

COUGAR BATTALION



U.S. ARMY

COUGAR STRONG ARMY STRONG



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Brigham Young University news www.army.byu.edu

■ **BATAAN DEATH MARCH:** One mile: no sweat. Twenty six miles: better yet. Cadets from BYU are preparing for the Bataan Memorial Death March on Sunday, March 27 in Whitesands, NM. The event is a 26-mile ruck march – much of it uphill and in the sand – that commemorates the heroic struggle of 75,000 surrendered American and Filipino military members who were forced to endure a staggering, week-long, 60-mile march in the most abject conditions. Thousands died. Those who survived were made to endure the hardships of a Prisoner of War camp. Though it hardly compares to their sacrifice, the memorial march honors them and keeps their sacrifice fresh in our minds, reminding us of the costs of freedom.

Four Cadets are preparing for the marathon: Cadets Campbell, Cicotte, Gross, and Rice. They began training late last semester, starting with a 4-mile ruck and adding 2-4 miles per week with an occasional “rest” week of 5-10 miles. They are training for the “military heavy” class which means they will be carrying 35+ pounds of gear on race day. They train with 40+ pounds to prepare themselves, and their goal is to complete the 26 miles in just under seven hours on race day.

Cadet Campbell led the team last year and has returned to face the march again. Last year, the team departed on Friday night in a POV and drove the 14.5 hours to New Mexico, arriving early Saturday morning. They spent the day sleeping and eating in preparation. They awoke at 0200 on Sunday in order to drive to the starting line and get ready.

The march took about eight hours to complete, and no one finished with feet intact. Cadet Campbell said, “It was one of the most demanding things I’ve ever done. It’s a really good test of personal fortitude. It’s a great experience because there are people from all over the world who come to do this.”

There were military and civilian members from all nations commemorating the event. We got to meet survivors of the actual Death March, shake their hands, and talk to them a little bit. It really was an awesome experience.”

If you would like to participate, help, or learn more about the Cadets’ involvement in the Bataan Memorial Death March, you can contact Cadet Campbell at campbell.greg.c@gmail.com.



Cadets participating in a previous 26-mile Bataan Memorial March (above), led by Cadet Campbell (blew, left).



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Brigham Young University news *continued*

■ **BYU RANGER CHALLENGE:** BYU Broadcasting did a segment on the BYU Ranger Challenge Team during the week of January 24, 2011. Cadet Bomsta escorted reporter Brendan Hartigan around the firing range and gave BYUTV some insight into what the Ranger Challenge Team is and does. After (humbly) informing the reporter of the team's past 17 victories in 19 competitions, Cadet Bomsta walked Hartigan through a typical day at the range and even gave him the chance to fire off a few rounds from an M-16. You can see the entire spot at <http://byutv.org/watch/173-531> from minutes 8:52 to 13:17.

While the team again won the Regional Ranger Challenge competition in October, they were not selected to participate in Sandhurst at West Point to allow other ROTC programs to compete. (BYU had gone to the last several competitions at West Point).

Cadet Bomsta escorts BYU Weekly reporter Brendan Hartigan through a typical training day for the Ranger Challenge Team.



Without a competition to prepare for, the team has focused on creating a friendly competition with the Provo/Orem Metro SWAT team. The two sides are currently working out a competition involving everything from marathons to shooting competitions to skills challenges. The Ranger Challenge team is also preparing to qualify for the German Armed Forces Badge in March.

Southern Utah University ROTC news www.suu.edu/rotc

■ **COMPLETION Cadets DISPLAY COMMITMENT TO PROGRAM, CLASSMATES:** The typical completion Cadet is not always involved with ROTC activities. These individuals are fifth year students who have fulfilled their obligation to the ROTC program and are focused on finishing their last classes in order to graduate and commission as a Second Lieutenant. Corey Pickett and Royden Shurtz are not typical completion Cadets. Each of them is continuing, voluntarily, to play an active role in the SUU ROTC program.

Cadet Pickett is the Battalion Executive Officer, and Cadet Shurtz is the ROTC Club President. Neither of these positions is easy, and both of these dedicated Cadets have given their time voluntarily. This uncommon expression of loyalty and willingness to shoulder the load is appreciated by their classmates.



Corey Pickett (pictured) and Royden Shurtz get kudos for their commitment to ROTC Cadets and programs.

Southern Utah University ROTC news *continued*

■ COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING:

“Take your pants off” is not something that students usually hear in a classroom setting. This case was a little different. These students were learning how to make flotation devices from various pieces of the ACU uniform. SUU ROTC Cadets participated in Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) in the SUU pool on Jan. 20, 2011. Other activities included a 25 meter equipment swim, equipment ditch, and Zodiac race.

The Zodiac, essentially a rubber raft used by

military units, is by far Cadets favorite. The race involves rowing to the middle of the pool, flipping the raft twice, and returning to the edge of the pool with all personnel and equipment on board. Four squads competed in the event. Second Platoon, First Squad, led by Andrew “Buzz” Harmon won the event with a time of 2 minutes and 43 seconds.



Cadet Harmon wins the Zodiac event in 2 minutes, 43 seconds.

Dixie State College news www.dixie.edu/rotc/

■ GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY

BADGE: On March 12-13, Cadets will have the opportunity to challenge themselves in qualifying for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFB). It is a German badge that is authorized to be worn on the U.S. Military uniform. It is a German Soldier badge awarded annually to Soldiers who complete a series of athletic and military requirements.

In order to qualify for the GAFB, Cadets need to pass a First Aid course, a 100, 400 or 1000 meter timed sprint, 3,000 or 5,000 meter timed run, measured high jump or long jump, 200 meter swim, shot-put throw, marksmanship (hitting 3 targets with 5 shots in 15 seconds using a 9mm pistol) and finishing with a road march of either 6k, 9k or 12k. Those who qualify in each category will



The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

then be awarded the GAFB by a German Armed Forces representative. Depending on which difficulty level the Cadets choose to complete they will be awarded either a bronze, silver, or gold badge. It will be an exciting and fun way to show off the strength of the Dixie State ROTC.

■ **HEROES HAVOC:** Also coming up, on March 26, Dixie ROTC will be holding its annual Heroes Havoc obstacle course. Last year was a huge success, with people coming from all over St. George and Dixie State College to try the course for themselves. Most notably, “The Biggest Loser” weight loss program even came out to give the obstacle course a try. Cadets and everyone else enjoyed racing up a climbing wall, crossing a rope bridge, crawling through a mud pit, and shooting targets with air soft weapons. The course was a lot of fun, and this year it is expected to be even better.

Cadets from Dixie State College hone their skills in preparation for the GAFB qualification and Heroes Havoc.



■ **LEADERSHIP LAB:** The Military Science classes that Cadets take while attending Utah Valley University are important and are designed to prepare Cadets to become proficient Officers in the United States Army. One class in particular that accomplishes this mission is the Leadership Dynamics and Techniques class that all Cadets in the program must participate in.

Every Thursday, Army ROTC Cadets at Utah Valley University have a leadership dynamics and techniques class referred to as “Leadership Lab” that teaches Cadets how to lead Soldiers in a field environment. The class gives Cadets the opportunity to develop leadership skills and the knowledge to execute tactical combat scenarios.

Each week Cadets receive classroom instruc-



UVU Cadets prepare for Leadership Lab.

tion on tactics and learn the principles behind leadership. Lab gives Cadets the opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge to practice in controlled combat scenarios. This gives Cadets the chance to build skills related to teamwork and creates unity as a squad.

While the weapons used are not real, Cadets treat the training as they would real combat scenarios. During labs they are provided with paintball weapons and are expected to follow the rules of engagement practiced by the United States Army.

Cadets from UVU enjoy the challenges faced with lab. They enjoy developing stronger leadership skills and putting techniques learned in a classroom to use in real world settings. Everyone from the most experienced prior service Soldier to the newest

Cadet all learn something while participating in Thursday lab.

■ **IF YOU CAN DODGE A WRENCH...:** For the past three years, the UVU ROTC Dodgeball Team has been a dominating force in the annual UVU dodgeball tournament. This year, the tournament took place on January 27, 2011, in the Grand Ballroom in the Sorenson Student Center. Once again, the UVU ROTC team showed its spirit in a nail-biting, second-round game that the team just barely lost. Even though UVU was eliminated, they represented Cougar Battalion well in sportsmanship and spirit.

Besides dodgeball, Cadets have made the goal to become more involved with the intramural sports programs offered by UVU. Last semester, Cadets created an intramural flag football team, this semester they have created an intramural basketball team known as the “Mighty Valverdes.” The new basketball team had a rough start by losing back-to-back games on the first day of the season. Both games were very close

with the second game ending with a 54-50 lose. Although the first two games did not go well for the “Mighty Valverdes,” morale is high and Cadets have increased the amount they practice together. It is with much expectation that UVU Cadets await the next game on the 27th of January.

UVU Cadets don’t wish to stop with just dodgeball, flag football and basketball. Cadets are also in the processes of assembling a Laser Tag team as further participation with UVU intramural sports. Cadet participation has not gone unnoticed by UVU as the intramurals department has started using UVU Cadets as role models to inspire UVU students to participate more in intramural activities. Bataan Death March and Shooting teams have been assembled and are preparing for their competitions which will occur near the end of the semester. 🐾



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