

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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

NJROTC Area 11 "Super Bowl" Competition

On February 11th, Midshipmen from the Trojan Battalion volunteered at the NJROTC Area 11 "Super Bowl" Competition held at Santa Ana High School. The top NJROTC units from the Area 11 region (California/Arizona) competed at the "Super Bowl" in order to secure a spot at the National Championships in Pensacola, FL. Twenty-one Los Angeles Consortium Midshipmen, MECEPs, and Active-Duty staff volunteered by judging and scoring color guard, unarmed and armed basic drill, unarmed and armed exhibition drill, personnel inspections, PT events, and academic tests. It is noted that our Midshipmen's repeated interactions with Area 11 NJROTC units has influenced recent increases in college and NROTC applications from these units. Several current Midshipmen in the Trojan Battalion were part of the NJROTC program back in high school.



Col. Juarez conducting an inspection of a JROTC unit

The NJROTC program is sponsored by the Navy and is run by retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Its mission is to "instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment."



GySgt. Farr (USC's Asst. Marine Officer Instructor) grading unarmed basic drill



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NVMI JROTC Reading Mentor Program

By: MIDN 2/C William Durban

Midshipmen from our unit have been volunteering as reading mentors at North Valley Military Institute, a local JROTC charter school. Our Midshipmen have been focused on guiding these cadets in improving their reading skills and also serve as personal mentors. This past semester we volunteered over 80 hours.

NVMI is located in Sun Valley, CA and strives to develop students in academics, leadership, citizenship, and athletics. The school's mission is to "prepare students as responsible citizens and lifelong learners."



Pictured left to right: MIDN 3/C Wise, MIDN 4/C Briand, MIDN 2/C Harrison, MIDN 2/C Durban, MIDN 1/C Kott



Welcome Aboard LT Gallie!

Lieutenant Gallie recently joined the Trojan Battalion as a SWO Officer Instructor. LT Gallie is from Cupertino, California and graduated from Cal Maritime Academy with a degree in International Business and Logistics. After commissioning through Officer Candidate School, LT Gallie served onboard the USS *Dewey* as her Engineering Division Officer. He also spent time onboard USS *Russell* and USS *Lake Champlain*. Most recently, he was the Navigator back onboard the USS *Dewey* homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

Naval Academy Leadership Conference

By: MIDN 3/C Brice Brown

The 2023 Naval Academy Leadership Conference was a phenomenal experience. It was a three-day event where we had the opportunity to talk with other ROTC midshipmen, international naval academy midshipmen, and civilians. This year's theme was "Returning with Honor," marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War POWs' return home. After each panelist spoke, we would typically break out into smaller groups for discussions. In my group, there were a few college athletes, some Naval ROTC midshipmen, a Canadian Major, and a Naval Academy midshipman. At the end of each day, we explored downtown Annapolis and visited some great restaurants, including a famous lobster joint.



Midshipmen en route to Annapolis, MD from USC

There were so many lessons to be learned at the conference. Personally, I felt that the conference was more of a personal discovery than just learning how to lead. Although we did learn about the attributes that can make someone more well-rounded, which can then be instilled in our peers and subordinates. Retired Lieutenant Brad Snyder, USN, spoke about taking advantage of circumstances and how when one door closes, another opens. We also heard from the League of Wives, who shared their story of ambition and perseverance in getting their husbands, and other POWs, home from Vietnam. It was a powerful insight into how dedication to a cause can bring about change. One of the highlights was when three POWs gave a vivid account of their survival as POWs during the Vietnam War for 7-8 years. There were many other lessons learned, but these were some of the standout moments.



MIDN 2/C Harrison (left), MIDN 2/C Durban (center), MIDN 3/C Brown (right) in front of Bancroft Hall