

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER

March 2023

By: MIDN 2/C Tyler Hwangbo
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Senior Class Hawaii Battle Study

By: MIDN 1/C Patrick Gallo

Over Presidents' Day Weekend, twelve USC Midshipmen, six officers, and Professor Frank Zerunyan (Director and University Liaison to USC ROTC programs) went to Oahu, Hawaii for a four-day battle study trip. From the Commander's Intent, the purpose of the trip was to "Provide 1/C Midshipmen perspective, knowledge, and experience on the past, present, and future of warfare in the Pacific Theater." We stayed in the barracks on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, which allowed for easy transit around the island. Among many highpoints of the trip were visits to Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC) and the Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) headquarters. These visits included facilities tours and briefs detailing the current battlespace.



Midshipmen at a brief at MARFORPAC



Midshipmen posing on the USS Missouri

We also delved into the Battle of Nu'uuanu, a critical battle in King Kamehameha's quest to unify the Hawaiian Islands in 1795. Through visits to the punchbowl, Nu'uuanu valley, and Pali lookout, we contextualized our classroom learning of the 25,000-person battle. We examined the strategies and tactics used by both the Oahu army and their opposition.

Our visit also featured Navy and Marine Corps history from World War 2. We toured the USS Missouri memorial with a private tour guide. Further, we visited the USS Arizona Memorial at sunrise for a private tour. Ultimately, through exploring significant battles in the Pacific Theater, we returned home with a renewed sense of gratitude and a better understanding of the true cost of war.



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SoCal Aerospace Event

By: MIDN 2/C Marco Chan

The Legacy and Future of SoCal Aerospace event was incredibly informative as it created a holistic picture of the Southern California Aerospace industry, starting from the industry's rise under the Reagan administration to its fall after the Cold War and now back to its resurgence in an era of great power competition.

Former CIA director Leon Panetta, former Congressman Buck McKeon, former USC President and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation Wanda Austin, and former chairman and CEO of Northrop Grumman Ronald Sugar all contributed valuable historical and contemporary insight into the state of the aerospace industry in Southern California.

My favorite part of the event was undoubtedly the panel discussion, particularly the inclusion of and insight by both political figures and industry leaders in the panel as it showcased the intertwined relationship between government policy and its effects on the aerospace industry. Of course, tasty sliders and cold sodas don't hurt either!



Ship Selection

Recently, First Class Midshipmen who were service assigned Surface Warfare Officer or Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer selected their first ships.

Midshipman 1/C Sophia Clements selected the USS *Jason Dunham* (DDG-109)

Midshipman 1/C Jason Zilberfarb selected the USS *Oscar Austin* (DDG-79)

Midshipman 1/C Sho Flores selected the USS *Milius* (DDG-69)

Midshipman 1/C Nicolas Messina selected the USS *Russell* (DDG-59)

Midshipman 1/C John Saville selected the USS *Pearl Harbor* (LSD-49)

Midshipman 1/C Niki McCormick selected LCS Crew 205.

