

EYE OF THE STORM



HURRICANE BATTALION

LEADERSHIP
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE

HURRICANE BATTALION SPRING 2026

MANATEE HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC



A YEAR OF
LEADERSHIP.
SERVICE.
EXCELLENCE.

“The choices we make today become the foundation and legacy for future cadets.

- C/CSM Paige Kressin

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As we draw near to the end of the school year, we reflect on a year defined by leadership, service, and excellence. Throughout the year, cadets made a meaningful impact through three major service-learning initiatives, including an annual food drive benefiting St. Joseph's Food Pantry, a toy drive supporting Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, and a mentorship project with Manatee Elementary and the Boys & Girls Club.

This year, the Manatee High School Raider, Rifle, and Drill Teams all earned the honor of advancing to their respective state competitions, highlighted by our female armed drill squad finishing 4th in the state out of 30 teams. In addition, Flora Mendoza and Alaina Christian represented the battalion at the Florida Best Raider Competition, earning an impressive 5th-place finish out of 16 teams.

The battalion achieved another major milestone by earning an outstanding 99.3% score during the JROTC Program for Accreditation. While this year is marked by many notable accomplishments, none would have been possible without the dedication and support of our instructors, cadets, parents, and Manatee High School. We are proud to recognize the commitment and teamwork that made this year one of excellence for the Hurricane Battalion.

★ Memorial Day ★ MAY 25, 2026

This May we honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their sacrifice secured the freedoms we enjoy today and reminds us of the true cost of liberty. As JROTC cadets, we pause not only to remember the fallen, but to recommit ourselves to leading with honor, respect, and selfless service - values worthy of their legacy.

THE STORM CONTINUES!

This year's achievements reflect the discipline, teamwork, and commitment of our cadets. They continue to raise the standard and represent Manatee High School with distinction.

To our seniors, thank you for your leadership and the legacy you leave behind. You have set the example.

To our incoming leaders, the responsibility is now yours. Lead with confidence and move this battalion forward.

LTC Todd Crawford
Senior Army Instructor
Hurricane Battalion JROTC

FAREWELL TO OUR SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

CADETS ACHIEVE RECORD JPA PERFORMANCE

The Hurricane Battalion earned **HONOR UNIT WITH DISTINCTION (HUD)** with an outstanding

99.3% SCORE

the highest in program history!

This achievement reflects the hard work, discipline, and commitment of every cadet.



Ansley Alexander - College (MTC)

Dylan Baylis - College (MTC)

Kaylin Coronel - Military

Jermyna D'amour - Military

Bayro DeLeon - Workforce

Jacadie Diaz - Military

Daniel Estrada - Workforce

Miguel Garcia - Military

Paige Kressin - College (VMI)

Bryan Kross - Military

Tonny Laboy - Military

Lucas Toye - Military

Flora Mendoza - College (USF)

Anthony Mercado Campero - Military

Josslyn Navas - College (SCF)

Konnor Oelfke - College (MTC)

Jhonny Prieto - College (MTC)

Kayla Rosario - Workforce

Jose Rodriguez - Military

Emmanuel Sanchez - HVAC Internship

Citlaly Sosa - College (USF)

Jahrymar Velez - Military



MANATEE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Join us to say a final goodbye to our seniors!



SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
8:00 pm



JOE KINNAN FIELD
AT HAWKINS STADIUM
MANATEE HIGH SCHOOL

NO TICKETS REQUIRED.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

★ CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS WHO PLAN TO JOIN THE MILITARY ★

★ ARMY ★

BRYAN KROSS
ANTHONY MERCADO

JAHRYMAR VELEZ
JACADIE DIAZ

MIGUEL GARCIA
KAYLIN CORONEL

PAIGE KRESSIN (ARMY ROTC)
CITLALY SOSA (ARMY ROTC)

FLORA MENDOZA (ARMY ROTC)



★ MARINE CORPS ★

JOSE RODRIGUEZ
JERMYRA D'AMOUR



★ COAST GUARD ★

LUCAS TOYE



WELCOME TO THE 2026-2027 BATTALION LEADERSHIP

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Battalion recently conducted a Change of Command Ceremony, symbolizing the transfer of leadership and responsibility. During the ceremony, C/CSM Paige Kressin passed the battalion colors to C/LTC Citlaly Sosa for the final time. C/LTC Sosa then returned the colors to LTC Crawford, officially relinquishing command. LTC Crawford passed the colors to Cadet Emma Velazquez, charging her with the authority and responsibility of the battalion. The ceremony concluded as Cadet Velazquez passed the colors to Cadet Alaina Christian, assuming duties as the new Battalion Command Sergeant Major.



BATTALION COMMANDER
C/LTC Emma Velazquez



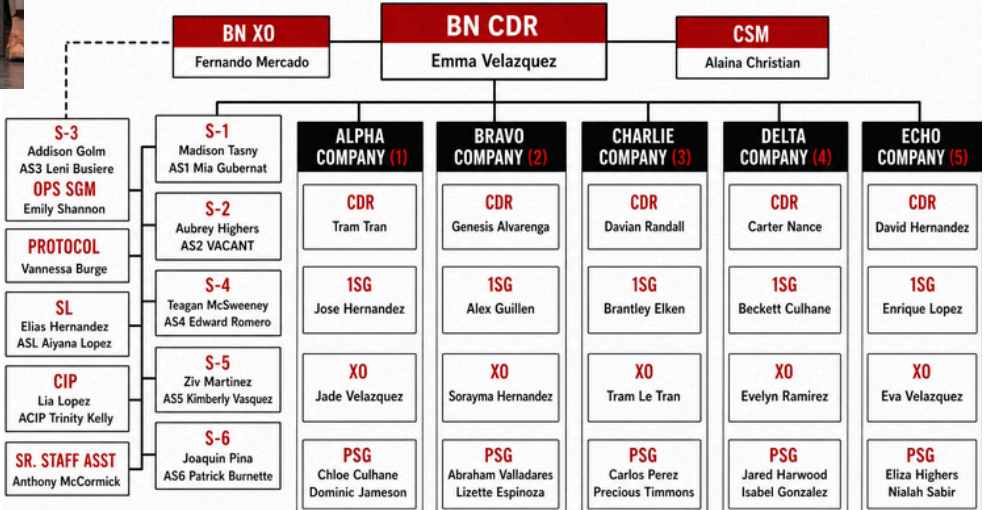
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
C/MAJ Fernando Mercado Campero



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
C/CSM Alaina Christian

2026-2027 HURRICANE BATTALION

CHAIN OF COMMAND



FAREWELL TO OUR OUTGOING BATTALION COMMAND TEAM



BATTALION COMMANDER
C/LTC CITLALY SOSA



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
C/CSM PAIGE KRESSIN

HURRICANE BATTALION IN ACTION

6TH BRIGADE FLORIDA STATE DRILL

Congratulations to the Female Armed Drill Squad for an outstanding performance at the Florida State Drill Meet, finishing 4th overall out of 30 teams statewide. The squad earned their place at the state competition by placing 1st in our district, demonstrating exceptional discipline, precision, and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication reflect great credit on themselves and our program, and we are extremely proud of their accomplishment.

Female Armed Squad

- Josslyn Navas (CDR)
- Alaina Christian
- Lia Lopez
- Citlaly Sosa
- Taylor Thompson
- Emma Velazquez
- Jahrymar Velez



JROTC AWARDS CEREMONY

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE HURRICANE BATTALION.

The Hurricane Battalion held their Annual JROTC Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, to honor cadets for outstanding leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to service. From national-level recognition to battalion awards, cadets were recognized for exemplifying the core values of JROTC and the traditions of the Hurricane Battalion. The awards ceremony concluded with a tribute to our departing senior class followed by a formal change of command.



LOOKING AHEAD - SUMMER/FALL 2026

JROTC CADET LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE JCLC



2-5 JUNE 2026
CAMP MILES, PUNTA GORDA, FL

FAMILY DAY
THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH, 2026
11 AM - 1 PM

SCOUTING AMERICA – CAMP MILES
38751 BERMONT ROAD, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33982

ARMY ROTC NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING AN ARMY OFFICER?
LET THE ARMY PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE WHILE YOU TRAIN TO BECOME ONE!

Application Portal Will Open No Later Than July 1st, 2026

[HTTP://WWW.GOARMY.COM/ROTC.HTML](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html)

The first of three selection boards will be in October 2026

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact
LTC (Ret) Crawford at crawfordk2@manateeschools.net

BATTALION LEADERSHIP COURSE BLC



WHO: ALL JROTC LEADERS
(PLATOON SERGEANT AND ABOVE)
WHAT: BATTALION LEADERSHIP COURSE (BLC)
WHEN: FRIDAY, 31 JUL 26, 7 AM - 1 PM
WHERE: MHS JROTC PORTABLES
WHY: TO PREPARE CADETS TO ASSUME
LEADERSHIP & STAFF POSITIONS AY 26-27

★ UPCOMING EVENTS ★

-  31 JUL - Battalion Leadership Course
-  10 AUG - Student's First Day of School
-  17 AUG - Rifle Team Practice Begins
-  18 AUG - Raider Team Practice Begins
-  19 AUG - Color Guard Practice Begins
-  7 SEP - Labor Day (no school)
-  10 SEP - 1st County Rifle Meet
-  19 SEP - Braden River Raider Rumble
-  26 SEP - SMA Radier Invitational
-  1 OCT - 2nd County Rifle Meet
-  12 OCT - Record Day (no school)

STAY CONNECTED



902 33RD ST CT WEST
BRADENTON, FL 34209



[WWW.MSHURRICANEBATTALION.COM](http://www.mshurricanebattalion.com)



@MANATEEHIGHJROTC

For questions about Manatee High School or this newsletter, contact:



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