

USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



January 2025

Edited by: MIDN 3/C Tran

1/C Hawaii Battle Study

By: MIDN 1/C Villena

From 16-20 January, the 1/C classes from both USC and UCLA conducted the Hawaii Battle Study in Oahu, Hawaii, where we immersed ourselves in key historic sites and discussions related to military leadership, strategy, and Pacific battles that shaped our nation. Here is a recap of our impactful experience.

The study began at Pearl Harbor, where midshipmen paddled outrigger canoes to appreciate the tactical challenges of operating in the harbor's confined waters. Later, Rear Admiral Richard Seif, Commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, delivered a classified briefing on modern submarine operations. The day concluded with a Khaki Social held by Submarine Command Course where we were able to meet many of the PCOs and PXOs as well as visit the current wardrooms of the boats stationed in Pearl Harbor. Following the social, the class was given a tour of the USS MONTANA (SSN 794).

Day two focused on the memorials and museums on Ford Island. We began with a tour of the USS Missouri (BB 63), then visited the USS Utah (BB 31) memorial, honoring those lost in the mistaken attack. At Hospital Point, we discussed the leadership of Ensign Joseph Tausig, who purposely grounded the ship to prevent it from sinking and potentially blocking the harbor. The day ended with a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial to pay our respects.





Day three focused on the Battle of Nu'uuanu. We started with a hike at Diamond Head and visited the beach down below to discuss the amphibious landing of King Kamehameha's Hawaiian forces. Next, we went to the Punchbowl Crater for a different vantage point and to discuss the first defensive screen set by King Kalanikapule's Oahuan forces. Here, we also visited different sites of the National Cemetery of the Pacific to pay our respects. We continued along the battle path to the Judd Trail to view the rugged terrain of the valley to consider the options of the Oahuan forces. We finished at the culminating point of the battle at the Pali lookout. This is where the Oahuan forces were backed into a cliff and were inevitably forced off the cliff. This conflict is called the Kaleleka'anae (leaping of the 'anae fish). It was here, after King Kamehameha's victory on Oahu, along with the signing of an agreement with the Chief of Kaua'i, he became the king of the Hawaiian islands. The discussion here centered around the honorable fight of the Hawaiian forces and how we can implement that into our futures as JOs. The day ended with a beach BBQ at the Hale Koa beach onboard MCB Hawaii.

The battle study trip provided an invaluable opportunity to learn about a critical conflict in the Pacific and connect it to the skills and leadership qualities we will need as officers in the fleet. The trip also allowed us to experience the island of Oahu, explore potential future duty stations, and enjoy some liberty time with fellow midshipmen. Special recognition was given to LT Samuel Galli, who was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his outstanding efforts in coordinating this trip. This experience will undoubtedly shape our approach and decision-making as we embark on our careers as naval officers.



Welcome Aboard LT Brooks

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

LT Jason Brooks was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2018, LTJG Brooks graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York with a Bachelor's of Science in Biomedical Engineering. He commissioned through NROTC at RPI in September, 2019.

As a Division Officer at sea, LTJG Brooks has served as Ordnance Officer and Main Propulsion Division Officer in USS RAFAEL PERALTA (DDG 115) and as the Weapons Officer in USS CANBERRA (LCS 30) Crew 228. He is currently serving as an Officer Instructor at NROTC Unit Los Angeles Consortium, University of Southern California (USC).



MIDN of the Month: MIDN 1/C Wise

By: MIDN 2/C Hof

The Trojan Battalion proudly announces MIDN 1/C Nathan Wise as January MIDN of the Month!

MIDN 1/C Wise, a senior studying International Relations, led this year's memorable 1/C Hawaii Battle Study and has been working hard to produce an engaging Navy FEX this semester. He calls Scottsdale, Arizona home and enjoys lifting, hiking, and watching and playing sports. Fun fact, MIDN 1/C Wise is an expert LEGO builder!

The Trojan Battalion congratulates MIDN 1/C Wise as January MIDN of the Month!



Preparation for the CU Drill Meet

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

The USC Trojan Battalion is gearing up for the upcoming University of Colorado Boulder Drill Meet. These MIDN have put in the time and dedication to showcase their hard work at the drill meet. This year the battalion will face off in five events: Drill, Color Guard, Small Arms, Knowledge, and the Endurance Race.

Captains

Drill: 4/C Zendejas

Color Guard: 3/C Tran

Small Arms: 4/C Baret

Knowledge: 2/C Williams

Endurance: 1/C Paradis (Home), 3/C Breen (On-site)



“The team has put in significant effort. We’re ready to compete and represent the Trojan Battalion with pride.”

-MIDN 3/C Tran



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