

# Forged

A publication for Forged Gold Cadets & Alumni



# Staff

**Editors**            CDT Melisa Flores  
                          CPT Nathan Rolls

**Contributors**    CDT Kyle Dennis  
                          CDT Melisa Flores  
                          CDT Dong Yeon Lee  
                          CDT Matthew Moon  
                          CDT Jameson Williams

For any questions or concerns, please contact CDT Flores by email at [mgflor@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgflor@ucdavis.edu) or by phone at (209) 400-4702.

## Disclaimer

*Forged*, a professional bulletin, is published biannually by cadets at the Forged Gold Battalion (FGB). The views expressed within are those of the authors and not the US Army Cadet Command (USACC) or the Department of Defense or its elements. The content contained within *Forged* does not necessarily reflect the U.S. Army's position or supersede information in other official publications. Use of new items constitutes neither affirmation of their accuracy nor product endorsements. *Forged* assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material.

## Purpose

*Forged* serves as a forum for all cadets and alumni alike that are or were in the Forged Gold Battalion. The purpose is to show progress and development in a cadet and to cultivate a common understanding of the experience cadets have gone and will go through.

*Forged* is pleased to grant permission to reprint; please credit *Forged* authors and photographers.

# Table of Contents

---

Message from the Command Team	4
Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Alex Aquino Master Sergeant (MSG) Robert Schultz	
Featured Training Event	5-7
CDT Matthew Moon	
Basic Rifle Marksmanship - the new qualification standards	
Current Operations (CUOPS) and Future Operations (FUOPS)	8-13
CDT Melisa Flores	
Operation Agile Leader Land Navigation Color Guard Contracting Ceremony and Branch Announcements	
Cadet Corner	14-15
CDT Kyle Dennis	
Cadre Corner	16
CDT Dong Yeon Lee	
Alumni Corner	17-18
CDT Melisa Flores	
Projected Calendar	19
CDT Melisa Flores	

# Message from the Command Team



**LTC Alex Aquino**

## Department Chair and Professor of Military Science

My name is Alex Aquino and I am humbled to be the Professor of Military Science for the Forged Gold Battalion. It is with great pleasure to announce the first edition of “Forged.” Cadets developed this initiative to update colleagues, family, and Forged Gold Alumni of the great accomplishments by the cadets. I hope this medium expands beyond the intended audience to highlight the success of the cadets and program.

Over the last four months, I witnessed exponential leadership growth in all of our cadets. Despite the pandemic, the program was able to continue in person training, leadership labs, and field exercises to prepare the cadets to become future US Army Officers. The program can only accredit this success to the cadet leadership that ensured professional

military training conducted while adhering to strict compliance of COVID mitigation measures to keep everyone safe.

Three major training highlights the past quarter/semester include Operation Agile Leader (OAL), Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), and land navigation. OAL was a 96-hour combined field training exercise with the University of Nevada, Reno. The intent of the exercise was to replicate Cadet Summer Training, which was cancelled last summer due to the pandemic. The rigorous training challenged our cadets and tested their ability to lead at the platoon level. The Basic Rifle Marksmanship exercise allowed our cadets to train on marksmanship fundamentals utilizing the M4 rifle and M9 pistol. This was the first opportunity for the cadets to train and qualify on the Army’s new M4 Individual Weapons Qualification Tables (IWQT). Our last major training event prior to finals was the execution of a Land Navigation Course at Judge Davis Trailhead. The seniors (MS4 Class) did a phenomenal job planning, resourcing, and establishing the course. These training highlights are a testament to the resilience of our cadets while demonstrating their abilities as agile and adaptive leaders.

Please share this newsletter with family and alumni and we hope everyone has a safe and prosperous holiday. Stay tuned for the next edition of “Forged!” FORGING LEADERS! FORGED GOLD!

## Senior Military Science Instructor

My name is MSG Robert Schultz and I came on board last year as the program’s Senior Military Science Instructor. It has been my pleasure to work with all of the cadets and cadre that are part of the Forged Gold Battalion team. I would like to take some time to address the current and prospecting cadets about Leadership.

During your time in the military, you will have the opportunity to work with some tremendous people. You will make lifelong friends and be part of teams that you did not even know existed. During this time, you will have to develop relationships with your seniors, peers and subordinates. One of the most important relationships you will have to develop is the one with your Noncommissioned Officer counterpart. When you first start out in your career, it will be intimidating but it does not have to be. This relationship will be the start of your career and should be one of the most beneficial. Your Platoon Sergeant has a wealth of knowledge that they will share with you.

You must enforce standards as a leader. You will typically see NCOs do this but you should also correct things that you see wrong. This enforces the discipline of your formation and if you do not correct it, you just created a new standard. This will specifically be true amongst your peers. Peer leadership is one of the hardest things for people to wrap their heads around.

During your time as an officer, you will have to make hard decisions. You will have to make decisions that affect people’s lives, careers, and families. I urge you to take these responsibilities seriously. It is imperative that you always take the hard right over the easy wrong.

It is great to be able to see young people transition from students into adults. The way you think will develop over time as well as your leadership style. Embrace all of the opportunities you have to learn and always strive to be the best person you can be. FORGED GOLD!



**MSG Robert Schultz**



Featured Training Event  
**Basic Rifle  
Marksmanship**

*Photo by CDT Strupp*

"In battle, the **only** bullets that count are those that hit."

*- President Theodore Roosevelt*

# Down The Range



*A cadet demonstrating the disassembly of the M4 Rifle during the instruction portion of the exercise.*

*Photo by CDT Strupp*

The Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM) training exercise conducted annually in the fall allows cadets of all Military Science levels to gain familiarization with the M4 Rifle and M9 Pistol. All elements of this exercise were conducted under the close supervision of cadre members. The primary objective was to prepare MSIII cadets for Cadet Summer Training.

While the pandemic presented the Forged Gold Battalion with new challenges, the continued wellbeing of both cadets and cadre members were of the utmost concern. It is to this effect that social distancing and the wear of facial masks became integrated into the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and were enforced at all times during training.

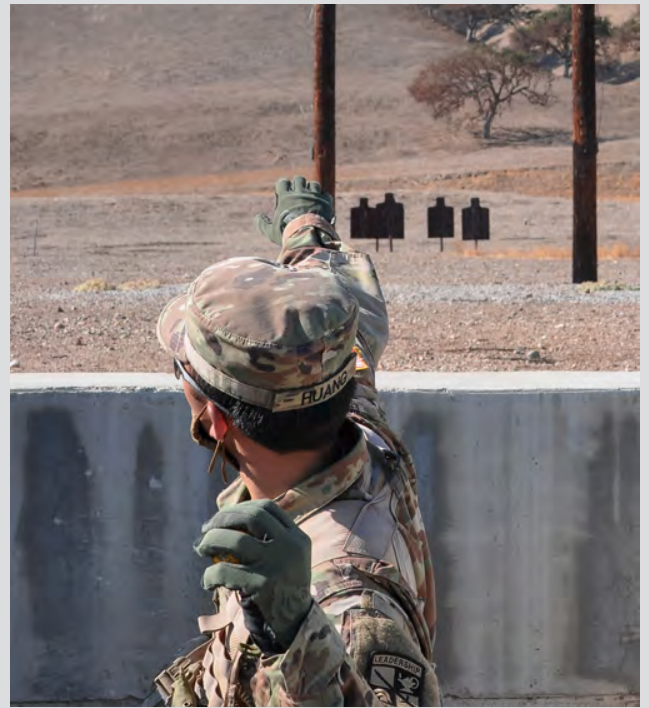
In accordance with an update in the Army's marksmanship qualification standards, cadets underwent what would now be expected of them as a commissioned officer. The overall training was broken down into six stages; preliminary instruction, pre-live fire simulation, shooting position drills, group/zeroing, practice qualification, and qualification.

Select cadets, primarily composed of MSIIIs, were familiarized with the M9. All cadets that came were familiarized with the M4 and hand grenades, weapon systems that they will encounter at Cadet Summer Training.



*CDT Strupp receives instruction from MSG Schultz on the proper use of the M9.*

*Photo by CPT Rolls*



*CDT Huang preparing to throw his practice grenade at the designated target.*

*Photo by CDT Strupp*



*Cadets conducting a weapons safety brief while adhering to social distancing procedures.*

*Photo by CDT Strupp*



*SFC Rambone waving hello.*

*Photo by CDT Strupp*

# Current Operations (CUOPS)



CPT Yashinski (left) checking the temperature of CDT Citroen (right) prior to lab. 2LT Nguyen is standing in the back directing cadets when to step up for their turn.  
Photo by CDT Strupp.

Due to our resilient leadership and perseverance of our cadre and future leaders in the program, the Forged Gold Battalion (FGB) has been able to adapt to these unprecedented times and still meet our mission essential tasks. Some of the operations we have successfully completed during this Fall are Operation Agile Leader (OAL), Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), and Land Navigation. The FGB has also performed color guard events and hosted ceremonies for contracting cadets and branching announcements.



MS4s acting as OPFOR. From left to right standing: CDT Vasquez, CDT Carneiro, CDT Pagan, CDT Summers. CDT Roberts is centered in front of CDT Carneiro.  
Photo by CDT Strupp





*Cadets conducting a road march during Operation Agile Leader in Reno, Nevada.  
Photo by LTC Douglass*

## Operation Agile Leader

OAL was implemented by the U.S. Army Cadet Command after having to suspend its normal Cadet Summer Training due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was developed to evaluate and reinforce the core skills, attributes, and competencies through longer and more rigorous field training similar to what they would have experienced at Fort Knox. This fall, our FGB cadets completed the field exercise portion in Reno with the University of Nevada-Reno and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.



*CDT Montgomery conducting land navigation during OAL at Reno.  
Photo by CPT Rolls*



*Cadet Angara locating a point during day land navigation at Judge Davis Trailhead.  
Photo by CDT Libberos*



*CDT Hutton looking for her point at Judge Davis Trialhead.  
Photo by CDT Guevara*

## Land Navigation

During land navigation training this fall at Judge Davis Trailhead, cadets practiced plotting points and using a compass and topographic map to navigate over dynamic terrain. Cadets implemented what they learned during day and night land navigation. Our MSIIIs will be applying these principles during lab operations and CST 2021.



*UCD and CSUS Color Guard members pose with special guests after completion of a Color Guard Mission at the Hard Rock Casino in Sacramento. From left to right: CDT Merville, CDT Port, CDT Lafaver, Col. Sonza, CMSgt Faria, CDT Bordas, CDT Flores.  
Photo by MAJ Owen*

## Color Guard

Many sporting events have been canceled due to the pandemic. However, during Veterans Day, we had the honor to present our nation's colors in a Joint Color Guard mission at Hard Rock Casino. We also had a unique request to present the colors virtually for the annual Veterans Day Celebration.



*Veterans Day Color Guard Mission. From left to right: CDT Merville, CDT Port, CDT Lafaver, CDT Flores.  
Photo by Mr. Port*



*Virtual Color Guard Mission: from front to rear: CDT Lee, DY., CDT Lee, S.  
Photo by CPT Rolls*

## Contracting Ceremony and Branch Announcements

In November, we held a contracting ceremony to welcome the new members of the team and their commitment to become future leaders in the U.S. Army. We also had the honor to watch the faces of our MSIVs and MSVs after discovering the branch they were assigned!



*Contracting ceremony at CSUS.  
Photo by Ms. Griffith*



*Branching ceremony for the MSIVs.  
Photo by CDT Strupp*



*CDT Summers peeking to see the  
branch CDT Roberts received.  
Photo by CDT Strupp*



*CDT Guevara after getting his top branch  
preference: Armor!  
Photo by CPT Rolls*



*CDT Lau after getting her top branch  
preference: Aviation!  
Photo by CPT Rolls*



*CDT Quijas after getting her top branch  
preference: Aviation!  
Photo by CPT Rolls*

# Future Operations (FUOPS)

---



FGB's upcoming events include Land Navigation and a Field Training Exercise (FTX). Previously this was held at Reno with University of Nevada- Las Vegas and University of Nevada- Reno. Due to the pandemic, this was canceled in 2020.

2019 JFTX.  
Photo by CDT Rojas



2019 JFTX. Picture is a mixture of CSUS, UCD , UNLV and UNR Cadets.  
Photo by CDT Rojas

# Cadet Corner

As the first of many editions of the Forged Newsletter, it seems appropriate to introduce our readers and a few of the cadet battalion staff and their thoughts about the positions they currently hold. We asked four questions of our incumbent staff: the most challenging aspect of their positions thus far, the most enjoyable aspect, what tips, if any, they were given, and what tips they may have for the cadet to follow them.



**CDT Da'Jai Roberts**  
Cadet Battalion Commander

Our Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Da'Jai Aityyah Roberts, attends CSUS and her focus is in psychology.

“Despite not attending Cadet Summer Training, the seniors and I have developed leadership qualities in our personal and professional lives. We overcame challenges by taking responsibility for our actions and promoting effective task management on zoom training meetings while being open and transparent with each other. Over the last couple months, I've learned that I cannot do it all by myself and must rely on my peers to achieve the PMS' end state. I have this little phrase in my head when I need multiple things done at once - Delegate, Task, Verify. The training events we conduct only prepare us to become future U.S. Army Officers who are adaptive, resilient, and seek feedback from others.”

Our Command Sergeant Major, CDT Fidel Castro, leaves this tip for the incoming CSM:

“Check up on your cadets. Sometimes it's a good idea to ensure that something reached the lowest level by calling and checking in on the lowest level.”



**CDT Fidel Castro**  
Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major



**CDT Joseph Pagan**  
Cadet Battalion Executive Officer

The Battalion Executive Officer, Joseph Pagan, has an aerospace engineering focus.

“The most enjoyable aspect of my job is sewing together loose ends. This entails making sure peers and subordinates are successful by providing constructive feedback.”

The next staff members are our S3’s from UC Davis and Sacramento State respectively. CDT Moore, whose focus is Political Science, and CDT Bordas, whose focus is International Relations.

“I was told that I need to reach out to people and ask a lot of questions. Get started on projects early, when you have the time. Lastly, get ready to take some harsh critiques in the beginning of your time as S3 while you’re still learning the ins and outs of your role.”



**CDT Raymond Moore**  
UCD S3



**CDT Mark Bordas**  
CSUS S3

“The best advice given to me by one of the past S3 's was to always prioritize the readiness of those receiving training while also ensuring individual safety for the battalion.”

# Cadre Corner



MAJ Valos Owen  
Outgoing FGB XO

## From Cadet to Cadre

Given that MAJ Owen is a UC Davis ROTC Alumni and cadre member, we wanted to hear about his perspective on experiencing FGB as both.

### Do you see any difference as to how ROTC is compared to when you attended UC Davis?

“The program now has a different climate and culture. When I was in the program, people were doing combat heavy tactics and they ended up with a combat branch for their career. That is the biggest difference I see right now; people used to end up with going into combat arms a lot. The change in the student body is different now - the goals of future service members and leadership is much more focused on combat support now. What is sticking out from cadets now is that most want to become AG officers.”

### How would you describe the transition from a cadet to a cadre member?

“Transition from experience from FGB cadet to cadre member was a simple transition, very enjoyable coming back to a familiar environment. It is also rewarding in regards to working with cadets directly, who are going to the same school I did and having the same aspirations.”

### What direction would you say the program is headed towards?

“The program is focused on growth and increasing interactions with Sac State. Interactions between the two schools - UC Davis and Sac State - increases opportunities, and a step forward in increasing networking for the cadets, as well as further developing their skills together. There is also an increase in exposure for the cadets as the different leadership styles can be experienced from the different schools, which is rare.”

MAJ Matthew Nittinger is a 2008 UC Davis graduate who majored in International Relations and branched in AG initially and later MP. He attended the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning.

### What is one thing you enjoyed most about UC Davis?

*“The quality of the programs offered. UC Davis is a top tier school and I’m proud to have gone here.”*

When asked about his thoughts of ROTC this was his response:

*“OCS was very fast pace. In my opinion, ROTC is the way to go because it exposes you more to doctrine and you have more time to grasp everything. Be able to stand on your own two feet. Read regulations, doctrines, and manuals yourself.”*



CPT(P) Matthew Nittinger  
Incoming FGB XO



# Alumni Corner



*Sergeant Major (Retired) Jon Cavaiani*

## Notable Alumni Cadre

Sergeant Major (Retired) Jon Cavaiani, is a former cadre member of the UC Davis ROTC program who was awarded the U.S. Military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, on December 12th, 1974 for his valor and actions during the Vietnam War. SGM Cavaiani honorably served with the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam and carried on serving in a multitude of positions and units throughout over 20 years of dedicated service. He retired from the UC Davis ROTC program in 1990 at the rank of Sergeant Major. According to his medal citation, SGM Cavaiani “acted with complete disregard for his personal safety as he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to move about the camp’s perimeter directing the platoon’s fire and rallying the platoon in a desperate fight for survival.”

## Notable Commissioned Alumni

Lieutenant General (Retired) Howard B. Bromberg commissioned from the ROTC program of UC Davis in 1977 as an Air Defense Artillery Officer. He has held many commands throughout the duration of his career earning his highest Army position as the U.S. Army’s G-1 in July 21, 2012 and later retiring in October 2014. With his assignment as the deputy chief of staff, G-1 he had to “develop, manage and execute all manpower and personnel plans, programs and policies — across all Army Components — for the entire Army team.” LTG Bromberg is currently the Vice President and Deputy for Strategy and Business Development, Air and Missile Defense for Lockheed Martin Corporation.



*Lieutenant General (Retired) Howard B. Bromberg*

## Recent Alumni

2018

Bilandzich, Domagoj P.  
Cheong, Eugene J.  
Cho, Joshua  
Corso, Christopher  
Davis, Austin  
Do, Benjamin H.  
Dowling, Patrick M.  
Gee, Nathan  
Hackenburg, Shelby  
Jones, Phylester I.  
Kim, Steve E.  
Koeneke, Patrick  
LaMar, Karly A.  
Owens, Chela  
Perenon, Shiloh D.  
Rankin, Micah N.  
Reed, Joseph  
Saldivar, Gerardo  
Smith, Daniel E.  
Tovar-Ruiz, Arturo  
Ureno, Jared T.  
Villegas, Jorge A.  
Williams, Renonedo A.  
Wong, Daphne  
Zhang, Kevin  
Zhen, Raymond

2019

Bardo, Joseph A.  
Calderon, Eddy  
Do, Benjamin H.  
Dowling, Patrick M.  
Fox, Tyler M.  
Hong, Vincent  
Kim, Steve E.  
LaMar, Karly A.  
Lu, Esther  
Meech, Jacob  
Parry, Austin S.  
Perenon, Shiloh D.  
Rankin, Micah N.  
Serena, Elliot  
Smith, Daniel E.  
Stinfort, Guetchine  
Villegas, Jorge A.  
Xie, Emily  
Zhang, Kevin

2020

Arciniega, Madelyn  
Avillanoza, Kyle V.  
Begneski, Scott  
Chaidez, Eduardo  
Cornejo, Roman A.  
Cruz, Joseph  
Garner, Alex  
Guevara, Nikolas S.  
Huntsman, Nicole  
Lau, Brittany  
Leuta, Tatiana  
Luna, Josiah  
Nguyen, James  
Phillips, Ronald  
Quijas, Kaytlin  
Singh, Seth D.  
Tran, Hoang  
Valdez, Isaac  
Vigars, Joshua M.

---

*If you would like to be featured or interviewed in the next newsletter please contact CDT Melisa Flores at [mgflor@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgflor@ucdavis.edu).*



## FORGED GOLD BATTALION



*Graphic created by CDT Moon*

### Projected Calendar

- January 4th** UC Davis Instruction Begins
- January 18th** CSUS Instruction Begins
- February** Land Navigation @ Judge Davis Trailhead
- March** UCD ACFT
- March 20th** CSUS/UCD Spring Break
- April** CWST @UCD  
FTX @ Camp Parks  
12 Mile Ruck March  
CSUS ACFT  
Military Ball
- May** FGB Farewell
- June** Commissioning