

# USC NAVAL ROTC NEWSLETTER



November 2024

Edited by: MIDN 2/C Hof

## Celebration Doesn't Stop: Trojan Battalion at the Annual Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball!

By: MIDN 2/C Hof

The evening of November 8th was one for the books! The Fall Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball brought together our incredible USC and UCLA NROTC units, along with alumni, for an evening of celebrating the Navy and Marine Corp's 249th birthday!

Fall Ball is a night of traditions, such as the cutting of the cake in which the oldest and youngest member of the unit receive the first slice of the birthday cake. And of course, a long night of dancing!

Thank you to everyone who made the night unforgettable, and especially to our alumni for inspiring us with their legacy. Here's to the next generation of leaders!



Col. Perry with his daughter



MIDN 4/C celebrating with MIDN 1/C Villena



MIDN  
3/C class



Prof.  
Zerunyan,  
Col. Perry,  
and GySgt.  
Farr



MIDN 2/C  
class

# Tee Up! Land of the Free Veteran's Golf Classic

By: MIDN 1/C Sosa

This past Veterans Day, midshipmen and staff from the Trojan Battalion had the honor of attending the annual Land of the Free Veterans Day Golf Classic at the Industry Hills Golf Club. This incredible event, hosted by the Land of the Free Foundation, brought together supporters of our nation's military to recognize the sacrifices of service members past, present, and future.

It was an inspiring day filled with camaraderie, stories from WW2 veterans, and a shared commitment to giving back. Thank you to the Land of the Free Foundation for their dedication to supporting our military and their families



Col. Perry with MoH recipient



MIDN with Veterans



Active Duty Staff and MIDN at the event

# MIDN of the Month: MIDN 3/C De Fina

By: MIDN 2/C Hof

MIDN De Fina earned this recognition through his exceptional service as the Battalion's Athletics Officer, leading the PT plans and raising standards in PRT/PFT performance. Thanks to his efforts, the Battalion has seen improvements in overall scores across the board.

This month, MIDN De Fina also earned the Teufel Hunden Award as the top performer at this semester's Marine Field Exercise, recognized for his leadership, performance, and dedication to teaching his fellow students.

Currently studying Political Science and Public Policy on the Pre-Law track, MIDN De Fina aspires to attend law school following his service in the Infantry.

His leadership and initiative serve as an inspiration to us all.



MIDN 3/C De Fina leading weapons training course



MIDN 3/C De Fina during field exercise



MIDN 3/C De Fina receiving the Teufel Hunden Award

# PT For You, PT For Me: PT for Marine Corps Birthday!

By: MIDN 3/C Deolaliker

During Naval Science Lab on November 7th, the Trojan Battalion took to the roads of campus to conduct a 2-mile moto run, celebrating the 249th birthday of the US Marine Corps and honoring the legacy of the Corps. The entire battalion ran as a singular formation, with active duty and student staff leading from the front, with colors on full display. Throughout the run, motivated midshipmen, staff, and MECEPS called cadence, motivating the rest of the battalion. I am grateful to have had the experience of participating in this special opportunity to celebrate the birthday and legacy of the USMC.



*MIDN 1/C Brophy holding the U.S. Navy flag*



*Col. Perry, Cdr. Ragadio, and GySgt. Farr lead the Battalion*



*BNCO Paradis gives MoH speech at Tommy Trojan*



*SSgt. Arzate holding position with the USMC flag*



*Ssgt. Letizia leading the Battalion in cadence*

## Try Us: Trojan Battalion Wins the First Tri-Service Cup!

By: MIDN 2/C Park

On 13 Nov 2024, MIDN 1/C Ben Neill and I had the pleasure of coaching our Navy ROTC football team to victory against USC's Army and Air Force ROTC units in the inaugural Tri-Service Cup. In addition to the traditional "Blood Bowl" that takes place every year against UCLA's Navy ROTC unit, these new rivalry games presented new challenges in terms of strategy and evaluation.

The offense, spearheaded by a two-quarterback attack of MIDN 3/C Jack Breen and MIDN 2/C Lucien McKernan, used a triple-option scheme with the help of RB Nolan Walsh (MIDN 2/C), OL Jerry Xie (MIDN 3/C), and WR Nathan Wise (MIDN 1/C) that proved too potent for opposing defenses.

Our defense was anchored by DL Earle Schweizer (MIDN 1/C), DB Luke Donahue (MIDN 4/C), and LB Nick De Fina (MIDN 3/C). After allowing touchdowns on the opening possessions against both Army and Air Force, strategic and personnel adjustments helped contain both opponents to just one more touchdown each. DB Cruz Madrigal (MIDN 4/C) stepped up for two crucial interceptions on the day. A successful day of football brought all three of USC's ROTC units together for a memorable PT filled with competitive energy, fun, and victory for the Sailors!



MIDN 1/C Neill holds a team huddle



MIDN 2/C McKernan looking to throw the ball



MIDN 3/C Breen endzone catch!

# Friday Night Lights!

## Annual USC vs. UCLA Bloodbowl

By: MIDN 3/C Breen

It was the night before the USC vs. UCLA Big Ten football game and the USC NROTC flag football team took the field against their counterparts over at UCLA. The team was feeling good, coming off their dominating victories over both Army and Air Force to win the Tri-Service Cup. The Trojans started off the game strong with an interception on the first drive, which led to a touchdown on the other end of the field. Standout players on offense were MIDN 2/C McKernan and MIDN 4/C Donahoe. The defensive effort was led by their defensive coordinator, MIDN 2/C Park, along with players MIDN 1/C Giorgetta and MIDN 3/C DeFina. Additionally, MIDN 1/C Wise was a key player on both sides of the ball. The team's offense was masterminded by MIDN 1/C Neill, who some call the "Bill Belichick of flag football". USC triumphed over UCLA in the flag football game. The annual Blood Bowl game continues to instill camaraderie in the two schools of the Los Angeles Consortium.



*MIDN Giorgetta facing off against UCLA*



*MIDN 1/C Neill celebrating with trophy*



*Trojan Battalion celebrates together after their big win*



*Photos from the game!*

# Hot Range: Trojan Battalion Field Trip to Pendleton Gun Range

By: MIDN 4/C Baret

With a 0330 wake up, and a bright and early muster of 0415—most of the students were contemplating if range day was worth their time. As soon as we hit the range, every midshipman was extremely happy they had the privilege to attend. The range staff, the best marksmen and women the Marine Corps had to offer, greeted us with enthusiasm and attention. We reviewed basic weapons safety rules and drilled pistol draws, speed and tactical reloads, and remedial actions until we were pros. After our hands-on training, we received our ammunition and took our positions on the firing line. Each midshipman fired close to 160 rounds down range in various tactical scenarios and qualification challenges. Overall, it was a great experience for all who attended and an opportunity that most do not get!



MIDN and range staff firing shots



MIDN reloading their weapons



Ssgt. Arzate joining in on the fun alongside MIDN!



MIDN 3/C Miller inspecting his shots



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