

# FORGED

A PUBLICATION FOR  
CADETS, ALUMNI, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS  
OF THE FORGED GOLD BATTALION



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## 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 U.S. 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 past and present cadets and alumni and family and friends of the Forged Gold Battalion. The purpose is to show progress and development in a cadet and to cultivate a common understanding of cadets' Army ROTC experience at the University of California, Davis and California State University, Sacramento.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMAND TEAM



**LTC Justin Ottenwalter**

## Department Chair and Professor of Military Science

*What you leave behind is not what is engraved on stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.*  
-Pericles

The Forged Gold Battalion has done a lot over the last 2022-2023 school year. The most important milestone is that 17 of our former cadets have earned their Bachelor's Degrees, finished their ROTC requirements, and are now Commissioned Officers in the United States Army, forming part of the long chain that connects this program to those leading our Soldiers to defend our Nation.

Before they departed to begin their Army Careers, these MSIV and V cadets led the remainder of our program through one of the busiest semesters we've had. Led by our Cadet Battalion Commander, CDT Bohen, we conducted Land Navigation in inclement weather, and our cadet leadership proved mature enough to modify the training to account for the harsh conditions. All our cadets qualified their rifles, as well as familiarized themselves with the new Army pistol, the M17. Additionally, we participated in an outstanding joint field training exercise with the University of Nevada – and for many, their first experience in a Helicopter was riding in a CH-47 Chinook over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to Reno, NV. Their most

important legacy, however, was the work done to bring our two programs together this year, as they planned and executed the first joint labs in over a decade, where cadets from both CSUS and UCD mixed during Wednesday labs and learned from each other in several different training environments.

Individuals did their part to leave their mark on the program as well. In one outstanding example, in the space of three months, CDT Kwon and Dobbins went from asking about how to conduct a Norwegian Foot march, to executing the event with over 100 participants from every military service. They've passed off all their lessons-learned and have set the conditions for the program to conduct this event annually.

Even though this school year is over, we're going to be busy this summer. Twenty-four of our Cadets will attend Cadet Summer Training this year and prepare to take over as the MSIVs in the fall. We're also sending four of our cadets to Air Assault – CDTs Dittmann, Royal, Spann and Teren; CDT Nolan will attend Mountain Warfare School, and seven others will attend cadet troop leader training, where they will have a chance to shadow a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

I look forward to seeing what this amazing battalion of cadets will accomplish in the future, based on the foundation built by our new Lieutenants.

Forging Leaders!

## Senior Military Science Instructor

To the seniors - congratulations! You have successfully completed this school year and are on your way to becoming successful leaders in the United States Army. Godspeed. We truly want each of you to succeed. Send word of your lessons-learned so you can set your peers up for success down the road.

To everyone else – you are still in the trenches but holding strong. Some of you will be heading to Advanced Camp this summer while others will be attending military schools and training. Most all of you are completely ready to take on any and all challenges before you.

The gates at Cadet Summer Training are not meant to be the final test of your wit and body. This is just the intro; it is the height-check before the ride at the amusement park that is your Army experience. It is not meant to be over-the-top. You don't have to win it; you just have to do it.

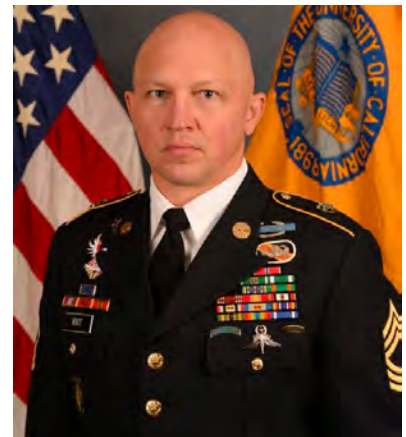
To those of you who are stronger, faster, and more motivated, use your positive energy to support others around you. Motivate your unit. Recognize when others are tired, hungry, wet, or feeling sorry for themselves, and bring them out of it. Everyone has talents, skills, and motivation. Use this to make the whole unit win.

Make the best of ANY situation, with ANY team assembled, and with ANY assignment or problem. Maximum effort at all times!

When you return in the fall, be prepared for plenty of changes and even more opportunities. We have better places to train, access to more advanced equipment, and additional nearby units with whom to build relationships.

Enjoy your summer and get ready for the fall.

Let's do this!



**MSG Oliver Vogt**



# Training

Norwegian Foot March | Joint Labs | BRM | JFTX | Land Navigation



# NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH



By CDT Teren

The Forged Gold Battalion hosted its first Norwegian Foot March (NFM) this past February. First established in 1915 by the Norwegian Army, it is an endurance assessment for Soldiers. The physically-taxing event tests service members' mental agility and intestinal fortitude; they are expected to carry a minimum of 25 pounds in a rucksack over a distance of 18.6 miles (30 kilometers). In order to earn the coveted badge, participants must complete the event in four and a half hours, equating to a consistent 14 minutes and 30 seconds per mile.

Over one hundred students and service members participated, including many from Navy ROTC, Travis Air Force Base, the Army Reserves, and Department of Defense civilians from around California and Nevada. Participants began the event at 1:00am and returned just before dawn. Out of the many that started, 71 participants successfully completed the challenging event and earned the Marsjmerket!



## Top 10 FGB Finishers

CDT Nolan	3:23
CDT Wang	3:23
CDT Kwon, O.	3:40
CDT Murray	3:53
CDT Dennis	3:54
CDT Spurgeon, L.	3:57
CDT Spurgeon, A.	3:57
CDT Dobbins	3:57
CDT Wong	4:01
CDT Boston	4:03

# JOINT LEADERSHIP LABS

By 2LT Sweitzer, J.



The Forged Gold Battalion now conducts joint leadership labs with cadets from both UC Davis and Sac State. Historically, these labs have operated separately, with UC Davis conducting its lab on Wednesday and Sac State on Thursday. Now, both schools not only conduct their labs together, but in multiple locations, to include Cal Expo, Yolo Bowmen, and Low Water Bridge. There are several advantages to conducting joint leadership labs. For one, cadets are able to work and train using a more realistic-sized platoon.

Additionally, cadets from both schools share the opportunity to work with each other.

Working with others they have not met before helps improve communication, interpersonal tact, and overall comradery in the program.

Cadets executed all training to standard and successfully completed all offensive and defense missions, adequately preparing the MS3s for Advanced Camp.

# BASIC RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP

*By CDT English*

Cadets traveled to Camp Parks to learn and employ the fundamental skills of Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM). On the first night, leadership issued M4 rifles to the cadets and discussed the importance of weapon safety. Each cadet gained knowledge on how to assemble and disassemble their weapon and was familiarized with the functionality of the weapon system. Cadets then improved their safety and accuracy indoors using the program's Smokeless Range (an advanced laser firearm training simulator). This system also reinforces confidence in how to handle their weapon system while training for the different qualification tables.



The following day, cadets had to 'Zero' their weapon before attempting to Qualify. Qualification is a timed event in which cadets are required to hit a minimum of 23 out of 40 targets to qualify as a 'Marksman.' Cadets must achieve a higher score to be recognized as a 'Sharp Shooter' or 'Expert.' To adhere to the new Army qualification standard, cadets must fire their weapon and hit targets from multiple firing positions. After qualification, cadets were familiarized with the M9. Real-world training is always quality training.



# JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

By CDT Stallworth

Forged Gold Battalion cadets collaborated with cadets from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in a Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) in Reno in mid April. Cadets flew in CH-47 chinook aircraft from Sacramento to Reno. This event afforded cadets the opportunity to work with students from other schools and adapt to new environments. Cadets soon established connections with their new teammates. The newly-formed platoons then executed numerous Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes to include *React to Contact*, *Attack*, *Ambush*, *Defense*, and *Patrol Base Operations*. The STX lanes were led by MS3 cadets who were preparing for their evaluations at Advanced Camp this summer.

To be successful, they needed to plan and execute a mission in a given time. The MS3 Cadets rotated leadership positions to include Platoon Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Squad Leader. Cadets learned new skills in preparation for upcoming Cadet Summer Training.



# LAND NAVIGATION

By CDT Villa

Cadets had the opportunity to master land navigation skills in two different environments.

In February, cadets were tasked to use their land navigation skills at Judge Davis Trailhead, CA. Although this land navigation location was familiar to most senior cadets, mother nature introduced a new challenge: heavy rain over steep and unstable terrain. Judge Davis is already a challenging course with dense vegetation, boulders, and slippery slopes. With the addition of the rain, it enabled cadets to work in a more rigorous environment. Not only were cadets looking for their points, but were ensuring to watch their step on the steep, muddy terrain in order to prevent serious injury!



In April, after completion of the JFTX, the MS3 cadets conducted night land navigation training. This additional training event was an opportunity to further refine skills before assessments at Advanced Camp this summer.

Overall, both training events enabled cadets to practice and employ their land navigation skills and boost their confidence. Cadets experienced a new land navigation course and executed an old one with a twist. Cadets left with a clear understanding of their strengths and areas of improvement that they will focus on next time.

# RANGER CHALLENGE TRAINING

By CDT Teren

Ranger Challenge preparation for the upcoming school year began early this year! Cadets traveled to Lake Berryessa for an initial tryout to begin forming the next Ranger Challenge team for the 2023-2024 school year. The morning commenced with a Kim's Game, an activity in which a selection of objects must be memorized and then reported back at the end of the tryouts, testing individuals' attention to detail in stressful conditions. Immediately after, the two teams began a challenging six-mile hike, climbing to the top of Berryessa Peak at 3,057 feet! In addition to their own 35 pound rucks, Cadets had to collaborate as a team to carry a 45 pound plate, 10 pound medicine ball, kettlebells, and two full water jugs up the mountain. This event served as a great test of individual endurance and teamwork, kicking off our Ranger Challenge road to success!



# COLOR GUARD

By CDT Matsumoto

Throughout this past school year, the FGB Color Guard has had the distinct honor and privilege to Present Colors and represent the Army ROTC program at numerous events. First started during the Revolutionary War, these traditions continue to be a vital component of military history that serves to honor the few who wear the uniform, past and present.



First Color Guard Mission of the 2022-2023 School Year



CDT Brar places flags outside of the Memorial Union  
Photo by MAJ Rolls



Presentation of Colors at the FGB Spring Military Ball  
Photo by Elyssa Phan



Presenting the Colors at the Sacramento King's Game

CDT Teren and  
CDT Miller with the  
UC Davis Police dog at  
the Memorial Day  
Ceremony



# MILITARY BALL

By CDT Teren

This Spring, the Forged Gold Battalion conducted its annual Military Ball. These military functions are an Army tradition where units gather to commemorate their accomplishments and bolster esprit de corps.



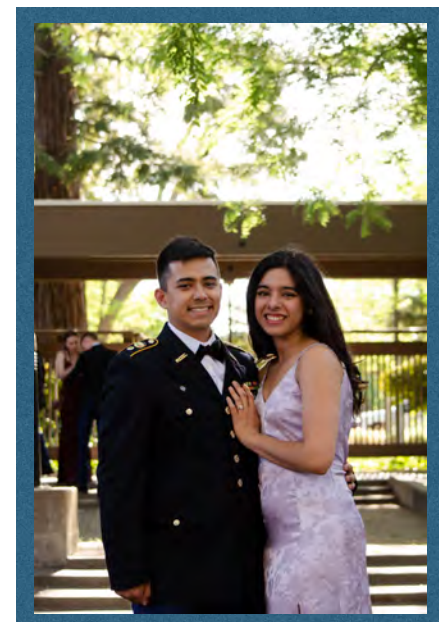
*CDT Rivera makes her way down the receiving line, shaking hands with program and cadet leadership and their spouses.*



*CDT Broomell and MAJ Wade cut the cake. It is Army tradition that the youngest and oldest members cut the first slice together!*



*CDT Canchico and his date bravely sample the Grog, a bowl containing a variety of ingredients that represent the accomplishments of the unit.*



*CSM Williams and BC Bohlen share their words of wisdom with the Forged Gold Battalion!*



# WINTER COMMISSIONING

This past Winter Quarter, former cadets Citroen and Lee both graduated from UC Davis and were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the National Guard where they branched Military Intelligence and Aviation, respectively. Their experiences in ROTC and commissioning itself is something that both look back on fondly.

2LT Citroen described commissioning as a "great experience," and that becoming a 2LT has allowed him to grow as a leader, giving him the edge he needs to secure his future. Both are currently employed in the civilian sector as well; 2LT Citroen works at Caltrans and 2LT Lee works at Northrop Grumman. 2LT Lee's unit is the very same that flew our Cadets and Cadre to Reno for our JFTX there. He has his flight school date set for next April. Both saw commissioning as a rewarding and fulfilling event, and they look very much to where their careers take them in the future.



2LT Citroen smiling proudly alongside CDT Miller and 2LT Lafaver ('22)





## CADET CORNER

### Senior Spotlight | Cadet Highlights

We focused on the experiences of several cadets and how they embody "scholar, athlete, and leader" attributes.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

By *CDT Matsumoto*

CDT Alexander Thompson is a 4th-year psychology major at UC Davis. Upon graduating, he will earn a commission in the Military Police.

## ***What are you most excited about?***

From a young age, I've always aspired to be an Army Officer. But more importantly, I am excited to start my career as a National Guardsman and be able to give back to the state of California and the communities in which I have grown up. I will be working on staff in the 49th Military Police Brigade. I'm looking forward to this assignment because many of my fellow cadets from the Forged Gold Battalion will also be drilling with that unit; being able to continue serving with them is exciting to me!



## ***Do you have a favorite memory?***

CST was my first real "Army experience" and I genuinely enjoyed almost every moment of it. It taught me many valuable lessons about leadership, facing adversity, and most importantly, having camaraderie with your peers. When things get tough, the connections and the friendships you have with the people around you is what gets you through the day. My friends made the experience one to remember.

Air Assault School was arduous but I remember standing in formation at graduation and feeling an immense sense of pride as I got my Air Assault wings pinned on my chest. It was my first Army award, an award that not everyone can obtain, and achieving it gave me such a feeling of accomplishment that I will never forget for the rest of my career.

## ***Any advice for the junior cadets?***

Keep your head up and roll with the punches. College is a stressful place. You'll eventually find yourself feeling overwhelmed by schoolwork and ROTC, but know that all will work out as long as you don't give up.

Remember that it's OK to ask for help. Fall back on your support network of peers when you need to.

Lastly, always do the right thing no matter how hard it is. The last four years of ROTC have taught me that effort is the most important quality any cadet can have. If you're not the most skilled at something, put in the effort to improve. You will see yourself grow and thrive and you will gain the respect of those around you.





# CADET HIGHLIGHTS

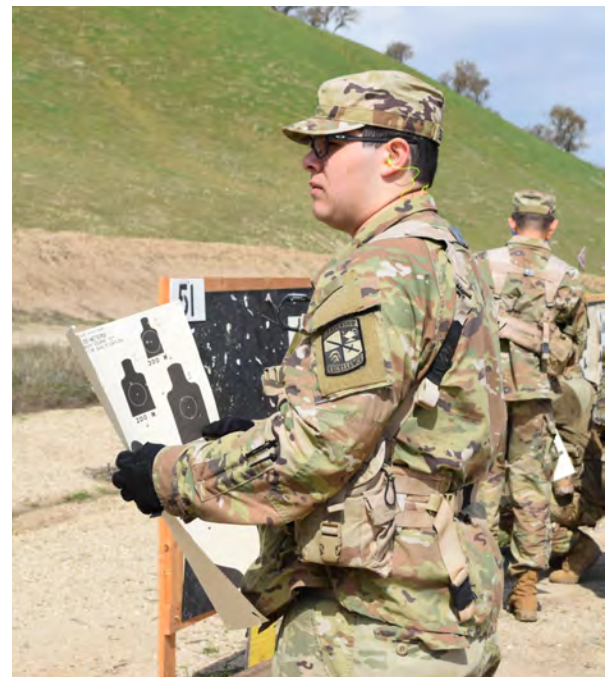
By CDT English



**CDT Aquingoc** is a Junior at UC Davis who is majoring in Animal Biology. She has received recognition for organizing a few significant events to include the Norwegian Foot March and Spring Military Ball. She spearheaded the road march, essentially making it happen. It was a huge success and the program will continue hosting it in the years to come. Additionally, she put in the time and effort to help plan the Military Ball. To ensure that everything was being handled, she immediately stepped up when needed and delegated tasks to individuals. Recognizing her for her hard work, the 8th Brigade Commander, COL Scott, presented her a coin. Additionally, she received a thank-you basket from the Professor of Military Science and Department Chair, LTC Ottenwalter. Truly a selfless leader, she maintains her motivation by giving her all.



**CDT Berrup** is a Freshman at Sac State who is majoring in History. In April, cadets attended the annual joint field training exercise in Reno, Nevada. CDT Berrup was recognized with a coin in appreciation for his exceptional tactical and leadership abilities. He stays focused on the task at hand and is always willing to step up when necessary.





# GET TO KNOW YOUR CADRE



*By CDT Matsumoto*

*CPT Burns graduated from the United States Military Academy and earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a commission in Army Aviation. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Military Science at CSUS.*

## ***What do you enjoy most about being an APMS?***

This school is different from other schools I've known in that most cadets seem to be not solely focused on being a student, but are very clearly developing themselves into adults prepared to balance multiple responsibilities. We have students with families, many with jobs, and plenty who already have or are currently getting military experience through the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). The Cadets here are very supportive of each other and readily accommodate for the variety of life circumstances we have in our team.



## ***If you could go back to speak to your younger self, what would you tell him?***

To marry my wife sooner. I was hesitant to bring another person into the military life with me, but the Army has great opportunities and resources for spouses and family.



## ***What about your branch do you enjoy and what led you to pursue that route?***

I chose Aviation for the opportunity to fly an aircraft and directly impact the fight with my skill set. However, I found that I most enjoy working with passionate young Soldiers who love maintaining helicopters, flying as crew chiefs, or making the battalion function.

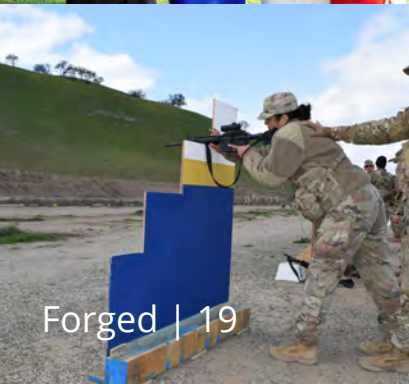


## ***What is the most important lesson you have learned since your time in the military?***

Effort is admirable to your subordinates and to your peers, but results are what is truly valued by your leaders, your unit, and your nation. Trying hard isn't always going to be enough. Preparation, planning, executing well, and refining the plan, when required, are crucial to success in any complex endeavor.



# A YEAR-IN-REVIEW



# RECENT ALUMNI

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2023	2022	2021	2020
Bains, Sukhmeet	Citroen, Luc	Beltran, Carlos	Arciniega, Madelyn
Bohen, Anthony	Flores, Melisa	Bordas, Mark	Avillanoza, Kyle V.
DeCristofaro, Marissa	Huang, Christopher	Castro, Fidel	Chaidez, Eduardo
Dennis, Kyle	Huynh, Un	Della catena, Ilario	Cornejo, Roman A.
Dobbins, Hunter	Hutton, Hailey	Gonzales, Devyn	Cruz, Joseph
Kwon, Oh Seung	Kracke, Trevor	Majumder, Rishav	Garner, Alex
Lee, Samuel	Kuehl, Sara	Montgomery, Logan	Guevara, Nikolas S.
Palumbo, Spencer	Lafaver, Bradley	Moore, Raymond	Huntsman, Nicole
Park, Jae	Lee, Dong Yeon	Quinn, Jacob	Lau, Brittany
Port, Patrick	Louie, Mathew	Summers, Carissa	Luangphonh, Billy
Soltani, Vanessa	Martinez-Perez, Daniela	Vazquez, Stefanie	Luna, Josiah
Sweitzer, Adam	McCormick, Dillon	Zalewski, Nicolette	Nguyen, James
Sweitzer, Junelle	Megenney, Timothy		Phillips, Ronald
Thompson, Alexander	Power, Taylor		Quijas, Kaytlin
Williams, Jameson	Puerto, Maile		Singh, Seth D.
	Roberts, Dajai		Tran, Hoang
	Rojas, Christopher		Valdez, Isaac
	Silva, Dennis		Vigars, Joshua M.
	Shea, Kyle		
	Smith, Peter		
	Strupp, Sydney		
	Tanglao, Brandon		
	Zhao, Hao Bin		

# Share your Story

We want to hear from our Forged Gold Battalion alumni and graduates!

Currently serving in uniform or now working in the civilian sector, we want to share your story.

Please reach out for the opportunity to be featured in our next issue!



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