



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

UCLA Department of Military Science  
Los Angeles, California 90095-1609



### PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to the Mighty Bruin Battalion website and thank you for your interest in becoming an officer in the United States Army. As an Army officer, you will lead the world's finest soldiers on diverse missions throughout the world. ROTC is the Army's primary source of commissioning for both active duty and reserve officers. I can assure you that UCLA's Army ROTC program will prepare you for the demands of leadership in today's Army.

The personal goal of the UCLA cadre is to provide every cadet with world-class military training and leadership development. In this light, I would like to address my commander's philosophy and how the Mighty Bruin Battalion will attain this goal.

First, a cadet is a student first. You cannot be commissioned without completing a bachelor's degree. Thus, it is critical that you make academics a priority and strive to learn and grow as much as possible. Those who excel in the classroom demonstrate the intelligence, effort and time management skills needed to be effective Army leaders. Strive to succeed in the classroom and earn your degree.

Second, leadership development is our area of expertise. We CAN and WILL develop each cadet into a leader who possesses the character, fitness, competence and toughness to lead from the front. We develop these skills through a continuous process of counseling, advising and mentoring. You will be immersed in a culture dedicated to leading and you will be constantly challenged and motivated to attain excellence in all areas.

Third, to lead from the front requires a high level of physical fitness and mental toughness. It is critical that each cadet develop a "fitness ethos"—a personal commitment to staying in superior physical condition. We will develop fitness through rigorous physical training conducted to the highest standards. In addition, each cadet will develop a commitment to living a healthy lifestyle.

Fourth, the ROTC program is committed to being both flexible and predictable. Each cadet has their own goals, hopes and dreams. We are committed to helping each individual cadet attain excellence in leadership while allowing them to attain other personal goals. In addition, we are committed to providing a predictable schedule that allows you to be involved in all aspects of the college experience.

Fifth, each cadet is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and military bearing. Every cadet will have a proper haircut and wear their uniform correctly and with pride. High standards improve unit discipline. In turn, members of a disciplined unit tend to show a higher level of esprit de corps because they recognize they are members of a special organization.

Lastly, I believe that all cadets should have a well-rounded college experience. Army ROTC is important, but it should not be the only facet of your college life. Cadets are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Each cadet should strive to be a Scholar, Athlete and Leader. As such, each cadet should strike a balance between Army ROTC, academics, work, sports, clubs and family.

My pledge is to make the above philosophy a reality for you. The entire cadre and I are each personally dedicated and committed to helping every cadet reach his or her full potential. I am always open to new ideas and suggestions to make the Bruin Battalion better and stronger. I look forward to working with you and give my best wishes as you strive for excellence as a leader. Welcome to the Mighty Bruin Battalion!

CHRISTOPHER P. TALCOTT  
Major, United States Army  
Professor of Military Science