

**M A R C H 2 0 2 6**

*NorCal detachments at the Warrior Challenge.*

## **WARRIOR CHALLENGE 2026**

*By: C/Sanchez, B & C/Yee*

Air Force ROTC Detachment 045 at San José State University hosted Northern California's annual Warrior Challenge, bringing together cadets from Detachments 088 (Sacramento State), 085 (UC Berkeley), 035 (Fresno State), and 045 (San José State). As one of the region's premier cadet-led events, the Warrior Challenge builds camaraderie, strengthens inter-detachment relationships, and reinforces the warrior ethos among future Air Force officers.

Planned and executed by Detachment 045 cadets, the event brought together more than 140 cadets to compete for the Warrior Challenge trophy. The competition tested physical fitness, teamwork, leadership, and resilience, which are key traits essential to success in AFROTC and future operational environments. Additionally, the planning and execution of the event provided Detachment 045 cadets with valuable hands-on leadership experience, requiring coordination, organization, and adaptability to ensure the competition's success.

The day began with an ultimate football hybrid game in which Detachment 088 (Sacramento State) took first place. Cadets then competed in Icarus, with Detachment 045 (San José State) securing the win, followed by volleyball, where Detachment 035 (Fresno State) placed first.

A timed challenge course tested endurance and mental toughness through events such as tire flips, jerry can carries, bear crawls, and stretcher transport. Detachment 035 (Fresno State) finished with the fastest time. After lunch, Detachment 088 (Sacramento State) won basketball, while Detachment 045 (San José State) closed out the day with a win in tug of war.

At the conclusion of the Warrior Challenge, Detachment 088 (Sacramento State) finished first with 11 points, reclaiming the trophy. Detachment 035 (Fresno State) placed second with 10 points, followed by Detachment 045 (San José State) with 8 points and Detachment 085 (UC Berkeley) with 6 points.



**Warrior Challenge 2026**

More than just a competition, the Warrior Challenge serves as a critical training environment where cadets develop leadership, adaptability, and teamwork while strengthening the bonds that unite the AFROTC community across Northern California. Events like these provide cadets the opportunity to lead in dynamic environments, build trust across units, and prepare for the collaborative and high-pressure situations they will face as future Air Force officers.



**Warrior Challenge 2026**



**BC cadets during PT**

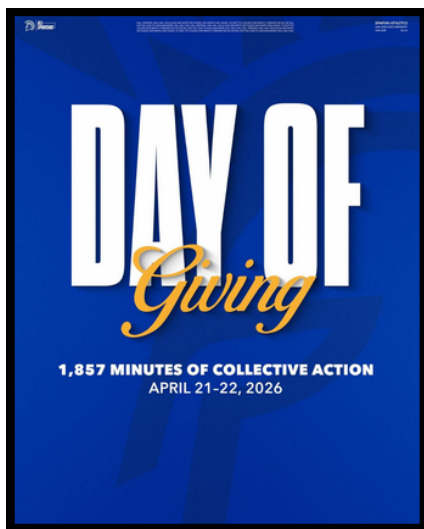
## The Day of Giving

By: C/Corona & C/Onyema

San José State University's Day of Giving is taking place this year from April 21-22. This is the largest opportunity for supporters to invest directly in our cadets' growth and development. Through the cadet-led organization, the Aerospace Cadet Leadership Council (ACLC), this helps fund cadet activities and provides more opportunities and events for our future leaders to develop

Last year, SJSU raised a record-breaking \$3.6 million, and for ACLC, the funding from the Day of Giving will support areas not fully covered by standard military funding. These contributions directly foster cadet development by funding leadership activities, professional training events, and improvements to the overall learning environment.

Funds are allocated to resources such as equipment that will aid in cadet development and to general quality-of-life improvements for cadets. Additionally, this support helps sustain major cadet events such as Dining Out and commissioning ceremonies, and enables team-building exercises, leadership labs, and physical training events that build discipline, teamwork, and resilience.



### **The Day of Giving post from the SJSU Instagram**

If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please mark April 21st on your calendar and consider taking part in this year's Day of Giving. Your support, no matter the amount, helps strengthen the foundation of cadet programs and directly contributes to the continued success of its members. Even a small contribution, when combined with others, creates a meaningful impact and helps open doors for future opportunities. We encourage you to be a part of this effort and help make a difference. Your support truly goes a long way.



**National Character & Leadership Symposium  
2026**

### **C/2d Lt Szulc ODT At The National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS)**

By: C/Sasso & C/Zarazua

The National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS), is an event hosted at the U.S. Air Force Academy where speakers from across the military and beyond share their experiences on courage and leadership. Attendees include cadets from various detachments and even allied countries, all aiming to strengthen their leadership and character and bring those lessons back to their units.

C/2d Lt Szulc was motivated to attend by the opportunity to experience something new and gain insight into both the academy's way of life and the leadership principles emphasized by its speakers. The event featured highly inspirational individuals—such as astronauts, prisoners of war, Thunderbird pilots, and enlisted members. Their stories highlighted resilience, communication, and the application of leadership even in the most extreme circumstances.

Throughout the symposium, she not only learned from speakers like Lt Col Nichole Ayers and Lt Col Joseph Elliot, but also experienced cadet life firsthand by staying with a USAFA cadet and participating in large group leadership problems and discussions. These interactions exposed her to different perspectives, including how other detachments and even international forces operate.



Key takeaways included the importance of trust, humility, quick decision-making, and leading by example, reinforced by powerful stories of perseverance and sacrifice. Despite the competitive selection process, the experience allowed her to expand her understanding of Air Force culture, leadership, and shared challenges among cadets, ultimately encouraging others in her detachment to pursue similar opportunities and strive for growth.



***C/2d Lt Szulc at United States Air Force Academy***

Through both formal sessions and personal interactions, including staying with a USAFA cadet and participating in large group leadership problems, she gained insight into academy life and diverse leadership styles.

Key lessons from speakers reinforced the importance of confidence, humility, trust, and perseverance, while highlighting the need to balance personal goals with service to one's country. Overall, NCLS broadened her understanding of Air Force culture, leadership, and shared cadet experiences, inspiring her to apply these lessons within her detachment and encourage others to pursue similar growth opportunities.

Although USAFA may be different from ROTC, NCLS has given C/2d Lt Szulc the opportunity to expand her knowledge of Air Force history, explore different leadership styles, understand what day-to-day life looks like at USAFA, and recognize that cadets across the nation face many of the same challenges and dilemmas.



***C/2d Lt Vungutur with an F-18***

### **C/2d Lt Vungutur: Cadet Cadre Selection**

By: C/Arun

C/2d Lt Vungutur has been selected to serve as Cadet Cadre for Field Training (FT) 2026. Cadet Cadre serves as the link between the trainees and active-duty officers and enlisted personnel. You play a role in ensuring that trainees during field training meet their training objectives and are properly cared for. This is done through support within squadrons, including personnel, logistics, and medical support.

Cadet Cadre have hands-on leadership experience, with direct contact with trainees while also supporting active-duty personnel. Overall, they help ensure operations run smoothly, support trainees, and serve as the eyes and ears of the Field Training environment.



***C/2d Lt Vungutur during her incentive flight on a Huey***

**Why did you want to be a Cadet Cadre?**

“Field training definitely had its ups and downs for me, with both good days and bad, but honestly, looking back, I mostly remember the good experiences, and I really feel like I learned a lot.”

“I really wanted to come back. Hearing about it also motivated me even more. We’ve had detachment 045 cadets return to FT as Cadet Cadre in the past, such as 2d Lt Khan, 2d Lt Nava, and C/Maj Nguyen.” They’ve each spoken highly of their experiences, sharing how much they’ve grown and how rewarding it’s been overall.



**BCL cadets during LLAB 22**

**Enrollment Allocation Selections**

By: C/Almeida, C/Hodges, & C/Cano

Earning an enrollment allocation (EA) is a highly competitive process, requiring cadets to compete on a national level through evaluation by the POC Selection Process (PSP) Board. Cadets are ranked nationally based on their academics, physical fitness scores, and commander rankings. This creates a comprehensive and holistic profile used to determine their potential as future officers.

The process to earn an EA is very rigorous and selective. Because of this, earning an EA is a significant milestone reflecting both national-level excellence and the culmination of a cadet’s hard work, consistency, and growth throughout their first two years as cadets.



**BCL cadets during LLAB 19**

**Warrior Pride Never Dies!**



This year, Detachment 045 recognizes the cadets selected to receive Enrollment Allocations, whose achievements reflect discipline, commitment, and excellence across all aspects of the program. Their success embodies the Air Force's core value of "Excellence in All We Do," as they have demonstrated the ability to balance academics, physical readiness, and leadership development at a high level.

We are also proud to announce that 92% of our cadets in this detachment have received an Enrollment Allocation. To better explain the magnitude of this detachment's turnout, the national average of EA selection is 74%. Great job to all the BCL cadets who worked hard all year!



***C/Maj Templo & C/Maj Nguyen, Dylan during LLAB 18***

**Soon To Be Commissioning Cadets**

By: C/Krause, C/Hibbs, & C/Ji



***BCL cadets during LLAB 20***

These cadets will attend Field Training this summer, where they will be evaluated on leadership, followership, discipline, adaptability, and their ability to perform under pressure in demanding and dynamic environments. Field Training serves as the capstone of their GMC experience and a critical step in their development as future officers.

Upon successful completion, they will return as POC cadets to assume leadership roles within the Cadet Wing, mentor younger cadets, and continue carrying forward the detachment's standard of excellence while preparing for commissioning.



***C/Maj Nguyen, Dylan  
AFSC - IIX Pilot***

While C/Maj Nguyen's first choice was the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), he found an outstanding alternative in SJSU, where the ROTC program provided him the opportunity to pursue becoming a pilot. Reflecting on his experience, he advised his GMC self to "always anticipate change," noting that while change often comes through administrative or unexpected situations, it also brings opportunities for growth. By staying prepared, thinking on their feet, and remaining diligent, cadets can better manage the stress that comes with it.

C/Maj Nguyen also emphasized how much he will miss the opportunities ROTC provides, such as visiting bases and learning from active-duty officers across various AFSCs.

C/Maj Nguyen highlighted 2d Lt Khan as a major influence during his time in ROTC, recalling a defining moment during his ASI00 year when he was offered the GMC PFO position. This opportunity pushed him to develop his leadership abilities and gain practical Air Force experience by planning PT and managing PT scorecards.

Looking ahead, he is most excited for a fresh start, new people, and new experiences. He concluded by reflecting on how ROTC shaped his view of leadership, stating that it is not about giving orders but about making others better and serving as an inspiration to those around you.

**C/Maj Templo, Jacob**  
**AFSC – 31P Security Forces Officer**



**C/Maj Templo at Moffett.**

A big part of ROTC is the people, and as the spring semester moves forward, it's almost time to say goodbye to some of them—one being soon-to-be-commissioned C/Maj Templo. He first learned about ROTC through a friend during his freshman year, knowing early on he wanted to pursue the military path, and remained dedicated to both the program and the detachment, ultimately finding success through that commitment.

C/Maj Templo attributes his growth not to one individual but to the collective influence of his peers and instructors, stating that each brought different traits that helped him develop both personally and professionally. ROTC taught him key skills such as time management, fitness, and relationship-building, but most importantly, leadership, which he defines as the ability to lead from the front in any situation. This mindset allowed him to adapt and work with others regardless of his role. Looking back, his advice to his GMC self is simple: "Never leave things unfinished," a principle he credits for much of his success.

Now preparing to commission as a Security Forces Officer (31PX), with a base assignment to Malmstrom AFB, Montana, C/Maj Templo looks forward to a fresh start and new experiences, especially embracing the outdoor lifestyle. Soon transitioning from C/Maj Templo to 2d Lt Templo, his impact on the detachment remains clear, and his contributions will not be forgotten.



## **RAP Overview: The Recruiter Assistance Program**

The Recruiter Assistance Program (RAP) is a unique opportunity that allows Air Force members to support recruiting efforts in their hometowns. Participants in the program help recruiters connect with local schools, take part in community and school events, and assist with activities such as Center of Influence programs and Delayed Entry Program Commander's Calls. This program is an invaluable way for Airmen to give back while helping to inspire the next generation to serve. Active duty personnel may participate in the Recruiter Assistance Program to support local recruiting efforts and community outreach. When applicable, RAP participants may engage with AFROTC Detachments, such as San Jose State University, in support of recruiting initiatives. If you are interested in learning more, please scan this QR Code:



**The next detachment dispatch issues are scheduled for release by May 1 and June 1.**

**Want to Update Your  
Subscription Status?**



***Warrior Pride Never Dies!***

