

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



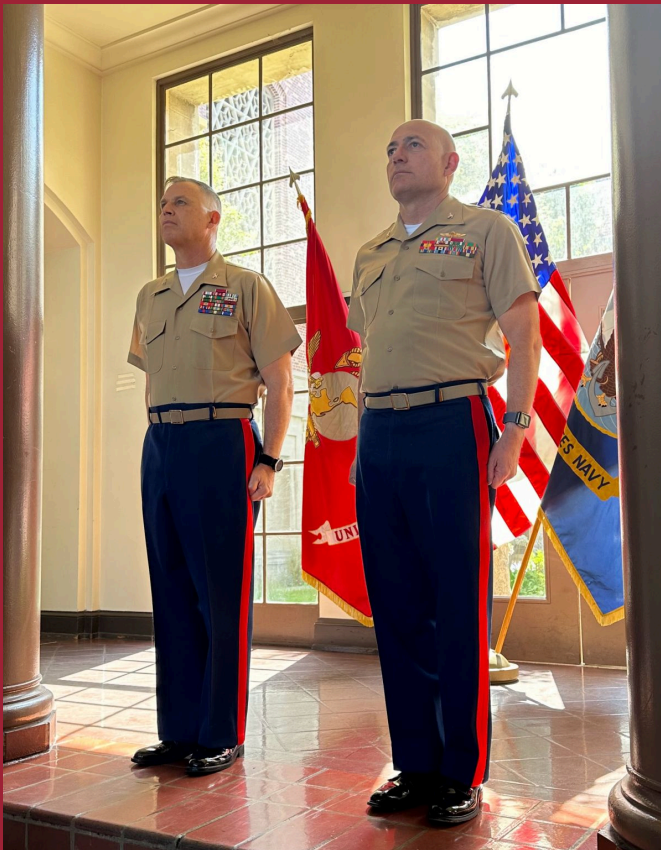
Summer 2024

Edited by: MIDN 2/C Hof

Commanding Officer Change of Command Ceremony

By: MIDN 2/C Hof

On the morning of 10 July, welcomed guests took their seats in the Physical Education Building to observe the change of command from Colonel Gilbert D. Juarez to Colonel Tracy A. Perry. Colonel Juarez said his parting words and Colonel Tracy outlined his ideas for his new position. The ceremony concluded with refreshments in the wardroom and one last chance for everyone to say goodbye to the departing Colonel Juarez. The USC community is eternally grateful for all the life lessons, leadership, and guidance from Colonel Juarez. Welcome to the Trojan family, Colonel Perry! Fight On Forever, Colonel Juarez!



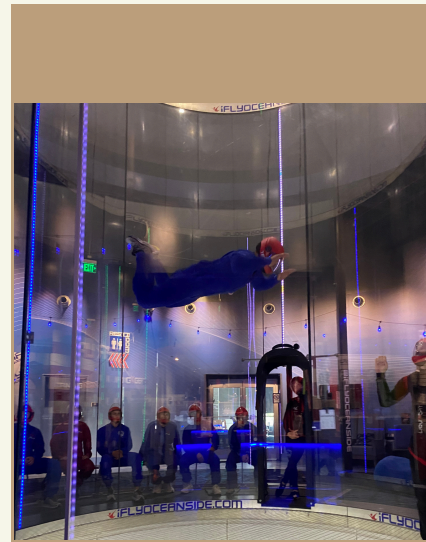
Col. Juarez relinquishing command to Col. Perry (Left)
Col. Juarez, Col. Perry, and Professor Frank Zerunyan (Top Right)
Newly Commissioned UCLA and USC ENS with Col. Juarez (Bottom)

MIDN Summer Cruises

The SOAS and EOD Experience

By: MIDN 1/C Brophy

This Summer, I attended both the Seal Officer Assessment and Selection (SOAS), and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) cruise. Both cruises are screening processes to determine your suitability for the SEAL or EOD community. SOAS consists of a week of exposure to the community and is meant to be a “buy-in” to reduce attrition during the following assessment week. This week challenges each person's commitment to the program. Teams and individuals are graded on evolutions that test physical fitness, toughness, actions under stress, team ability, public speaking, problem-solving, and most importantly, leadership. The third week consists of two different types of interviews to test professional readiness and psychological well-being. EOD cruise included more hands-on experience, such as iFly, small arms training, fast roping, and demolition, while including much less physical training. EOD cruise is more about learning and exposing midshipmen to the EOD community rather than attrition. EOD cruise has one interview at the end. I would highly recommend those with any interest in the EOD community to attend EOD cruise, but only those with an intense desire to pursue Special Warfare to attend SOAS.



MIDN 1/C Brophy at EOD and SOAS cruises



MIDN Summer Cruises

The Submarine Cruise and NSI Instructor Experience

By: MIDN 2/C McKernan

This summer I had the privilege to go on two cruises. First off, I went on a submarine cruise on the USS Maryland (SSBN 738) based out of Kings Bay, GA. Among many other things, I was able to have time up on the sail when we surfaced, drive the boat, and listen to other ships and sea life on the ship's SONAR system. The most valuable thing I did on board was to talk to the crew about their time at sea and how they liked it.



*MIDN 2/C McKernan and
MIDN 2/C Villena on
their submarine cruise*

My second cruise of the summer was the opportunity to become a Midshipman instructor at New Student Indoctrination (NSI) in Great Lakes, IL. This opportunity taught me about leadership and also accustomed me to working very long days. We helped teach the new Midshipmen candidates the basics of ranks, customs and courtesies, and uniform regulations. I greatly enjoyed seeing them progress and eventually graduate from NSI. Overall, both of my summer cruises, although very different, gave me a better understanding of how the Navy operates and what to expect in the fleet.



*MIDN 2/C
McKernan
recognized for his
hard work as an
NSI instructor*

MIDN Summer Cruises

The Surface Warfare Nuclear Cruise Experience

By: MIDN 2/C Aragon

This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in a Surface Nuclear cruise aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), stationed in San Diego, California. During the cruise, I was paired with several running mates across different departments. I toured reactor spaces like the Reactor Auxiliary Room, Main Machinery Room, and Central Control with MMN2 Enos from the dosimetry lab. I watched as she conducted contamination and radiation surveys, learning about the impact of radiacs on the ship's ability to produce water, heat, and nuclear energy. My roommate, ENS Hannah, provided insight into the Electrical Division, allowing me to attend musters, stand watches with ELTs, and shadow her as the Junior Officer of the Deck on the bridge. LT Cyrs introduced me to the preparation for replenishment at sea and underway replenishment with Deck Department. I participated in activities such as painting the forecastle, observing XO and qualification boards, and getting elbow-deep in the scullery during Sunday brunches. One of the highlights of my cruise was witnessing flight operations from various vantage points, including the bridge, Vulture's Row, the LSO shack, and the flight deck as well as arriving on a COD. We attended briefs from F-18, F-35, E-2, and MH-60R squadrons, and even flew with HSC-14 aboard an MH60S. Our TRAINO helped us get "fired up" by participating in damage control exercises during General Quarters. In addition to developmental experiences like meeting with Rear Admiral Cruz, Commander of Carrier Strike Group 3, I attended early morning Jiu Jitsu lessons with SECO and participated in MWR events like bachata dancing, flight deck PTs, and card games. There was never a shortage of things to do on a carrier, and overall, the cruise solidified my desire to commission as a surface warfare officer!



MIDN Aragon with the CO, CMC, and XO

MIDN
observing
flight
quarters



MIDN Aragon
flying on a
Sierra



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