

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



February 2024

Edited by: MIDN Nicholas De Fina and MIDN Ty Majam

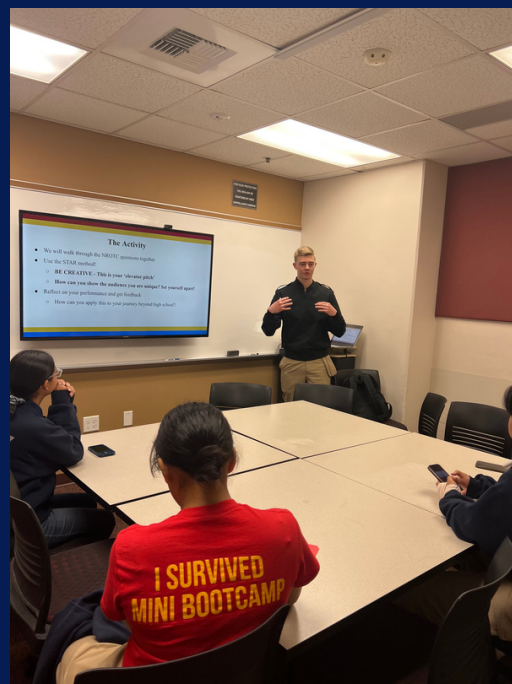
JROTC Symposium

By: MIDN Brown, MIDN Aragon, MIDN Liljenwall, and MIDN Cheung

We hosted the 2nd Annual Rising Leaders Summit this year. With over 70 JROTC cadets from 12 different schools, Midshipmen assisted in being both mentors and teachers for the attending Cadets. Cadets rotated through 3 different stations to build up various aspects of leadership.

Professional Development by MIDN 1/C Liljenwall:

The Professional Development station was led by MIDN 1/C Ruiz, 1/C Sullivan, and 3/C Hof. In preparation, the Cadets read ADM Stockdale's Leadership Principles, took the 16 Personalities test, read up on Myers-Briggs Personality Traits, and learned about developing their personal philosophy. The Cadets discussed ADM Stockdale's principles and discussed how they could apply each concept to their own life – many applying them to how they help their family, support their friends, and achieve goals at school. The Midshipmen discussed the role of leaders versus followers. MIDN Ruiz put it “Leaders are followers with more experience.” The Cadets then discussed how understanding leadership archetypes is important for you and those you work with. MIDN Hof highlighted this as she explained that knowing your strengths and weaknesses will not only help your character development but also help you connect with others to help them succeed. A Cadet favorite was MIDN Sullivan's Lego activity which showed the different thought processes behind extroverts and introverts. Finally, the Cadets took the remainder of the rotation to develop a short leadership philosophy that they can apply to their everyday life and improve as they gain more experience and wisdom.



Top: Cadets listening to instructions from MIDN 4/C McKelvey and MIDN 3/C Fessler

Bottom: MIDN 4/C Heitman mentoring Cadets on their college application essays

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Leadership Reaction Course by MIDN Cheung:

One of our next stations was the Leadership Reaction Course, consisting of five activities to bolster the Cadets' confidence in their abilities to lead teams under pressure. The challenge of the activities, in conjunction with the randomized groups and time constraints, was designed to test their ability to build trust in their teams and make decisions under pressure. Through small-group discussions and ending debriefs, we tied their experiences during the activities to larger lessons about communication, teamwork, and leadership that they could take with them back to their units and lives at large.

College Preparation by MIDN Aragon:

The College Preparation station was chiefly concerned with recognizing the importance of verbal and written communication. Cadets were prompted to adapt speech from writing and deliver their unique collection of skills and experiences to an audience. With the help of AOICs for this event, Cadets left with a heightened sense of importance regarding higher education with the tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the college admissions process, job and/or scholarship interviews, and financial aid.



Fleet Applications:

Not only did the cadets gain invaluable lessons and skills, our own Midshipmen also got a peek into possible applications in the fleet. Some Midshipmen spent weeks and months creating lesson plans. As future officers, we will be tasked with creating and administering training. Our Midshipmen have recognized this and are now more prepared for their roles when they become officers.

Top: MIDN 1/C Cava and Cook teaching Cadets about the importance of values and principles based on their ADM Stockdale reading

Bottom: MIDN 1/C Ruiz explaining the significance of the 16 personalities test and the Myers-Briggs personality traits

JROTC Superbowl

By: MIDN Ty Majam
& MIDN Jack Breen



Top: Chaparral High School Cadets Preparing for their Armed Field Exhibition

Middle: Patrick Henry High School Cadets being judged on color guard

Bottom: Patrick Henry High School Cadets preparing for their armed regulation event

The morning air was filled with tension on February 10 as our midshipmen witnessed more than 200 NJROTC students come to Santa Ana High School to compete in the NJROTC Field State Championships. This event is so special and large in scale that it is heralded as the Super Bowl for the students competing. Our Midshipmen witnessed Cadets from all across California and Arizona compete in various events ranging from armed exhibitions to general navy knowledge tests.

Our Midshipmen assisted in supervising and scoring these cadets in these various competitions. Several midshipmen witnessed the care and professionalism with which each Cadet wore their uniform in NCO personnel inspections while others such as MIDN 1/C Durban, MIDN 1/C Jenson, and MIDN 1/C Larratt would get to see the speed and accuracy that the Cadets were able to exhibit as they completed their fifty problem exams covering general Navy knowledge. Others like MIDN 3/C Williams, MIDN 4/C McKelvey, and MIDN 4/C Yi took on the task of judging the PT conducted by each unit and correcting any mistakes in form for push ups, planks, and sit-ups.

The armed exhibition competitions were the most fascinating of the events that took place. MIDN 4/C Scott and MIDN 3/C Park watched the Cadets perform in sync with one another as they spun rifles with a level of strength, discipline, and precision that was clearly developed with tireless months of practice and training. This event was the ultimate demonstration of the discipline, teamwork, and leadership that is being instilled upon what is very likely to be the next generation of military leaders. Many Cadets reported they have already been accepted to schools such as the Naval Academy and expressed gratitude for the experiences that they have been granted over their time in NJROTC.

Midshipmen Breen, deeply moved by the event shared the following account...

“Witnessing their unwavering discipline and determination was truly inspiring. Months of rigorous practice had clearly prepared them for this moment, and they exhibited nothing short of excellence in every challenge they faced. Each Cadet poured their heart and soul into the competition, fueled by the aspiration of advancing to the national championship for JROTC in Pensacola, Florida. The atmosphere was electric, charged with the energy of young individuals dedicated to their craft and committed to representing themselves and their schools with honor... I could not help but be impressed... and I felt privileged to be a part of such an inspiring event.”

Battalion Updates

By: MIDN Nicholas De Fina



Damage Control Module

The Battalion concluded its three part Damage Control (DC) Module last Thursday the 22nd. In it, the local Los Angeles Fire Department came to lab and demonstrated the donning process for their turnout gear as well as standard operating procedures for their day to day operations. Midshipmen were able to compare their learned DC practices with that of the civilian side of firefighting and learn the differences that a ship may face versus a burning building. At the end of lab, the firemen demonstrated what it would be like to approach a fire in Taper Hall before allowing Midshipmen to try their hand at wielding the fire hose pictured here.



Top: MIDN Getting hands on experience with the fire hose
Bottom: LAFD Personnel dressed out for their live demonstration

MIDN 2/C Salva learning about maintaining positive control over the hose

War Gaming Club

This month, the Battalion held its first three meetings of the War Gaming Club. Led by Lieutenant Tribolet, the club offers an opportunity for Midshipmen to simulate and work through complex mechanics that can be experienced while out in the fleet. The club focuses games like Littoral Commander and other basic analog games that offer strategy and operational analysis. The club aims to develop critical war fighting thinking abilities in our Midshipmen. Pictured here is the club's third meeting with high morale amongst all.



Wargaming members gathered in the wardroom for their third meeting

Midshipman of the Month

By: MIDN Nicholas De Fina

FEBRUARY



MIDN Brown in flight gear at CORTRAMID

For those of you who may not know Midshipman (MIDN) Brown, you have probably seen him running on campus, up and down Jefferson Blvd, or round and round past you on Allyson Felix track. However, it was not his running that earned him recognition this month. For his relentless effort towards leading and coordinating the NJROTC Symposium, the University of Southern California's NROTC Trojan Battalion is proud to announce MIDN Bric Brown with the distinguished award of Midshipman of the Month.

Described by his fellow Midshipmen as "reliable," "humble," and a "standup guy," MIDN Brown was the natural choice to spearhead the efforts of the JROTC Symposium held on the 24FEB24. The symposium is one of the most important events that the Battalion hosts and it was only through MIDN Brown's relentless pursuit of excellence that it became the success that it did. While many of us may not have witnessed the tireless work MIDN Brown put in behind the scenes, it is precisely these efforts that speak volumes about his character and ultimately led to him being honored with this award.

There is not a doubt amongst the ranks about MIDN Brown's relentlessness. Spending his early years in Western Europe following his father's military career, MIDN Brown took up a keen interest in military service which sparked his aspirations for Naval Special Warfare (NSW). This unyielding pursuit of the highest standards exemplifies his work ethic and determination. MIDN Brown's aspirations for NSW are a testament to his unwavering dedication to challenging himself and pushing his limits, qualities that inspire those around him—a fact of which all of us in the Battalion are proud to have taken note.

In his spare time, MIDN Brown is an avid fitness enthusiast. His dedication to physical fitness is not only a personal pursuit but also a demonstration of his readiness for the physical challenges that come with military service. This passion for fitness has extended to his leadership abilities, as evidenced by the personalized running plans he has provided, helping to enhance the fitness levels of his fellow Midshipmen.

This Midshipman of the Month award is a testament to MIDN Brown's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence. His contributions to the Battalion, both seen and unseen, have left an indelible mark on our community. Congratulations, MIDN Brice Brown, on this well-deserved recognition.



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