

USF BUCCANEER BATTALION FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER



The mission of the NROTC Program is to develop young men and women morally, mentally, and physically, and to instill in them the highest ideals of honor, courage, and commitment. The program educates and trains these individuals for leadership positions in an increasingly technical Navy and Marine Corps.

The University of South Florida is a cross-town enrollment affiliate with the University of Tampa and is one of 150+ officer commissioning sources across the country. Selected applicants for the program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process and receive full tuition and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities.

Ultimately, the NROTC program commissions college graduates as Navy or Marine Corps officers who possess a basic professional knowledge and understanding for the leadership skills required for the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

The Buccaneer Battalion strives to motivate members of the unit to become

knowledgeable and humble future leaders. Through hard work and dedication, both within the unit and in the local community, this goal was again accomplished during the fall 2018 semester.

A typical semester for members of the Buccaneer Battalion entails balancing 15 to 18 credit hours of school work with a rigorous physical training plan, community service hours, and fundraising initiatives. While it requires hard work and persistence, the payoff is quite evident through events that will be showcased in this edition of the battalion newsletter.



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COMMISIONING CEREMONIES



On 8 December, four newly commissioned officers entered the fleet. Pictured to the left are (from left to right):

*Second Lieutenant Chazz Peters
Second Lieutenant Jose Arroyo
Second Lieutenant William Buxton
Ensign Jorge Chavez*

The three second lieutenants received their commission through the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) and will move on to The Basic School in Quantico, VA. Ensign Chavez commissioned through Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP) and will be a nurse stationed at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA.



Above, Second Lieutenant Peters takes the U.S. Uniformed Services Oath of Office, led by Brigadier General Thomas V. Draude, USMC (Ret.).



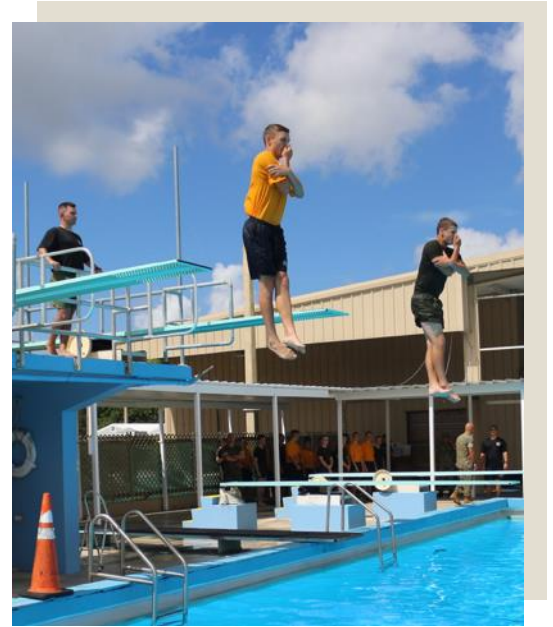
On 28 December, the Buccaneer Battalion commissioned ENS Justin Lambeth (pictured above), a geological sciences major. As a pilot select, ENS Lambeth will report to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida for flight school as a student naval aviator.

Pictured to the left is Lieutenant Colonel William P. Carroll, USMC (Ret.), who shared wise words with these gentlemen.



"Lead with positivity, be humble, and continue to be yourself because look at how far it has gotten you this far."

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



Naval ROTC Freshman Orientation is held the week prior to the beginning of USF's school year. Its purpose is to indoctrinate incoming Midshipmen with the basics of military professionalism, physical fitness, and how to succeed in the Naval ROTC program. It should be stressed that Orientation is not a military "boot camp", but an opportunity to transition incoming freshman to the NROTC lifestyle as well as ensure all administrative work and uniforms are taken care of. For most, this is the first taste of military life and they are forced to learn quickly; in only a few days, the Orientation Staff arranges for a variety of fulfilling activities for participants. Through a combination of classroom instruction, team building activities, and personal attention from upper-class Midshipmen, each freshman is challenged to achieve his or her potential.



NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAYS



This year, the United States Navy and Marine Corps celebrated their 243rd birthday, a long and proud history made by sailors and Marines who fought with honor, courage, and commitment.

Per tradition, Commanding Officer Captain John R. Schmidt cut the cake and gave the first piece to Colonel Kenneth DeTreu, USMC (Ret.), the most senior Marine present. He then shared it with the most junior member of the battalion, MIDN 4/C Michael Early. The tradition is said to represent the passing of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next.



In addition to cutting the cake, members of the battalion honored many other naval traditions, such as rendering a sword salute and presenting the colors. The night was filled with pride and excitement to be a part of such an exceptional organization.

Colonel DeTreu (pictured to the left on the right of CAPT Schmidt) helped us in celebrating the Navy and Marine Corps by sharing many wise, motivating words that reflected the spirit of the night.



BATTALION ACTIVITIES



All ROTC branches (Navy, Army, and Air Force) at the University of South Florida joined together on 11 September in a campus run to pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives as well as the heroic acts of those who responded to the tragic events of this day.

Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference



A lucky few members of the Buccaneer Battalion got to experience this conference at the Orlando Convention Center.

This is the world's largest modeling, simulation, and training conference which displays exhibits such as Computer-Based 3D graphics, Flight Simulators, Convoy Trainers, Information Technology, Aerospace, Public Safety and many more.

By the end of the day, everyone had a greater admiration for the aviation community and a few leaned closer to the prospect of becoming a Navy pilot.



Halloween celebrations included clever costumes, a 1.5 mile run, and a game of dodgeball. Later on, the battalion enjoyed a beautiful day at Lettuce Lake Park playing football and classic outdoor games. Nothing like an egg carry or dizzy bat race to bring out the competitive nature within the members of the Buccaneer Battalion.

PANELS AND GUEST SPEAKERS

On 9 October, an enlisted panel came and spoke to our battalion about many things related to our future careers as officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps. These gentlemen were able to touch on the relationship between officers and enlisted personnel, the characteristics which they look for in officers they work alongside, and what to avoid doing as a brand new Ensign or Second Lieutenant.



Above, pictured on the left are (from left to right), Gunnery Sergeant Shane Makary, Gunnery Sergeant Travis Magofna, Sergeant Major William Thurber, Gunnery Sergeant Tousnel Renaud, and HMC Gerail Woodall.

In addition to the wholesome conversation which we had with these gentlemen, our battalion also hosted a discussion panel with Major Matthew McNerney and Chief Warrant Officer Andre Soltan (pictured on the right). These gentlemen were able to offer advice on, among many other things, balancing personal life with their work responsibilities and on adapting to the ever-changing culture of the military.

Both discussion panels were extremely thorough, productive, and successful in helping to answer a lot of the questions that we have as midshipmen.



Lastly, on 8 November, Commander Peter D. Berardi, USN (retired) spoke to our battalion at Veterans Memorial Park. He offered advice to our battalion that was learned from 20+ years of experience in the Navy and with the SEAL teams. He emphasized that leaders must engage with, invest in, and provide opportunities to their subordinates, and the rest will fall into place.

The Buccaneer Battalion cannot express enough how grateful we are to have had time to speak with such exceptional officers and Marines.

DRILL COMPETITION AND HOMECOMING PARADE



Alpha and Bravo Company went head-to-head in a drill competition. Each company was tested on their knowledge and ability to execute basic drill movements, but ultimately, their performance would lie with the company commander who ordered their movement. MIDN 1/C Manns led Bravo Company to victory with a lead of 25 points over MIDN 1/C Carney, Alpha Company Commander.



Then, on 19 October, the Buccaneer Battalion, led by our commanding officer MIDN 1/C Walker and our executive officer MIDN 1/C Stringer (pictured to the left), proudly marched in the homecoming parade to celebrate the end of homecoming week. Naval ROTC followed behind the Joint Color Guard and the Army and Air Force ROTC units at the University of South Florida.

The formations were greeted warmly by the crowds of university students, faculty, staff, alumni and family along the campus parade route.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Twelve of our midshipmen volunteered their time for “ROMPing” at the Hillsborough County Pet Resource Center. ROMP is a program that the pet resource center has implemented to ensure all animals at the shelter “receive outdoor meaningful play.” Statistics show that just twenty minutes of play can relieve the animal’s stress for up to three days. At the end of our day there, the center was thanking us for what we did for the dogs, but it was us who were thankful for what the dogs did for us!



The battalion also helped to inspect, sort, and package food and household products with the Feeding America network, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

Members of our battalion got their hands dirty at Hope Children's Home and built a fence for their property. Founded in 1968, Hope Children’s Home has rescued nearly 5,000 children, infant to 18 years of age. Most of these children have been discarded, abused, unwanted, or orphaned although some have simply come out of a situation where their parent just needed help.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



Second Lieutenant Sajous (pictured above) was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (NCM).

The NCM is a decoration presented by the Department of the Navy to service members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps who have performed an exceedingly heroic act, exceptional achievement, or commendable service that has not been recognized by a higher award.



Pictured below is Gunnery Sergeant Jordan with family and friends at his promotion ceremony on 1 November 2018.



Captain John Schmidt recognized Staff Sergeant Arroyo, now a Second Lieutenant (left), and Sergeant Cranston (right) for achieving a perfect score (300 points) on the Marine Corps Combat Fitness Test (CFT).

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



MIDN 1/C Mario Reyes-Munoz (right) and **MIDN 2/C Alex Birchler** (left) were selected into the nuclear community! These midshipmen went through an extensive selection process.

MIDN 2/C Birchler describes, "I had to fill out an application that included the grades in every technical/engineering class we have taken and, after being selected for an interview, we traveled to D.C. While here, we completed two hour-long technical interviews and also an interview with the director of naval reactors, ADM Caldwell. It's like applying for an entry-level position in a company and interviewing with the CEO. Acceptance included a spot at nuclear power school and a \$15,000 bonus."



MIDN 3/C Jonah Strake
Alpha Company
Battalion Member of the Month



MIDN 2/C Reilly Maxwell
Recipient of the Captain Jason Holbrook
Memorial Leadership Scholarship



MIDN 3/C Anna Phillips
Bravo Company
Battalion Member of the Month

LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER ALLEN REED



The Buccaneer Battalion wants to pay tribute to Lieutenant Christopher Allen Reed who succumbed to cancer on 30 October, 2018. LT Reed was a 2010 graduate of Naval ROTC at the University of South Florida who commissioned as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer.

Lieutenant Christopher Allen Reed will be laid to rest with Full Honors in Arlington National Cemetery, May 3, 2019. Our prayers and sympathy are with his family and friends.





Buccaneer Battalion, University of South Florida

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/naval-rotc/>

Or call (813)-974-4789.

Find us on Facebook:

"USF Buccaneer Battalion NROTC"

Visit us on campus at:

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DONATIONS

If you're interested in donating to our
foundation account, please visit:
giving.usf.edu.

Account Number: 600044

Questions? Call: 813-974-7962

Or make checks payable to:

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And mail to:

4202 East Fowler Avenue

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