

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



ATCC-ETX-CC

January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR JROTC Students within the state of Texas

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction for US Army ROTC Islander Challenge 2026

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 **28 March 2026** 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 Ruck, Islander Warrior Obstacle Course, Tactical Combat Care Challenge, Tarpon Stress Shoot, Grenade Course, and a Mystery Event.

c. The Challenge uses an accumulative point system. Each event is scored numerically, with the lowest score indicating the best performance (1st place in an event=1 point). Points are accumulated across all events, and the team with the fewest points at the end of the round robin will take the win. **In the event of a tie, a tug of war will serve as the tiebreaker.** 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. Runners (an assigned TAMUCC SROTC Cadet) must always be present with their team. Runners will use predetermined routes that all groups must use, and they will ensure all teams follow the given timeline. 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 15th 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, each team will be assigned a Runner, and the Round Robin Events will commence.

Phase II: Round Robin. This phase consists of six events. Runners will direct each team to the first event they are designated to. **Each group will be given five minutes of explanation and then thirty minutes to complete each event, followed by ten minutes to get to the next event and rest.** This will continue until all teams have completed their 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 ranked overall within the lane.

(II). Mystery Event.

Teams will complete a Mystery Event.

(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 a Sled Drag). Time ends when the last team member completes the Sled Drag. 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. Teams will be scored by overall time which will be ranked overall within the lane.

(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 seconds to the overall time of this lane. Teams will be scored by overall completion time with penalty time added from TCCC Score Card

(V). 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. Teams will be able to decide who on their team throws from what positions, 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 3-meter penalty will be given 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 stops. Teams will be scored by the team's overall distance and any penalties. There are no repeat throws.

(VI): 2-Mile Hammerhead Ruck

Five cadets from each team will compete in the 2-Mile, 35lb, Hammerhead Ruck. Teams will be issued 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 and wait for the Lane runner to begin the event. After the last cadet has crossed the finish line, the final time will be marked. 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 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 24 – 27 March 2025 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 allowed unlimited substitutions throughout the competition, however, once a member of the team subs out of one event, they are no longer allowed to reenter that specific event. Schools are limited to three teams. **There is a gender requirement that at least one female team member must be currently participating for each event.** At least one JROTC Cadre member must accompany each of their teams throughout the competition.

1. Composition Penalties: a two (2) point penalty will be added to the team's **overall accumulative score** if any of the following happens during Islander Challenge. The Runner will ensure that the penalties will be communicated to the TOC.

a. Falls below to a 5-man team (there must always 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)

Example: If a team comes in first place for all six events (Score of 6), but the team fell below a 5-man team during the Ruck, they will be given an overall two-point penalty (Score of 8).

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 **28 February 2025**. 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 Mr. David Romero at 361-825-2293 or rotc@tamucc.edu.

TAMUCC Campus Map

