2023 (Fort Huachuca, AZ)

During the weekend of 20-23 October 2023, two ASU-GCU teams represented the Sun Devil Battalion during a three-day Task Force JICARILLA Competition that included teams from the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University (includes Embry Riddle), University of New Mexico, New Mexico State, University of Texas El Paso, and Texas Tech.

The Ranger Challenge Competition is designed to challenge cadets both physically and mentally as well as enhance leader development and team cohesion.

The competition included a variety of events such as the ACFT, One-Rope Bridge, Land Navigation, Marksmanship (Stress Shoot), Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Obstacle Course, Grenade Assault Course, Zodiac carry, a 6-mile ruck march and more.

Against many highly competitive Army ROTC Programs, the Sun Devil Battalion Cadets placed 1st in the 6-mile ruck, 2nd on the overhead Zodiac boat carry with Kim's test (memory test), 2nd in land nav written and 3rd on the stress shoot lane.

Despite not making it to the Brigade Competition, we are extremely proud of their efforts!



The BeaverFit was officially inaugurated on 15 November 2023

Mountain America Stadium is now one of the new homes of the ASU ROTC fitness program!

As a part of its commitment to help with the success of the ROTC programs, Arizona State University recently purchased a BeaverFit Beyond Trailer and two 10' BeaverFit Performance lockers. These units facilitate the ROTC Cadets with the necessary tools to help them achieve their rigorous physical training goals. ASU invested over \$ 216,000 in the purchase of these units.

The Beaver fit is a mobile unit that can be deployable to any environment and contains equipment designed to meet the specific training needs of all tactical athletes.



The BeaverFit was officially inaugurated on November 15, 2023 when Dean Paul LePore from the College of Liberal Arts, and Anne Gazzaniga, Asst. Vice-President from The University Space Planning/ Planning Studies, did the honors to open it for business!

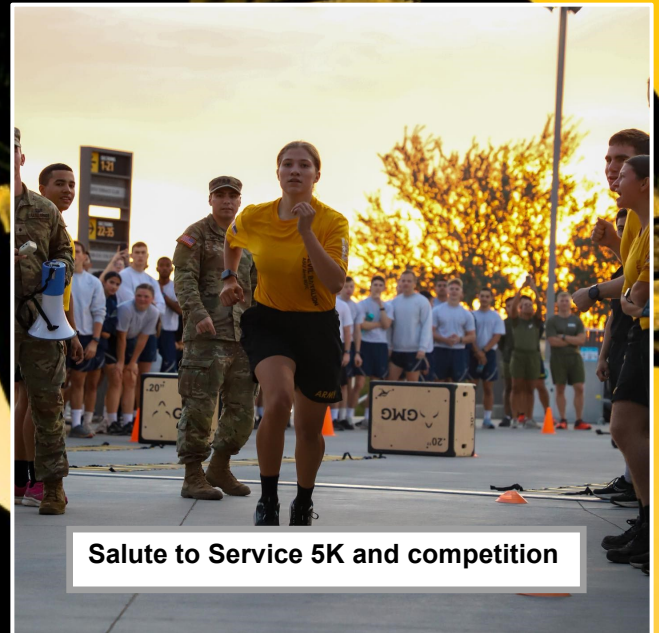
ASU ROTC Cadets took part in a Pitchfork shoot at the Mountain America Stadium during the Salute to Service 2023 celebration week!



Salute to Service November 8 - 18 2023 (Tempe, Arizona)



Veteran's Parade



Salute to Service 5K and competition



Sparky's Tailgate



Cadets take the Oath of Enlistment

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets were an important part of the Salute to Service week celebration at Arizona State University. During the week Army ROTC cadets participated in different events such as the Veterans Parade organized by the City of Mesa, Salute to Service 5K run, Arizona Senior Military Leadership Panels, Sparky's Tailgate and the ASU vs. Oregon Football game. Also, Cadets took the Oath of Enlistment during the halftime Contracting Ceremony during the game against Oregon State, which was given by Lt. Gen. (Ret) Vern "Rusty" Findley.

Salute to Service celebrates and recognizes all those first responders and troops who serve this great nation and have sacrificed so much to keep it safe!

Branch Night 01 December 2023 (Armstrong Hall)

During this year's Sun Devil ROTC Draft Night, 45 Cadets from ASU and GCU were joined by their family and friends to receive a confirmation from Cadet Command's Accessions Process to determine what team (Branch) they were selected for. Spirits were high and the night did not disappoint. As they have done over this year-long process, the Cadets donned their finest clothes, *showed off their Rizz*, and brought their A-Game. One after another, starting with our Top Ranked Cadet on the National Competitions Order of Merit List, our Commissioners of the night revealed each Cadet's branch.

The Accessions Process is fed by a Cadet's academic excellence, talent based branching inputs, Cadet Summer Training performance, and rigorous interviews. As they typically do, this year our Cadets fared well in getting their branch of choice. 93% received one of their top five Branches, 86% received one of their top three choices, and 69% received their number one pick. The top three Branches that our Cadets were selected were Medical Service Corps, Adjutant General Corps and Infantry. Throughout this Spring Semester our Seniors will proudly display their branch insignia on their uniform until they commission this May.

"I was selected for the Adjutant General Corps. I chose this branch because in my enlisted career this branch provided me with a high quality of life, knowledge and experience. It developed me as a leader and I want to become an influential member of that branch. Arizona State University ROTC is preparing me to become a 2LT by empowering me to be a better version of myself. Through vigorous training exercises and a well-developed curriculum, I was able to improve my communication, delegation, and personnel management skills, which has helped me thrive and prepare me as a future Adjutant General Corp Officer."

CDT Phillip Jansson
Cadet Executive Officer
MS IV - Organizational Lead (Project Management) Major



Winter Commissioning Ceremony 12 December 2023 (Armstrong Hall)



On 12 December 2023, five senior Army ROTC cadets were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants of the Army.

The Commissioning Ceremony is a long-standing tradition that marks the symbolic first step a young lieutenant takes on the path of being an Army Officer. Family and close friends had the opportunity to participate in and celebrate this milestone. We are grateful for the investment that they have made in their loved one and proud of the persistence and grit that these leaders have shown in our program over the years.

Congratulations to our new 2nd Lieutenants:

2LT Brandon Lewis - Adjutant General
2LT Brennan Liu - Corps of Engineers
2LT Michael Seno - Ordnance Corps
2LT Jray Sotiangco - Air Defense Artillery
2LT Austin Szczeniak - Infantry

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets participate in extracurricular activities

Army Ten-Miler Race 8 October 2023 (Washington DC)

Sun Devil Cadets took part in the 39th Annual Army Ten-Miler run. They raced alongside service members, military veterans and their families through iconic vistas of Washington D.C.'s historic landmarks. Conducted by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW), the run attracts over 35,000 runners and 900 teams from around the world. The mission is to support Army outreach, build morale and promote physical fitness. During this event, the Cadets had the honor of meeting Major General Antonio Munera, who assumed command of U.S Army Cadet Command on September 20, 2022 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Special thank you to COL (R) Chandra Roberts from The Association of the United States Army (AUSA), who awarded scholarship checks to the Army ROTC Cadets that ran in this Army 10-Miler. They were recognized by the AZ Territorial Chapter Association of the United States Army for their superior performance during the run.

“Runs and activities in the ASU Army ROTC program contribute to the holistic development of cadets, preparing them physically, mentally, and socially for the challenges we will face as future military leaders. The Army 10-Miler is important because it's the Army's Race, and it is an excellent opportunity for cadets to see the bigger picture as well as interact with other ROTC programs and Army units.”

CDT Cayden Wells
Cadet Battalion Commander
MS IV - History Major



Pictured from left to right:
CDT Brandon Moreno, Cadet Command CG,
MG Antonio V. Munera, CDT Cayden Wells
and CDT Kyle Martini.



Cadets Kyle Martini and Cayden Wells received their scholarship checks as a recognition to their participation in the 10-Miler run.

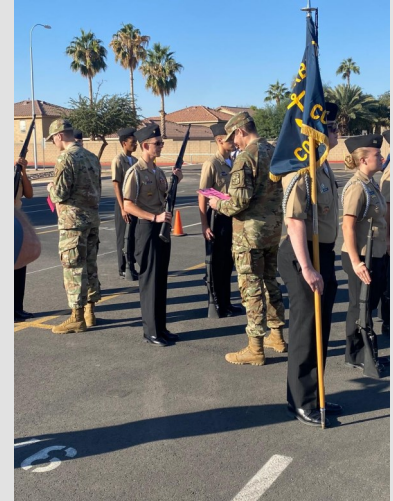
Sun Devil Battalion Cadets participate in extracurricular activities (Cont.)

Desert Talon Drill Meet 4 November 2023 (Hamilton High School, Chandler)

15 ASU Army ROTC Cadets participated at the Desert Talon Drill Meet hosted at Hamilton High School in Chandler, AZ. Desert Talon is an event held annually and is a multi-service drill competition. JROTC units from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force participated.

During the drill, the participating teams demonstrated their abilities in different categories, such as armed and unarmed inspection, regulation and exhibition drill, and in color guard. ASU Army ROTC Cadets were part of a panel of judges who evaluated the skills of the JROTC Cadets from 16 High Schools around the Valley.

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets took this opportunity to talk to different JROTC Cadets that showed interest in the ROTC program at ASU and wanted to know what are the advantages and/or benefits of being a part of one of the oldest and most successful ROTC programs in the country!



Sun Devil Battalion Cadets participate in extracurricular activities (Cont.)

Challenging Heights, 8 to 23 December (Ghana, Africa)

During Christmas break, Cadet Katie Alcaraz-Reyes traveled to Ghana, Africa to participate in a study abroad program with Challenging Heights. Challenging Heights is a non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent child trafficking, reduce child slavery and promote children's rights.

During her internship, CDT Alcaraz-Reyes was able to help on the field and operations program. These programs focus on conducting rescue missions for children who are forced to work in a lake and untangle nets beneath the water. This heavy work that's performed under gruesome conditions, leads to sickness, injury, malnutrition, lack of schooling, and even drowning. Children as young as six years old had been rescued by this program.

Once the children are rescued, they're taken to the *Hovde* house, which is a six month recovery center for youngsters. During this period, these children are given health checks, medications, healthy meals and basic needs that will help them to overcome the challenges they have faced. Once healthy, they are integrated back with family or acquaintances who are willing to protect and take care of them.

CDT Alcaraz-Reyes was able to work with a 6th grade classroom, where she chose two students to compete in the spelling bee against other classrooms. She says that the students at the *Hovde* house were enthusiastic and eager to learn. CDT Alcaraz-Reyes also had a great experience working with women at the vocational school. Women who themselves had been through difficult circumstances but nonetheless, were putting the effort to better themselves and be successful in the vocational career of their choice.

"This experience helped me grow as a person and as a leader. During this internship, I was the one who took initiative in regards to donating to the organization. By doing so, many followed and wanted to partake. As a result, we raised hundreds of dollars in funds which I then used to go out and purchase sporting goods and educational materials for the school and the recovery house. To me, this is the purpose behind leadership and being a good person."

CDT Katie Alcaraz-Reyes
MS IV - Forensic Psychology Major

In these pictures, CDT Alcaraz-Reyes poses with a group of rescued minors; during a lecture in one of the classrooms and donating sporting goods and educational materials.



2LT Brandon Lewis awarded the Dean's Medal Department of Military Science

On December 12 2023, ASU Army ROTC newly commissioned 2LT Lewis was awarded the Dean's Medal for the Department of Military Science, along with 20 graduating students from other departments and schools within The College of Liberal Arts at Arizona State University. At the end of Spring and Fall Semester, The College recognizes outstanding students who have demonstrated a continuous commitment to academic excellence.

2LT Lewis joined the ASU Army ROTC program in 2019 and represented ASU in a national internship at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. He also completed Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and graduated with high marks from the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare Course. 2LT Lewis received his degree in mechanical engineering and a minor in military leadership.

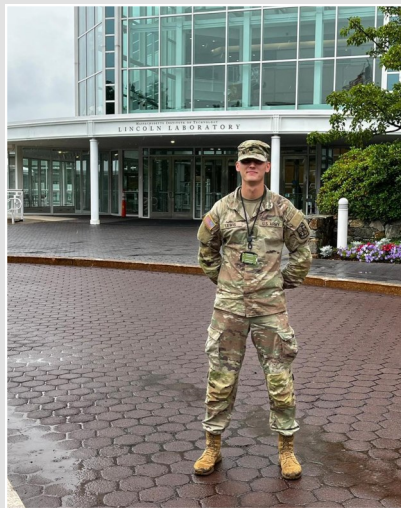
During his time as an Army ROTC Cadet, 2LT Lewis served as a Cadet Company Commander, leading and mentoring 42 Cadets.

2LT Lewis will serve in the Army Reserves and work at Honeywell as a mechanical engineer. **

Congratulations on your academic achievements 2LT Lewis!

** Extracted from ASU News, Sun Devil Life (December 7, 2023)

<https://news.asu.edu/20231207-sun-devil-life-college-recognizes-academic-excellence-fall-2023-deans-medalists>



Sun Devil Cadets give back to the community

Every year, ASU Army ROTC Cadets generate over 5,000 volunteer hours by supporting multiple events around the Valley of the Sun. We believe that participating in these events teaches the Cadets the value of selfless service, placing the welfare of our community before our own.

Among the events that the Sun Devil Cadets took part in during the Fall 2023 Semester were Vitalant Blood Drive, Paul's Car Wash, and The Dean's Cup Food Drive.

Sun Devil Cadets answered the call to donate blood and to make a difference in someone's life. The donation took place at multiple locations on 3 October. The Blood drive is organized twice a year during the Spring and Fall semester by the Vitalant Foundation.

Army ROTC Cadets were also an important part of the 16th Annual Paul's Car Wash, held from October 16th to 20th. Sun Devil Cadets rolled up their sleeves and washed dozens of cars for an outstanding cause. The money raised during this event benefits Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Arizona

Also, throughout November canned goods were collected by the Sun Devil Battalion Cadets along with Air Force ROTC Cadets. On November 20th, the food was donated to the St. Mary's Food Bank. The event was organized in order to provide for those in need around the Valley of the Sun.



Meet the Sun Devil Battalion New Cadre and Staff Members



MAJ Matthew Gowens
Assistant Professor of Military
Science, Executive Officer



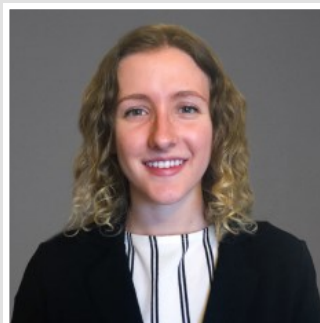
CPT Connor Murray
Military Science III Instructor



1 LT Taylor Payne
AZNG Liaison / Military Science
Instructor II



Mr. Javier Ratliff
Command Sergeant Major (R), Army
Recruiting Operations Officer



Alexandra Baker
ROTC Student Services Manager

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.



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