

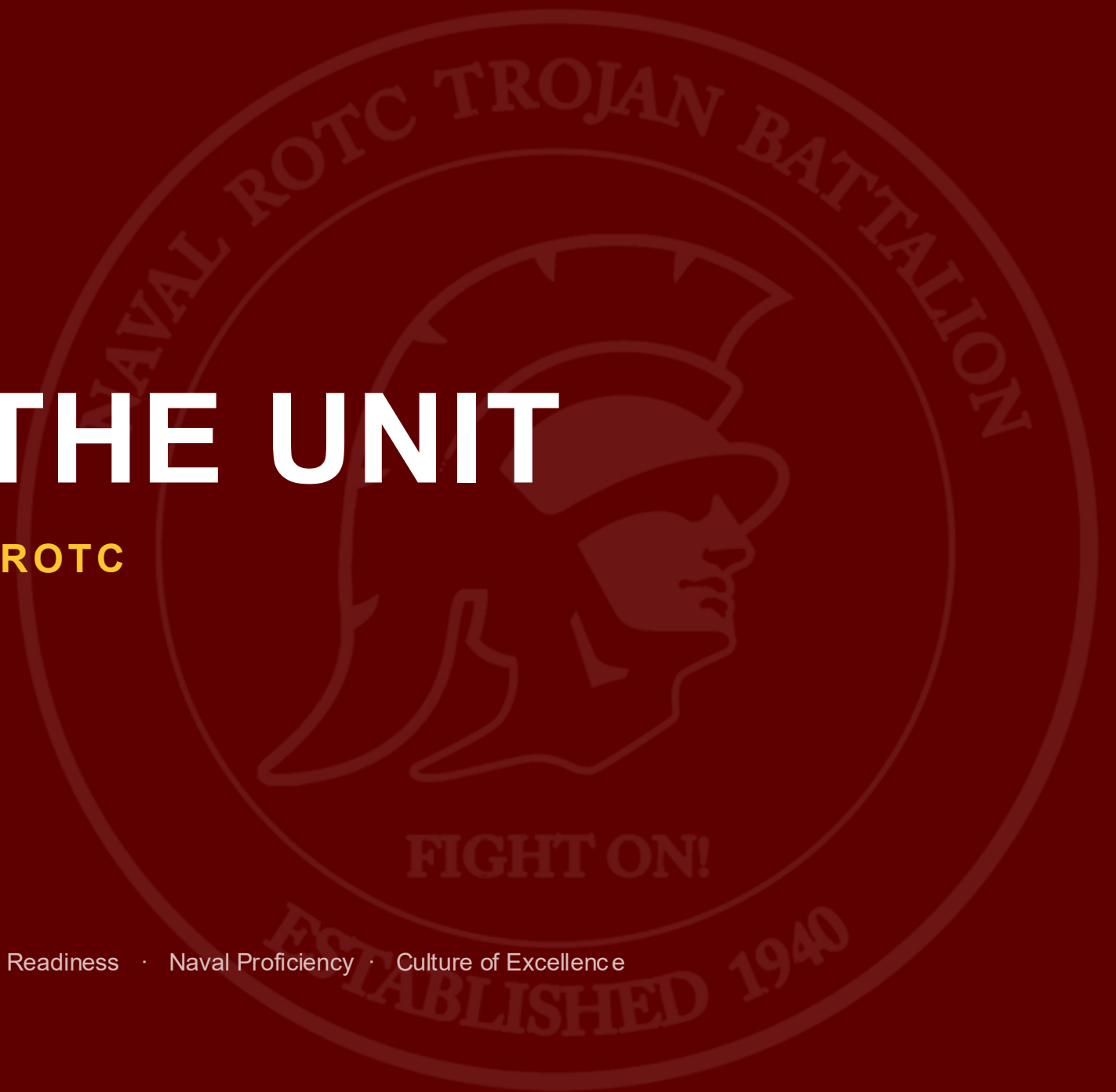


STATE OF THE UNIT

TROJAN BATTALION · USC NROTC

Fall 2026

Professional Development · Academic Excellence · Physical Readiness · Naval Proficiency · Culture of Excellence



Secretary Hegseth Announces Six Major Initiatives at Quantico Speech

The Secretary's framework establishes the (1) Autonomous Warfare Command, (2) creates a new Corps of Cadets, (3) launches the "FORTRESS" (Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability) readiness program, (4) initiates the Next Great American Base project, (5) stands up the Office of Religious Affairs, and (6) kicks off Project Meridian, signaling a bold new era of warfighter-first leadership.

(1) Autonomous Warfare Command

The establishment of the Autonomous Warfare Command represents the fastest peacetime operational shift in modern military history, designed to scale autonomous warfare across the Joint Force as a 4-star functional combatant command by October 1, 2027.

(2) America's Corps of Cadets

America's Corps of Cadets is a new War Department program established to expand the pipeline of patriotic leaders of character commissioning into the Joint Force. Building on the existing Corps of Cadets at the nation's six Senior Military Colleges, the initiative partners with a new set of premier institutions—Louisiana State University, Liberty University, Tuskegee University, Mississippi State University, and Hillsdale College—to create additional full-time Corps of Cadets programs.

(3) FORTRESS America

FORTRESS America (Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability) is the Department of War's national insurance policy for the American homeland. Launched at the direction of the Secretary of War, it ends decades of quiet dependence that left the world's most powerful military reliant on foreign mines for rare earths, overseas factories for microchips, foreign supply chains for weapons, and the civilian power grid to keep bases operational.

(4) Next Great American Base

The Next Great American Base project rejects the legacy playbook of decaying military facilities, launching a bold initiative to build a premier, world-class power projection platform from the ground up. This state-of-the-art installation will host elite troops across hundreds of thousands of acres. Engineered to operate completely off the commercial grid, it will feature independent power generation, autonomous systems, and advanced air defenses.

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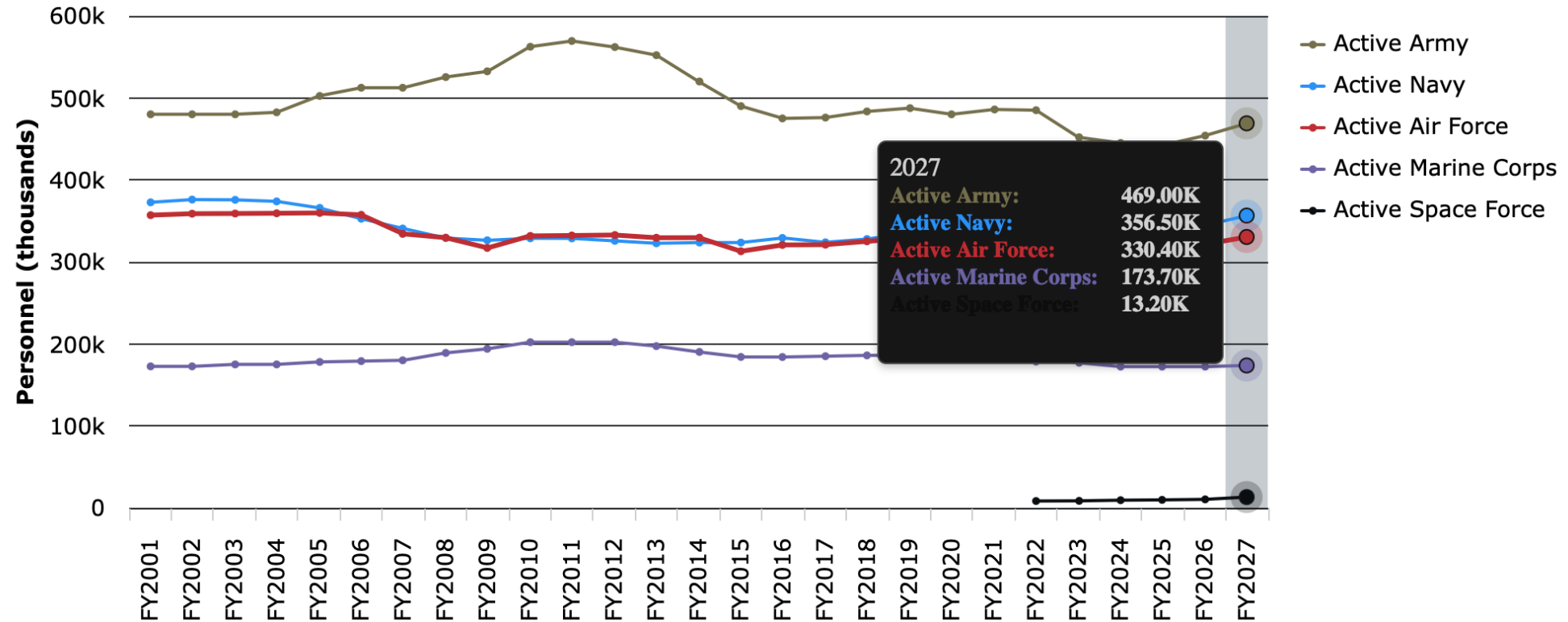
(5) Office of Religious Affairs

The Department of War is elevating spiritual readiness as a core element of combat effectiveness with the establishment of the Office of Religious Affairs, a direct-report office to the Secretary of War charged with driving Department-wide policy, resource advocacy, and action. Wars are fought by people, and the strength of the force depends not only on weapons, training, and technology, but also on the resilience, conviction, and moral strength of those who serve. **ORA will ensure religious affairs are no longer dispersed across distant bureaucratic layers, giving senior leaders a dedicated capability to protect free exercise, remove policy barriers, identify unmet requirements, and secure the support needed for the Service chaplaincies to succeed.**

(6) Project Meridian

Secretary Hegseth has commissioned Project Meridian to secure America's long-term military superiority by identifying the capabilities required to achieve absolute technological dominance on the next-generation battlefield. **Project Meridian will examine the full spectrum of future warfighting domains, from subterranean depths to the cislunar frontier.** The Department of War's Chief Technology Officer, Emil Michael, is facilitating the Department's commissioning of Project Meridian, which will be co-directed by Elon Musk, Palmer Luckey, and Newt Gingrich, and supported by a team of elite academic, policy, and industry experts. To ensure timely execution, Secretary Hegseth has directed this landmark project to be completed within 120 days of its establishment, culminating in an unclassified, publicly released final report containing critical findings and recommendations, accompanied by a classified annex.

Active Component End-Strength



Marine Corps Confirms Plan to Add 6,500 Positions as Drone and AI Units Expand

The Marine Corps confirmed a five-year growth plan that adds more than 6,500 billets across infantry battalions, drone units, air defenses, and new occupational specialties. The extra structure is meant to staff the systems the Corps has already bought and the units it is still building.

- Infantry Battalions get depth and a New Scout Sniper PMOS (0315)
- Robotics companies, a West Coast Drone School and Base Defenses
- Several new career fields

WHAT THE CO EXPECTS

GOALS: AY 2026 – 2027

3.33

Average
GPA

275

Average
PFT

275

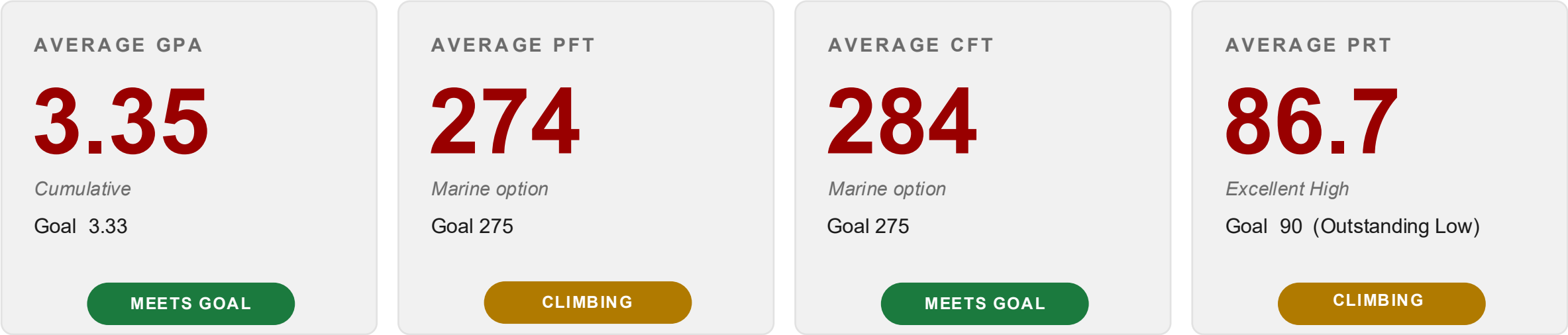
Average
CFT

**Outstanding
Low**

Average
PRT

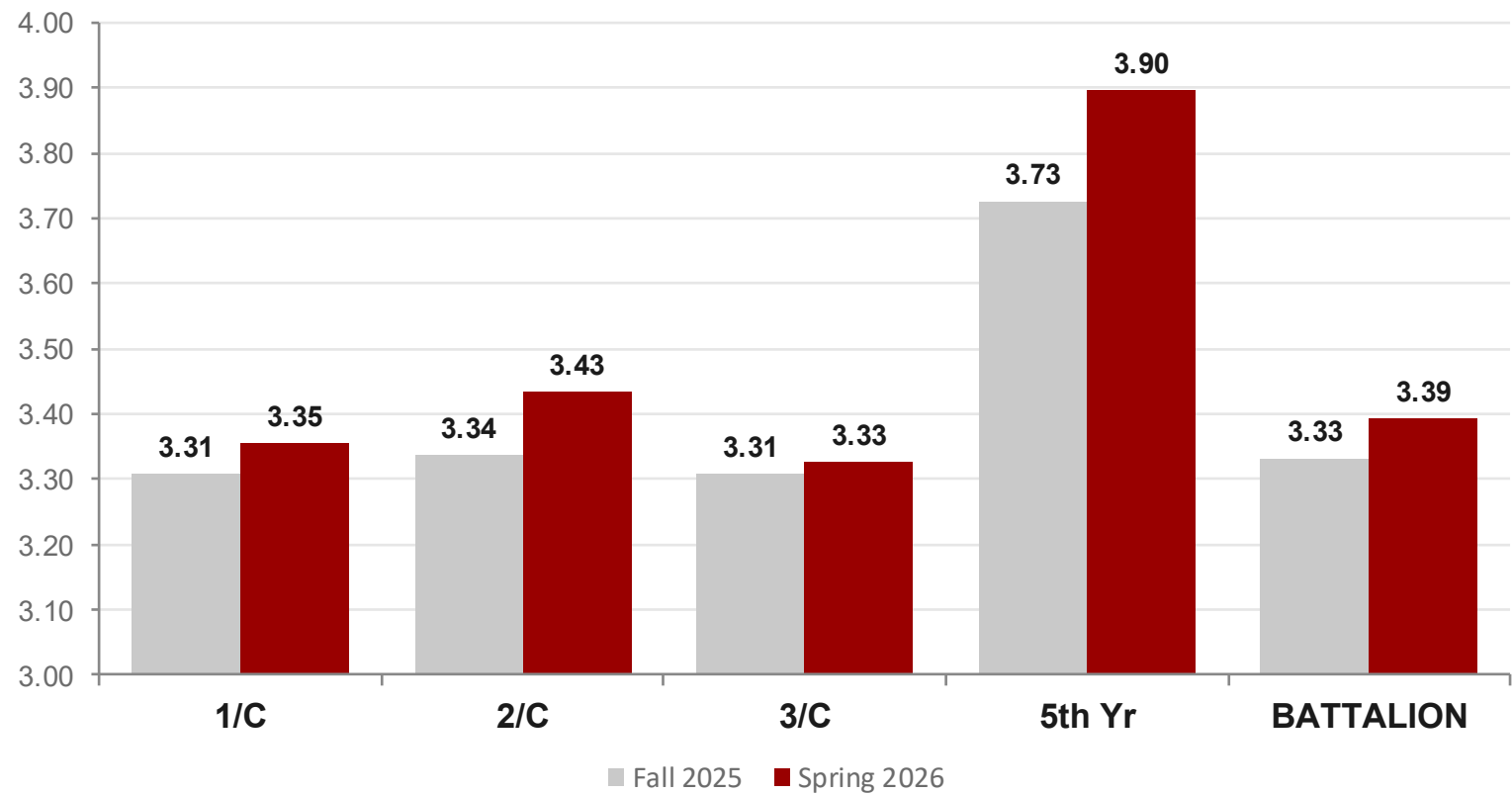
FIGHT ON!

Where the battalion stands



You cleared three of the CO's four goals, and last spring was your strongest academic term in two years.

Every single class went up



HOW MUCH EACH CLASS GAINED

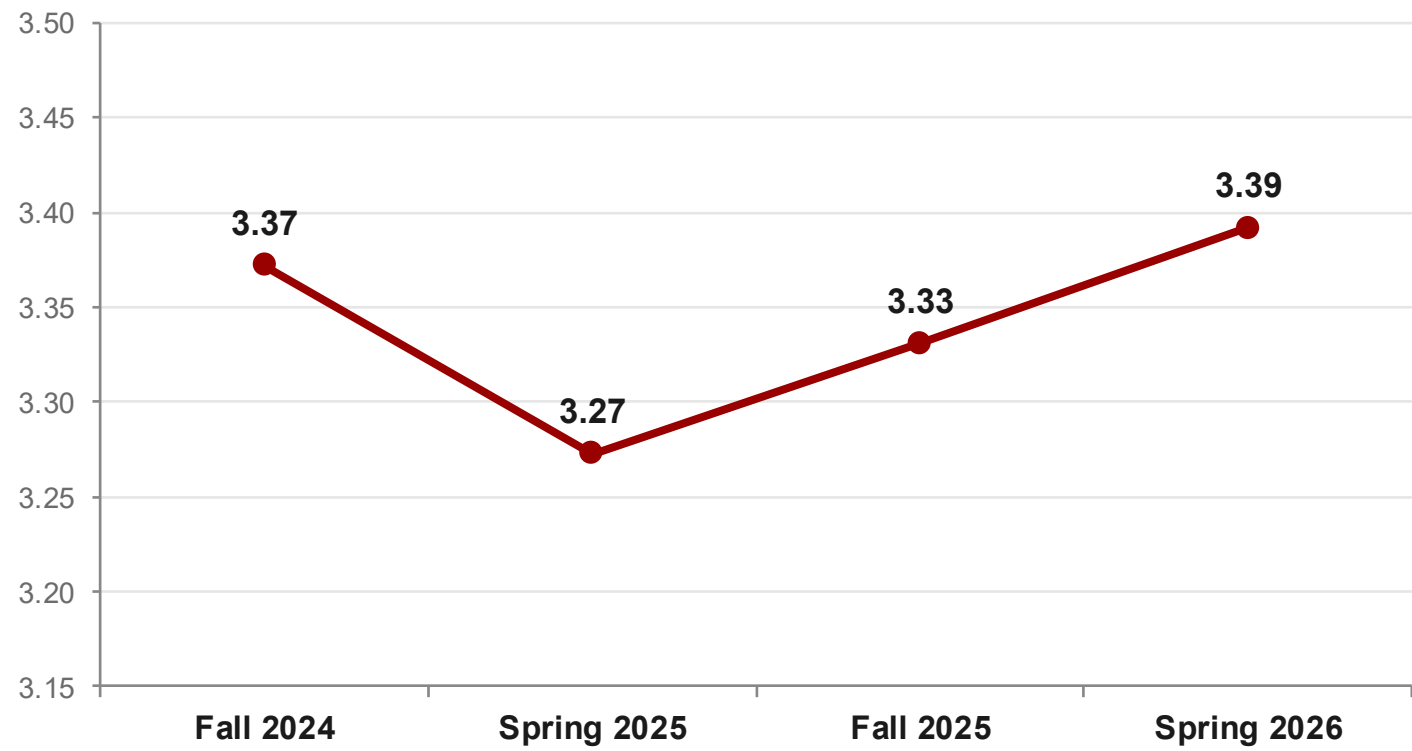
5th Yr	+0.17
2/C	+0.10
1/C	+0.05
3/C	+0.02

+0.06

battalion term GPA, Fall to Spring

SAME STUDENTS, BOTH SEMESTERS.

Spring 2026 was your best term in two years



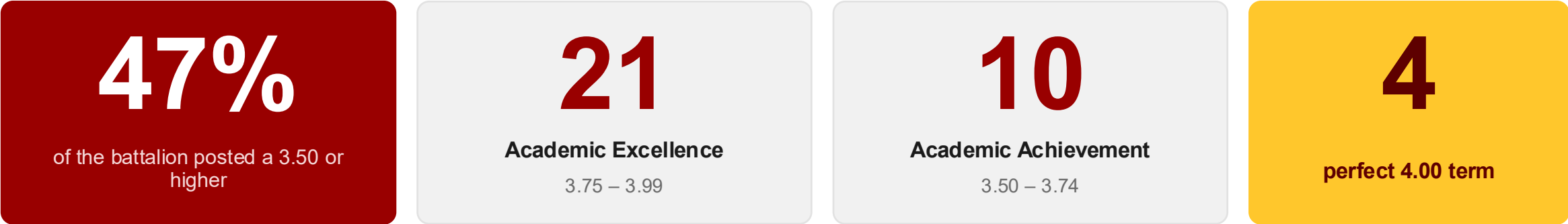
Term GPA, not cumulative.

EVERY CLASS IMPROVED

CLASS	FALL 25	SPRING 26
1/C	3.31	3.35
2/C	3.34	3.43
3/C	3.31	3.33
5th Yr	3.73	3.90

Fall 2025 to Spring 2026 is the clean comparison — same classes, same people.

Nearly half of the students earned a ribbon

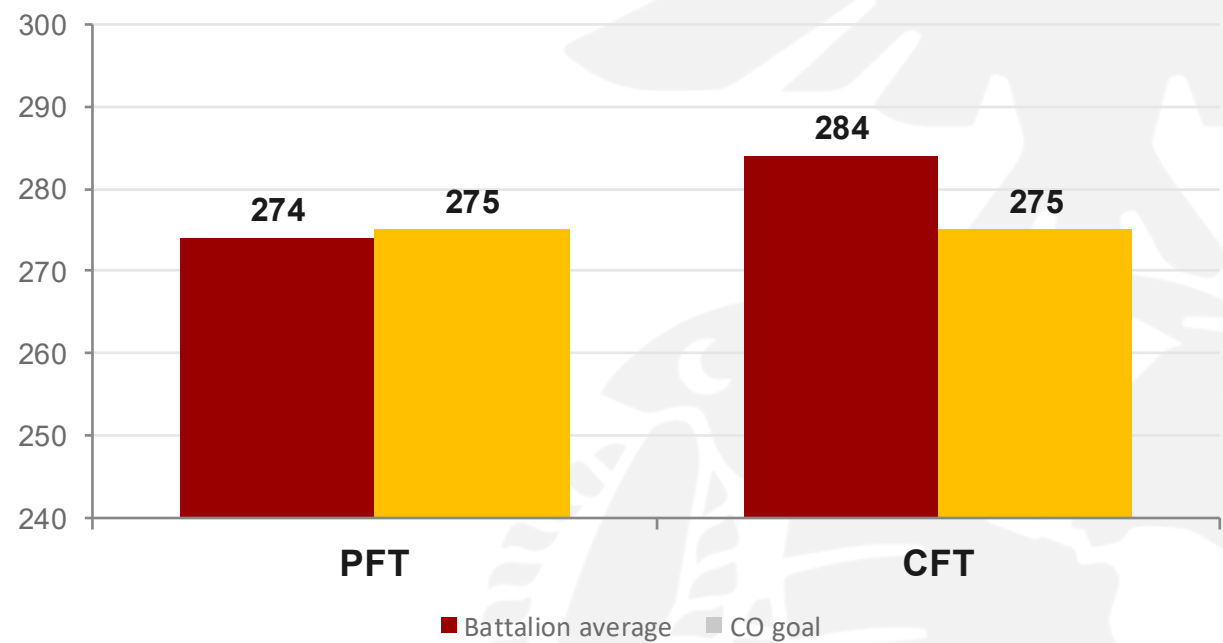


THE 4.00 CLUB · SPRING 2026

- MIDN CARDENAS
- MIDN JEON
- MIDN KUNDU
- MIDN MAGILL

Thirty-five students cleared 3.50 in Spring 2026.

PFT and CFT both clear the CO's number



TOP PFT SPRING 2026: 296

XIE

PERFECT 300 CFT (Final Fall 25)

ANUAKPADO

BARET

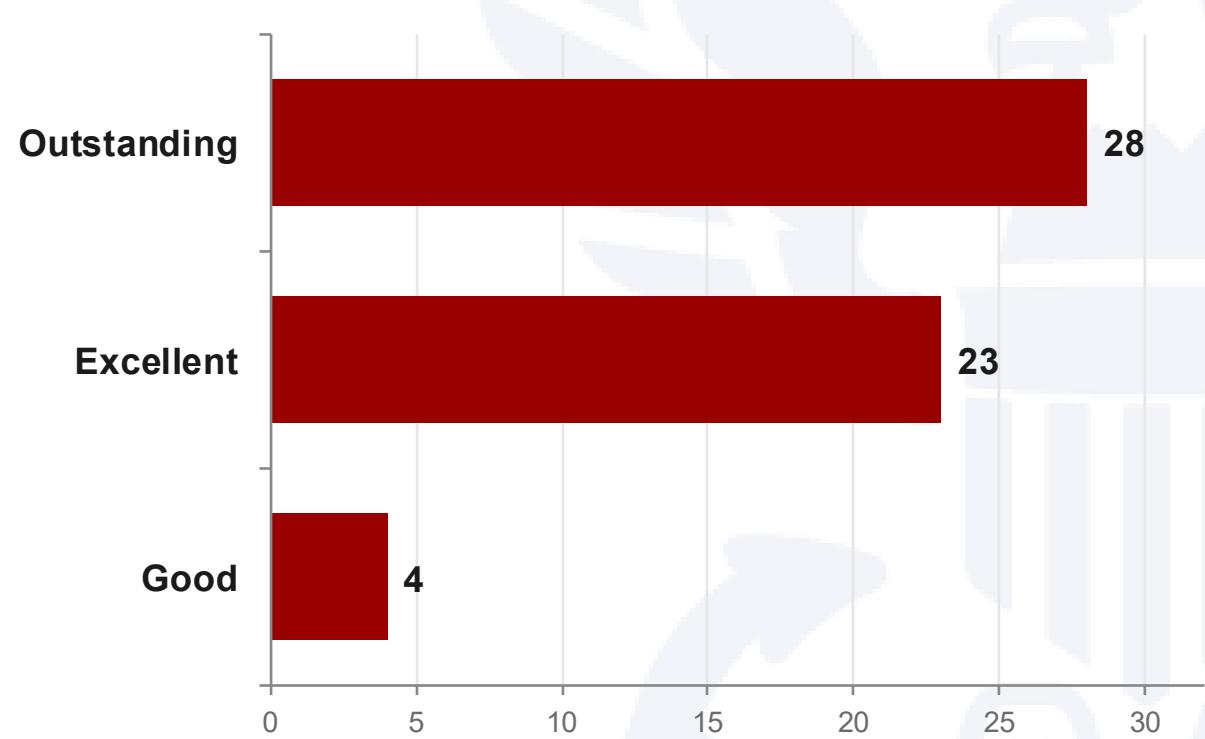
LETIZIA

LOPEZ

XIE

Five perfect CFTs in one battalion is not normal.

93% scored Excellent or better



PRT overall category, Spring 2026 cycle.

28

MIDN at Outstanding – more than half of everyone who tested

PERFECT 100 · OUTSTANDING HIGH

MIDN BRUYERE

MIDN GILLIATT

MIDN HANSEN

The battalion average sits at Excellent High. The CO wants Outstanding Low and you're almost there.

Who took the top spot in each category

CLASS	GPA (term)	PFT	CFT	PRT
4/C	—	—	—	—
3/C	3.33	268.7	280.2	86.5
2/C	3.43	275.6	280.3	87.0
1/C	3.35	276.8	291.3	85.9
5th Yr	3.90	—	—	90.0

Gold = best in that category among 1/C, 2/C and 3/C. 4/C have no cycle on record yet. 5th Yr shown for completeness (n = 2), not ranked.

PERFECT MARKS · SPRING 2026

4

4.00 term GPA

Cardenas · Jeon · Kundu · Magill

0

300 PFT

high was 296 — still up for grabs

5

300 CFT

Anuakpado · Baret · Letizia
Lopez · Xie

3

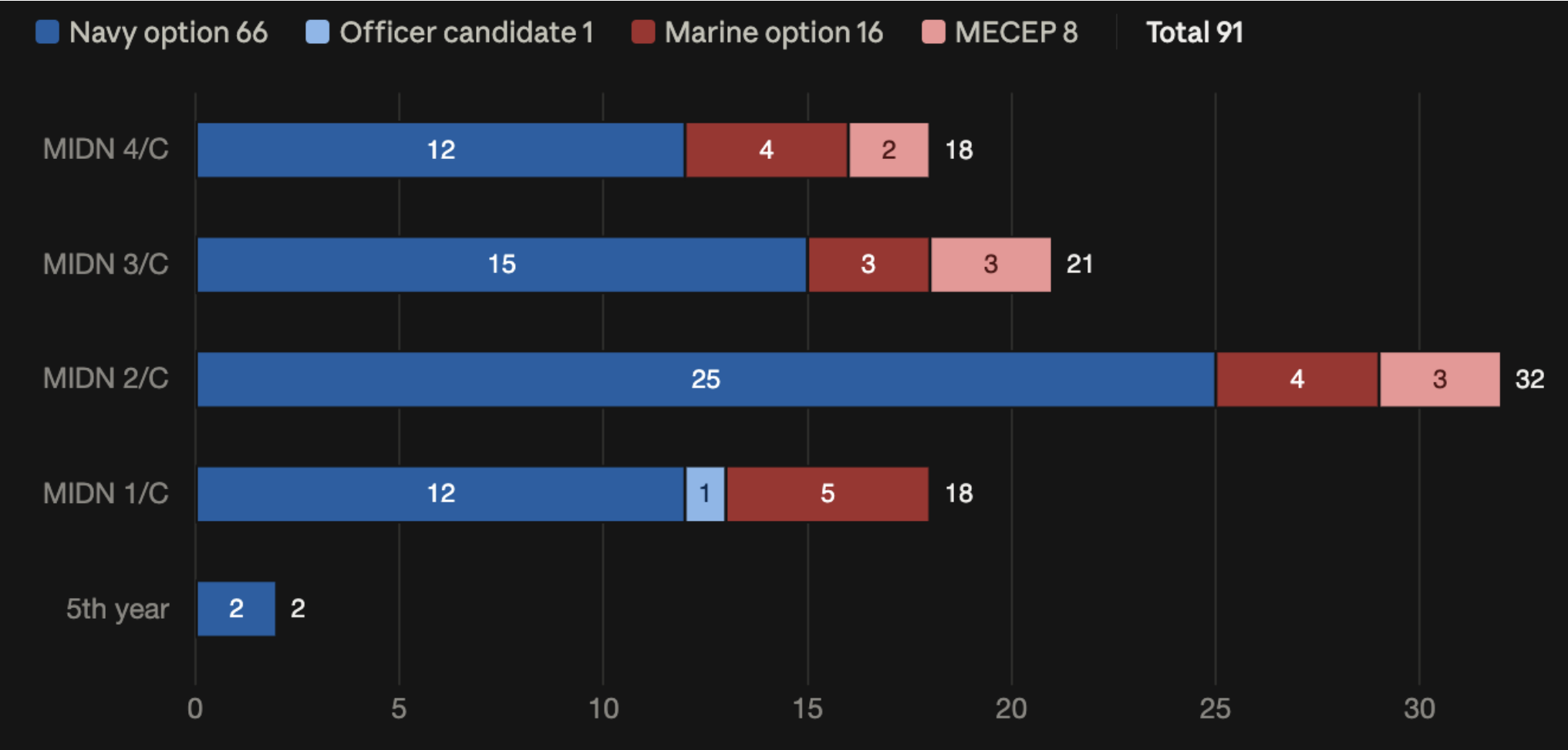
100 PRT

Bruyere · Gilliatt · Hansen



FALL 2026

Trojan Battalion Strength



Major Events – Fall 2026

- 19-21 Aug: New Student Orientation
- Sep 11: 9/11 Stair Climb
- Sep 18: Service Assignments
- Oct 12: Navy's 251th Birthday – BN Physical Training in Celebration
- Oct 15: Navy's 251th Birthday Cake Cutting
- Oct 17-18: FEX I, SOI - Camp Pendleton
- Oct 31: USC Family Tailgate and NROTC Alumni Weekend
- Nov 6: Blood Bowl
- Nov 9: Veteran's Day & Marine Corps 251th Birthday Moto Run
- Nov 14: JROTC Symposium
- Nov 20: Navy & Marine Corps Ball
- Nov 24: Battalion Competition
- Nov 29: USC vs UCLA Football
- Dec 3: Drill Competition, Award Ceremony, and Change of Command
- Dec 4: Classes End
- Dec 9-16: Finals Week
- Dec 18 – Jan 10: Winter Break
- Dec 19: Commissioning Ceremony

Major Events – Spring 2027

- Jan 11: Classes Begin
- Jan 14-18: 1/C Hawaii Battle Study
- Jan 23-27: Naval Academy Leadership Conference
- Feb 4-7: Notre Dame Leadership Conference
- Feb 5-7: Tulane Drill Meet (T)
- Mar 5-7: CU Boulder Meet
- Mar 9: NROTC, AFROTC, AROTC Tri-Service Competition
- Mar 13-21: Spring Recess
- Mar 25-28: Yale Leadership Conference
- Apr 1: ROTC Veterans Dinner
- Apr 10: Senior Mess Night
- Apr 11: USC Admit Student Day
- Apr 17: Blood Madness
- TBD: FEX II, SOI – Camp Pendleton
- Apr 29: Awards Ceremony
- May 1: Classes End
- TBD: Spring Dinner
- May 5-12: Finals Week
- May 13-14: Spring Commencement Ceremonies
- May 15: Spring Commissioning Ceremony
- Jul 23: Los Angeles Consortium Change of Command

Service Assignment Fall 2026

NROTC and STA-21 Designators & Quantity of Assignments	
1160	232
1160N/S	62
1160G	5
1160E	14
1170/1170E	188
1180	9
1190	15
1220N	8
1370	66
1390	240
1800	5
1810	4
1820	6
1830	5
1840	5
1880	4
1970	1
1985	1
5100	2
2900	22
	894

	Selected	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Allen	1160	1160				
Aragon	1160	1160E	1160	1160N	1170	1170E
Briand	1170	1170	1370	1170E	1160N	1390
Baylon	1160	1160	1160G	1160N	1170	3100
Breen	1190	1190	1160	1899	1390	1370
Heitman	1160	1899	1160	1160G	1170	1160N
K. Scott	1170	1170	1160N	1160S	1160	1170E
Stankus	1170	1170	1170E	1160	1160E	1160N
Tam	1160	1899	1160	1160G	1170	1160N
Tran	1390	1390	1370	1160	1160G	1899
Yi	1390	1390	1370	1899	1160	1160G

76.6% of midshipmen received their first-choice selection in either the URL or IWL.

13.2% received their second-choice selection. When combined with first-choice selects, 89.8% of midshipmen received either their first or second choice.

5.1% of midshipmen received their third-choice selection. When combined with first- and second-choice selections, 95.0% of midshipmen received either the first-, second-, or third choice.

Service Assignment FY 2024 to FY 2027

SERVICE ASSIGNMENT					
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
AVIATION	5	9	6	2	22
EOD	0	1	0	1	2
SWO	4	1	0	5	10
SWO (N)	3	1	0	0	4
SUB	6	4	1	3	14
NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE (SEAL)	0	1	1	0	2
NAVAL REACTORS ENGINEER	0	0	1	0	1
MARINES	5	2	1	5	13
	23	19	10	16	68



Questions

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