



ALLECA 2024 FINAL REPORT

The 2024 American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, ALLECA, was held at the Emmanuel Pines Conference Center located in Prescott, Arizona from June 8th through June 15th, 2024. This was the 43rd year for this academy, which started in 1981. ALLECA 2024 hosted 41 cadets from across Arizona and Florida, with 29 male cadets and 12 female cadets.

The academy was staffed by 17 well trained law enforcement professionals from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sahuarita Police Department, Mesa Police Department, Tucson Police Department, Pinal County Sheriff's Office and AZPOST. Eight past graduates of the ALLECA program were also in attendance and served as Cadet Advisors. Academy Staff included a Board Certified Nurse Practitioner, who served as Camp Medic, and was busy with administering medical care to the cadets and staff everyday throughout the week.

Cadets were placed into squads with a designated squad leader, class president, and guide-on, who was tasked with the carrying of the ALLECA class flag from the residence hall to the various locations the class went during the week. Cadets were instructed on the significance and importance of the American flag, drill and marching procedures, honor and respect for staff and each other, teamwork and team building while carrying out the various functions of training and learning.

Cadets were advised to prepare physically for the academy, which included a physical fitness assessment test upon entering the program, daily physical fitness activities, and a final physical fitness test before graduation.

Cadets were responsible for maintaining orderly beds and sleeping rooms, completing many uniform inspections and chores related to keeping the residence hall and classroom facility clean and orderly.

Daily schedules included early morning physical fitness training, the raising and lowering of the American flag, drill and marching, squad meetings with their squad counselors for the conveyance of information, assistance with the shining of boots and how to properly maintain their uniform, classroom instruction on a variety of topics and hands-on exercises, such as weapon handling with air-soft guns and defensive tactics.

Classroom instruction included the following topics: Introduction to First Aid, DUI and the Underage Driver, Citizenship and Americanism, Traffic Stops, the Bomb Squad, a SWAT Unit from Prescott Police Department, a presentation on the dangers of distracted driving, Being Bullied, Undercover Investigations and Scenario based training on building entries, Active Shooter and High Risk Vehicle Stops, a shooting competition with air soft weapons, Narcotic Investigations and Defensive Tactics Training.

Military recruiters were also in attendance providing valuable information to the cadets on military service as a career path. Career-building training was also provided. Integrity, teamwork, and respect for each other were stressed during each day. The schedule of events ensured the cadets were busy with a variety of different tasks from the start of the day until the end of the day.

The class started with 41 cadets and 9 Cadet Advisors for a total of 50 cadets. One cadet left on day 3 due to a family emergency.

This weeklong academy culminated in a class graduation on June 15th, 2024, with the presentation of the class to their families and the presentation of certificates of completion. ALLECA 2024 incurred a camp fee of \$34,859.00 and associated camp, cadet, and medical supplies, along with equipment and uniform costs, for a total training cost of \$52,471.66, an increase of \$6,458.66 from ALLECA 2023.

Notice of Intent to vacate position as ALLECA Director 2025

I am giving a one-year notice to Commander Steven Sperl, Department of Arizona, American Legion that I will be stepping down as ALLECA Director effective June 14, 2025 at the closing graduation of ALLECA Class 2025. This is a great program that needs to keep going and I am requesting that a committee be put in place to secure a qualified candidate to hold this most honorable and trustworthy position.

In June of 2018, I was interviewed for the position as ALLECA Director by the then Board of Directors. During the interview I was asked how many years I could commit, I answered I would give them 5 solid years as I was being prepared to move through the Chairs of the SAL National organization. By the time the 2025 class comes, I will have given 8 solid years. My commitment will have been completed as promised. My future goals, my drive and my passion with the SONS of The American Legion are taking me to the next step at National Convention in New Orleans as The National Sargent At Arms under incoming National Commander Joseph Navarrete. This will prepare me for future advancement through the National positions of which I am pursuing.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity and trust to be a part of such a great program that is Nationally recognized and builds future Protectors and Leaders!

For God and Country

Respectful submitted, Matt Griffis, ALLECA Director, June 16, 2024