

Temecula Valley Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps CA-933

Mighty Flying Bears

NEWSLETTER

October 2, 2020



Introduction

Welcome to the Mighty Flying Bears Newsletter! Our mission is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community. In other words, we are building better citizens of America. Our goals are to instill in cadets: values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment.

August Recap

C/Bowen

As many of us know, school started up in the middle of August, however, the start of this school year was like no other. School started for the first year in TVUSD history, in an online environment. For many students, this was a major change. Priorities and work ethic needed to be altered and some home environments may not be healthy for fellow students. This is upsetting for many people.

However, with the many hardships students and families are facing right now; there is good news. Recently, Riverside county reached the red zone, allowing schools to reopen if the county remains in that zone for two weeks. Now, what is the red zone? The red zone is the part of a four color system that Governor Newsom set up in the state of California. The four phases are purple (widespread amounts of COVID), the red zone (substantial amounts of COVID), the orange zone (moderate amounts of COVID), then yellow (minimal amounts of COVID). In the red zone, schools and more non-essential businesses are allowed to open.

Even though the news of moving zones is amazing, TVUSD has been in online school since the beginning of the year. There will be additional protocols that the school must take before reopening. Some people may think that since we have online school, we are limited to what we can teach or do in the Corps. Although that is true, our Corps has exceeded standards in many ways for how we can teach. One example would be a major project all cadets participated in, the drill project. In this project, upperclassmen created a lesson plan on basic drill movements (left face, right face, and position of attention). Upon returning to school, as an entire Corps, we will be one step ahead and ready to move forward with new information.

Along with our amazing staff team putting together another online lesson to get all cadets to participate, we had an online New Cadet Orientation. New Cadet Orientation is typically an event held on campus, where new cadets can learn about the many clubs, drill teams, events, what we do in JROTC, and some basic drill. This event is a great opportunity for new cadets to get all the necessary information they need and ask any questions about the Corps in general. Even though we could not get together in person to hang out and have fun, the event was still fun and a good social online gathering.

During these tough times for many people, certain feelings or emotions may set in that are not healthy for the body or mind and can get worse as you go through many days. We have a school counseling team available and ready to assist at any time. In the near future, the newsletter team will be working on adding mental health information to bring to light mental health problems people may be facing, methods on coping with those unwanted feelings, and how to help create a changed mindset.

Sabre Drill Team

C/Alvarado

During the month of September is usually when cadets on drill teams prepare themselves for the first round of competitions. Due to COVID-19, cadets on teams and cadets wanting to join have a bit of a setback in their plans but that doesn't mean the commanders are making sure their team is ready to compete when they can. I had the pleasure of interviewing our Sabre team commander, Cadet Ignacio Ramsey and asking him a bit about himself as well as our award winning drill team.



C/Alvarado: *“What's something cadets should know about you?”*

C/Ramsey: *“I'm always available if a cadet needs help or has questions.”*

C/Alvarado: *“Can you tell me a bit about the history of the ten man routine.”*

C/Ramsey: *“The ten man routine was created my freshmen year by (former cadet) Adam Beck. Since I became commander we added a variety of spins and formations, most notably the final formation we do to sign off.”*

C/Alvarado: *“How do you plan to run the team this year.”*

C/Ramsey: *“Unfortunately due to Covid I cannot conduct our typical practice routines. To use our time effectively we are going over general knowledge and drill knowledge as much as we can to better prepare us for our competition in the future.”*

C/ Alvarado: *“Do you have any advice to people who want to join your drill team?”*

C/ Ramsey: *“Have fun with it. You'll get more out of the team if you enjoy being on the team.”*

C/ Alvarado: *“What's a fun fact about yourself?”*

C/Ramsey: “*I have a rose garden at my mom’s that I take care of myself.*”

Unarmed Drill Team

C/Rosario

I had another fantastic interview with one of our amazing Drill Team Commanders. In this case, it was our outstanding Cadet Unarmed Drill Commander, C/SMSgt Enzo Custodio. Unarmed is one of our drill teams with a specialty of cadets only using their arms and feet to make a combination of sounds and movements while being synchronized.



C/Rosario: “*What is your name, grade, rank?*”

C/Custodio: “*My name is Enzo Custodio, I’m in the tenth grade and my rank is Cadet Senior Master Sergeant*”

C/Rosario: “*With COVID, what are your plans for running the team this year? Have you done anything to run the team this year so far?*”

C/Custodio: “*I plan on giving cadets the opportunity to learn and experience what it’s like to be on a drill team and to win many drill comps*”

C/Rosario: “*What would you want people to know if they were to join the Unarmed Drill Team? Should they be prepared for anything? What advice would you give them?*”

C/Custodio: “*I am starting to make the drill routine so that once we go back to school we are ready to start. Also we are starting to hold bi-weekly meetings to study contrails.*”

C/Rosario: “*Why did you decide to start unarmed again?*”

C/Custodio: “ *I decided to start unarmed again because I want to give a chance for cadets to join a drill team without being a substitute or a backup. I also started this drill team for cadets to have more variety*”

C/Rosario: “*Why should cadets join your drill team?*”

C/Custodio: “*Cadets should join my drill team because there’s not a lot of cadets in my drill team and also it’s a bit easier due to the fact we don’t have props such as rifles or sabers*”

Armed Drill Team

C/Bowen

In this month's newsletter, I had an exclusive interview with our armed drill commander and Vice Group Commander, Ethan Consulta. Questions were asked in this gripping interview and for once Ethan responded to my message within a reasonable time frame. Here is an insider look at the Armed Drill Team.



C/ Bowen: “*What is your name, grade, rank and how did you become the Armed Drill Team Commander?*”

C/Consulta: “*My name is Ethan Consulta and I am a senior at TVHS. I am a Cadet Major within our AFJROTC program and I became the Armed Drill Team commander in my junior year when the previous commander graduated.*”

C/ Bowen: “*How did your drill team become a top winning team in just one year?*”

C/Consulta: *“With hard work and dedication, but most importantly, we had fun with it and always looked out for each other.”*

C/Bowen: *“With COVID, what are your plans for running the team this year? Have you done anything regarding the team this year so far?”*

C/Consulta: *“This year’s plan for the team is to have virtual meetings and discuss what we could do until we return back to school if ever the case.”*

C/Bowen: *“How often and when does your drill team practice?”*

C/Consulta: *“We would practice every day after school from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. When we would near a competition, we would also practice on the weekend for around two hours or so”*

C/Bowen: *“What would you want people to know if they were to join the armed drill team? Should they be prepared for anything other than hard work?”*

C/Consulta: *“The only advice I would give to any newcomers or anyone who is interested in joining is to have an open mind and be flexible. Stay on top of your game and have fun.”*

Color Guard Drill Team

C/Rosario



Our Color Guard Drill Team consists of cadets in our Corps, honoring and representing the colors of the nation. I went through a great interview with not only our Group Commander, but also our Color Guard Drill Commander, C/Lt. Col. Christian Salazar. I went on and asked C/Salazar some questions about himself, along with his drill team:

C/Rosario: “***Why did you join Color Guard your freshman year?***”

C/Salazar: “*I joined color guard during my freshman year because a mentor encouraged me to join. One of the best decisions I’ve made*”

C/Rosario: “***Do you have any advice for new cadets who are interested in joining?***”

C/Salazar: “*It’s hard, but oh well. I’m here for you, but I’m also going to keep the pressure on you and hold you to the highest standard to ensure you’re the best you can be. If you stick to it, even through the hard times. It will be the most rewarding thing you’ve ever done*”

C/Rosario: “***How would you describe Color Guard?***”

C/Salazar: “*I’d describe it as unique. There’s no other Drill Team like Color Guard, and it’s just on a completely different level, literally, than the other drill teams, to the point where you can do Color Guard and another Team*”

C/Rosario: “***How do you plan on running this year’s team(s)?***”

C/ Salazar: “*Hammer the general knowledge into your brain so that when we go back, I don’t have to worry about you not knowing your stuff*”

C/Rosario: “***What makes Color Guard stand out?***”

C/Salazar: “*The morale and strength of our team, the amount of events we do, our uniforms, and the cadets in Color Guard all make it stand out. Matter of fact, cadets in Color Guard stand out themselves*”

Wingman Initiative

C/Rosario & C/Rueda

COVID-19 has stripped away the "high school" experience for all of us, but the ones who have been affected the most are the freshmen who were eager to start the new school year. If it wasn't scary already, changing to a virtual environment has made it harder for students to communicate and interact with each other. In AFJROTC it is no different, our first-year cadets, along with the rest of our cadets, tend to be intimidated by our upperclassmen cadets when wanting to reach out to them, with COVID-19, this intimidation could worsen. To fix this predicament, Top 5 have brought forward the Wingman initiative.

The Wingman Initiative is an optional program that offers first-year cadets to be mentored by experienced and self-disciplined cadets. This is a great opportunity for these cadets to learn and be guided by highly involved upperclassmen. Not only that, mentees will be able to ask any questions they have to their mentors. With the Wingman Initiative, new cadets have someone who they can reach out to without feeling a sense of fear when asking upperclassmen any uncertainties they might have. This also ensures that they will have an easier time transitioning into their new lives in high school and AFJROTC.

Transitioning to a new environment as adapting as a new student in a high school could be appalling. These mentors will help new cadets answer their inquiries and concerns about high school. Having a mentor who has committed themselves to AFJROTC, will help prepare these cadets. These preparations can include knowing basic knowledge such as the contrails, Uniform Regulations, Customs and Courtesies like "calling a cadet by their last name", and knowing the basis of drill which could include left and right phases. These are just a few things that will go into creating cadets who will become 'Great citizens of our Nation;' while also exceeding the expectations of our Corps.

The wingman initiative will help those who are new to the program have their experience within AFJROTC to be as smooth as possible. With the Wingman Initiative, we hope that these newcomers will feel more comfortable in this new setting called CA-933rd!

Easy Snacks for in between classes

C/Alvarado



Vanilla Bean smoothie

What You'll Need (for one serving):

- Blender
- 2 cups of ice
- 1 cup of milk
- 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup of sugar
- Whipped cream (optional)

Directions:

Add all ingredients to the blender and blend for two minutes or until fully combined. Pour into a cup, add whipped cream and enjoy!



PB Cheerio Bars

What You'll need:

- 3 cups of cheerios
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of peanut butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Honey
- Large bowl
- Mixing utensil
- 8 x 8 dish

Directions:

Heat the peanut butter and honey in a pan until melted, and well combined. Remove from heat and stir in the cheerios. Place the mixture in a lined 8 x 8 dish, and press into place. Refrigerate for at least one hour, and then cut your desired piece and enjoy.

TIP: when ever handling sticky things like honey spray your fingers and utensils with cooking spray.

Meet the newsletter team



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STAY IN TOUCH WITH CA-933!

Instagram: @tvhs.afjrotc

Twitter: @TVHSAFJROTC

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Interested in joining the newsletter team? Wanna suggest an article?

Message us on Remind! Message us @jrotcwrites

If interested in joining, ask to speak to Cadet Alvarado.