University of Alabama Army ROTC: Continuing The Tradition

CRIMSON TIDE OF THE ARMY

September-November 2019

We are proud of the Army ROTC program here at the University of Alabama, and The Crimson Guard is our way of telling interested alumni, friends, parents, prospective students and current students, along with all of our faculty and staff on campus what our Cadets are accomplishing over the semester. We are forging new connections throughout the university and with off campus partnerships.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

December Commissioning

December 14, 2019

Wow! Where did the semester go? It’s almost time for 2020 to be in effect. We have had land navigation, an awesome Fall FTX, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Competition, multiple color guard and Bama Salute events, and our Ranger Challenge team is preparing for the big competition against 44 other teams across the brigade in January. Throughout this extremely busy semester, each of you has shown tremendous growth and dedication to this truly historic Corps of Cadets. As you prepare to wind down for the holidays, remember to be safe, smart, and conduct yourselves professionally at all times. Continue to make working out a routine even during your holiday time off…trust me, you will feel better when you are eating all of that great food. Enjoy your break and I look forward to your return in the Spring.

The Crimson Tide Battalion is still selling OCP T-shirts. If you are interested in ordering or have any questions email jjvalera@crimson.ua.edu

EDITORS

Major Peterson
Cadet Costanza
This semester we have been busy here at UA. We had new pull-up bars installed, which we used to complete a diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Test! We welcomed five new Cadre, and are farewelling MAJ Peterson, who has been teaching and mentoring Cadets for four years. Our Cadre are facilitating the BDE Ranger Challenge Competition held in January and we are working hard to make sure it is a great competition. Additionally, we were lucky to have SGM Dreblow return this year and conduct the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, where around 50 Cadets from UA and UAB participated in. We look forward to next semester and hope everyone has a safe holiday break. Roll Tide!
Fall FTX
The Crimson Tide Battalion conducted the Fall Field Training Exercise with AAMU, MMI, and UAB at Ft. McClellan. During the training, Cadets took part in Land Navigation, an Obstacle Course, tactical movements, and multiple attacks against enemy OPFOR; whom were volunteer Cadets from the battalion, wearing their uniform inside out.

The FTX at Fort McClellan was an enlightening opportunity for me to apply the information I learned to a simulated tactical environment. I enjoyed the FTX because it helped me visualize a raid, attack, and ambush that are difficult to represent in a classroom environment. I was given the opportunity to be a squad leader on the last attack of the weekend, which showed me how Cadets from different schools could effectively communicate and work as a team to complete a mission. This experience also helped me better understand what I need to improve on for Advanced Camp.

Cadet Adam Martin
MS3
GAFPB 2019

Cadets were given the opportunity to earn the German Armed Force's Proficiency Badge over the course of three days. Cadets were assessed in different categories such as the German physical fitness test, marksmanship, aquatics, ruck marching, and TC3. At the end of the three days, Cadets were awarded either the Bronze, Silver, or Gold GAFPB.
9/11 Stairclimb

Cadets and first responders from Tuscaloosa came together to climb the bleachers in Coleman Coliseum to replicate the amount of stairs climbed during 9/11. On this day 18 years ago, first responders climbed 110 flights of stairs in the World Trade Center. After the Cadets completed the same amount, they rung a bell to commemorate the accomplishment.
Ranger Challenge 2019

This semester Cadets on Ranger Challenge have been hard at work preparing for the Brigade Competition in January. A few training sessions included a TC3 lane combined with agility training, as well as meeting with a MEDEVAC unit at Fort Benning, GA. The Cadets are ready to compete and win at Camp Blanding!
Spirit Week with Air Force

Army vs. Air Force competed in a series of events such as basketball, flag football, and tug-of-war. Army came out on top in basketball and tug-of-war, but fell short by one touchdown in flag football.

Cadet Michael Johnston  
MS3

Joint PT with our sister service is always something that we as Cadets look forward to. It is a change of pace to our normal PT regiment and a great way to boost esprit de corps. However, motivation is not something we can only have during a competition. It is something we as future leaders must switch on every day in order to complete the task at hand and encourage an environment in which our soldiers can work as one unit, towards a common goal.
Halloween PT and Tailgating

For Halloween this year, The Crimson Tide Battalion hosted a costume contest during PT. Cadet Abraham won the individual contest dressing up as an Air Force Cadet. Cadet Johnston and Cadet Madden won the group contest with a peanut butter and jelly costume. Additionally, the battalion hosted a tailgate for the Homecoming Football Game versus Arkansas. It accompanied with free Taco Mama and pre-game highlights.

During the Fall semester, the Corps of Cadets Color Guard performed and represented the program well by displaying professionalism and attention to detail. Earlier in the semester the Corps of Cadets went on a joint FTX at Fort McClellan. During this training event, Cadets executed platoon level tactics and were challenged to plan and lead missions. On September 11th many Cadets participated in the 9/11 Memorial Stair climb. This event honored the brave first responders that lost their lives in the attacks on 9/11. The Corps of Cadets also contracted many new Cadets this fall. The most recent one puts our contracted number right at 200 Cadets! The Crimson Tide Battalion has had a productive semester and I cannot wait to see what will be accomplished in the Spring. Roll Tide!