



# RATTLER BATTALION SPRING SEMESTER NEWS!



## Looking back & moving forward

Welcome back, cadets! A new semester brings fresh opportunities to grow as leaders and future officers. To kick off the year, cadets sharpened their squad-level tactics by improving their ability to maneuver, communicate, and execute battle drills. Now we are focusing our training on platoon-sized operations, challenging the MSIII cadets to take on a more complex leadership opportunity.



Photo: Cadet Gann creating a Terrain Model during the Fall 24 FTX at Camp Bullis.

This transition is a critical part of their development, particularly for those preparing for Advanced Camp. When cadets lead at the platoon level, it requires a deeper understanding of command and control, coordination of multiple elements, and the ability to make quick decisions under pressure. Through these exercises, cadets practice leadership, adaptability, and tactical skill, which prepare them for success at CST and future training events. As we progress, cadets are expected to maintain more responsibilities and acquire higher levels of leadership roles.

# Spring Break

## Time to Recharge!

Spring Break is almost here, offering cadets an opportunity to relax, recharge, and step away from training. Whether you are heading home, traveling, or staying in San Antonio, make the most of this time to unwind and return revitalized for the remainder of the semester.

There are plenty of things to do if you decide to stay close. Take a stroll along the River Walk, visit the San Antonio Zoo, or enjoy the thrills at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. For a quick getaway, South Padre Island and Port Aransas offer beautiful beaches, while Austin's live music scene makes for a great trip.

While fun is the priority, safety is just as important. If you're traveling, take precautions be aware of your surroundings, and use the buddy system. If you're celebrating, be responsible—hydrate, make smart choices, and always have a plan to get home safely.

Enjoy your break, cadets! Come back well rested and ready to finish the semester strong.



Photo: Cadets at the Ranger Challenge 24 event in La Copa; they are preparing to compete with other universities.



Photo: Cadets expressing comradery with each other before headed to their UIW ROTC class.



Photo: Cadet Mayfield not in compliance with AR 670-1; expressing a moment of silliness.

# A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

## CFTX

### Training with Future Leaders



Photo: Cadets participating in the Brigade PT with COL Brennan at Fort Sam Houston with UT and UTSA.

#### Bataan Memorial Death March

Our ROTC battalion participates in the Bataan Memorial Death March to honor the U.S. and Filipino Soldiers who endured the 65-mile forced march after surrendering to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942. Established in 1989, the event is held at White Sands Missile Range and now draws around 9,600 participants. Marchers choose between a 14.2-mile and a 26.2-mile course to remember the sacrifices of those who suffered. Our cadets proudly take part in this tradition of honor and remembrance.

One of the most highly anticipated events this semester is the Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX), where our battalion will train alongside cadets from UT, UTSA, and Texas State. This joint training opportunity fosters camaraderie, knowledge-sharing, and leadership development in a collaborative environment.

During CFTX, cadets will put their tactical skills to the test through Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes. These exercises challenge them to plan and execute squad and platoon sized missions, reinforcing their ability to lead under stressful environments. Strong communication, adaptability, and teamwork will be essential as they navigate these dynamic scenarios.



Photo: Cadets at Battalion Death March 24 in White Sands, New Mexico, beginning to march.

# Homecoming and Oyster Bake

## Fundraising & Festivities

Oyster Bake is a fundraising event that our battalion participates in every year. Cadets volunteer to assist with parking and receive free tickets to enjoy the live music, food, and festivities. It's a great way to support our program and celebrate with the community. We also welcome local alumni and families to join us, show their support, and reconnect. The St. Mary's University Alumni Association invites alumni, students, faculty, and staff to Homecoming Oyster Bake on Saturday, April 5, from 1800 to 2300 at St. Mary's University, Pecan Grove. Admission is free.



*Fiesta*  
**Oyster Bake** 

**FRIDAY HOOBASTANK** APRIL 25  
**BRAXTON KEITH • EDDIE GONZALEZ**  
WALKER MONTGOMERY • BROOKE LEE • BACK IN BLACK  
PATSY TORRES • SAN ANTONIO TRANSIT • THE MUÑOZ BROS

**SATURDAY SUGAR RAY** APRIL 26  
**JOSH ABBOTT BAND • DAVID LEE GARZA**  
**TONIC • VERTICAL HORIZON • EARSHOT**  
CLAYTON MULLEN • DESTINY NAVAIRA • ROBERT RAY  
VANITA LEO • HYDRA MELODY • CONJUNTO CATS  
TREY GONZALEZ • SARAH MONIQUE • KATE WATSON

*The Heartbeat of Fiesta!*



Photo: Cadets at Fiesta Parade 24 in San Antonio, TX enjoying the festivities.

## Fiesta Flambeau

### May 3rd, 2025

Fiesta Flambeau is San Antonio's largest cultural celebration, featuring parades, live performances, and city-wide festivities. Being part of ROTC means more than just training; it's about engaging and contributing to our community. We look forward to seeing cadets participate in this incredible tradition!

# A Legacy of Excellence Supporting Our Cadets



Photo: Cadets at Spring Formal 24 at the Embassy Suites in San Antonio, TX celebrating the success of another year complete in ROTC.

Our program has a long history of excellence, and we take great pride in the achievements of our cadets, past and present. Through rigorous training, leadership development, and community service, our battalion continues to produce officers who serve with honor and distinction.

To uphold this legacy, we are always looking for ways to enhance training opportunities and create valuable experiences for our cadets. Donations to the Cadet Fundraiser Account directly supports field training exercises, leadership development programs, and battalion activities that prepare cadets for their future military careers.

# HOW TO DONATE



1. VISIT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AND CLICK "GIVE NOW."

2. SELECT YOUR GIFT TYPE: ONE-TIME OR MONTHLY

3. CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT METHOD: PAYPAL OR DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

4. UNDER "PLEASE CONTRIBUTE MY GIFT TO:" SELECT "OTHER"

5. IN THE CUSTOM FIELD, TYPE: "CADET FUNDRAISER ACCOUNT"



Photo: Cadet Bermea displaying colors during the Spurs Game in San Antonio, TX.

**Your support provides valuable resources, strengthens training programs, and enhances the overall ROTC experience for our cadets. Thank you for being part of our mission to develop the next generation of Army leaders!**

**Stay Connected!**

 Instagram: @stmarys\_rotc

 Facebook: St. Mary's University Army ROTC

Let's finish the semester strong! Strength and Honor! 💪 🇺🇸