

# USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



March 2025

Edited by: MIDN 3/C Tran

## VICTORY: Dominating the Competition

By: MIDN 4/C Donahoe



Led by MIDN 4/C Zendejas as unit leader and MIDN 4/C Donahoe as squad leader, the Drill Team demonstrated precision and discipline on the drill deck. Under the freezing 30 degree weather, the team showcased their hard work, tying for first with the University of Oklahoma. The team narrowly missed victory by just 0.5 points in a tiebreaker. Under the guidance of Staff Sergeant Arzate since early January, the team showcased their dedication and skill bringing home another well-earned trophy for USC.

While the remaining teams—Color Guard, Shooting, and the Endurance Race Team—did not secure podium finishes, they exemplified USC's resilience and determination. The Endurance Team, led by MIDN 3/C Breen, faced the toughest challenge of the weekend: a grueling competition consisting of a swimming portion, followed by a 3 A.M wake up with an intense mountain endurance race. Demonstrating warrior toughness, the team executed rigorous exercises while summiting the mountain, completing the event in nearly eight hours. Despite the physical toll, the team took pride in their perseverance and camaraderie. The dogs they met on the way made it even more bearable.

From 6-9 March, MIDN of the Trojan Battalion traveled to Boulder, CO, to compete in the annual CU Boulder Meet. This marked the Battalion's return to the competition since 2019, making their participation in the event's 30th anniversary even more significant. Boulder hosted 21 schools across six competitions, with USC proudly participating in five: Knowledge, Drill, Color Guard, Shooting, and Endurance Race. The 17 participating MIDN primarily composed of underclassman who brought determination and resilience to every event.

Starting the meet on a high, the USC Knowledge Team, under the leadership of MIDN 2/C Williams, dominated the competition to take home the first-place trophy. They faced off against the Denver Marine Officer Selection team, UC Berkeley, CU Boulder, and finally, Minnesota in the championship round. A crucial moment came when Staff Sergeant Arzate provided valuable historical information on the first female Marine allowing the team to challenge the judges and win a decisive battle against CU Boulder. In the finals, MIDN 4/C Sommerfield delivered the winning answer in Final Jeopardy, sealing the team's victory.

Beyond the contests, the MIDN explored the city of Boulder, strengthening their bonds through group hikes at Chautauqua Park, shared meals, and well-earned liberty in the city. Unfortunately, there was no pancaking eating contest, but the legacy of our alumni won't be undone. This trip wasn't solely about trophies—it was about legacy, growth, and proving what a young but determined group could accomplish together.

Congratulations to the MIDN that participated in the events. The Trojan Battalion is extremely proud of your achievements—Bravo Zulu to the 2025 USC Boulder Team!

# MEET THE TEAMS

## KNOWLEDGE



MIDN 4/C Zendejas, 4/C Moynihan, 4/C Sommerfield, 2/C Williams

## DRILL



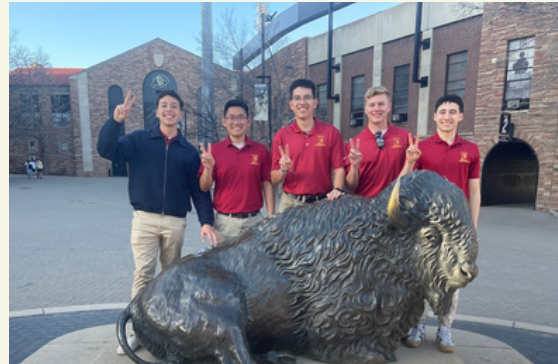
MIDN 4/C Arteaga, Moynihan, Abreu, Donahoe, Zendejas, Sommerfield, 2/C Williams, Madrigal

## ENDURANCE



Top: MIDN 3/C Breen, 4/C Lockwood, 4/C Huang  
Bottom: 3/C Wyman, 3/C Ganguly, 4/C Williams

## COLOR GUARD



MIDN 4/C Arteaga, 3/C Tran, 4/C Zendejas, 4/C Sommerfield, 4/C Madrigal

## SHOOTING



Back: MIDN 4/C Madrigal, Sommerfield, Arteaga, Baret, Abreu  
Front: MIDN 4/C Williams, 3/C Morris, 3/C Tran

## STAFF



Capt VanderSchans, SSgt Arzate

Of course I'm extremely proud of all our teams for their hard work prepping for the competition! Every one of our teams showed up and put their best effort out on the range, fields, mountains, and classroom! I'm super excited for our Midshipmen's return to Colorado (even more prepared this time) to defend the Knowledge Team's Championship and for our other teams to win the Gold!

- SSgt Arzate



# MIDN IN ACTION

## KNOWLEDGE



## DRILL



## COLOR GUARD



## ENDURANCE



## SHOOTING





# Trojan Battalion Goes Head-to-Head on the Track

By: MIDN 4/C Romero

On 3 March, the Trojan Battalion went head-to-head in a spirited track competition in a fast-paced platoon showdown.

Taking a break from their usual physical training, the Battalion hit the track for four adrenaline-fueled relay events: the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400, and 4x800. The meet wasn't just about speed—it was a high-impact morale boost that brought out the best in every runner.

After a fiercely contested battle, congratulations go to the fast-footed Training Platoon for sprinting their way to victory!

Outstanding effort by all who competed—Trojan Battalion never backs down from a challenge.





# Excellence & Leading by Example: Clayton Scholarship

By: MIDN 3/C Tran

Each semester, scholarship funds are awarded to standout students in the USC NROTC Trojan Battalion and the Air Force’s Airmen of Troy—recognizing those who have demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and dedication within their units.

The terms for the scholarships are:

- GPA: > 3.5 (Tier 3), >3.25 (Tier 2), > 3.00 (Tier 1)
- Average PRT/PFT: 75 / 275
- Above Average FITREP

**Total: \$19,800**

Fall 2024	Spring 2024
Arteaga	Brophy
Banks	Fessler
Baret	Giorgetta
Briand	Hebert
Brophy	Herrington
Brown	Hof
Burgos	Paradis
Scott, C	Park
Chen	Scott, C
De Fina	Turner
Donahoe	Villena, M
Foster	Walsh
Giorgetta	Williams
Hansen	Xie
Hebert	
Hof	
Huang	
Khundu	
Letizia	
Lopez	
Magill	
Mayreddy	
Moynihan	
Paradis	
Park	
Romero	
Salva	
Schweizer	
Turner	
Villena, A	
Villena, M	
Walsh	
Williams	
Xie	



# MIDN of the Month: MIDN 4/C Alexander Baret

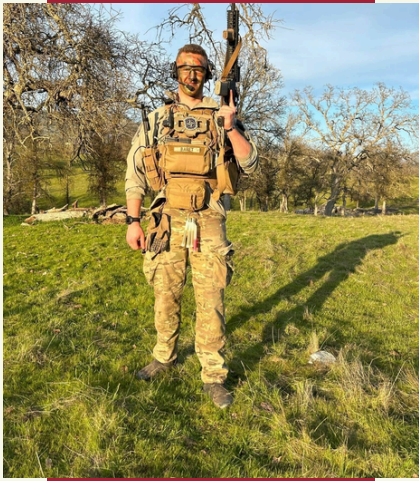
By: MIDN 2/C Hof

The Trojan Battalion is proud to announce MIDN 4/C Alex Baret as the March Midshipman of the Month!

A Marine Option from Rumson, New Jersey, MIDN Baret has been a crucial addition to the Trojan Battalion this year. Though only a freshman, he currently serves as a Platoon Guide, the Platoon Sergeant for Marine Options, and the Shooting Captain for the 2025 Colorado Boulder Meet. In addition, he founded the Battalion's Ground Fighting Club. He is highly motivated to support his fellow midshipmen—both Navy and Marine Options—and can always be counted on to take initiative and complete any task.

Outside of NROTC, he serves as a firefighter in his hometown, works as a lifeguard, and is an avid surfer. To pass the time, he bull rides, hula dances, and, when it's time to relax, enjoys reading a good book.

Congratulations, MIDN Baret! Semper Fi! Spiritus Invictus!





# Run, Rest, Repeat: Running for the Pack

By: MIDN 4/C Romero

For three days straight, MIDN 1/C Foster, 4/C Arteaga, 4/C Moynihan, 4/C Romero, and 4/C Sommerfield from the Trojan Battalion participated in the 4x4x48. Hosted by USC's Joint Assembly for Military-Associated Students (JAMS), the cause of the challenge was to raise funds for the Warrior Canine Connection. An organization that trains puppies to help veterans. The challenge tested their mental and physical endurance—running four miles every four hours for 48 hours (48 miles total)!

Our runners were supported by fellow midshipmen, students of other service branches, and members of the USC community who joined for a leg or more. Thank you to everyone who showed up and kept the momentum going!



Hooyah Midshipmen!



**Warrior  
Canine  
Connection**

## MISSION

Warrior Canine Connection is a pioneering organization that utilizes a Mission Based Trauma Recovery (MBTR) model to help recovering Warriors reconnect with life, their families, their communities, and each other.

## DONATE

<https://tinyurl.com/e9s292t6>



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