

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER

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and MIDN 3/C Rylan Giorgetta



MIDN Sho Flores (left) and MIDN Nicolas Messina (right)

Midshipmen Change of Command

Last month, the USC Trojan Battalion held its bi-annual Midshipman change of command ceremony where MIDN 1/C Nicolas Messina relinquished command to MIDN 1/C Sho Flores. During MIDN Messina's time as Battalion Commander, the unit welcomed a new class of 4/C Midshipmen, held the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball, and organized a joint Navy and Marine Option Field Exercise, to name a few. Both Midshipmen have been service assigned Surface Warfare Officer.

The Battalion Commander (BNCO) is an "extension of the authority of the Commanding Officer" and is responsible for the successes and failures of all Midshipmen.

Winter Commissioning

On December 16, 2022, the Trojan Battalion commissioned 3 Naval officers and 2 Marine Corps officers. Ensign Robert Nyul will be heading down to Pensacola, FL as a Student Naval Aviator. Ensigns Ian Brill and Jordan Frantz will be heading to Goose Creek, SC to start training as prospective submarine officers. 2nd Lieutenants Christopher Gunning and Jacob Gamez-Mendoza will be attending The Basic School in Quantico, VA.



(Left to Right) CDR Ragadio (XO), ENS Nyul, ENS Frantz, Col Juarez (CO), Prof. Zerunyan, 2ndLT Gamez-Mendoza, ENS Brill, 2ndLT Gunning



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Platoon Competitions

The Trojan Battalion is comprised of three platoons: Communications Platoon, Operations Platoon, and Training Platoon. Throughout the semester, the three platoons competed for the Golden Canteen by trying to accumulate the most points. During the semester, there were many opportunities to win points--from a Navy/Marine Corps hymn singing competition to the platoon drill competition. The winner of the Golden Canteen for the Fall 2022 semester was Communications Platoon led by Platoon Commander MIDN 1/C Jason Zilberfarb.



Communications Platoon at Dockweiler State Beach

Summer Cruise

During the summer, Midshipmen from the Trojan Battalion traveled around the world to experience life in various operational Navy commands. From Yokosuka, Japan to Sigonella, Italy, Midshipmen spent time on aircraft carriers, submarines, and in aviation squadrons. One specific Midshipman who spent time overseas was MIDN Flores. MIDN Flores was selected to go on a Foreign Exchange Training of Midshipmen (FOREXTRAMID) cruise with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). He spent 8 days underway on a Japanese Defense Destroyer. Following this underway, he spent 3 days at the Maritime Officer Candidate School where he experienced life as a Japanese midshipman. During his summer cruise, MIDN Flores gained a greater understanding of the inner workings of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and the US Seventh Fleet as a whole.



MIDN Flores (front row, center) during a meeting with Commander, Navy Region Japan, RADM Carl Lahti, USN