

# USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



February 2025

Edited by: MIDN 3/C Tran

## USC MIDN Excel in Washington, D.C. at Nuclear Interviews

By: MIDN 4/C Romero

USC Midshipmen continue to impress in the nation's capital as they take on their Nuclear Interviews at Naval Reactors! MIDN 1/C Schweizer and Brown demonstrated their expertise in physics and calculus—skills sharpened through dedicated study sessions with Submarine Officer Instructor LT Peri. After an intense day of rigorous problem-solving and interviews, they successfully passed the Admiral's interview, securing their place in the Navy's elite nuclear community.

Upon graduation, they will head to Naval Nuclear Power School to continue their journey.

Congratulations to our newest Nukes! The Trojan Battalion is incredibly proud—Bravo Zulu!



## Guest Speakers Bring Valuable Insights to Battalion Labs

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

This month, the USC Battalion had the privilege of hosting several distinguished guest speakers during lab sessions.

First, CDR Edward May from the USS Tennessee shared his inspiring journey to becoming a submarine officer, offering invaluable lessons from his career in the Silent Service.

Later, a panel of Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) Nuke officers and senior enlisted personnel provided firsthand insights into the demanding yet rewarding path of a nuclear-trained SWO. Among the panelists was a familiar face—USC's own LT Cogdill, Class of 2020. He delivered an engaging brief on his experiences aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), offering practical advice on life as a SWO Nuke and strategies for successfully navigating Nuclear Power School.

These sessions provided midshipmen with a unique opportunity to learn from experienced leaders and gain a deeper understanding of the career paths ahead.

# NJROTC Superbowl

By: MIDN 4/C Sommerfield

On February 22, four MIDN, along with active-duty staff from the USC NROTC battalion, traveled to Santa Ana High School to assist with the NJROTC Superbowl. Throughout the eight-hour day, from the early morning sunrise to the warm afternoon, high school JROTC cadets participated in numerous competitions, including physical training (push-ups, curl-ups, and sprint relays), drill, armed and unarmed exhibition, and personnel inspection. Schools from across Southern California traveled to compete, giving their best efforts.

At the start of the day, we received a briefing on the event structure, with each high school rotating through the competitions on a set schedule. We then split into groups alongside active-duty personnel from every military branch and MIDN from UCLA. Each MIDN and USC active-duty staff member took on a specific role. Col. Perry served as the head judge for personnel inspection, with LT Brooks assisting in judging. SSgt Arzate judged armed basic drill. MIDN 4/C Zendejas evaluated the armed exhibition, having previously competed in the event himself. MIDN 4/C Williams assisted on the PT field, proctoring push-ups, curl-ups, and relay races. MIDN 3/C Heitman organized and led check-ins for various events and was responsible for returning judges' scores. I judged the unarmed exhibition. Overall, the NJROTC Superbowl was an insightful and enjoyable event that enhanced our leadership skills and capabilities as midshipmen.



**HONOR  
COURAGE  
COMMITMENT**



# MIDN of the Month: MIDN 3/C Jerry Xie

By: MIDN 2/C Hof



MIDN Xie has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the Trojan Battalion as the Athletics Officer (ATHO) for the Spring 2025 semester, implementing key initiatives to enhance battalion fitness. His efforts have included:

- Ability-based run groups to ensure tailored and effective training for all MIDN
- Battalion PT competitions to foster motivation and unit cohesion
- A revitalized Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) to assist MIDN in meeting physical readiness standards

In addition to his role as ATHO, MIDN Xie previously served as the Academics Officer (ACO), highlighting his dedication to both intellectual and physical excellence.

Originally from Akron, Ohio, MIDN Xie is a mechanical engineering major with aspirations to serve as a combat engineer officer in the Marine Corps. His passion for fitness, running, and strength training continues to inspire his peers.

The Trojan Battalion proudly recognizes MIDN Xie for his outstanding contributions. Keep up the great work! Bravo Zulu!



# CU Boulder Meet Count Down

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

The USC Trojan Battalion is eagerly preparing for the University of Colorado Boulder Meet on March 6. The drill team recently completed its final evaluation with Gunnery Sergeant Farr, fine-tuning their precision and performance.

With the competition just around the corner, all teams are in the final stages of refining their skills, ready to showcase their hard work and dedication on the big day.

Best of luck to our midshipmen—fight on!



## Photos of the Month



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