

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS-CHRISTI
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78412-5836



ATCC-ETX-CC

November 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR JROTC Students within the Corpus Christi, TX Area

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction for US Army ROTC Islander Challenge 2024

1. Purpose. To inform TAMUCC organizations as well as 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 **23 March 2024** and extend the invitation to participate in this year's event.

2. General.

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

b. All Islander Challenge competition events occur throughout the TAMUCC Main Campus. Events include a 2-Mile Hammerhead Run, Islander Warrior Obstacle Course, Tactical Combat Care Challenge, Tarpon Stress Shoot, Bay Hall Grenade Course, and Keep in Mind System (KIMS) Game.

c. The challenge is an accumulative scored, time-based point system. The team with the lowest score earned through speed and accuracy will win the Islander Challenge. The top three scoring teams receive awards, as well as, the top team of each event. Teams must participate in each event to be eligible for one of the top three awards. Group Leaders (an assigned TAMUCC SROTC Cadet) must always be present with their team; Group Leaders will use predetermined routes that all groups must use. Start times and end times for each team event will be reported to the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) for scorekeeping. For example, a Lane Runner will give their assigned team instructions for the event and, when ready, alert the team to "Get ready, get set, begin." Upon the command of begin, the Lane Runner will press the start button on a timer. The team will perform the task until it is complete. Upon completion, the Lane Runner will press stop on the timer and report the time and score to the TOC for record. Accumulated scores will be tabulated once all teams have completed each challenge. There is a total 6-hour limit to complete all events.

d. The 14th Annual Islander Challenge will assess critical thinking skills and creative problem solving. The competition will be conducted in four (4) phases:

Phase I: Reception/Welcome Ceremony.

This phase begins with the arrival of the participating JROTC Programs and TAMUCC Organizations to the TAMUCC Campus. Islander Battalion HQ staff, Cadre, and Cadets conduct a welcoming ceremony. Upon completion of the reception and welcoming ceremony, the Round Robin Events will commence. Each team will be assigned a Group Leader and issued rucksacks. Each team's ruck will contain a 15-pound weight which must always remain in the ruck. Water bottles for team members can be added to the ruck. Teams will carry all trash in the team's ruck and get rid of all trash at designated trash points. This will help in keeping TAMUCC campus and the environment clean.

Phase II: Round Robin. This phase consists of six circuit events. Group Leaders will direct teams to each event. Each group will have one hour to complete each event, for a total of six hours to complete all six circuit events.

(I). Tarpon Stress Shoot.

The Tarpon Stress Shoot includes Burpees, Cardio, and the Stress Shoot. This event will be timed. For the Stress Shoot, each member will shoot six rounds for a total of 30 shots per team. Teams will be scored by overall time, with penalties added to time (Five seconds per missed shot) which will be converted into points and ranked overall within the lane.

(II). KIMS Game.

Conducted on the TAMUCC Campus, teams will be presented with 10-15 items. Teams will have one minute to memorize the items and 2 minutes to recreate the presentation. However, before the team is able to recreate the presentation the team's memory will be challenged by a series of tasks such as jump ropes, hand release pushups, weighted sit ups, weighted squats, group run, hula hoop team link, and wooden puzzle. Once a team believes that they have accurately replicated the presentation, the team can call for the event to stop and the event will be complete. Once the time is stopped, the timer cannot be started again. Items must be laid EXACTLY how they were placed in the example or teams will incur a penalty for each incorrect item. Teams can stop the event before the allotted time expires if they feel that all items are correct. The main importance of this event is that the items are CORRECTLY placed to replicate the original memorized presentation. The recorded time will be used in the event of a tiebreaker for the overall Islander Challenge and is not the main focus of this event. Incorrect placement of items will add 15 points to their overall score for this lane.

(III). Islander Warrior Obstacle Course.

This event is timed. The obstacle course will take place on the Islander Beach across from the University on Ocean Drive. Each team will negotiate various obstacles (Burpees, Tire Flips, Kayak Carry, Hand Release Push Ups, Tire Ladder, Sprint Drag Carry, Trench Low Crawl, Log sit-ups, and Pull Ups). Time ends when the last team member completes the last pull-up. Safety is critical. Teams will cross Ocean Drive at the crosswalk nearest Islander Beach. Teams will use sidewalks and crosswalks as they approach and depart from the Ocean Drive crosswalk. Any team found crossing at a non-authorized crossing point will be assessed a two-minute time penalty for each violation. Time will be converted into points and the team with the fastest time will be ranked first overall for the lane and the others subsequently.

(IV). TCCC Challenge.

Cadets will assess a casualty, apply a tourniquet, transfer a casualty to a safe zone using a combat litter, and accurately perform a 9-Line MEDEVAC. The 9-Line MEDEVAC will be reported to the grader who will assess points for accuracy. Teams will be provided with a grading card prior to the competition to study. Teams will be briefed prior to the lane starting.

The lane will be assessed using the scoring card given at the beginning of the event, the scoring card is in the format of GO or NO-GO. Each NO-GO will add ten points each and will be added to the overall score of this lane.

(V). Bay Hall Grenade Course

Cadets will accurately identify different types of grenades and properly throw a grenade at a target. All five participants from each team will participate in this event. Two cadets will perform the “Prone-To-Standing Throwing Position” another two cadets will perform the “Prone to Kneeling Throwing Position,” and one cadet will perform the “Alternate Prone Throwing Position”. A five-point penalty will be assessed for each incorrect form or grenade misidentification. Cadets are only allowed to throw one grenade each for this event. This event is measured by how close the cadet can throw the grenade at the target. Distance is measured from the target to where the grenade lands. The Lane Runner will measure the throws and add the overall distance. There are no repeat throws. Once the grenade is released and lands, the resting location of the grenade will be marked.

(VI): 2-Mile Hammerhead Relay Run

Five cadets from each team will compete in the 2-Mile Hammerhead Relay Run. Teams will be provided a route map. Routes will be marked by traffic cones and Islander Battalion Cadets who will direct teams. During this event teams will form a line at the starting point. The first cadet will run 0.2 miles to the specified marked location and turn around to come back to the start point where they will then hand off a baton to the next cadet. This will follow the same pattern until all cadets on the team have completed the event. After the last cadet has crossed the finish line, the final time will be marked, and the team will receive an overall team score. If a team member does not complete, the run a five-minute penalty will be added to the team’s overall score. Both feet must cross the finish line to stop the team’s timer. Teams will be scored based on the overall time, which will be ranked overall within the lane.

Phase IV. Awards/Closing Ceremony.

This phase begins with presentation of awards by the Islander Battalion Professor of Military Science (PMS) and Senior Military Instructor (SMI). Upon completion of the Islander Challenge events and Awards Presentation, the Islander Battalion Staff, Cadre, and Cadet Command personnel will recover event equipment. Participating JROTC programs will depart Corpus Christi, Texas to return to their home station. The Cadet Battalion S3 will lead an after-action-review of the event during the week of 25 – 28 March 2024 with all members of Islander Battalion Cadet Command, Staff, and Cadre.

3. Team Composition. Each school is required to have a five-person team with two alternate team members for a total of seven team members. Teams are only allowed two substitutions for the entire team. Schools are limited to three teams. There is no gender requirement for teams or alternates. At least one JROTC Cadre member must accompany each of their teams throughout the competition.

1. Composition Penalties: a two (2) minute penalty will be added to the overall time if any of the following happens during Islander Challenge. The Group Leader will ensure that the penalties will be assessed at the obstacle course.

a. Falls below to a 4-man team (there must be at least 5 JROTC cadets participating at a time)

b. If a substitution is made from another team (a team of two or more from the same school cannot go from one team to another)

4. Registration. There is a limit of 45 teams for this competition. Participating schools must register online at the following web link: [Islander Challenge Registration \(tamucc.edu\)](https://tamucc.edu/Islander-Challenge-Registration)

Participating schools will complete an online registration and submit T-shirt sizes for each team member and the two alternates ASAP. Payment options include a mail-in check or an 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 **23 February 2024**. The registration fee is \$175.00 for the first team and \$125.00 for each additional team. Registration fees cover the cost of awards, lunch, and T-shirt for each participant and alternate.

5. Uniform. Uniform for the Islander Challenge is:

1. School color T-shirts
2. Athletic trousers or shorts
3. Running shoes (No cleats)
4. Water source (bottle, canteen, or Camelback)
5. Sunscreen & Bug Spray
6. Optional Items:
 - a. Towel to dry off after beach event (**participants will get wet**)

***NO boots or any other additional uniform items are authorized. It is imperative that all teams arrive and compete in similar uniforms to ensure fairness in the competition.

6. Point of Contact for this LOI is CPT Marlean Rich 361-825-2293 or rotc@tamucc.edu.

TAMUCC Campus Map

