

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER

April 2023

By: MIDN 2/C Tyler Hwangbo
and MIDN 3/C Rylan Giorgetta

Alumni Ball

On April 1, 2023, the Trojan Battalion hosted its first alumni ball since the Coronavirus pandemic. Held at the USC Hotel, alumni from nearly every decade since the battalion's founding descended back onto USC's campus to commemorate 80+ years of NROTC at the University of Southern California.

The weekend included a NASA and Marine Corps aviation presentation given by Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Noriega (USC NROTC c/o 1981). LtCol. Noriega is a former Marine Corps helicopter pilot and NASA astronaut who took part in multiple missions to the International Space Station. He flew on the space shuttle *Endeavor* which is currently on display at the California Science Center just south of USC.



Alumni also received a tour of USC's campus and the recently built University Village. Tours were hosted by MIDN Giorgetta, Hof, Kott, Rozo, and Whelan. These events followed a reception that was held in the Wardroom where alumni were able to revisit battalion spaces, buy unit merchandise, and network with one another.



1970s and 1980s graduates of the Trojan Battalion

During the ball, all Midshipmen and alumni gathered together for food and drinks. CAPT Paul Alwine and current battalion commander MIDN 1/C Sho Flores addressed the Trojan Battalion and gave advice, guidance, and congratulations to the 1/C commissioning in a few weeks.

We thank the USC NROTC Alumni League for their constant support of our Midshipmen!



@usnavalrotc



@USC NROTC



NROTC@usc.edu



213-740-2663

Washington, DC Trip



Pictured left to right: The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Gen John Raymond, MIDN 3/C Wise, LT Christina Perez, Rep. Jane Harman, MIDN 3/C Giorgetta, Pres. Carol Folt, MIDN 4/C Walsh, Prof. Frank Zerunyan, Dean Dana Goldman, Emily Harding

From April 17th to 20th, MIDN Giorgetta, MIDN Walsh, and MIDN Wise, accompanied by LT Perez and Prof. Zerunyan, visited Washington, DC to attend the second part of USC's aerospace speaker series and the opening ceremony of USC's new Capital Campus.

They were grateful to have one-on-one conversations with USC, military, and government leaders such as USC President Carol Folt, USC Price School of Public Policy Dean Dana Goldman, former Chief of Space Operations General John Raymond, Major General Charles F. Bolden, USMC, Ret., The Honorable Ted Lieu, and The Honorable Jane Harman.

In addition to attending these events, they had impactful experiences at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, met with Congressman Ted Lieu D-CA 36th district in his office, visited the National Air and Space Museum, and went on a run between the national monuments in the National Mall.

Brown Shoe Ceremony

By: Ensign Robert Nyul

On April 5th, the members of the Trojan Battalion and the commissioning class of 2023 came together to celebrate at Rock and Reilly's.

One of the major reasons for the gathering was to award MIDN Imig and ENS Nyul brown shoes to be worn with their service khaki uniform. The tradition of brown shoes comes from the first student naval aviators who petitioned to change their boots from black to brown due to the dust and debris that would coat their shoes during flight training. At the end of the ceremony, LT Tribolet, our unit's aviation officer, presented the shoes and called the ceremony to a close.



ENS Nyul (right) and MIDN 1/C Imig (left)

Continued on next page

The event was also to celebrate the accomplishments of the entire graduating class who had recently received their ship selection. With members receiving ships from Japan to Spain, it was a great opportunity to be together before their careers took them to seas around the world. With drinks, food, jokes, and good company the event was a smashing success!

Congratulations to the class of 2023. Bravo Zulu on a job well done.

Field Exercise (FEX)

By: MIDN 1/C Hanna Persky

This semester, participating in the FEX at Camp Pendleton proved to be a valuable experience for both myself and my peers. As 1/C, my class focused on developing and evaluating the 4/C's abilities as competent followers and leaders of small units. While our designated role leading up to this FEX was to be that of the "teacher," I found that I learned a great deal through instructing the younger class and evaluating the training that they had been taught throughout the year. The opportunity allowed me to enhance my existing skills and improve my proficiency to a higher level.



Midshipmen attempting a Leadership Reaction Course



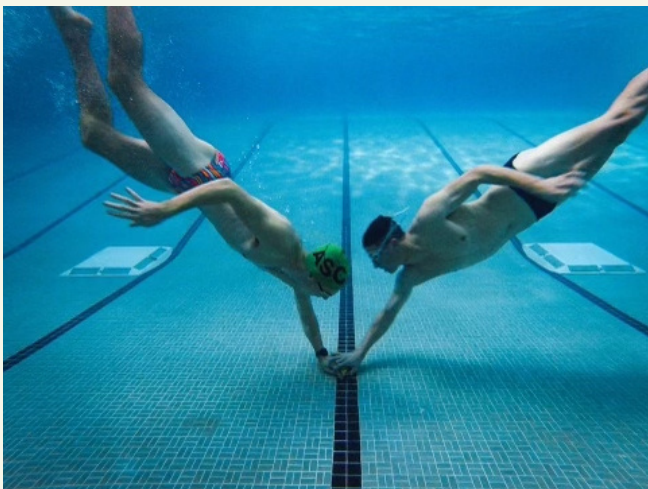
Capt. Gabel (MOI) and the Battalion at the paintball range

Leading training evolutions during this FEX had a direct correlation to the duties that the 1/C midshipmen will undertake in the near future. Throughout our time at ROTC, we are trained in following, learning, and leading. The hands-on leadership experience that the 1/C took on during this FEX offered great exposure to the responsibilities we will soon undertake as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Throughout the year, I observed significant progress in the leadership and tactical skills of all MIDN, which culminated in the successful completion of our FEX. I am thankful for the valuable experience gained from this opportunity and will miss the camaraderie of trudging through Edson Range with my fellow midshipmen next year.



MIDN 2/C Cava and his fireteam preparing to clear a room



MIDN 2/C Larratt and MIDN 2/C Merone battling for the torpedo



Underwater Torpedo Club members during practice

Underwater Torpedo Club

By: MIDN 3/C Brice Brown

Midshipmen recently concluded their second full semester of underwater torpedo. Underwater torpedo is a sport in which there are two goals underwater and players must score using a pool torpedo while remaining underwater. It is a challenge of balancing your use of air and time underwater. It has been a great semester with many midshipmen showing up to play every week. Frequent special appearances from the CO and members outside NROTC have made practices even more interesting and exciting.

Awards Ceremony

On 20APR2023, an Awards Ceremony was held during Naval Science Lab where Midshipmen were recognized for their hard work and contributions to the battalion. Awards were received from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the local American Legion post, the USC NROTC Alumni League, the AFCEA, and many other organizations. Numerous Midshipmen received awards. Featured below are MIDN Durban and SSgt. Luce.



MIDN 2/C Durban receiving an award from Col. Juarez



SSgt. Luce receiving the Maj. John S. Bacheller, USMC (USC NROTC c/o 1982) Memorial Award