LETTER OF INSTRUCTION: US ARMY ROTC ISLANDER CHALLENGE 2019

1. **Purpose.** To inform local High School, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps JROTC programs about the Texas A&M - Corpus Christi Army ROTC’s Islander Challenge Competition scheduled for 30 March 2019 and extend the invitation to participate in this motivational event.

2. **General.**

   a. The goals of the competition are: (i) Expose JROTC Cadets to a University Campus, (ii) plan and execute a challenging, military skills-oriented competition, (iii) increase esprit de corps among JROTC programs, and (iv) raise awareness of the Islander Battalion Senior ROTC Program at TAMUCC.

   b. Events occur throughout the TAMUCC Main Campus. Events include a 7K relay, Log Carry, Stress Shoot, Memorization Table, Rope Bridge, Land Navigation, Obstacle course, Equipment Carry and SALUTE Reporting – plus a few “extra-point” events.

   c. The challenge is scored on a 125-point system. The team with most points wins Islander Challenge. The top three teams receive awards. Each team must compete in each event to compete for the top three awards; however, teams do not have to complete all the extra credit activities. Extra credit activities are embedded in the major events and teams have the option to complete the extra credit activities for additional points to the overall score. Teams must stay with Group Leaders (an assigned TAMUCC ROTC Cadet) at all times; Group Leaders will use predetermined routes that all groups must use. A start time and end time for each team at each event is reported to the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) for scorekeeping. Tabulation of scores occurs once all teams are finished. This method will alleviate any backlog or cadets waiting at a specific station while worrying about total elapsed time. There is a 5-hour limit to completing all events.

   d. The 11th Annual Islander Challenge will emphasize cadet critical thinking skills and provide an atmosphere conducive to creative problem solving. The competition is comprised of four (4) phases, as follows:

   **Phase I:** Reception/Welcome Ceremony. This phase begins with the arrival of the participating School JROTC Programs to TAMUCC Campus. Islander Battalion HQ staff, cadre, and cadet conduct welcoming ceremony. Upon completions of the reception and welcoming ceremony, the Physical Fitness Challenge Events will commence with assigning of Group Leaders and issuing of the rucks to each team. Each team’s ruck will contain a 20-pound sand bag, MREs, and water bottles for the team members. Teams will carry all trash, to include trash from the MREs, and emptied water bottles in the team’s ruck and disposed of at the end of the
day. This will help in keeping TAMUCC campus and the environment clean. Additionally, each sand bag are weighed at the end of the day to ensure team integrity.

**Phase II:** 7K Relay. Three cadets, chosen by the team, compete in the 7K relay around the TAMUCC campus. In addition to posting a route map, Islander Battalion Cadets and cones are placed along the trail. Each cadet will run 1.5 mile lap and points will be awarded by overall team placement. Each team will have a baton that to handed-off to all competing cadets. The running cadet for each leg of the race must hold the baton. Both feet must pass the finish line with the team’s baton in hand before the time ends. First place team will be receive 25 points, second place team will receive 20 points, third place team will receive 15 points, and the remaining teams that completed the 7K relay will receive 10 points.

**Phase III:** Round Robin. This phase consists of four circuit events. Group Leaders direct teams to each event. Each group will have one hour to complete the event.

(i) Commander’s Cup. The activities of this event include a Log Carry, Stress Shoot, Memorization Table and Rope Bridge. The extra credit activity for this event is TOP Secret and is worth 5 points.

(ii). Land Navigation Challenge. Conducted on the TAMUCC Campus, this event will require each team to locate three points within 20 minutes. Method of finding points is at the discretion of the team leader. Teams receive a map, compass and protractor. Teams will be required to find all points without assistance. Teams receive a score sheet with their three points listed before beginning the course. Points are verified upon completion. Failure to find the correct points will require the team to return the course to find the correct points. Loss of the score sheet will result in the team being required to start over with a new score sheet with different points. This event counts for up to 20 points. There is an extra credit activity of a written land navigation quiz worth 5 points. Islander graders will accompany teams to ensure overall safety and to provide assistance as needed, as well as event integrity. In addition, water points with shade are located around the course.

(iii). Izzy’s Obstacle Course. This course time based. The obstacle course will take place on the Islander Beach across from the University on Ocean Drive. This event will be timed as each team negotiates the various obstacles (tire flips, kayak carry through the water, etc.) in their lane. Time ends only when the last member of a team crosses the finish line. Safety is of the utmost importance. Ocean Drive can only be crossed at the cross walk nearest Islander Beach. Likewise, all teams will use sidewalks and crosswalks only as they approach and depart the Ocean Drive cross walk. Any teams found crossing at a non-authorized crossing point will be assessed a two minute time penalty for each violation. The cross walk at the light takes 30 seconds at most. This event counts for up to 20 points and based on time. The extra credit activity is a 100M sprint on the beach, worth 5 points. This is optional and only one cadet from each team will compete.

(iv). Ranger’s Challenge. Cadets conduct an equipment carry up an incline. Additionally, cadets must also conduct a SALUTE report to the Islander graders. This event counts for up to 20 points. There is an extra credit activity of grenade throw and worth 5 points.
Phase IV. Awards/Closing Ceremony. This phase begins with Islander Battalion Professor of Military Science (PMS) and Senior Military Instructor (SMI) presenting an award to the team that exceeded the Challenge. Upon completion of the Islander Challenge events and Awards Presentation, Islander Battalion Staff, Cadre, and Cadet Command personnel begins tear down and close out activities. Participating school JROTC programs will depart Corpus Christi, Texas in order to return to their home station. Cadet Battalion S3 will lead an AAR of the event on 1 April 2019 with all elements of Islander Battalion Cadet Command, Staff, and Cadre.

3. Team Composition. Each school is required to have 5 person teams with two alternates. There is a limit of three teams per school. There is no gender requirement for teams or alternates. At least one JROTC Cadre accompany their team throughout the competition.

4. Registration. There is a cap of 30 teams for this competition. Participating schools register online at the following web link: http://rotc.tamucc.edu/islander_challenge.html. Participating schools will need to complete an online registration and submit T-shirt sizes for each team member and the two alternates. Payment options include mail-in check or online credit card payment. If paying by check, ensure you click the box that you are paying by check and follow the instructions on paying by check found on the website. All participating schools need to complete the online registration as soon as possible, but no later than 1 March 2019. The registration fee is $150.00 for the first team and $100.00 for additional teams. The registration fees cover the cost of awards, lunch meals for participants and alternates, and T-shirt for each participant and alternate.

5. Uniform. Uniform for the Islander Challenge is:
   - T-shirts in school colors
   - Athletic trousers or shorts
   - Running shoes
   - Water source
   - Optional Items:
     - Towel to dry off after beach event (participants will get wet)
     - ACUs and boots are NOT required and the wear of these items is discouraged since these items are unavailable to some JROTC programs. It is imperative that all teams arrive and compete in similar uniform in order to ensure fairness in the competition.

6. Point of Contact for this LOI is Mr Raul Ramirez at (361) 825-5841 or rotc@tamucc.edu.

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Additional Information:

A basic SALUTE report is a report army personnel would pass to the officers appointed over them, to receive information on the Enemy. For this event, only the basic knowledge will be necessary. Completing a SALUTE report will be taken into account for points on the Ranger’s Challenge event, as such, it would be beneficial for teams to study, and know how to submit one.

S: Size of the element you are investigating (number of personal)
   EX: 6 males, 7 females, 3 children

A: Activity the personal are doing
   EX: Males in a meeting, 7 females cooking

L: Location you see the personal
   EX: Grid coordinates will be given

U: Uniform, what are the personal wearing?
   EX: Males military uniform, Females black dresses

T: Time the information was collected
   EX: 11:21-18JAN2018

E: Types of equipment the personal have
   EX: Males with IEDs, drivable trucks, etc.

Knowledge packet:

- In 1947 - Ward Island becomes home of the University of Corpus Christi (UCC)
- In 1989 - Corpus Christi State University joins The Texas A&M University System becoming TAMU-CC
- The official colors of TAMU-CC are blue and green
- The University slogan is "The Island University," Texas A&M- Corpus Christi is the only university in the nation that is located on its own island
- Izzy the Islander is the official mascot of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; he embodies the spirit of the campus and is primarily seen at Islander’s athletic functions
- The mission of the ROTC is to develop the future leaders of our military and this great nation of ours
- In 1951 - ROTC training began in South Texas at then Texas A&M University
- In December 1978 our program was known as the Javelina Battalion’s Charlie Company
- In September 2006, in recognition of the outstanding contributions and potential to the U.S. Army, the TAMUCC Islander Army ROTC was formed