UNCLASSIFIED
Forged Gold Program
FGP LDX
23-25APRIL15

MISSION: Forged Gold Program conducts Field Training Exercise NLT 231300APR2015 IOT provide all Cadets with a realistic training scenario to build confidence, develop unit cohesion and critical thinking skills.

INTENT: To provide the MSIV’s an environment to assess their abilities to plan, resource, evaluate, and execute training. To allow MSIIIs to apply their training of platoon and company level operations, while testing their domain knowledge and leadership abilities. To expose MSIIIs and MSIs to the OPORD process and field training.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS:
The operation was conducted in 4 phases, dedicated to preparation (Phase I) and 3 straight days (23-25 APRIL 2015) committed to Field Training. Phase I consisted of preparation for the FTX with pre-deployment briefs with both UCD and CSUS cadets. Phase II consisted of movement of main body and equipment by GSA vehicles and Chinook Helicopters from UCD and CSUS campuses to AO Van Vleck on 23 APRIL. Phase III was indicated by the start of the leadership development exercise. The training was completed without any issues or injuries. After completion of the exercise, an AAR was conducted by the MSIVs and cadre. Cadets discussed the overall novelty of the LDX, improves and sustains. Forged Gold Program Cadets had a final formation upon completion of the AAR and were transported back to the respective destinations once there was 100% accountability of personnel, weapons and equipment.

INSTRUCTORS ASSESSMENT: This LDX training was unlike any other training Forged Gold Program ever conducted. The training consisted of full spectrum simulated combat operations in AO Van Vleck. There were no set up lanes and all the operations were subjective of the leadership in place and each forces’ ability to address the mission received a week prior in the pre-deployment brief and tactical OPORD. CSUS and UCD Cadets were evenly split into two forces: REDFOR (Platoon size element) and BLUFOR (Company size element). The first leadership rotation was in place. Later on, there were other leadership rotations with the duration no longer than 12 hours. All the rotations were monitored by the GodTOC in order to test the abilities of all Cadets and provide the fluidity to the operation. Upon both forces entering the battle space they began receiving FRAGOs from the GodTOC which continued throughout the entire operation.

What’s New: Cadets trained in the new training area – Van Vleck Ranch; Cadets encountered longer leadership rotations; flexible mission and combat operations were based on the progress of the element. Although the leadership received the mission, they had an opportunity to chose their plan of action; Cadets’ critical thinking skills were constantly tested; paintball guns, Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters added realism to the operation; Cadets were introduced to the operation of PEHA; the training involved IED simulations and Interaction with Host Nation; the leadership had a capability to request UAV reconnaissance with live video feed or near-live imagery.
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Cadet Leadership Planning the Mission
COP Operation

Cadets Conducting MEDEVAC
CDT Torres leading SQD for an Assault
CDT Tsou and CDT Edwards Planning
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Mass Company Formation

MSIVs Provide Their Observations at the AAR

FGB AAR

LTC Rose Closing Remarks
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Patriotic CDT Tsou

CDT Saunders Taking Charge

CDT Torres Assisting Casualty

CDT Carillo En-route Security

CDT Edwards ready for Action

CDT Howard Pulling Security
CSUS Army ROTC Leadership Development Training

Over the course of the weekend (23 April – 25 April), I attended Army ROTC, Forged Gold Program’s leadership development training, which took place at the Van Vleck Ranch this semester.

This year was something completely new and different for us at Forged Gold Program, which consists of cadets from UC Davis and Sacramento State. Rather than conducting a series of straightforward missions with clear objectives and goals, we were split up into two opposing forces and given a large amount of leeway on how we were going to go about defeating the opposing force. I was put on the blue forces side and immediately began my leadership rotation as a platoon leader, in charge of leading about 25 cadets.

We began our journey at Mather Airfield and anxiously waited to be moved to our training site via a CH-47 (Chinook, the Army’s tandem rotor helicopter). The opposing red forces left first since they had fewer numbers and their existence in the field was going to be nomadic rather than primarily stationary like the blue forces. After about thirty minutes we received word to move out onto the airfield as the CH-47 would be arriving shortly. The airframe landed and the blue forces loaded up. The flight was not long at all; it only took about 15 minutes to arrive at our destination.

As soon as the CH-47 touched down at our landing zone, we quickly unloaded and began movement to where we would be setting up our combat outpost for the weekend. First platoon moved to the outpost from the South and I led the second platoon to the outpost from the North. Upon arrival at the area where the outpost would be constructed my platoon was tasked with securing the area. My platoon sergeant and I facilitated the security. At this point it was getting late and the ambitious plans that cadets at the leadership level, myself included, had devised were going to have to wait until the following day as the construction was taking longer than expected. With this knowledge I was advised from my superior to tighten the security we had emplaced and prepare for nighttime. With the potential for attack from the red forces during the nighttime cadets took rotations staying up and keeping watch.
First Hand Experience Testimony By CDT John Dyer, Cont.

We began the next day bright and early at 5:30 a.m., my platoon leader rotation came to an end and I began my next rotation as a squad leader. My squad was given the task to secure a hill and report any sightings of red forces. While moving to the hill my point man advised the squad that he saw red forces atop the hill. We split the squad into two teams and moved to flank the forces atop the hill. My squad initiated contact with our paintball guns and the opposing red force on the hill retreated down the opposite side. Having claimed the hill, our platoon leader and platoon sergeant messaged the nearby first platoon that we had met the opposing forces and we could advance on their positions with their support. When our two platoons linked up we advanced on the red forces position at the base of the hill and defeated their entire force. We achieved our mission, but the training exercise was not over. The training reset and the battle was on again.

It was now midday and the blue forces received word that the Army National Guard would be arriving with a UH-72 (Lakota, the newest of the Army’s airframes) to support us in our mission. Four cadets were given the opportunity to ride in the UH-72 and I was lucky enough to be one of them. After a briefing from the pilot and copilot, we took off. Immediately we were able to spot the full composition of the red forces. The pilot and copilot communicated with our forces on the ground and gave them all the intel we viewed from the sky. The flight last around 30 minutes and was an absolute blast.

As night crept up on us it was clear that it was going to be raining throughout the night. Cadets started setting up protection from the rain using branches and ponchos. Since attack from the red force was still a possibility during the night, individuals needed to rotate staying up. Two other cadets and I grouped up and hunkered down as the rain started coming down hard. Fortunately, we made it through the night without getting too wet.

The final day was now here and we began tear down of our combat outpost and prepared ourselves to move out. After we were packed up we met up with the opposing red force and conducted a review of the training we had just experienced. For the most part everyone enjoyed the new style of training and the experiences that it had given us. We were also all appreciative of the support from the California Army National Guard in the form of aerial assets. After the conclusion of the review of training we moved back to our respective schools discussing the experiences of the training along the way. Even though the training was over, our leadership abilities gained from the training will stay with us as we move forward in our Army careers.
Cadets set up tents for headquarters
@sacstate #sacstaterotc

Wounded cadets will be given instruction on how to prevent becoming a casualty before respawning #sacstaterotc

@TheStateHornet

Jonathan Ayestas
@jonayestas

@sacstate cadets unloading their gear in preparation for their skirmish #excited #sacstaterotc
@TheStateHornet

2:34 PM · 23 Apr 15

10:22 AM · 24 Apr 15
Bluefor (blue forces) attempt to sway villagers to assist their troops

#sacstaterotc
Cadets get taste of wartime

By Jonathan Ayestas

Cadets got an up-close-and-personal look at the realities of war during a recent exercise at Point Loma. The exercise was part of a larger training program designed to prepare cadets for the demands of military service. Cadets were divided into four units, each responsible for a different aspect of military operations. The exercise included simulated combat scenarios, where cadets had to work together to complete various tasks.

Continued: National Guard lends helicopters

By Jonathan Ayestas

The National Guard lent a hand in the exercise, providing helicopters to support cadets in their efforts. The helicopters were used to transport supplies and personnel, as well as to conduct aerial drops and rescue missions. Cadets were able to work with the National Guard personnel, learning valuable skills in communication and coordination.

Cadets from CSUS and UC Davis Make Decisions in Field Combat

By Jonathan Ayestas

Two cadet units from California State University Stanislaus and University of California at Davis worked together to simulate a real-world combat scenario. The exercise tested their decision-making skills under pressure, as they had to coordinate their efforts to complete various tasks.

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