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Charlie Flight

Bulldog Challenge Article

### Turlock High School Bulldog Challenge

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Merrill F. West High's AFJROTC (Air Force Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps) took place in Turlock High's Bulldog Challenge. The Bulldog Challenge is an event where cadets from several schools compete using fitness, integrity, knowledge, and teamwork to complete multiple sports and brain challenges.

Merrill F. West High's AFJROTC Unit CA-20161 cadets participated in a 1 Mile Relay, Basketball Shootout, Ragball, Volleyball, Tug a War, Seal Challenge (Boys), Cardboard Boat Race, and Color Guard Competition (Junior Varsity and Varsity)

They started the challenge by doing a 1 Mile Relay. Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Adrian Contreras, Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tyler Stubbles, Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ava Andrews, Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cianne Feliciano ran a lap around the track, giving a baton to the next cadet in line. After a mile, the cadets waited to see whether they made the heat and the time.

The next couple of challenges were jumbled in time, every event starting and ending at or in the middle of each challenge. Since West High's AFJROTC Unit CA-20161 struggled to find more girls for the events, they stepped down, doing the events that the cadets chose. Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tyler Stubbles, Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Jeremy Ignacio, Cadet Rayyan Rayyan, and Cadet David Simpson participated and placed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Seal Challenge. The Seal Challenge consists of team pullups, team sit-ups, tire flip, ammo can carry, low crawl and each of them had to do a lap around the pool. Although it was energy draining, the cadets completed and encouraged each other no matter how tired they were.

Cadets also participated and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Junior Varsity Color Guard. This was a big achievement for the unit, since it was the first time in 6 years that the program has existed that we have placed in a color guard competition. Cadet Gared Lardizabal, rifle, Mahnoor Babra, American Flag, Brooke Duarte, California Flag, and Landon Lane, rifle, are our Junior Varsity team. They worked every day after school to make sure they did their best when it came to the day.

A large group of cadets came together, to participate in Ragball. A game like softball, using a t-ball, a softball, and no gloves. Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Tiffany Nguyen, Cadet Miguel Salinas, Cadet Major Valery Rincon, Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Adrian Contreras, Cadet Javier Jara, Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Ava Andrews, Cadet Daniela Avila, Cadet Perla Camacho, Cadet Kyle Vernon, and Cadet Alejandro Oropeza participated and worked together to bring home victory. They played a series of 4 games, winning every single one.

Merrill F. West AFJROTC Cadet Major Valery Rincon, Cadet Lt Colonel Carli Turner, Cadet Armando Edades, and Cadet Justin Edades also participated in a Basketball Shootout. They took turns shooting at different points, adding points every shot they made. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> place and hyped each other whenever it was their turn to shoot.

Merrill F. West High's AFJROTC unit supported cadets, in and out of the game. They took integrity and teamwork into action in everything they did. From hitting a ball off the tee, to running with teammates during the mile relay. All of West's cadets cheered each other on, even though the loss.