Over the summer, Cal Army ROTC Cadets get the opportunity to attend Cadet Summer Training. Incoming MSIIIs go off to Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET), while incoming MSIVs go to Cadet Leader Course (CLC). These are 31 day development courses at Fort Knox, Kentucky where Cadets learn how to hone their craft.

CIET is designed to address basic combat skills. They have Drill Sergeants and MSIII Trainers there to guide them through the tactical aspect of leadership. During their training, the Cadets familiarized themselves with patrol base operations—squad attack, ambush, recon—navigation, both night and day, grenade assault course, the gas chamber, and other related battle drills.

On the flip side, CLC is more leadership focused and geared towards Advanced Leadership Development. Incoming MSIVs are pushed to fill leadership roles throughout their organizations. CLC focused on standardized testing, cultural development and awareness, and Key Leader Engagements (KLEs). These KLEs go to show the shift from the kinetic mindset. In the past with LDAC, incoming MSIVs would be tested on their textbook knowledge of performing an ambush, raid, or recon. However, now they are focusing on whether or not your platoon is able to gather the information necessary to advance the mission.

There is also mandatory training such as Equal Opportunity (EO), Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP), managing finances, and how to be a well-rounded officer in the future. We are an Army of changing times and our future officers are constantly training to reflect this.

CDT Nepomuceno:
“One of the biggest memories I'll have of Fort Knox came from the friends I made and the relationships I built with the young men and women who also came to Kentucky for Cadet Initial Entry Training.”

CDT Lamb:
“I learned a lot, did many many many STX lanes, and made some great friends!”

CDT Lamb and her Platoon at the Range

CDT Nepomuceno and his Platoon

CDT Kumar knife-handed by his Squad

CDT Rozal went full Hooah

Bears Lead the Way!
“During the Army Air Assault school, I learned how to conduct airmobile and Air Assault helicopter operations. The school is broken down into three phases which include, aircraft orientation, slingload operations, rappelling techniques, and fast-rope rappelling procedures. Included in these phases are an intense obstacle course, 6 mile ruck march, and a 12 mile ruck march on the last day. Air Assault school was very fast paced and challenged me physically and mentally. Overall, I would recommend this school to any Cadet that wants to really push themselves. It was definitely a rewarding experience. Air Assault!”
- CDT Montoya

“CADET TROOP LEADER TRAINING (CTLT) provides Cadets the opportunity to experience leadership in Army Table of Organization and equipment (TO&E) units over a three to four week period. Cadets serve in lieutenant-level leadership positions in active-duty units. Assignments include units that are located CONUS and OCONUS. This program is exclusively designed for MS III Cadets before and after completion of the Cadet Leader Course (CLC).”
- Cadet Command

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- CDT Montoya

“I was with 4-17th Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss. I was with the Mobile Gun System (MGS) Platoon in the Headquarters in Headquarters Company (HHC) under 2LT Drew Thomas. I got to learn about Vehicle Identification, weapon disassembly/reassembly, MGS maintenance, gunnery, commands, and operations. Additionally, I shadowed other officers in the S-2 Shop, the HHC Mortar Platoon, an Infantry platoon, and the Brigade Military Intelligence Company (MICo).

I trained with the soldiers, practically lived at the United Service Organization (USO) Center, and by the end of my time there, finally acclimatized to the 4000 ft. elevation. Being there made me excited to be in the Army.”
- CDT Kumar

“U.S. Army Air Assault School is a 10-day course designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and Pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters.”
- Go Army
“I had the opportunity to work with motivated cadets who all shared the same goals, which were to learn to take initiatives and take care of others while constantly striving to be always prepared.”

- CDT Kim

“Never would I have thought that I’d get the opportunity to see the country where I was born again. It was amazing to see how much it had changed in the last two decades. We went in an 8 Cadet team to teach English to Vietnamese military officers. It was an amazing cultural experience to learn about their military structure and conduct. On top of this, we traveled to many beautiful locations; Ha Long Bay (one of the seven natural wonders), SAPA, Hue, and Da Nang.”

- CDT Tran

“Airborne school was more than just learning how to become a paratrooper. This three week-long class in Fort Benning, Georgia challenged me to become more mentally and physically disciplined through the long days of intensive training. I had the opportunity to learn from officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted soldiers that were also taking the course. Airborne school was definitely a great introduction to the Army.”

- CDT Lamwatthananon

“Airborne Soldiers have a long and distinguished tradition of being an elite body of fighting men and women—people who have always set the example for determination and courage. When you volunteer for this training, you accept the challenge of continuing this tradition. The Airborne Soldiers of the past set high standards—it is now up to you to maintain them!”

- Go Army

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- CDT Lamwatthananon

“I had the chance to work with CDTs who were both brand new and experienced with ROTC and do all their training with them. As someone who had been in their shoes the prior summer, I felt a sense of pride in giving back to the Army.”

- CDT Daniszewski

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Spring Commissionees

Second Lieutenant Choe
Active Duty
Signal Corps

Second Lieutenant Kessler
Active Duty
Military Intelligence

Second Lieutenant Kamino
Active Duty
Adjutant General Corps

Second Lieutenant Canada
California National Guard
Signal Corps

Congratulations to the Commissioning Class of 2015!

Second Lieutenants from Left to Right
Jonathan Canada, Samuel Choe, Allison Kamino, Jacquelyn Kessler.
Cadet Extracurricular Activities

Battalion BBQ
On September 12th our Battalion had a BBQ to raise awareness about suicide prevention. We take care of our own. It doesn’t hurt to have fun in the process.

Caltopia Tabling
(Left to right) CDTs Tran, Daniszewski, Truong, and Naston. 2nd Lieutenant Choe and Captain Lo.

Lieutenant Choe Farewell Plaque
(Left to right) Master Sergeant Pegues, 2nd Lieutenant Choe, Lieutenant Colonel Sahr.

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Greetings Golden Bear Battalion Alumni, Family, and Friends!

We are excited to start a new school year with a great group of Cadets. As you can see from the photos and comments regarding their recent experiences, it has been a very busy summer. Beginning with the Spring commissions from May, we were excited to host Major General Tooliatos, Commander of the 63rd Regional Support Command, as our guest speaker as we welcomed 2LT Samuel Choe (Signal Corps), 2LT Allison Kamino (Adjutant General Corps), and 2LT Jacquelyn Kessler (Military Intelligence) into the Active Duty Army and 2LT Jonathon Canada (Signal Corps) into the California National Guard.

We sent our largest contingent in recent history to attend Cadet summer training and they did outstanding across the board – achieving a 100% graduation rate at all training opportunities including 15 Cadets completing the Cadet Leader Course (CLC) and 9 Cadets completing Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) at Fort Knox, KY. Cadets Chang, Kumar, Lai, and Nastan also completed Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) and Cadets Lamwatthananon and Montoya earned their wings at Airborne and Air Assault School, respectively. Cadet Tran travelled to Vietnam with the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program and Cadet Hui completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as part of the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program – enabling him to receive his U.S. Citizenship in August. We are very proud of all of these accomplishments as our Cadets continue to grow the tradition of excellence of the Golden Bear Battalion.

On the Cadre side, we bid a fond farewell to MSG Jose Magana, who departed Berkeley to attend the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, TX, and LTC Jeff Erts, who moved to Fort Sill, OK to become the Chief of Experimentation and Wargaming for the Fires Center of Excellence. We also say goodbye to 2LT Choe, who is off to BOLC after doing a great job as our Gold Bar Recruiter this summer, and to CPT Jonathan Lo, one of our part-time U.S. Army Reserve Officers who has accepted a fulltime job offer in San Francisco. We wish each of you continued success and sincerely thank you for your contributions to the program!

For all our alumni, 2016 will mark the 100 Year Anniversary of Army ROTC, so if anyone has historical photos or stories of your ROTC experiences at Cal, we would love to capture them! As always, please do not hesitate to contact us or drop by the Battalion area anytime - we’d love to hear from you!

Bears Lead the Way!

LTC Steve Suhr