

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Edited by: MIDN Bella Sanchez
and MIDN Rylan Giorgetta

Fall Ball

By: MIDN Ratreë Bhuiyan

On the eventful evening of November 3rd, an unforgettable gathering unfolded at the UCLA campus. The USC Trojan Battalion and the UCLA Bruin Battalion came together as a consortium to honor and celebrate the 248th birthday of the Navy and Marine Corps. The festivities commenced with an engaging cocktail hour, fostering an atmosphere of conviviality and warm interaction among the traditionally rivalrous groups. This initial hour provided a unique opportunity for Midshipmen and guests alike to forge new connections, engage in lively conversations, and relish the camaraderie that sprouted amidst shared refreshments.

Following this first hour, a distinguished ceremony commenced, heralded by the Adjutant Call. A message from the acting CNO/CMC and the words from General Lejeune, eloquently delivered by MIDN Tom Salva, set a tone for the evening's proceedings. The ceremonial cake cutting, a symbolic gesture featuring the oldest and youngest Navy and Marine members within the Consortium alongside the esteemed Guest of Honor, added a touch of tradition and unity to the occasion.



Trojan Battalion Midshipmen dancing!

Amidst the cake-cutting, the ceremony took a short detour by swearing in MIDN Deolalikar into the USC Trojan Battalion. Following suit, the Battalion Commanding Officers took the stage, sharing inspiring reflections on unity, dedication, and the proud heritage they collectively uphold.

A highlight of the night arrived with the compelling address by Guest of Honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Neil, whose memorable speech resonated deeply as he recounted his life experiences as a Navy EOD. With candor and wisdom, he navigated through tales of challenges and triumphs, offering invaluable insights on overcoming obstacles in the path of a fulfilling career. The ceremony drew to a close with the Midshipmen of the Los Angeles Consortium singing the Marines Hymn and Anchors Aweigh, a unifying moment that reverberated with pride and solidarity among all the Midshipmen present.

Post-ceremony, the jubilant spirit persisted as USC and UCLA midshipmen continued their celebration, relishing delectable dinner and desserts. As the night progressed, the air was filled with laughter and joyous energy, culminating in a spirited dance that carried on, commemorating an evening of camaraderie, tradition, and cherished memories.



The Trojan Battalion 3/C Midshipman.



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MIDN of the Month

By: MIDN Sean Katzmann

Midshipman Rozo exemplifies the spirit of the Trojan Battalion. From Chatsworth, California Midshipman Rozo is an Astronautical Engineering major who is a very dedicated to the Trojan Battalion. He currently holds a billet as Athletics Officer, where he has been incredibly impactful. Bringing in new kinds of workouts, constantly challenging fellow Midshipman, and adapting to unforeseen changes in the schedule are just some of the things that Midshipman Rozo has done to improve the Trojan Battalion. Recently, the Trojan Battalion had the opportunity to do a workout with Air Force Special Forces, which was entirely communicated and made possible through Midshipman Rozo. Along with being a dedicated Midshipman, he also frequently competes in Crossfit competitions where he performs incredible feats of strength. Most recently, Midshipman Rozo successfully cleaned and jerked 335 pounds.



MIDN Rozo at the Coliseum

Throughout everything that Midshipman Rozo does, he is a role model for all Midshipmen in physical fitness and leadership. He is the epitome of what it means to be an outstanding Midshipman in the Trojan Battalion.



Gunnery Sergeant Farr with MIDN Rozo and MIDN Sanchez



MIDN Rozo, MIDN Cava, and MIDN Villena

Trojans Reclaim the Blood Bowl Trophy

by: MIDN Hank Piper



LA Consortium - Trojan and Bruin Battalion



MIDN Ruiz and MIDN Sosa

“Trojans hunt bruins.” The final words spoken after the game by the winning coach MIDN 1/C Piper between the two battalions. The annual Blood Bowl is never a let down and brings all midshipmen and active-duty staff together to revive the competitive spirit between USC and UCLA increasing the consortium spirit. The flag football game this year was hosted by USC and was played under the lights on the USC football practice field.

With stand out performances by Quarterback MIDN 2/C Tom Salva and Wide Receiver/ Cornerback 1/C MIDN John Trodden led the team to a strong offensive performance, outscoring UCLA 34 to 21.



MIDN Trodden running a play on UCLA MIDN

One particular play that ended with a 50 yard touchdown was the Philly Special. This imitated play was made famous from the Superbowl back in 2018. Stellar defensive plays from all MIDN had the UCLA battalion struggling to find any momentum. After accepting defeat last year, the USC team bounced back stronger showing the Trojan spirit.

While the game has its tendency to get physical and chippy, it was important for both battalions to come together to celebrate the accomplishments and competitive spirit from both teams on and off the field. Similar to last year, the school to win the blood bowl has now lost the respective football game the very next day. USC fell to UCLA on Saturday by a two score differential.

With another Blood Bowl in the books, the trophy has been restored to its proper home in the USC Wardroom until next year where USC will inevitably have to prove itself once again.



MIDN Piper celebrating with the Blood Bowl Trophy

Veterans Day at the Firing Range

By: MIDN Cian McKelvey

This Veteran's Day, Midshipmen and Officers mustered early for a spirited celebration. The Trojan Battalion participated in a morning of fun at the LAX Firing Range. The day also offered the Midshipmen hands-on marksmanship training with a variety of firearms. The battalion arrived at the LAX Firing Range after a short drive down the 110. Greeted at the door by one of the range staff, they gave a quick rundown of the rules. After receiving the necessary ear and eye protection, the battalion was now ready to take to the firing range. Midshipmen were given the opportunity to try their hand at shooting a variety of handguns and were even allowed to shoot an AR-15.

Midshipmen shot zombies, cut baseball-sized holes through the chest of their targets, and eliminated terrorists holding hostages. Laughter filled the air as Midshipmen shared and compared their targets with each other, with the Officers showing off their own shooting skills. The gun range not only provided a space for skill development and fun, but also an opportunity for the Trojan Battalion Midshipmen to bond outside of campus. Huge thank you to Midshipman 1/C Larratt for coordinating this event and the Alumni League for funding this great experience.



MIDN Wyman and Scott showing off their target practice



The Trojan Battalion 4/C Midshipmen at the range

Amid the joy and excitement that the range day held, it's essential to emphasize the deep respect and honor the Trojan Battalion holds for our veterans on Veterans Day. This occasion serves as a woeful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have served and continue to serve our country. The midshipmen expressed that Veterans Day is not just a day of celebration; it's a solemn acknowledgment of gratitude owed to those who have dedicated themselves to preserving the freedoms we hold dear. The Trojan Battalion Midshipmen are honored to one day serve our great nation, carrying this respect with them and ensuring that the legacy of our veterans will continue to be honored.

Here's to a great day filled with gratitude, camaraderie, and the thrill of shooting at the gun range. Anchors Aweigh and Fight On!