

Sun Devil Battalion

Cadet Newsletter Fall 2024 - Vol. 6

Upcoming Events

3-9 February '25

-Waste Management Open Support

3-7 March '25

MS I & II Contracting Board (Non-Scholarship + SMP)

9-15 March '25

-ASU Spring Break

21 March '25

-ASU CWST

22 March '25

-ASU Gallegos JROTC Drill Meet

27-30 March '25

-Joint FTX at Fort Huachuca

12 April '25

-Pat Tillman Run

18 April '25

-BRM and Land Navigation at Florence

25 April '25

-Joint National Awards Ceremony (JNAC)

25 April '25

-Cadet Change of Command and Change of Responsibility

14 May '25

-ASU 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>



Did you know?

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

Find out what the Sun Devil Cadets accomplished during Fall 2024!

In this issue:

- New Cadet Orientation
- Contracting ceremonies
- Tempe Healing Fields
- Fall FTX - Fort Huachuca
- Mogadishu March
- TF Jicarilla Ranger Challenge
- Salute to Service
- Branch Night
- Commissioning Ceremony
- Cadets give back to the Community

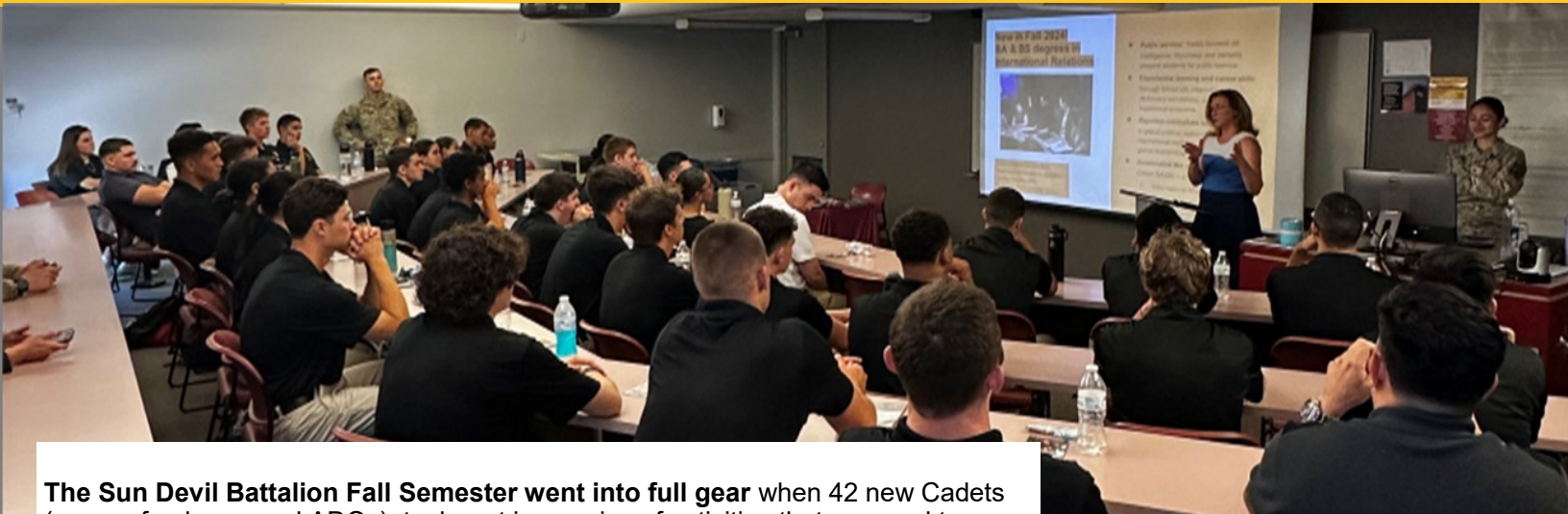
And more!

Check out our Fact Sheet

<https://issuu.com/asu college/docs/>



New Cadet Orientation Fall '24 15 - 20 August (Tempe Campus)



The Sun Devil Battalion Fall Semester went into full gear when 42 new Cadets (among freshman and ADOs), took part in a series of activities that spanned two days during the New Cadet Orientation. These activities were meant to give the new Cadets a taste of what life in the Army ROTC program will be, as well as to set conditions for them to excel in our rigorous program.

These activities, coordinated with the Army ROTC Cadre and led by the Senior Cadets (MSIV's), were carefully planned weeks in advance with the intent of helping the incoming Cadets with a smooth transition into Cadet Life. The Cadet Chain of Command along with other Cadet leadership started planning all the activities in May 2024 with the ROO and Cadre S3, following PMS guidance to ensure a successful Orientation.

The Orientation began with an early move-in where MSIII Cadets (New Cadet Sponsors) helped the incoming freshmen move into their respective dorms. It was followed with a series of activities such as the admin rodeo, program inbrief and an **ACFT familiarization** which introduced the new Cadets to the fitness test standards within the Army.

Orientation continued among others with the **Ice breaker** activity. Incoming Cadets had to build the tallest tower with only two materials; dry spaghetti and a big marshmallow! The premise behind this is to build teams and to foment comradery and cohesion amongst the newest members of the Sun Devil Battalion.

Additionally, Cadets further built camaraderie and teamwork through a **Battle Boats competition**. Cadets split into 3 teams of 6 each. The game consisted of throwing water into the opponent's boat until it sank and the last standing team wins.

ASU Army ROTC is here to instill trust within our Cadets and set them up to success, both in their personal and professional life, as they build their future career goals!



Senior Cadets welcome the newest members of the Sun Devil Battalion on day one



New Cadets hone their building skills during the Icebreaker exercise



Practicing target shooting at the smokeless rifle room



New Cadets taking a break at the Cadet Lounge



New Cadets had fun while team-worked during the battle boat exercise

Fall Semester Quick Off 23 August (Tempe Campus)

During the Sun Devil Battalion Semester kick off, several Army ROTC Cadets and the MS III Instructor were recognized for the amazing work they did during summer break and the 2023 - 2024 school year.

Among the recognitions were Cadets who participated in summer internships, Cadet Troop Leader Training, Project Go, MS3 Leader training, Air Assault and Master Fitness Trainer, as well as our CST RECONDOS and Outstanding Performance Top 15% at CST.*

* Click on the link below for more details:

[https://militaryscience.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-10/Sun%20Devil%20Battalion%](https://militaryscience.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-10/Sun%20Devil%20Battalion%20Quick%20Off%202023-2024.pdf)



CPT Connor Murray, the Sun Devil Battalion MSIII Instructor was recognized with the Instructor of the Year Award. CPT Murray was an instrumental part of the Cadets success during Cadet Summer Training.

CPT Murray joined the Army ROTC program in April 2023 and ever since has been a driving force behind the success of the program. His experience and tactical teachings have taught the MS III Cadets valuable lessons that will prepare them for the challenges they will face once they commission as second lieutenants in the Army.

Thank you CPT Murray for your hard work and dedication to the program!



Tactical Athlete Seminar 15 - 16 August (ASU Downtown Campus)

The tactical Athlete Seminar is a two-day program held at the ASU Downtown Phoenix Campus and it's aimed to train Cadets to lead physical training programs at ASU and Grand Canyon University Army ROTC programs. Army ROTC Cadets gained proficiency in several areas such as foundational movement, coach-to-coach mentoring and recovery nutrition among other subjects.

On day 1 the Cadets went over historic fitness data from last year and Cadet Summer Training. They also discussed the importance of physical fitness and what it means to practice holistic health and fitness. Then they received a lecture from Coach Joseph Marzit, the Degree Director – Sports Science and Performance Programming and Dr. Rachel Larsen, the Director and Clinical Associate Professor, both from the College of Health Sciences. Afterwards, a training session was conducted focusing on deadlift technique and a metabolic circuit.

On day 2 Cadets received a training block by the Cadet Battalion Physical Training Officer (Cadet Vydell Belcher), followed by a training session focused on the front squat and run intervals. It continued with a training on considerations for fitness improvements (covering training/injuries/endurance). The day concluded with another training session focused on recovery and mobility, and was closed out with a discussion.



Sun Devil Cadets and Cadre during this year's Tactical Athlete Seminar

Contracting Ceremonies 5 September - 22 November (Tempe Campus)



The much anticipated contracting ceremonies began in Fall Semester when a total of 17 Sun Devil Battalion Cadets made the commitment to continue their path to become officers of the United States Army.

This Fall Semester the Sun Devil Battalion had three separate contracting ceremonies, each marking 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.

(Daniel Talone, Conner de Asis, Gabriel Luhmen, Jade Goulet, Will Barret, Javier Morales, Josue Morales, Liam McKewan, Alexander Mirigian, Cole Stacey, Patton Reese - Old Main, 9/5/24)

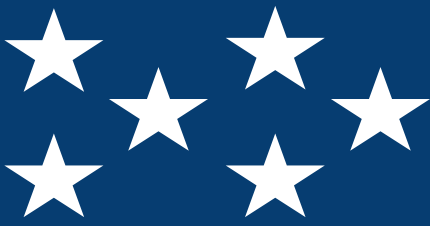
(Sasha Sherrell, Eric Wilkerson and Jackson Moore - Main office, 10/08/24)

(Jalen Johnson, Antonio Vega - Conference room, 11/22/24)



Congratulations to all the new contracted Cadets!





Tempe Healing Fields 07 - 12 September (Tempe Beach Park)



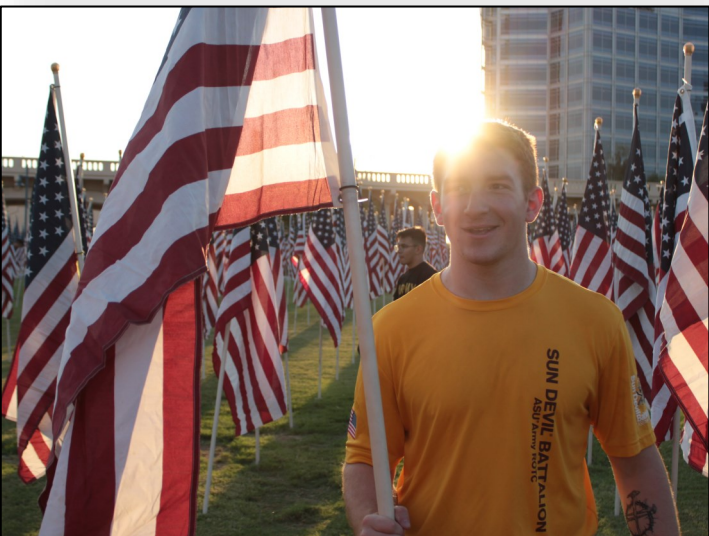
Organized every year by the Exchange Club of Tempe, the **Tempe Healing Fields** pay tribute to those who tragically lost their lives during the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. The commemoration spanned from September 7 to September 11 and hosted a series of events. Once again, **Sun Devil Battalion Cadets were instrumental** in supporting the 23rd anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93.

The commemoration started on September 7th with the standing of 2,977 American flags at the Tempe Beach Park field; each flag represents a life lost during that tragic day. It continued with the Evening Freedom Concert, the Tunnel to Towers 5k Run/Walk and the Healing Field Tribute on September 11. During the Healing Fields Ceremony, the public was invited to the stage to help with the reading of the names of each of the victims; the reading began right at the time the first plane hit the first tower. The commemoration continued with a candlelight vigil at 7:00 PM and concluded with the stand down of the flags on September 12.



The Sun Devil Battalion takes pride in supporting this solemn event each year and in honoring all lives lost during the brutal attack. We will continue our commitment to help the communities we live in.

We will never forget!



Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) 26 - 29 September (Fort Huachuca, AZ)

32 Freshman Sun Devil Battalion Cadets were able to experience for the first time the thrill of being out in the wilderness and to brave the elements during the Fall Field Training Exercise at Ft. Huachuca.

Field Training Exercise (FTX) is a 4-day long 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 time, Cadets from ASU and GCU practiced their skills and demonstrated their field craft at Fort Huachuca.

Jackson Moore, a MS I Cadet with a four-year National Army ROTC scholarship who recently contracted with ASU Army ROTC, says that he thought FTX would be like going camping. But he was wrong: the experience turned out to be even more gratifying and fun than he anticipated.

CDT Moore explains that his first FTX was both easier and tougher than he thought it'd be. The easier part was not having Physical Training (PT) or ruck march every morning as he was expecting it. The difficult aspect was keeping up with all the instructions that were given to them and trying to take it all in while taking notes and applying it during lanes. Also, the lack of sleep that came from resting every night on a thin mattress added to the demanding part of the training.

A resident of Arizona, CDT Moore says that the part of the training he enjoyed the most was to know where his peers came from, their backgrounds and getting to know them on a more personal level. Overall, it was a great experience for him.



CDT Moore (with sunglasses) listening to instructions along with other MS I Cadets



Compass reading



Target shooting analysis



Tending for the wounded drill



Land navigation reading

While this was a great first experience for the MS I Cadets, it was also an excellent learning opportunity for the MS IV Cadets who are getting ready to commission on Spring '25. Even though Senior Cadre and Army ROTC instructors are the ones responsible for the planning of each FTX, Senior Cadets help with the execution and supervision, making sure that everything runs according to plan.

MS IV CDT Olivia Mendez explains that the MS IV Company Commanders and their First Sergeants were responsible for tracking incoming Cadets and ensuring they were prepared physically and mentally for this intense training. The supervision continued with MS IV staff members gathering and staging equipment for different training classes; MS I & II's were instructed based on Ranger Handbook standards.

CDT Mendez adds that other responsibilities on the field included safety and instruction of Basic Rifle Marksmanship and Land Navigation. MS IV Cadets also mentored and instructed freshmen and sophomore Cadets with the objective of building cohesion across the Battalion. There was also a fun squad competition for the MS I & II's that incorporated all they learned in the prior days as well as a recognition ceremony.

Great Job Sun Devil Cadets!

Battle of Mogadishu 04 October (Sun Devil Fitness Complex)

In the spirit of remembering the sacrifice that prior **Army Members** made to keep our country safe, the Sun Devil Battalion Cadets commemorated The Battle of Mogadishu with a battalion physical fitness competition. The workout took place at the Sun Devil Fitness Complex (SDFC) field and all Cadets from the three Companies competed.

Alpha, Bravo and Charlie companies brought their best fighting competition during this event, which consisted in three circuits: Spring Drag Carry, pull-ups and Bear Crawls; barbell shoulder presses and lunges; and the last event was a 2-mile run around the Tempe campus. The winner was based on the overall time competing in the three events. Bravo Company was the winner!

The friendly competition commemorated the 31th Anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu. This battle 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.



Top Marksmanship CST '24 04 October (Army Cadet Command)

The Arizona State University Army ROTC Program was awarded the Top Marksmanship Award at Cadet Summer Training (CST) 2024 for 5th Brigade (BDE) United States Army Cadet Command (USACC). This award is given to the Army ROTC program that overall performs the best on the rifle qualification at Cade Summer Training (CST).

During the qualification the Cadets must obtain a minimum passing score of 23 or higher out of 40 targets. They fire 10 rounds from the prone supported position, prone unsupported, kneeling supported, and standing supported. The qualification test evaluates the Soldier's ability to engage targets at various distances while employing the fundamentals of marksmanship.

Targets range from 50 to 300 meters and appear for varying lengths of time depending on the distance. The Sun Devil Battalion won this award out of 36 Army ROTC programs across 5th BDE making them the most "lethal" within the BDE. In conjunction with our Marksmanship Committee and rigorous marksmanship training plan, we would like to thank Glen Stilson and his team at Independence Training for their expertise and edification.



TF Jicarilla Ranger Challenge 17 - 20 October (Santa Fe Armory, NM)

This year, the Sun Devil Battalion Cadets traveled far to participate in the Jicarilla Task Force Ranger Challenge that took place at the New Mexico National Guard Santa Fe Readiness Center.

The preparation for this fast-paced, demanding event starts with the Ranger Challenge tryouts, held the second week of the Fall Semester. Once selected, the Cadets trained very hard five days a week in preparation to face other Army ROTC programs.

During the 3-day task force competition, the two ASU-GCU combined teams competed against 10 Teams from the following schools: New Mexico State University, University of New Mexico, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona State University, University of Arizona, University of Texas El Paso, Texas Tech University, and Embry Riddle University.

Against all those highly competitive Army ROTC Programs, the Sun Devil Battalion secured 3rd place in the overall competition behind Texas Tech at #1 and Embry Riddle at #2. They fought through tough conditions, showing grit and determination. We're proud of all they've accomplished and we are extremely proud of their efforts.

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, and more.

Congratulations to our Ranger Challenge teams!



Rain or shine the competition must go on!



The calm before the storm!



3-5 seconds each time for the Win



Zodiac boat carrying competition

ASU Salute to Service 07 - 17 November (Mesa - Tempe Campus)



Sun Devil Battalion Cadets participate at the Veteran's Day Parade organized by the City of Mesa

Every year, ASU celebrates and recognizes the men and women in uniform who've served this country and put service above themselves in both their professional and personal lives. The Sun Devil Cadets were a big part of this celebration, which kicked-off with the Salute to Service Joint Run on November 6. Cadets and Cadre from the 3 ROTC Branches (Air Force, Army and Navy/Marine) participated in a friendly group run and push up contest!

The week continued with several panel discussions, during which the Army ROTC Cadets had the opportunity to listen to renowned Arizona military leaders who spoke about different topics such as Military Leadership and Experience, the Implications of Technology on Today's Battlefield (Drones, Cyber, Information) and Leading Through Times of Difficulty and Uncertainty.

But besides expanding their knowledge with different military topics, there was also valuable time to interact with the communities the Cadets live in and serve. Cadets were able to network throughout the community during the Sparky's Tailgate and The Veteran's Day Parade. During the Veterans Parade in the city of Mesa, they had the privilege to connect with the community, who joyfully showed their support to our Cadets and cheered them on enthusiastically!

At the Tempe Campus, the Sparky's tailgate was a big hit with those who stopped by the BeaverFit ACFT mobile fitness trainer. People of all ages participated in different physical challenges such as pull-ups, planks, bench-press and hand release push-ups! Those who faced these challenges were presented with Sun Devil Battalion memorabilia such as t-shirts, water bottles and lanyards among other swag.

The big celebration culminated when 12 Cadets took the Oath of Enlistment during the half-time contracting ceremony during the football game between ASU and University of Central Florida.

Thank you to all our Veterans for their service!



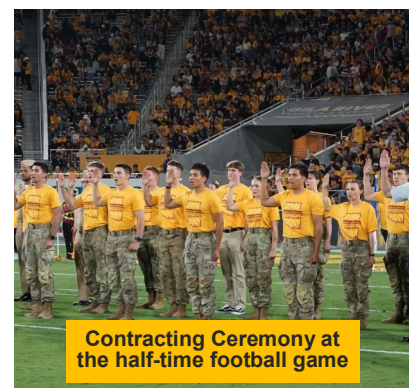
Leadership Panel discussion



Sparky's Tailgate Fun!



Sun Devil Pride at the football game



Contracting Ceremony at the half-time football game

Branch Night 06 December (Armstrong Hall)

Being selected by their number one choice of military branch is a dream come true for the Sun Devil Battalion Cadets who've worked hard towards their commission goals!

46 ROTC 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. During this year's Branch Night, **59%** of our Cadets received their number one pick; 67% received their top three preferences and 76% received their top five preferences.

Spirits were high and the night did not disappoint. As they have done over this year-long process, the Cadets dawned 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, LTC Whipple and MSG Harding, 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 this tough year. The top three Branches that our Cadets were selected for were Medical Service Corps, Military Intelligence and a tie between Aviation, Armor and Ordinance Corps. Throughout this Spring Semester our Seniors will proudly display their branch insignia on their uniform until they commission in May '25.

Congratulations on a well-deserved achievement!



FY25 Sun Devil Battalion Branch Reveal



ASU Active Duty Statistics

- Total: 46 Cadets
- Top branches: Medical Services (7), Military Intelligence (6), and AV/AR/OD (5 each)
- 27 Cadets received their First Branch Choice
- 31 Cadets Received their Top 3 Choices
- 35 Received their Top 5 Choices

Active Duty Branches



National Guard and Reserve Branches



Winter Commissioning Ceremony

18 December

(Armstrong Hall)



The newly commissioned second lieutenants receive their Oath of Office

The Sun Devil Battalion ended the calendar year on a high note when three ASU Cadets and a GCU Cadet commissioned as second lieutenants of the Army.

For one last time during 2024, Armstrong Hall was full of energy and good wishes when friends and families of the commissioned gathered to congratulate them on such a big milestone!



2LT Ray gets pinned by his wife and daughters

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.

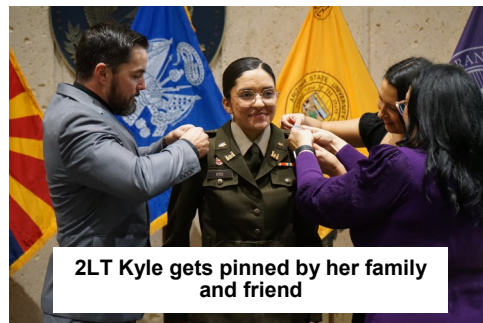
Congratulations to our new 2nd Lieutenants!

- 2LT Kathy Alcaraz-Reyes ASU - (Military Intelligence)
- 2LT Madison Heckens ASU - (Military Intelligence/ Branch Detail Chemical Corps)
- 2LT Natalie Kyle GCU - (Corps of Engineers)
- 2LT Zachary Ray ASU - (Corps of Engineers)

Feel the Heat!



2LT Alcaraz-Reyes receives words of advise from MSG (R) Jamie Weaver after her fist salute from him



2LT Kyle gets pinned by her family and friend



2LT Heckens receives her Certificate of Promotion from the Army ROTC PMS LTC Ryan Whipple

Sun Devil Cadets Give Back to the Community



Graffiti cleanup



Mulch needed time!



Sun Devil Cadets beautifying the trails!

Loma Trail - 19 September 2024 (Moeur Park, Tempe, AZ)

As a part of their commitment to serve the communities they live in, 14 Sun Devil Battalion Cadets rolled-up their sleeves, lather in sunscreen and got dusty when they participated in a much needed clean-up project at Moeur Park. Along with several Arizona National Guard members and GCU Cadets, they worked hard to bring the area to its natural beauty after it needed some rebuilding due to the rain and wind received during the Summer.

The beauty-up of the Loma Trail included cleaning up graffiti in the surrounding area, as well as filling in the hiking trails with mulch. This will undoubtedly keep these areas looking nice and clean for those early birds who love going for a morning walk or run, or just like to stroll around the area!

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets have a combined 5,000 hours of volunteer work every school year. The Sun Devil Battalion believes that this teaches the Cadets the value of selfless service, placing the welfare of the community before their own.



Nicely redone trails waiting for some happy walkers / runners

Paul's Car Wash (Desert Ridge Market Place - 23 October)

What can be more fun than being outdoors on a nice Fall morning (Arizona style) while helping a great cause? Well, 30 Sun Devil Battalion Cadets accomplished both when -once again- they participated in the Paul's Car Wash annual 5-day event at Desert Ridge Market Place.

The Sun Devil Cadets took on shifts 1 and 2 on 23 October and, according to MSIV CDT Michael Lopez, participating in this event was "a fantastic way to give back to the community." He adds that along with washing and shining countless cars (and even motorcycles) the Cadets enjoyed a provided breakfast and had the chance to participate in fun activities at the event, including Pickle Ball and Axe Throwing. (No windshields were injured during this practice!).

Paul's Car Wash benefits the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Arizona mentorship programs. We are grateful to have been a part of this amazing event!



Sun Devil Cadets give back to the community (Cont.)

Salute to Service Food Drive - 01 - 26 November (ASU Tempe Campus)

In the spirit of helping those in need such as senior citizens, low income families and people experiencing homelessness, the ASU Army ROTC conducted its annual food drive that benefited the St. Mary's Food Bank. The drive was held from 01 November to 22 November when the Sun Devil Battalion collected 1,300 cans of non-perishable items. The food was delivered to the St. Mary's Food Bank on 03 December.

There was a friendly competition between the Sun Devil Battalion companies to determine which one of them will collect the most canned goods and Alpha Company was the one that pulled ahead gathering 665 cans!

Among the other ROTC branches, Air Force ROTC contributed to the drive by bringing 900 cans.



Armed Forces Blood Drive - 07 November (ASU Tempe Campus)

The semi-annual blood drive organized by Vitalant and the Sun Devil Battalion held at the Army ROTC Cadet lounge was a great success! Over 39 ROTC members rolled-up their sleeves and donated precious blood over a period of about 5 hours. The drive took place during the Annual Salute to Service week at ASU.

According to Vitalant, every two seconds someone in our country needs blood transfusion, and 1 in 7 hospitalized patients needs blood.

Gladly and selflessly participating in this type of event is a testament of our Cadets willing to help the communities they live in and put the needs of others above themselves.

Thank you Sun Devil Cadets!



Three Lucky Donors Will Win BIG!

During this season of gratitude, we honor the profound impact donors have on patients in need. Now it's our turn to make a difference in your life! **Donate Nov. 1-Dec. 1 for a chance to win one of three \$10,000 gift cards!*** Book your appointment today.

ASU Salute to Service Kickoff BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, November 7

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Social Sciences building, Cadet Lounge #318



To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code, or visit vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: 100560965). For questions contact Vitalant at 877-258-4825.

Culver's would like to thank our military and college blood donors with a voucher for a complimentary pint of Fresh Frozen Custard!

PROMO DISCLAIMER

*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/MakesADifferenceGiveaway

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877.25.VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org
Facebook @vitalant



Sun Devil Battalion Extracurricular Activities

Desert Talon Meet JROTC Support (Hamilton High School - 04 November)

One of the core principles of being a Sun Devil Battalion Cadet is to help the communities they live in and to inspire younger generations to be better citizens and leaders of tomorrow. In order to do so, they participate in a series of JROTC events around the Valley that test JROTC Cadets on Drill and Ceremony (D&C), physical fitness and teamwork

ASU Army ROTC Cadets participated at the 18th Desert Talon Drill Meet hosted at Hamilton High School in Chandler, AZ. Desert Talon is an event held annually and is a multiservice drill competition. JROTC units from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force participated in this event.

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.



JROTC Fitness Challenge (Queen Creek High School - 16 November)



During the JROTC Fitness Challenge at Queen Creek High School, Sun Devil Battalion Cadets partnered with LTC(R) Gordon Crawford and his team to assess some seriously fun competition. Our Cadets were part of the team who helped evaluate and grade Cadets in all the physical events that took place. 15 high schools with JROTC programs with a total of 20 teams competed in various physical challenges. These challenges included push-ups, sit-ups, litter carry and a 1-mile race.

As it was with the Desert Talon Meet, this event was also a great 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 in the country. The Sun Devil Battalion Cadets took time from their busy schedules to pay a visit to the wrestling team. Cadets Seth Wright, Christopher Simpson, and Jackson Moore (a Queen Creek wrestling alumni) took this opportunity to give the School wrestlers information on ROTC while our Cadets participated in their practice.

Sun Devil Battalion Extracurricular Activities (Cont.)

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Tempe Campus 15 - 16 November)

Cadets from the Sun Devil Battalion and GCU's Army ROTC had the incredible opportunity to compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB)! Created in 1971, the goal of the GAFPB is to combine a civilian German Sports Badge with strict military events. This is one of the few foreign badges that can be worn permanently in the U.S. Military uniforms and one of the most sought after foreign badges.

The events for this prestigious badge are First Aid Certification, 9mm pistol shooting at 25 meters, 100 meter swim under 40 minutes, 11X10 meter shuttle run, flex arm hang, 1,000 meter run and a ruck march (3.6 miles in 1 hour for bronze, 5.6 miles in 1.5 hour for silver and 7.5 miles in 2 hours for gold). The evaluation for these competitions was conducted by a 3rd German Air Force Squadron over the span of two days.

Congratulations to Cadets Kyle Kozak, Ramon Luna, William Waddington, Liam McKewan, from ASU, and Cadets Tyler Izzo, and Daniel Hernandez from GCU for this excellent accomplishment! Huge shout out to [@asuafrotc](#) for hosting the event!



ASU and GCU Cadets donning their badges!



ASU and GCU Cadets with the German Army team



CDT Liam McKewan proudly showing his proficiency badge

Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Clubs

Army 10-Miler (Washington DC - 13 October)

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets were among the 35,000 runners from around the world who participated in this year's 40th annual Army 10-Miler Run, and they did it with a good running time!

The Army's annual Army Ten-Mile (ATM) Race and Expo is conducted in our nation's capital by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (MDW). Participants include military, civilians, wheelchair athletes and wounded warrior athletes. The ATM's mission is to support Army outreach, build morale, and promote physical fitness.

The registered runners must complete the race in under 2 hours and 30 minutes and are encouraged to run 15-minute-per-mile pace. Below are the finish times for our Cadets:

- CDT Cayden Wells - **1:19:58**
- CDT Jesus Santos - **1:37:05**
- CDT Ramon Luna - **1:24:38**
- 2LT Brandon Moreno (ROTC Alumni) - **1:59:19**



From left to right:
Cadets Jesus Santos, Ramon Luna (ROTC Cadet CSM), Cayden Wells (2023 - 2024 Cadet Battalion Commander) and CSM Roy A. Young, the U.S Army Cadet Command Sergeant Major

Great job Sun Devil Cadets. Keep running for good causes!

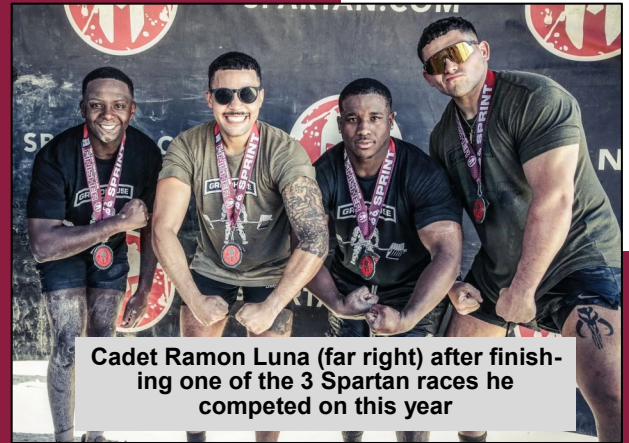
Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Clubs

Spartan Race Competition (Phoenix, 23 September)

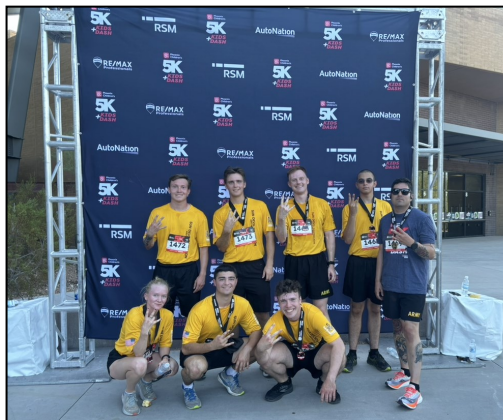
The Spartan Race consist of a series of obstacle races of different difficulties that range from 3 miles to the very challenging ultra-marathon distances of 50km+. More than 10 million people around the world have completed a Spartan Race and they come in all shapes and sizes.

There are different types of races held every year and in each of them are hard and required for the participants to be prepared both mentally and physically.

Sun Devil Battalion Cadets are frequent participants on these types of races, which help them to push their limits both mentally and physically, while many times having fun. This type of competition helps them to embrace challenges while pushing themselves to surpass their own limits.



Cadet Ramon Luna (far right) after finishing one of the 3 Spartan races he competed on this year



Phoenix Children's 5k (Tempe, 05 October)

Always on the run (figuratively and literally) nine Cadets with the Sun Devil Battalion's Road Crew Cross Country participated in the Phoenix Children's 5K that took place in and around the Salt River Field at Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale.

Participants in the 3.1-mile family-friendly event started and ended at the entryway to the Salt River Field Stadium. People joined the race through running, jogging and walking to support life changing causes. All the proceeds and donations will help to provide lifesaving care to Phoenix Children's patients.

The Cadets ran not just to support the Phoenix Children's Hospital continue to provide critical service to thousands of children across Arizona, but also to support our own CDT Ramon Luna, who was a patient at the Hospital when he was an infant.

Road Crew plans on continuing their participation in races across our great state that support good causes and look forward to participating in the Phoenix Children's Hospital 5K next year!

Company Awards Fall Semester '24

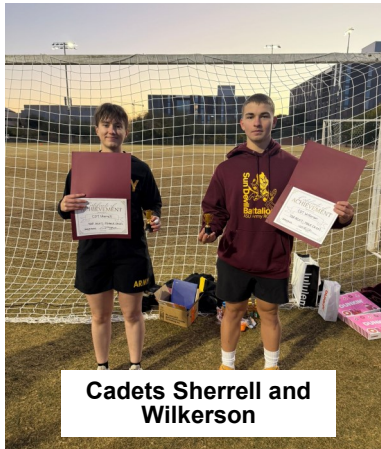
Each semester Sun Devil Cadets who excel in different areas, are recognized for the hard work and efforts with a well-deserved Certificate of Achievement. Several factors are taken into account for each Cadet that received awards. Among these are academic excellence, physical fitness, tactical prowess and the drive to lead with a desire to Win.

These are the Fall awardees:

CDT Paige Martin - Outstanding MS I Cadet
CDT Sasha Sherrell - Top ACFT Female
CDT Eric Wilkerson - Top ACFT Male
CDT Sean Deeny - Most Improved ACFT
CDT Bowie Kaplan - Outstanding MS III Cadet
CDT Hector Carpena - Top Squad Leader
CDT Dan Paniagua - Perfect Attendance



Cadets Sherrell, Paniagua, Carpena, Kaplan, and Deeny



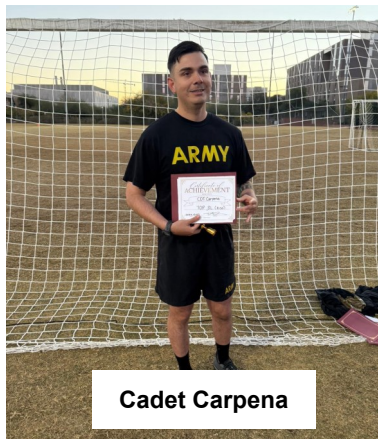
Cadets Sherrell and Wilkerson



Cadet Martin



Cadet Deeny



Cadet Carpena



Cadet Kaplan

Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Spotlight

“Nothing means more to me than helping other men and women become the best version of themselves.” That’s the driving force behind Cadet Ramon Luna’s decision to commission an officer of the United States Army. CDT Luna is the **Cadet Command Sergeant Major (CSM)** of the Sun Devil Battalion Cadet Command for the 2024-2025 school year. He joined the Army ROTC program in Fall 2023 as a non-scholarship, Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet and currently he’s competing for the Active Duty option and is on the path to commission as a second lieutenant in May 2025.

A true Arizonian, CDT Luna was born and raised in the West Valley where he attended Centennial and Valley Vista High schools. He was raised by his mom and grandparents, who instilled in him the values he lives by. CDT Luna remembers his mother working massive hours in order to provide him with better life opportunities. His *Abuela* (Nana) showered him with unconditional love and taught him the importance of family, while his *Abuelo* (Tata), taught him how to throw a baseball and introduced him to music of different eras. CDT Luna says his grandfather was his father figure, and credits him in large part for the man he is today.

As a talented athlete, CDT Luna had multiple college baseball and football offers. However, military life was always in the back of his mind. “I had always been drawn to the tensile and glare of the military. I honored it, so I decided to play college baseball at New Mexico Military Institute where I could learn more about the military while still playing baseball.” He eventually realized that his baseball career wouldn’t go far than 4 years in college, thus he wanted to enlist in the Army. He says that in order to be the best leader, he first had to learn how to follow. After he obtained his Associates Degree in 2018 he finally enlisted. One deployment and 5 years later, he finds himself in the path of becoming a second lieutenant. CDT Luna believes that as an officer, he has a better opportunity to cultivate a culture of not just excellence, but of personal development to create the best possible generation of warfighters, leaders and most importantly, Americans.

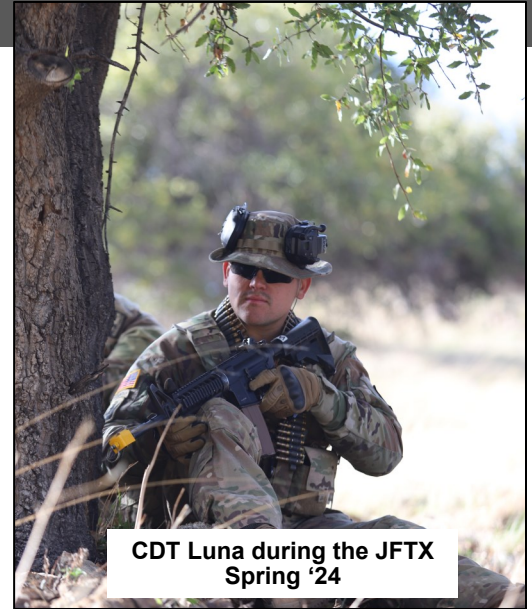
CDT Luna says that choosing the military path was the right call for him. He adds that while in high school he lacked discipline and personal accountability, but the military quickly introduced him to those traits. He says that it allowed him to continuously grow into his physical fitness capabilities, constantly striving for a higher level of academics, and to experience the team-like energy that only sports came close to replicating.

As an ASU senior, CDT Luna will graduate with a Bachelors in History in the Spring of 2025. Although always busy, he manages to balance his hectic academic and Army ROTC life along with his personal life. In his free time, he’s physically active by going to the gym, running, practicing JJ/Muay Thai (or Thai boxing), and playing softball and pickleball.

CDT Luna **encourages his fellow Latino students** to step into positions of leadership and bring what they learn back home. He explains that Latinos represent only 5% of combat arms officers in the United States Army. He adds that historically, these are the officers that go on to long successful careers as brigade commanders and so on. He concludes that “If we (Latinos) want to see more of us in positions of power in our communities it requires us to be the junior leaders, the war fighters, to be able to be the change in the future.”



CDT Luna (far-right) at the Spartan Competition on September '24



CDT Luna during the JFTX Spring '24



CDT Luna getting ready to be a groomsman at a Colorado wedding this summer



CDT Luna at the gym where he works as a personal trainer

Meet Ms. Alexandra Baker ROTC Student Services Manager



Hiking in Payson with her pup Tilly

It requires the work of a well-oiled machine to consistently rank in the top 10 out of the 273 Army ROTC programs at major universities throughout the nation. The Sun Devil Battalion has achieved that goal thanks to the hard work, dedication and innovation that comes from Cadre, Cadets and Staff. Ms. Alexandra Baker, the ROTC Student Service Manager, is part of that group of dedicated professionals.

Ms. Baker came to her new position from The College of Liberal Arts in September of 2023. She explains that the position was created in collaboration between the 3 ASU ROTC programs and The College of Liberal Arts and Science to support the unique needs of the ROTC students. This includes support in staying academically aligned for graduation and commissioning, balancing academic life and ROTC, and connecting with university resources. On the university side of things, this position was also developed to create consistent connection and information sharing between ROTC and the wider ASU community, such as university advising offices.

Among Ms. Baker's responsibilities is providing support to ROTC students from their first semester at ASU through their graduation. She adds that some key parts of her job include assisting students with their academic degree plans, locating resources and problem solving through any challenges that might arise. Ms. Baker also devotes a significant amount of her time collaborating with both our ROTC programs and connected ASU departments to create processes that both support our students as well as further blend the worlds of ROTC and ASU. She adds that it is still a fairly new position and still developing, so it is likely to continue to evolve over time.

Ms. Baker takes pride in her work helping Army ROTC students succeed academically. One of the aspects she finds most rewarding is the impact on the students and the relations built between the ROTC programs and ASU as a whole. She explains that whether it is strategizing through a schedule conflict or working with one of the many academic advising offices at ASU, she knows how crucial each of these pieces are to the cadets' progression. **"They are balancing many things while (being) both college students and ROTC cadets, so (for) them feeling supported is what I strive for every day. Then after all the ups and downs, being able to see them reach the finish line to graduate and commission into their careers as military officers is truly special,"** Ms. Baker says.

However, no job position comes without challenges. Ms. Baker explains that thus far, the most challenging part of her job has been the fact that it is a new position. She details that the process of building and shaping it has been both challenging and rewarding. She says that it is a welcomed challenge in the sense that there are consistently opportunities to try out new ideas and set new goals. She considers this to be a learning curve and that is the kind of challenge she embraces and looks forward to seeing how it will continue to grow and develop.

Ms. Baker was born and raised in Arizona, and in her free time she enjoys baking, reading, going on adventures with her pup, and exploring local events, especially around the Fall season! Ms. Baker has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychological Sciences from Northern Arizona University and a Master of Education in Higher and Post-Secondary Education from ASU.



At the Japanese Friendship Garden in Phoenix along with her boyfriend

Thank Ms. Baker for making a difference in our program!

Sun Devil Battalion Cadre and Staff News

COL Eric Schneider and MSG Jamie Weaver retirement ceremony

After serving our Nation for over 40 years of combined honorable military career, COL Eric Schneider and MSG Jamie Weaver retired from the Armed Forces during a heart-felt ceremony that took place at the iconic Old Main Building in the Tempe Campus. The atmosphere was full of energy and the attendants were there to celebrate such accomplished careers!



COL Eric Schneider receives the American Flag from CDT Andrew Napier



MSG Jamie Weaver receives his Certificate of Retirement from COL Eric Schneider

COL Schneider served as the Professor of Military Science for the ASU Army ROTC through the Spring '24 Semester, while MSG Weaver served as the Senior Military Instructor through the Spring '24 Semester. During their combined time at ASU, the Sun Devil Battalion was recognized with several awards for its outstanding performance; among those prestigious awards are the General [Douglas MacArthur Award](#) and the [Best Large Program Geronimo Award](#).

As their military careers came to a close, both emphasized how their families' support played an important part of their military career success. As a thank you for their support, both families and Leaders received multiple gifts from the United States Army, university leadership, Cadets, Cadre, staff and faculty.

The Sun Devil Battalion celebrates these two remarkable men. Their teachings and inspiring words to our Cadets will leave a lasting impression and legacy of service. Their contributions to their nation and to the Cadets they inspired is truly astonishing.

Thank you COL Schneider and MSG Weaver for all the hard work and dedication that you selflessly gave our program!



COL Schneider's family received their Certificate of Appreciation for their support to his career



MSG Weaver's children with their Certificate of Appreciation for their support to their father's career



MSG Jaime Weaver receives the American Flag from CDT Grace Terberg

Sun Devil Battalion Cadre and Staff News (Cont.)

It is easy to get caught up in the daily grind and all the requirements that we as a team are expected to complete every semester to successfully get our Cadets across the finish line and into the Army Total Force. In this issue of our Sun Devil Battalion newsletter we recognize one of our key team members that ensures our Cadets are equipped for our training mission and Cadre are well-supported to execute all the training that occurs at Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University and at the National Competition... our Supply Tech, Mr. James Nieto.

Over the last 10 years he has displayed the tenants of our program's motto of "TEAM" by building **Trust** within the program through his proficiency, by **Empowering** and mentoring Cadet leadership throughout their journey, by holding Cadets (and especially Cadre) **Accountable** to Army processes, and by **Mastering** the basics of command supply discipline as new Army and Cadet Command logistic programs emerge. As he did in his Air Force career, MSgt(R) James Nieto continues to not only show us what true service looks like, but also that he continues to be a leader and master of his trade. We are truly blessed to have Mr. Nieto on the Sun Devil Battalion team.

Thank you Mr. Nieto for all the support that you pour into our program!



Mr. Nieto receiving his 10-Year Career Service Recognition certificate and pin



Mr. Nieto attempting to "pad" his retirement with *scratchers* during the office Holiday Party

Sun Devil Battalion Cadre and Staff News (Cont.)

Meet the Recruiting Team

Recruiting efforts are a fundamental part to the success of the Sun Devil Battalion. Led by our Recruiting Operations Officer, Mr. Javier Ratliff, a team of dedicated officers bring their A-game to help achieve the goal of attracting tomorrow's Leaders to our program and the U.S. Army.

Mr. Javier Ratliff served 30 years in the Active Duty Army with over 19 years in recruiting duty experience, culminating as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major for the Albany Recruiting BN, Albany, NY. Mr. Ratliff joined the ASU Army ROTC team in July of 2024. From day one his priority has been focused on inspiring young Americans to join the Sun Devil Battalion and become the leaders of this Nation's Army.

Throughout all recruiting campaigns, the team incorporates targeted recruiting efforts to bring in high-quality Scholar, Athlete, Leaders. Mr. Ratliff explains that one of the main challenges that the team faces is that not everyone is aware of the many great opportunities that are available through Army ROTC. "We get ahead of this challenge by getting our story out to students, educators, influencers, and community partners to educate them on our program's opportunities", he explains.

1LT Cesar Chavez is the Sun Devil Battalion Cavazos inter; he plays an important role by assisting with recruiting efforts in all campaigns, focusing on the Hispanic market and Combat Arms branches.



Mr. Javier Ratliff, Army ROTC Recruiting Officer



1LT Cesar Chavez, Army ROTC Cavazos Intern



2LT Ibarra receives his Promotion Certificate during the Summer '24 Commissioning Ceremony



2LT Mirigian gets pinned by his mother and father during the Spring '24 Commissioning Ceremony

Also helping the recruiting efforts are our three Gold Bar Recruiters who joined the program during this Fall semester. They are: 2LT Andrew Ibarra, 2LT Christopher Mirigian and 2LT Cindy Mahr. 2LT Mahr helped with the recruiting efforts at Grand Canyon University. All of them were commissioned in FY24 from the Sun Devil Battalion ASU Army ROTC. The Gold Bar refers to the insignia of a second lieutenant: one gold bar.

A Gold Bar Recruiter is a newly-commissioned second lieutenant who has been ordered to active duty on Permissive Temporary Duty orders to assist the Professor of Military Science and the Recruiting Operations Officer with training and recruiting duties.

The position runs from two to six months, depending on the needs of each ROTC program and the recruiter's Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) class date.



2LT Mahr (Center) takes her Oath of Office during the Summer '24 Commissioning Ceremony

Sun Devil Battalion Alumni Corner

Alumni Stationed Overseas



MAJ Lance Bailey and 1LT Giovanni Chavez, both Sun Devil Battalion Alumni proudly displaying the ASU Flag Overseas

MAJ Lance Bailey (left) and Giovanni Chavez (right) proudly displayed the ASU Flag while serving overseas. MAJ Bailey (Infantry, ASU Class of 2010) and 1LT Chavez Giovanni (Infantry, ASU Class of 2020) are serving on the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne (Rakkasans) and are currently deployed in Europe.

Army ROTC Alumni are an important part of our program because of their active support to it, their contribution to its reputation and for providing valuable mentorship and networking for current Cadets by sharing their military experience and knowledge.

Feel the Heat!



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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