

# USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



December 2024

Edited by: MIDN 3/C Tran

## Anchors Aweigh: Winter Comissioning

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

On the morning of 19 Dec 2024, the Trojan Battalion commissioned 6 Naval Officers. The ceremony was conducted at the steps of PED where these officers called home for the past nine semesters. A full circle moment as they were sworn in as midshipmen and now took the officer's oath on these very steps.

- Ensign Bailey Johnson - Student Naval Aviator
- Ensign Matthew Merone - Student Naval Aviator
- Ensign Kaisa Liljenwall - Submarine Warfare
- Ensign David Rozo - SWO: Nuke/SEAL Option
- Ensign Marisol Ruiz - Submarine Warfare
- Ensign Jae Sosa - Submarine Warfare





## Bitter Sweet

# Departing of LT Tribolet and 1st Sgt Select Farr

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

On the morning of December 5, 2024, the Trojan Battalion bid farewell to Lieutenant Tribolet and Gunnery Sergeant Farr. These gentlemen played an instrumental role in the development of MIDN moral, mental, and physical during their time as instructors.

Lieutenant Jack Tribolet joined the Trojan Battalion in May 2022 as the unit's aviation officer. During his time with the Battalion, he discovered a profound passion for academia and teaching, publishing several papers and winning two prestigious CNO Competitions. His commitment to high writing standards significantly challenged and inspired the MIDN. In addition to his academic contributions, Lieutenant Tribolet founded the USC Wargaming Club.

Lieutenant Tribolet will soon report to the USS Eisenhower as his squadron's tactics officer. He eagerly anticipates the opportunity to return to the classroom at the U.S. Naval Academy in the future.

Blue Skies and Tailwind

Gunnery Sergeant Farr reported to the Trojan Battalion in May 2020 as the unit's Assistant Marine Officer Instructor. Although his official duty with the Battalion concluded in Spring 2024, he chose to extend his time for an additional year to support the current AMOI. As the senior enlisted member, his role focuses on upholding high standards both within the unit and in the broader community. He has successfully trained Marine Option MIDN, helping them conquer the challenges of Officer Candidate School.

Throughout his career, Gunnery Sergeant Farr has earned numerous accolades as an instructor on the drill pad and at OCS. Recently, he was selected for promotion to 1st Sergeant, and he hopes to receive orders back to the depot as a Company 1st Sergeant

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# Alumni Scholarship Recipients

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

On the morning of 05 Dec 2024, the Alumni League proudly recognized five outstanding midshipmen (MIDN) with the Alumni Scholarship. Each recipient was awarded \$2,000 to support their academic journey.

Colonel Hull (Ret), Alumni League President, presented the scholarships to the MIDN, praising them for their hard work and commitment towards the cause.

This semester's recipients are MIDN 3/C Scott C., 3/C DeFina, 3/C Breen, 1/C Liljenwall (not pictured), and 1/C Brophy.

The Trojan Battalion is grateful for the continuous support and generosity of the Alumni League. The League remains dedicated to the development of these future naval officers. Semper Fortis, Semper Fidelis, Fight On



Col. Hull (USMC Ret.) with scholarship recipients



Lunch with the Alumni League



MIDN Ruiz, Liljenwall, & Rozo pictured after passing

## Nuclear Dominance: Nuke Interview

By: MIDN 2/C Hof

The USC Nuke selects continues to shine as MIDN 1/C Ruiz, Liljenwall, and Rozo excelled during their Nuclear Interview at Naval Reactors in Washington, D.C. Their success reflects the rigorous preparation and knowledge gained from study sessions with Submarine Officer Instructor Lieutenant Peri.

After a challenging day filled with technical interviews, including a final interview with the Admiral, these midshipmen passed with flying colors. Bravo Zulu to our newest Nukes! The Trojan Battalion couldn't be prouder and eagerly anticipates your future achievements in the Navy.



# MIDN of the Month: MIDN 2/C Williams

By: MIDN 2/C Villena



MIDN 2/C Ian Williams showcased exceptional leadership and multitasking skills as the officer-in-charge of two key battalion events this semester. He successfully planned and executed the Live Fire Training at Camp Pendleton, providing midshipmen with invaluable marksmanship and range safety training directly applicable to their future fleet roles. Additionally, he organized the Winter Commissioning ceremony, an event that required not only precise logistical planning but also a deep understanding of the traditions and significance of such a milestone.

MIDN Williams's efforts in both events exemplify his dedication, organizational prowess, and ability to balance multiple high-pressure responsibilities, all of which are qualities that will serve him well as a future Naval officer.





# Forward March: Platoon Drill Competition

By MIDN 2/C Briand

The drill competition, held during the final PT of the semester, was a highlight of the Golden Canteen contest. Each platoon's Mustering Petty Officer (MPO) received a drill card detailing a sequence of commands and movements to be called and then executed by the platoon. The platoon with the most precise and disciplined drill performance would take the win. For everyone in the Battalion, this event was the culmination of weeks of preparation. Throughout the semester, the platoons utilized time during prolab to march on campus and refine their drill movements. The week of the competition, the platoons stayed after PT on Monday and even came in electively early Tuesday morning to ensure their drill was flawless for Wednesday's competition. For the members of Operations Platoon, under the command of MIDN 2/C Briand (MPO), their hard work and attention to detail paid off, as they executed the drill card with precision on the day of the competition and earned the top score.





# Golden Canteen

By MIDN 2/C Briand

The coveted Golden Canteen represents the culmination of a semester-long competition that evaluates each platoon's performance across various events and metrics such as academic performance, physical fitness, and inter-platoon sporting events, to name a few. Throughout the semester, this platoon has demonstrated excellence in many of these areas. They dominated the competitions during the Battalion Beach Day, obtained the best initial PRT/PFT scores, earned the highest midterm GPA, won the Halloween dodgeball tournament, the 1st Squad Competition, achieved the highest scores on the weapons simulator, and finally ended it on the drill pad by winning the Platoon Drill Competition. The winner of this semester's Golden Canteen is Operations Platoon.



*Operations Platoon's Leadership receiving the trophy*



*MIDN 1/C Giorgetta (Platoon Commander) with the trophy*

Operations Platoon's success was not limited to individual events but was the result of consistent effort, team work, and camaraderie among all platoon members. While Operations Platoon secured the Golden Canteen, the competition was a collective effort that showcased the talents and dedication of the entire Battalion. Training Platoon and Communications Platoon demonstrated exceptional performances across various events, contributing to the spirit of friendly rivalry that is part of what defines the Trojan Battalion. The Golden Canteen competition is more than a contest; it's an opportunity for midshipmen to build camaraderie and embody the values of discipline and teamwork that are central to the NROTC program and the Naval Service. Congratulations to Operations Platoon on their well-earned victory, and Bravo Zulu to all platoons for their hard work and completion of another successful semester!

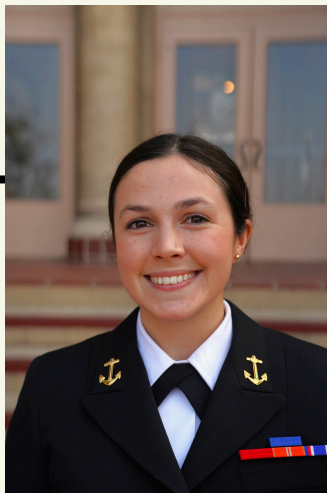


# Semesterly Change of Command

The Trojan Battalion Welcomes In its Spring Semester  
Chain of Command



**Battalion  
Commanding  
Officer (BNCO) -  
Midshipman Brophy**



**Battalion Executive  
Officer (BNXO) -  
Midshipman Foster**



**Command Master  
Chief (CMC) -  
Midshipman Aragon**

# Spring Chain of Command



**Training Platoon  
Commanding Officer -  
Midshipman McKernan**



**Communications Platoon  
Commanding Officer -  
Midshipman Hof**



**Operations Platoon  
Commanding Officer -  
Midshipman Brown**





# HAPPY HOLLIDAYS



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