

UC SANTA BARBARA

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[Keith Hamm](#)

UCSB ROTC cadet team wins invite to prestigious West Point competition

For the second year in a row, UC Santa Barbara's Army ROTC Surfrider Battalion is headed to the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at West Point to compete against teams from around the world. UCSB won the invite to Sandhurst by finishing second among 34 teams at the 8th Brigade Army ROTC Ranger Challenge regional competition, held in February at Fort Hunter Liggett.

"Our team has a lot of heart," said Surf Battalion co-captain Madison Mohun, a third-year psychology and brain science major. "We bonded over countless early morning workouts and skill training. I'm talking Monday through Saturday at 6 a.m., every single week since fall quarter."

At Sandhurst, co-ed teams will be tested on physical stamina, marksmanship, navigation, communications, first aid and other skills. The event has been held since 1967.

Mohun was also on the UCSB team that went to [Sandhurst last year](#), a tough test of grit and game savvy she described as "equally exciting and daunting" as they navigated unfamiliar terrain against favored teams with years of competitive experience at the West Point championship.

"This year, we're not walking in blind," she added. "We understand the pace, expectations and the overall layout of the event. With a Sandhurst competition

already under our belt, we are better prepared, more confident and positioned to be far more competitive.”

This year’s Sandhurst Military Skills Competition runs May 1-2.

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About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.