

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



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Edited by: MIDN Nicholas De Fina and MIDN Ty Majam

1/C Hawaii Battle Study

By: MIDN Bailey Johnson



1/C Midshipmen and Staff Outside of the USS Missouri

First Class Midshipmen had an opportunity to travel to Oahu, Hawaii, for a senior Battle Study Capstone event. Midshipmen and active duty staff departed from Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday, January 11th, headed for Oahu. Midshipmen stayed in housing and attended unclassified briefs on Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) with an emphasis on Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) and Indo-Pacific command (INO-PACOM) operations. With growing tensions in the Pacific, midshipmen had the opportunity to hear from leaders at Marine Force Pacific (MARFORPAC) and PACFLT about their future roles as officers in conflict and foreign affairs. To better understand the history of Hawaii and its native people, a battle study of the native battle of Nu'uaniu was conducted. Midshipmen presented at various events throughout the study about the implications, takeaways, and battle tactics of both native battle leaders—Kalanikupule and Kamehameha. The battle



Photo taken on the Consortium, Diamond Head Hike

study took midshipmen to the Punchbowl Crater, Nu'uaniu Valley, Diamond Head Beach, and Pali Lookout— all on the island of Oahu. To better understand the Native battle arena, Midshipmen conducted a hike up Diamond Head Mountain as a class. At the summit, Midshipmen were briefed by the Commanding Officer, Colonel Juarez, about native battle tactics and the significance of Oahuan geography.

Midshipmen also received an analysis of World War II through memorials like the USS Arizona, USS Missouri, and Naval Submarine and Aviation museums. Midshipmen visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to share in their memory of U.S. service members and their families lost in World War II and beyond. Teams of midshipman presenters provided briefs at and about each site of the battle study and World War II memorials and museums.

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Colonel Juarez speaking to the importance of the Medal of Honor Citations after touring the USS Arizona Memorial

In addition, Midshipmen conducted many activities to better bond and celebrate their final months of NROTC as a class. Midshipmen were able to explore the downtown area of Waikiki, Hawaii, with many trying local food spots and enjoying the warm beaches of Oahu. On the Sunday before departure, a unit-wide barbecue with beach games, paddle boarding, and swimming was conducted on MCBH the evening prior to the midshipmen's departure. Midshipmen enjoyed the sunset and food cooked by active duty staff. On the morning of departure, midshipmen were given liberty to explore the Oahu island. Active Duty staff drove midshipmen to various events on Oahu for their final activities. Midshipmen were allowed to swim at Kalama Beach and visit local shops on Oahu— some Midshipmen also conducted a hike to the Lanikai Pillbox with the Commanding Officer. Midshipmen Departed from Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL) after five days on the Island of Oahu and returned to Los Angeles.

Midshipmen left the 2024 Senior Battle Study feeling better prepared for the challenges they will face as officers and gained a better understanding of Naval and Native Hawaiian history. Thankful for the opportunity to learn and bond as a class, 1/C Midshipmen reflected on their experiences at NROTC Lab through a brief about battle study takeaways and unit activities.



*Top: MIDN 1/C Chan at the Aviation Museum
Middle: Sunrise on the USS Arizona Memorial
Bottom: 1/C Midshipmen learning about the USS Missouri*

Midshipman of the Month

By: MIDN Nicholas De Fina



Midshipman Liljenwall, Whelan, and Sosa on CORTRAMID

Known for her unmatched charm and unwavering smile, Midshipman (MIDN) Liljenwall, a dedicated and spirited member of our Trojan Battalion, has been recognized as the January Midshipman of the Month. Thanks to her commitment to the success of the NROTC program as a whole, she made it the easiest choice to be selected for the Battalion's most coveted award.

Most notably known for her passion in the Joint Assembly for Military Students, Liljenwall adds a distinctive aspect of leadership to our battalion. Her roles, however, extend beyond just that of the programming chair of JAMS, but has also enjoyed her time as an NSO organizer, a 4/C mentor, and as a COMMO/TRAINING platoons leading figure.

MIDN Liljenwall's commitment to volunteer work is truly commendable and reflects her deep dedication to community engagement and mentorship. Through her Q&A sessions with JROTC MIDN, she has not only shared valuable insights into her NROTC experience but has also actively contributed to the mentorship and guidance of aspiring cadets. Additionally, her role as an Honor Flight Volunteer demonstrates a heartfelt commitment to honoring our military veterans. By networking with over 10 veterans at LAX before their flight to Washington DC, MIDN Liljenwall has contributed to creating a meaningful and memorable experience for those who have served our country.

MIDN Liljenwall's proactive approach to enhancing the Battalion's overall experience is evident in her involvement in the DEOCS Survey Focus Group. As a member, she actively participated in collaborative assessments of the Battalion's command climate, demonstrating her commitment to improving the overall well-being and effectiveness of the unit. Furthermore, her contributions to communication improvement initiatives, such as the creation of resources like the Tutor + GE Master Sheet and the Slack Feedback form, showcase her forward-thinking mindset. The Tutor + GE Master Sheet provides MIDN with a valuable tool to share recommendations for classes, fostering a culture of mutual support and academic excellence.

As we congratulate Liljenwall for her exceptional work this month and in her time here, we look forward to witnessing their continued dedication and contributions to our community. Thank you for embodying the spirit of excellence within our battalion. Congratulations, Midshipman of the Month!



Midshipman Liljenwall at a USC football game after doing color guard



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