



THE JOINT MILITARY LEADERSHIP CENTER NEWSLETTER



2015

Joint Run 9/11/14

The annual Joint Run was conducted on Patriot Day, Thursday 9/11 in memory of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. The Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion's Joint Liaison Officer (LNO), **SSgt Joshua Rodriguez**, spearheaded the planning and execution of the run alongside his counterparts Army LNO, **Cadet Patrick Mayo** and Air Force LNO, **Cadet April Ostoski**.

This was the first year the annual Joint Run was conducted on Patriot Day and the plan is to make this a

new tradition. The three ROTC units assembled inside the USF Track & Field Stadium for accountability and warm up exercises. Prior to commencement of the run, John Sarao, Director, JMLC spoke a few words of reflection and a moment of silence was observed in memory of the 9/11 attack victims. Each unit ran the 2 mile course in formation exhibiting pride and spirit. All runners enjoyed the run and the opportunity to honor the memory of the 9/11 attack victims and their families.



Fall Family Weekend

The JMLC and the ROTC units participated in the annual Fall Family Weekend on Saturday, 27 September that provided USF students and family members an opportunity to rappel off the side of the C.W. Bill Young Hall (CWY) and to use the EST 2000 small arms weapons simulator. The Army ROTC cadre and students were out in full force to provide safety and procedural instructions to those brave enough to rappel while also offering hotdogs and hamburgers, beverages and snacks to the hungry observers and participants. Over a three hour period, rappelling was conducted non-stop and unfortunately some participants had to be turned away due to the time limitation. Meanwhile the EST 2000, operated by two of the Naval ROTC recent graduates, **ENS Robert Riggs** and **ENS Wesley Valdyke**, saw over 100 participants try out their sharp shooter skills on the EST 2000.

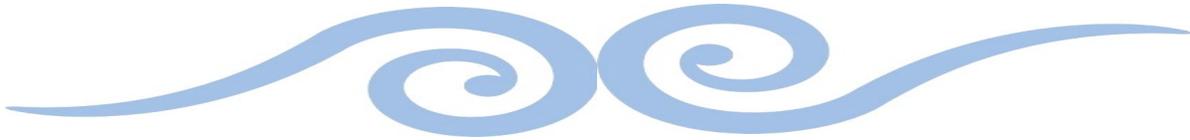




First Annual ROTC Senior Celebration

The Joint Military Leadership Center hosted the first annual ROTC Senior Celebration on Thursday, 9 April in the second floor rotunda of C.W. Bill Young Hall. The “Celebration”, or reception, was held in honor of the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC students graduating and commissioning into their respective service branch during the 2015 calendar year. This event provided an opportunity for the university’s academic leadership (President, Provost, Academic Deans, Departmental Chairs), faculty and friends of the ROTC to celebrate this accomplishment with them. Typically, many of these individuals at USF and its cross-town affiliates, are unable to attend individual ROTC Commissioning ceremonies due to scheduling conflicts and the general busyness of commencement weekend activities.

We were thrilled that USAA partnered with us and sponsored the entire event thanks to the assistance of **Gary Broadbent** of USAA’s Military Outreach department. Between 60-70 people were in attendance and were able to indulge themselves in a delicious variety of hors d’oeuvres and desserts prepared by **Lori Matthews** of the Joint Military Leadership Center. During the Celebration, **Dr. Robert Sullins**, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, spoke some heartfelt congratulatory remarks to the graduating seniors and attendees as he recalled his own service as an officer in the U.S. Army. We were pleased that many of the invited university academic leadership, faculty and friends of the Joint Military Leadership Center and the ROTC programs were able to attend. In all, it was a very joyous event. The soon to be commissioned ROTC students were very appreciative of the recognition and the invited guests were proud to meet and talk with them as they prepared to start their military careers.



JMLC Selfless Service Awards

The 2015 recipients of the JMLC Selfless Service Award are **Army Cadet Dillon Dunnigan**, **Midshipman Eric Mederos** and **Air Force Cadet April Ostoski**. The awards were presented at each unit’s end of year awards ceremony. This award recognizes one ROTC student from each service ROTC program for demonstrating outstanding leadership. Each successful recipient has demonstrated a positive attitude towards their respective service ROTC program and The

Joint Military Leadership Center and possesses outstanding officer potential by exemplifying self to the highest standards of conduct and the respective service’s core values.



Navy League Tampa Council Presents Check to Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion

Navy League Tampa Council presented a donation of \$1250 from the Tampa Council to the Buccaneer Battalion at their Leadership Lab on Thursday, 19 March. The donation was given to help support several of the Buccaneer Battalion’s major events throughout the year including the annual Battle of the Bulls Naval JROTC Field Meet and their participation in the Bulldog Challenge held at the Citadel in Charleston, SC.

Army Suncoast Battalion claims the 2015 Commanders' Cup Competition

This year, the Army Suncoast Battalion won a close athletic competition between all three services to claim the Commanders' Cup, sponsored by the Joint Military Leadership Center, on Friday, 27 March. Athletic events that the teams participated in were full court basketball, ultimate Frisbee, relay races and tug-of-war. The Army ROTC Joint Liaison Officer, **Cadet Laura Cyr**, was the lead planner for the Cup competition and she was assisted by her fellow liaison officers, **Ssgt Lance Johson**, USMC (Naval) and **Cadet Jessie Erickson** (Air Force). These liaison officers have also developed the framework to expand the Commanders' Cup Competition for the next academic year consisting of two – three events for each semester. These events will take place during morning PT sessions to facilitate greater student participation and interest in the overall Cup competition.



With the encouragement of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Robert Sullins, there was ROTC participation in the USF Homecoming SuperBull XVIII parade. The Air Force ROTC color guard led the entire parade just ahead of the Herd of Thunder (HOT). Members of the 158th Cadet Wing, led by **Cadet April Ostoski** the Wing Vice Commander, marched in the parade. To continue the momentum, plans are already in the works for next year to have a Joint Color Guard and greater ROTC participation from all units. This was followed by a social for all participants provided by the Joint Military Leadership Center and for those interested, a Movie Night in C.W. Bill Young Hall.



ROTC LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

LIVE IT
JOINT.
LEARN IT

This year we welcomed 40 new residents to the Maple A Residence Hall for the 2014-2015 Academic Year. They joined only two returning residents from last year's ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC), a record low. We also had two new Residence Advisors (RA) this year, **Jackie John-Morton**, and **Lauren Slavens**. Though both are not ROTC students, they each have military connections. Jackie is a Nursing student whose father is an active duty RN in the Army and Lauren's father is a retired Navy officer and grew up in Jacksonville which has a very large Navy presence. The LLC continues to be truly "joint" with the ROTC student population composition being very similar to each ROTC program.

The popular and successful House Calls program drew an even larger number of attendees throughout the year. We were very fortunate to have the following ROTC instructors participate in separate House Call events: **MAJ Courtney Justice**, Executive Officer of the Army ROTC; **LT Eric Peters**, Naval Science Instructor; **Col James Cardoso**, Commander, Air Force ROTC Detachment 158; and **MSG James Dean**, Senior Military Instructor, Army ROTC. Each brought their own unique perspective of life serving in their respective service branch which proved invaluable for the LLC residents.

This being the fourth year of the ROTC LLC, two Focus Group discussions were held with the ROTC students, now seniors, who were freshmen during the inaugural year of the LLC in the 2011-2012 Academic Year. The focus groups were formed to investigate the lasting impressions or impact the LLC experience had on the ROTC seniors. Overall, the focus groups confirmed in many ways that the ROTC LLC will not only ease the transition into college life and ROTC for new students but it will greatly enhance the ROTC experience with strong bonds of friendship established while living in the LLC and then maintained throughout their years at USF. Living in the LLC also gave these students the advantage of establishing these bonds with members of the other service ROTC programs while gaining a better appreciation for the culture and traditions of the other services. The Focus Groups also disclosed that the LLC formed an invaluable support system. The residents valued the "positive" peer pressure that allowed them to push each other to maintain high standards of performance in all areas.



Visits to U.S. Central Command & U.S. Special Operations Command



The purpose of our visits to the Unified Combatant Commands at MacDill AFB is to give ROTC students an overview on how a joint unified combatant command operates with commissioned officers/NCOs from each military service. After last year's inability to make these visits due to the government's sequestration, we were able to visit both U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command.

A small group of LLC residents accompanied by several other ROTC students representing all services and several USF Housing personnel made a visit to the U.S. Central Command headquarters at MacDill AFB on 31 October. They were given a brief by several Senior National Representatives (SNRs) of the Coalition that has been at U.S. Central Command since the 9/11 attacks. The presenters were **BG Frank Lissner** of Denmark, **BG Mahmood Zahid** of Pakistan, **BG Mikael Chirstofferson** of Sweden and **COL Eddin Komrokji** of Jordan. This was followed by a command brief and discussion with the U.S. Central Command Chief of Staff, **BG Michael Garrett**, who also discussed leadership and asked the ROTC students questions about the U. S. Central Command's mission and major issues they face in the Middle East. Overall, this was an extremely educational visit and one that the students will remember for a long time.

On 20 March, 2015 ten ROTC students, many ROTC LLC residents, accompanied by three ROTC instructors, were given the rare opportunity to visit the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquarters highlighted by the command's new War Gaming Center, the first and only of its kind. Seated in the War Gaming Center, we received a USSOCOM command briefing and an informational brief on the War Gaming Center including a live demonstration of its capabilities. Both officers giving the briefings were very engaging with the students and answered many questions during the Q & A session after their presentations. The visitors then visited the Special Operations Memorial located just outside the USSOCOM headquarters and had lunch at the Base Dining Facility.

VALOR

Midshipman Travis Kujawski, President, and **Midshipman Maria Vera**, Treasurer, led the Valor Movement student organization for a second year. To grow the student organization and allow more opportunity for members to participate on a regular basis, Midn Kujawski started to host weekly bible studies at his nearby off-campus apartment. These studies also included some food delicacies he prepared to give the members a break from the campus menus. As a result, more students have attended on a regular basis. Midn



Kujawski has led a majority of the bible studies and has successfully balanced his lessons for a diverse audience of believers...the purpose of Valor is to develop opportunities for leadership development and promote spiritual discussion among its members. Valor is affiliated with both the Campus and the Military Ministry of Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). Throughout the year, the students met on a weekly basis for a bible study and to discuss various spiritual related topics as they apply to serving in the military. During the year, Valor held two successful social events for its members, an end of fall semester dinner at the Cheesecake Factory at the Brandon Westfield Mall and an on-campus cookout with approximately 15 students participating in each.

Continuing a new tradition initiated in 2013, the cadets and midshipmen of the USF ROTC programs marched on the field with the Herd of Thunder (HOT) during the pre-game activities before USF took on the University of Houston on Saturday, Nov. 1st. Approximately 200 ROTC students participated. The ROTC units were led on the field by their respective Battalion/Wing Commanders: The Army ROTC Suncoast Battalion commanded by **Cadet James Swonger**. The Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion commanded by **Sergeant John Busby, Jr.**, United States Marine Corps and the Air Force ROTC 158th Cadet Wing, commanded by **Cadet Aryk Binghamhill**.

The Army Suncoast Battalion, dressed in Battle Dress Utilities (BDUs), marched into the north end zone while the Naval Buccaneer Battalion in summer whites and the Air Force 158th Cadet Wing in Blue Service Uniform marched into the south end zone during the playing of the USF Fight Song. This was a most impressive addition to the game and based on its warm reception by game attendees, is becoming an annual tradition. **GEN Joseph Votel**, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, was in attendance and after the coin toss, walked over to the student section to meet and shake hands with many of the ROTC students.

CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarships

During one of the Military Appreciation Football game timeouts, this year's recipients of the **CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarship** were recognized on the field along with John and Cynthia Harper, who set up the scholarship in memory of their son-in-law, CPT Jason Holbrook.

This year's recipients are: Army: Cadets **Cynthia Perez** and **Patrick Ries**; Naval: Midshipmen **Nicholas Friscia** and **Kelly Wise** and; Air Force: Cadets **Chad Black** and **Alexander Zima**. They attended either the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference, the U.S. Air Force Academy National Character and Leadership Symposium or the Notre Dame Naval Leadership Weekend. Each of the award recipients are selected by their respective ROTC units based on their superior performance as a cadet/midshipman, demonstrated leadership abilities and potential for assuming positions of greater responsibility both in the ROTC program and as a commissioned officer.

Military Appreciation Football Game November 1



Joint Color Guard



Award winners: Cadets **Cynthia Perez** and **Patrick Ries**; Naval: **Kelly Wise** and Air Force: Cadets **Chad Black** and **Alexander Zima**.



Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) 2015

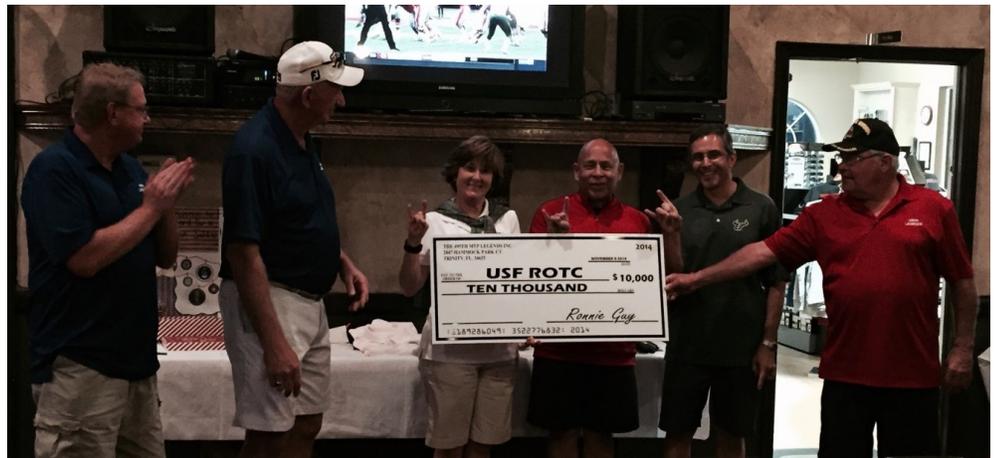


This year, the Joint Military Leadership Center, selected and sponsored, **Midshipman Eric Mederos**, as one of two USF student delegates to represent USF to this year's Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC). The JMLC Acting Executive Director, John Sarao, also attended as a Senior Advisor. This year's conference theme was "Sustainability and Sovereignty: Global Security in a Resource Constrained World". Midshipman Mederos was selected out of several very competitive candidates recommended by their respective ROTC Commanders. Conference delegates addressed 15 roundtable topics that looked at

global population growth, the enduring effects of global climate change, and increasing forms of interdependence in the quest for resource sovereignty. NAFAC is the premier undergraduate foreign affairs conference in the country. It is a unique opportunity to meet with over 120 students from prestigious universities/colleges from around the country and abroad to discuss various global issues that directly affect U.S. interests and national security. Two of the featured speakers this year were the **Honorable Dennis McGinn**, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Energy, Installations and Environment and **Admiral Gary Roughead, USN (Ret.)**, former Chief of Naval Operations. Midshipman Mederos participated in the roundtable titled, "The Final Frontier: Regulating, Policing, and Exploring Space", which explored foreseeable conflicts that may arise when companies and nations lay claim to the same celestial bodies, sovereignty of various resources and laws in space.



495th Legends Presents \$10,000 check for USF ROTC Scholarship



Ronnie Guy and fellow members of the 495th Legends, a veterans support organization, have been active over the last few years in conducting several golf tournaments each year to raise money in support of veterans and a scholarship fund for USF ROTC students. At this year's Veterans Day Golf Tournament held on 8 November at Silverado Golf and Country Club, the 495th Legends presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to start an endowed scholarship program in the USF Foundation. Ronnie presented the check to **MG Luis Visot**, USAR, his wife, **Cindy**, and John Sarao of the Joint Military Leadership Center. Once the endowment is fully established, the scholarship fund will be managed by the Joint Military Leadership Center in coordination with the USF ROTC programs.

BG Frank Lissner, Coalition Chairman Visit



The new Coalition Chairman at U.S. Central Command and the Senior National Representative of Denmark, BG Frank Lissner, visited the Tampa campus on Friday, 13 March. He was hosted by the Joint Military Leadership Center. During his visit, he toured C.W. Bill Young Hall and then participated in the Army ROTC Leadership Seminar for the senior cadets. General Lissner gave a short presentation that covered some of the history and a big picture view of Denmark, the role of the Coalition at U.S. Central Command and leadership. The cadets and cadre of the Army ROTC were thrilled to have a senior officer from a coalition partner nation speak to them and enjoyed interacting with General Lissner during an extensive Q & A session with him.

Tampa Council Presents Marine Corp Officer's Sword to USF NROTC Honor Graduates

The Navy League Tampa Council President presented the University of South Florida's Naval ROTC Unit Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Honor Graduates **2ndLt William Bryan, Jr.**, and **2ndLt Axel Persaud**, respectively, with a U.S. Marine Corps officer sword. Both were selected as Honor Graduates based on their outstanding performance within the Buccaneer Battalion in leadership, academics, physical training, and overall professional performance. Lt Bryan is a native of Bradenton, Florida, and graduated from the University of Tampa with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. Lt Persaud is a native of South Brunswick, NJ and graduated from USF with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Both will be assigned as Student Naval Aviators upon completion of The Basic School at Quantico, VA. The Tampa Council Navy League annually sponsors the purchase of two commissioned officer (Navy or USMC) swords and presents them to the USF Naval ROTC unit's Honor Graduates at an appropriate ceremony at the end of the academic semester.



Joint Field Day, Saturday October 18

To promote cross-service camaraderie among the three ROTC programs in a recreational environment, the fall semester Joint Liaison Officers (LNOs) led by Cadet April Ostoski of the Air Force ROTC, planned and conducted another successful Joint Field Day. A variety of sports were played – football, soccer, and kickball teams were comprised of a mixed group of ROTC students and not based on service affiliation to promote “jointness”. Overall, Joint Field Day was a fun outing for those who participated while providing a unique experience for the ROTC students who planned and executed the event. The Joint Liaisons (or JMLC Representatives as they may be referred to) are the ROTC student of each service ROTC program that are tasked to coordinate all joint activities for that academic semester and work with the Joint Military Leadership Center in a variety of areas.



THE SUNCOAST BATTALION IN ACTION

ROTC Suncoast Battalion Competes in Ranger Challenge 2015

February 18, 2015

The Army ROTC Suncoast Battalion Ranger Challenge Team, comprised of cadets from Saint Leo University and the University of South Florida ROTC programs, annually competes in the Ranger Challenge event. The group competed in a series of challenges to test its military skills, physical fitness, critical thinking, and teamwork.



The two-day competition was held January 22-25 at Camp Blanding, FL (near Starke). Top cadets from the southeast including Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico competed. Thirty-nine universities and 56 teams participated in eight events such as a 28-mile foot march, rifle marksmanship, a hand grenade assault course, a land navigation course, a patrol boat race, an obstacle course, a river crossing, and a commander's challenge. All events were timed and graded by active duty military members.

This year, with their two teams, the Suncoast Battalion placed second and 17th respectively. They placed first in the ruck march, marksmanship, and zodiac (boating) events. Between the two teams they combined for 10 Top 10 finishes in the respective events.

ROTC cadets representing Saint Leo University in the Ranger Challenge 2015 were:

CPT. Cadet Jereme Johnston

Cadet Matthew Basin

Cadet Ryan Hart

Cadet Robert Hickman

Cadet Gregory Nobles

Cadet James Swonger

Cadet Katie Thurwanger

Cadet Stephanie Torres

Cadet Cody Walker



The coach/mentor was Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Marschewski.

ARMY ROTC

Captain Jason Holbrook
Memorial Leadership Award
By: Cadet Lecuyer



The **Captain Jason Ellis Holbrook Memorial Leadership Award** was established to help benefit a student in the USF ROTC program who has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and this scholarship is given to a USF ROTC student from each service. It helps support student attendance at a nationally recognized annual Leadership Conference held at one of the service academies or another prestigious civilian university.

One out of the two Cadets that earned this scholarship this year was **Cadet Cynthia Perez**. Cadet Perez is currently a MSIII in the Army ROTC program. She was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas and moved to Florida shortly there after when she turned seven. Cadet Perez is involved in many extra curricular activities outside of AROTC. She is a member of the Latin American Student Association, a Bible study co leader for the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship chapter at USF and a sister of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Cadet Perez is currently an Exercise Science Major and is maintaining a 3.6 average GPA.

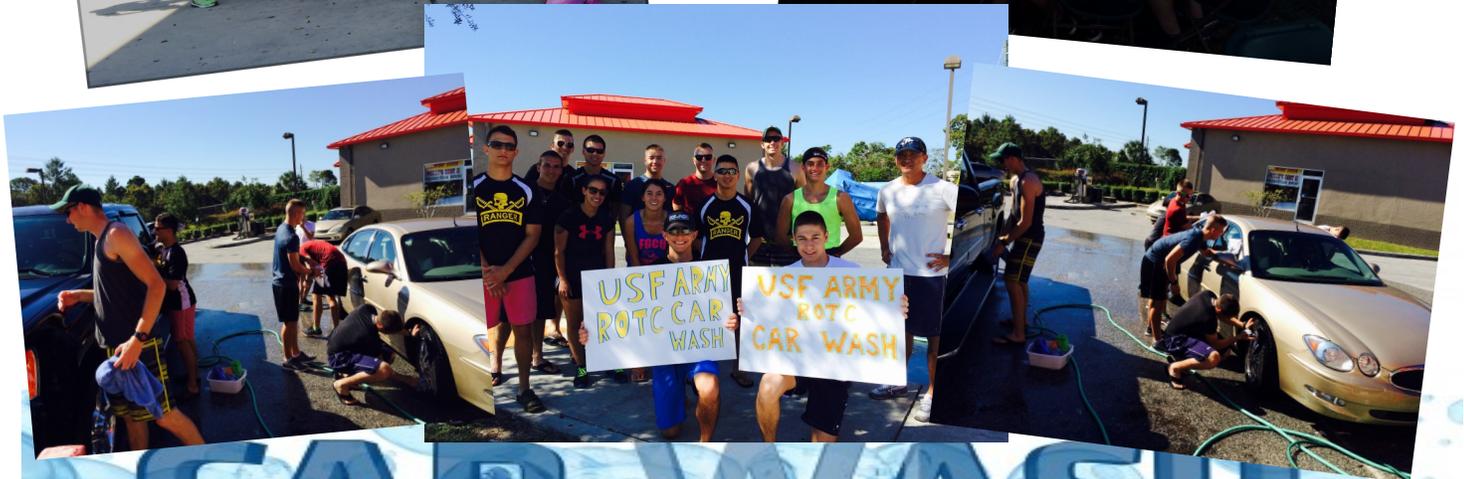
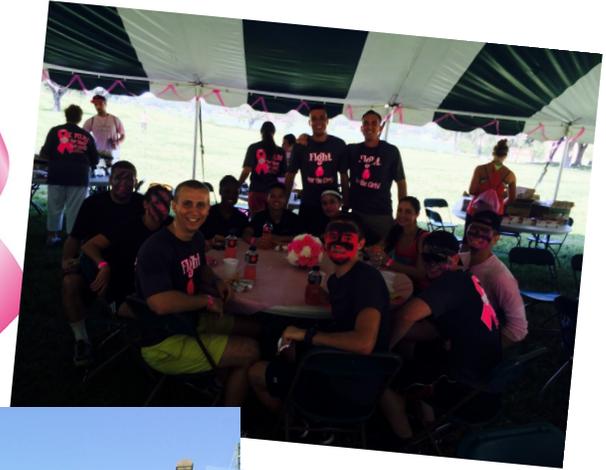
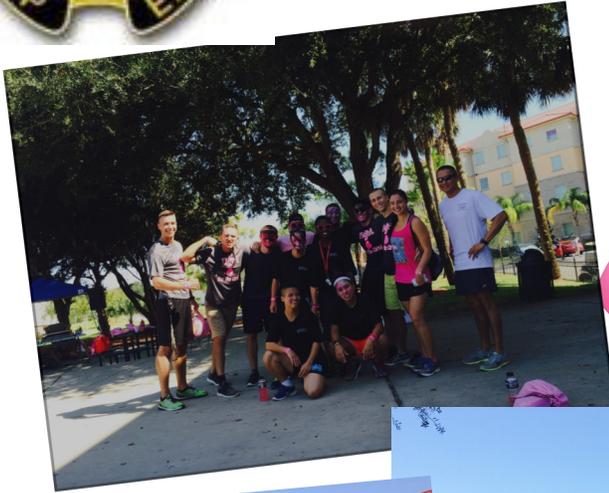
Cadet Perez is still deciding whether or not she wants to compete for active duty or serve her contract in the reserve component, but would be happy regardless of the outcome. "Without the love and support from my family, all of my accomplishments and future goals would be nonexistent. My family is my backbone and I am so thankful for them" – Cadet Cynthia Perez.

The other Cadet that earned this scholarship this year was **Cadet Patrick Ries**. Cadet Ries is currently a MSIII in the Army ROTC program and is originally from the Tampa area. As an International Studies major, Cadet Ries likes to spend his free time with his family. He chose the Army as a career to serve his country to show his gratitude to the opportunities his family and himself were given living in America. Cadet Ries decided to attend University of South Florida because it was close to home and he was given an academic scholarship to help pay for school.

Although he hasn't fully decided whether he wants to compete for an active duty slot or serve his time in the reserve component, he will be more than content serving his country in anyway he can. Cadet Ries does an exemplary job conducting his duties and responsibilities as an USF Army ROTC cadet. He continues to excel in academics, leadership, and physical fitness.



ARMY ROTC IN ACTION



CAR WASH

FOND FAREWELL



We bid farewell to **LTC Alexander Espinosa**, the Professor of Military Science, USF Army ROTC, who will be retiring after 24 years of active duty service. LTC Espinosa has been at USF for three years and has overseen a vast transformation in the Army ROTC curriculum and the transition of many personnel assigned as cadre while exceeding his commissioning goals every year. He will be greatly missed by all here at USF for his dedication, professionalism and enthusiastic spirit!



NAVAL ROTC

Spring Commissioning 2015



University of Tampa and Clearwater Christian graduates.



University of South Florida graduates.

Throughout their four years here in the Buccaneer Battalion, these seventeen men and women have overcome obstacles within their personal lives, taken on larger course loads than the average student here at USF while still having to maintain exceptional grades, volunteered countless times within the community, and woken up every week at 4am for physical training so as to continue to maintain their health and physical fitness. These individuals have stood out among the average student at USF by defining themselves as leaders and having answered the call to serve their nation in the Navy and Marine Corps. On behalf of the USF Naval ROTC unit, we truly wish these individuals all the best on their future endeavors within the Navy and Marine Corps. Go Navy!



In two ceremonies, one on May 2, at USF and the second on May 9 at the University of Tampa the spring semester graduates of the University of South Florida's Buccaneer Battalion, commissioned as ensigns and second lieutenants into the United States Navy and Marine Corps respectively. Family, friends, and loved ones came from all over the nation to witness the monumental moment for each of these outstanding men and women.

This spring, the Midshipmen from the Buccaneer Battalion volunteered for the Special Olympics of Tampa Bay both at Armwood High School and the USF Tampa campus. Midshipmen worked one on one with participants from all around the Tampa Bay region, aiding in the different events. Participants completed multiple events including: track and field, tennis, volleyball, and softball throw. The Midshipmen helped to set up the tennis courts, where they also served as the judges for the competition. The midshipmen also were in charge of the track events where they kept time and organized several groups of runners. With the help of the midshipmen all the events ran smoothly and the participants enjoyed a great day of physical activity. After the completion of the events the Buccaneer Battalion Midshipmen aided in the tear down process removing trash and debris from the competition area. Overall the volunteers and the participants had a great time at the Special Olympics of Tampa Bay and



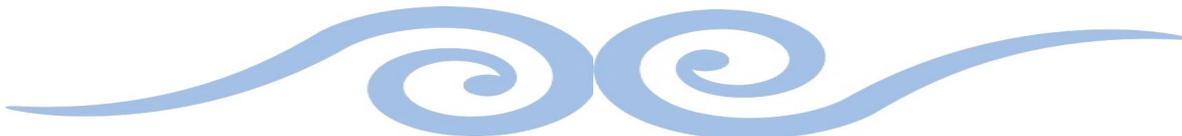
Midshipmen from the Buccaneer Battalion volunteered at the Trinity Café in Tampa. Trinity Café is a place where people in need come to have free nutritious meals. Trinity café has been serving the Tampa Bay area for 14 years, providing countless meals to the less fortunate. The Midshipmen devoted themselves by serving people breakfast on a Saturday morning. Trinity Café is not a large place so they serve the people in waves, as seats open up more people come in to eat. With the help of the Midshipmen this transition was a smooth process and people were able to enjoy a great meal in good company.

Pass in Review 2015

At the completion of every semester, the University of South Florida's Buccaneer Battalion perform a long standing tradition of a pass in review ceremony. Pass in Review originally began as a way for a newly assigned commander to inspect his troops. Guest speakers and visiting officers are also invited to inspect the troops.



After weeks of practice, on Thursday afternoon, April 23, 2015, special guests of military, family, and friends gathered to watch the midshipmen march in formation inside the C.W. Bill Young Hall, as the weather was not permitting for the ceremony to be conducted outside. The midshipmen performed a series of maneuvers following the orders of their respective company commanders. The ceremony is a highly valued tradition among all those in attendance. The tradition of pass in review continues on today within the Buccaneer Battalion as a way to honor the long lines of military officers that came before them.





Air Force 158th Detachment

The Color Guard of the 158th Detachment Wing were busy this year in support of a few of the Wing's alumni who are retiring from active duty service in the U.S. Air Force. Requests were received almost one after another from the retiring officers to have the U.S. flag, usually presented at their respective retirement ceremonies, flown at the University of South Florida. These requests came directly to the Joint Military Leadership Center and then were passed to the Air Force ROTC detachment for action. The detachment then scheduled a date/time for the detachment color guard to "fly" the flag at C.W. Bill Young Hall and captured the honors on camera. The neatly folded flag, photos and a certificate for the alumni being honored were then sent to the respective duty stations of the alumni for presentation at their retirement ceremony. The alumni that were so honored this year are: **Lt Col Paul Fontaine**, USAF, class of '99; **Lt Col Frank Ruggeri**, class of '92; and **Lt Col Jessica Sullivan**, class of '92.



2015 Lime Cup Championship



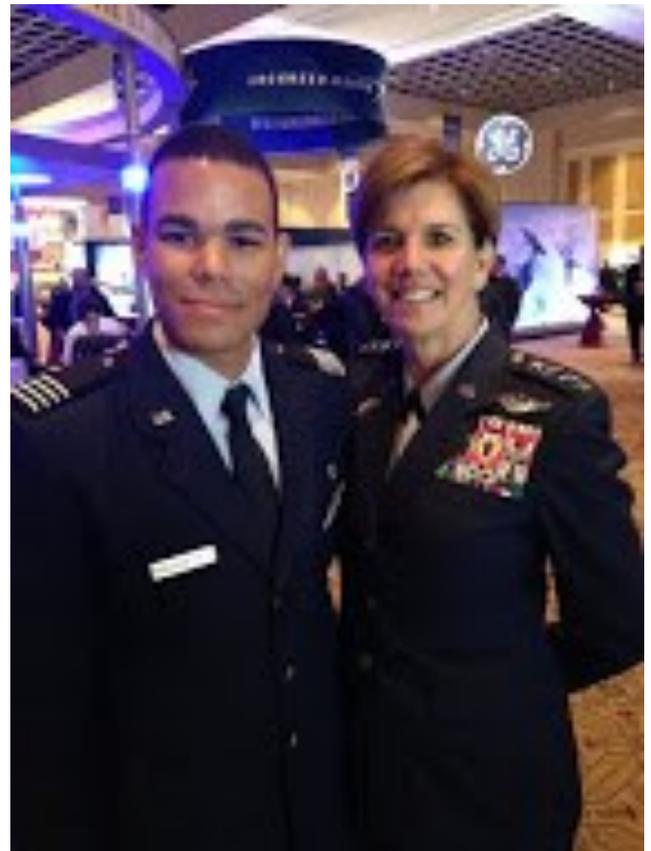
We hosted the 2015 Lime Cup Championship this year, which was a day-long athletic competition including such sports as track, soccer, football, volleyball, basketball and dodgeball.

Events participants and spectator attendees were from South Florida Det 158, University of Florida Det 150, Florida State University Det 145, University of Central Florida Det 159, Valdosta State University Det 172, University of Miami Det 155 and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Det 157.

AFA Conference



Detachment 158



United States Air Force Academy Exchange Program at USF

Spring 2015 semester marked the commencement of a ground-breaking exchange program between the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and USF, 1 of 3 universities selected nationwide to participate. Third year Academy **Cadet Matt Sprague**, an aspiring pilot candidate from Lawrenceburg, KY prevailed the selection criteria being one of three hand picked amongst 1000 junior academy cadets. Upon arrival to USF, he successfully integrated himself to the university setting and with Air Force ROTC Detachment 158, earning a 4.0 GPA through Management courses in the Muma College of Business.

When asked about similarities or differences between the two academic settings, Matt's first thoughts included the initial entry system, the intense levels at the Academy setting and university lifestyles. Vastly different methodology. In comparing the Academy and ROTC, similarities abounded with objectives but the everyday life varied. Cadet interaction outside of the military setting is a rarity at the Academy but in the ROTC-university setting, interactions occur continually amongst cadets, other military service members and non-military minded students within and outside of classrooms. Other than class schedules, daily life at the university is not regulated or controlled. Noticeable difference with ROTC is that academics is the priority, earning a degree. Learning and developing leadership and management skills, coincides but is secondary or a 'mode change' in pursuit of an Air Force commission.

The Exchange further expands program opportunities in Fall 2015. USF for the second time will host an Academy Cadet **Bjorn Nielsen**, Political Science major who will participate and fully immerse into the Air Force ROTC Detachment 158 mechanics. Detachment 158 second year **Cadet Aaron Galang** will be attending the Academy in following the essence of the Exchange Program. Cadet Galang is 1 of 6 AFROTC cadets selected nationwide to participate in this unique opportunity creating a bridge between USF and USAFA.



Spring Commissioning 2015

But the culmination of our year, and the reason our unit exists, was the commissioning of our newest USAF officers! On May 3rd, we commissioned seven officers who are going into a variety of career fields:

USAF Second Lieutenants commissioned on 3 May 2015

Name	Career Field
Frederick Alequin	Pilot, Remotely Piloted Aircraft
John Carr	Nuclear Missile Ops
Mathew Clutts	Combat Systems Operator
Jessie Erickson	Intelligence
Cody Moros	Nuclear Missile Ops
Amuru Serikyaku*	Intelligence
Meghan Wilson	Nuclear Missile Ops



Our final commissionee is Cadet Chantel Belfon who will become a 2nd Lieutenant in the nursing career field in June 2015.



2015 Military Ball



Our annual Military Ball was hosted at the University of Tampa (UT) on 17 April 2015 – this was a change from our usual location at USF and was universally praised from all in attendance. The cadets did an exceptional job coordinating and executing this extravaganza. Compared to Bulls Country, UT is a much smaller portion of our cadet population, but this just goes to show how important it is to have strong crosstown alliances to provide our cadets with a variety of experiences. The Crescent Club's picturesque setting in the Vaughn Center offered impressive views of both downtown Tampa and the UT campus.



Guest speaker **Col Juan 'Johnny A' Alvarez, USAF**, retired, was the first USN pilot selected for personal exchange program with US Special Operations Command. Col Alvarez provided a riveting presentation to attendees and is an extremely vocal and dedicated advocate and mentor for wounded warriors and their families.

The event further strengthened a strong and positive relation with our crosstown institution. It boosted unit camaraderie and amplified a greater sense of inclusion and involvement with the cadets and guests. Cadet Brautigam, a USF senior, spearheaded a team effort resulting in a flawless and awesome experience.



AIR FORCE ROTC

This year saw the arrival of our new commander, **Col James Cardoso**, who joined the detachment in July 2014 after a tour at USSOCOM, and the unexpected retirement of **Major Keith Lorenz** in November of 2014. Maj Lorenz served our detachment for 2 years and his enthusiasm and boundless energy kept the cadets highly motivated and entertained. With only two instructors for most of the fall semester, this made for a rather busy time. Fortunately, reservist **Capt Michelle Lacey** was able to join us for the spring semester teaching our sophomores, and **Lt Alexandra Hoss-Harding** took up the challenge of teaching our freshmen in addition to her recruiting duties. Their contributions to our mission were very greatly appreciated, and we're sad to see them go. Capt Lacey has already moved on to her next assignment at USSOCOM, and Lt Hoss will be reporting in to Goodfellow AFB to begin her training as an intelligence officer in June. Very shortly, two new instructors will report in: **Capt Adam Beck**, from Buckley AFB in CO, and **Maj Derek Reimer**, from Patrick AFB FL.

We also said goodbye to **TSgt Nicole Leath**, a dedicated NCO who served the detachment for 4 years. Her skills and eternally positive attitude will be deeply missed – ROTC is like nothing else in the Air Force and she was a master of all the intricacies required to make the detachment run smoothly. **SSgt Cortney Williams** has taken her place, and we're confident that she'll do an equally excellent job supporting our cadets.

Detachment 158 Update



Col James Cardoso



Major Lorenz



Capt Lacey



Lt Hoss-Harding



TSgt Leath (Bolling AFB, Washington DC) Spring 2015

THE JOINT MILITARY LEADERSHIP CENTER

About Us

The Joint Military Leadership Center (JMLC) is charged to provide the student cadets/ midshipmen and officer candidates with unique (Joint Interagency, Multinational and Multi-component) core competencies and skills in leadership development, global understanding, and security/military/defense strategies. The “end state” will be an academically-structured, research based, and values-driven program that educates, trains and prepares military Officers and Service Leaders for their leadership roles in the continuing transformation of our Armed Forces and in a dynamic and challenging global environment.

Our vision is the establishment of a premier “state of the art” ROTC Center of Excellence that educates, trains, and prepares future Armed Forces Officers to value, operate and conduct successful operations in a joint, multi-national, interagency and multi-component, and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) environment

Our Focus

Organizational Development and Oversight

- * To encourage and provide opportunities for ROTC students to interact with each other and promote esprit de corps amongst the three service ROTC programs at USF so that they are able to gain a basic understanding and appreciation of their sister services’ capabilities, limitations, and cultures
- * To continually assess and develop the organizational structures that would best serve our constituents: the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC students (cadets, officer candidates, and midshipmen) and the ROTC cadre and staff .

Cultural Awareness and Global Sensitivities

- * To facilitate and encourage ROTC students to study foreign languages and culture with emphasis on the Department of Defense’s Critical Languages as part of their academic curriculum including study abroad.
- * To provide programs and opportunities for ROTC students to learn and have greater awareness about issues of global concern and improve their overall global literacy in a wide variety of topics.
- * To implement programs that will develop a proficiency in the Cross- Cultural Competence of our ROTC students so that they are better prepared to effectively communicate with people of different languages and cultures.
- * To develop partnerships that will enhance greater cultural awareness and global sensitivities of ROTC students both within the university and external.

Program Development & Curriculum Design

- * To provide a robust and relevant speaker and seminar program in leadership development, global understanding, and National Security/military/defense strategies.
- * To develop innovative programs for ROTC students to interact with each other, representatives of each military service, Major Combatant Commands, the Department of Defense, the Interagency as well as other students and professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- * To support and encourage ROTC student participation in various Leadership and National Security related conferences at the service academies and other colleges/universities nationwide.
- * To communicate with the three ROTC Cadet Commands, in order to determine the feasibility of systematically enhancing the current pre-commissioning curriculum requirements.

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or the Joint Military Leadership Center or if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Lori Matthews at lorimatthews@usf.edu or call 4-2615.