



USF CLASS OF 2015-2016 AT VETERAN'S APPRECIATION GAME

University of South Florida

2015 - 2016

Buccaneer Battalion

NROTC

5 DECEMBER 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Sail into the New Year!

In this edition, we'll not only venture into the experiences that each midshipmen underwent this summer during their training sessions, but highlight many of the volunteer events Buccaneer Battalion participated in to give back to the Tampa community, and expound on what many of the duties are for each midshipman attending here at the University of South Florida.

The mission of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) is to develop midshipmen mentally, morally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty and loyalty, and with the core values of honor, courage, and commitment in order to commission college graduates as naval officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward

careers in the naval service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.

As one of the 150+ universities across the country to commission some of the greatest leaders of the United States' Navy and Marine Corps, University of South Florida's Buccaneer Battalion holds great pride in the work that is accomplished throughout this organization. As such, it is one of the goals of this establishment to share with current members and affiliates, as well as alumni, many of the events these motivated midshipmen choose to volunteer and participate in to recognize their efforts. The greatest teams are only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore, Buccaneer Battalion wishes to inspire each and every midshipman to constantly be the best individual that he/she can be, wearing the uniform or not. This is one ideal that hopefully every midshipman will carry with them out into the fleet.



Summer Cruise Experiences

Every summer, Buccaneer Battalion's midshipmen have the wonderful opportunity to explore worldwide what the "Big Navy and Marine Corps." has to offer. Here's a look into their personal accounts of their experiences.

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Freshmen Orientation

The school year starts off with an intense 3-day session of preparing the incoming freshmen with the NROTC midshipman mindset through physical training and drill sessions. age 5

CORTRAMID

By MIDN 3/C Sean Conners
Marine Option

CORTRAMID, or Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen, is a tremendous experience that every Fourth-Class (4/C) Midshipman (MIDN) should look forward to at the end of their first year. From shooting the general-purpose machine gun—M240B—down the shooting range, to riding a Sierra helicopter into the sky, or meeting Junior Officers (JOs) who inspired me with their experiences and humorous misadventures, CORTRAMID will be a month that I will never forget. Marine Week was the best week—there might be a slight bias—because I not only got to shoot a .50 caliber Special Application Scoped Rifle (SASR), M4 carbine, and ride in an Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV), I also met infantry Marines that loved what their job encompassed and had an abundant amount of knowledge to pass on. Aviation, Surface Warfare, and submarine week did not fall short of Marine week either. Whether it was personally controlling the joystick of a T-34 or staying awake for 24 hours on a submarine, every moment was unforgettable.

My experiences as a Marine Option MIDN were probably very similar to the Navy Option MIDN. While being at CORTRAMID, it was less about being a Marine or Navy Option but more about everyone transitioning to a rising 3/C midshipman with a variety of experiences brought from their unit.

If there was one particular moment that stood out to me, it had to be when the Commander of a helicopter squadron spoke to us. He spoke of one very important thing: genuine care. When subordinates can sense sincere care and concern from their leader, they tend to have a greater acceptance of his flaws because they understand he is a considerate and attentive individual to his men. If he fights for us, we will fight for him. There is nothing more than I want as an inspiring officer than for my men to follow me.



GETTING "GASSY"!

Pictured to the right is MIDN Conners with another midshipman partially dressed in protective suits right before they headed off into the gas chamber filled with CS gas, a commonly-used riot control agent.

LOCATION: CAMP PENDLETON



Mountain Warfare School

by MIDN 2/C Alexander Vrontas
Marine Option

I expected Mountain Warfare School to be both physically and mentally challenging, and upon my arrival to Bridgeport, CA, I realized that my expectations would soon come to fruition. The Assistant Marine Officer Instructor's (AMOI) staffing our training experience decided the ten-day training would be conducted to prepare midshipmen for Officer Candidate School (OCS). By analyzing my and others' leadership styles under significant stress, I was able to discern which tactics worked better [than others]. The training demanded physical strength and mental fortitude as the candidates negotiated the terrain that

would lead us to elevations of 11,000 feet through the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

If there was one moment that will stick with me from this training, it would be the Q&A [session] with our Lieutenant Colonel. On this particular day he said, "As soon as you understand that no one cares how much pain you're in, you will succeed."

2/C Enlisted Cruise

by MIDN 2/C Winter Harbison
Navy Option

The time I've experienced with the enlisted crew of the USS New Orleans has greatly deepened my desire to become a Naval Officer. Within the past 30 days, I've realized that all of my expectations for this cruise were surpassed mainly because of the people I've met. Learning about life on a ship through textbooks and word of mouth is barely reaching the full experience of what life on a ship means until you actually get to immerse yourself in the work, environment, and culture your shipmates are living in. Through daily association with the crew and sailors, I've also realized that the value of teamwork becomes imperative when you realize how much you don't know. Each individual is depending on the others to know their job thoroughly and execute it well, but there is also an unspoken expectation to help each other be successful. You'll begin to see how each person is there to help you just as much as you are there to help them.

The piece of advice that was given to me was, "You get what you put in". Even if SWO [Surface Warfare Officer] is not your first choice, invest your time with the crew of the ship and allow them to teach you, whether you know it or not. The beauty of this cruise is the expectation to simply expose yourself to the known and unknown. There are sailors who are entirely eager to share everything they know, whether it's about their job or their personal lives. They even might share their snacks or music with you if you're nice enough (two important sources of entertainment on the ship).

While underway, all the lights are off in the Combat Information Center (CIC). However, I never thought that the CIC could be so bright the moment my running mate's division was huddled next to the 1MC listening to the Chief select announcements. Two of the OS1's were selected for Chief while an OS3 made *Junior Sailor of the Quarter*. There was so much celebration and cheering from the DivO [Division Officer] to the most junior sailor in the room, I instantly thought how the group resembled a giant family. They genuinely cared for each other through each of their successes and failures, which is what I am seeking to be a part of. It was definitely one of the more humanized impressions the Navy has given me thus far.

1/C Nursing Cruise

by MIDN 1/C Carlos Robles
Navy Option

This summer, I checked-in at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda (WRNMMCB) for my 1/C cruise. For those of you who may not know, Nursing Option midshipmen typically go to a naval hospital to complete their 1/C cruise. This is done in order to get you familiar with Navy medicine in general. This particular facility is the largest joint medical center (Navy-Army), is the flag ship in military medicine, and is the President's hospital. Under the supervision of a Nurse Corps officer, I was able to administer care to a group of patients, delegate care to corpsmen and teach them essential clinical skills and nursing knowledge. The patient population obviously differed from the civilian world. Generally I cared for active duty, dependent, retired personnel and their dependents—unique to this facility—and VIPs (POTUS, > O-6, Senators, Congressmen, Senators and their families). I worked alongside members of both Army/Navy Nurse Corps and I was able to learn a lot about being a nurse, but even more about being a Nurse Corps Officer. These were valuable interactions because it helped paint the picture of career possibilities, much like when other midshipmen are able to interact with a Nuke Officer or a SWO. It is even more valuable because NROTC has far fewer resources dedicated to educate and help grow the Nursing Options.

Aside from the clinical aspects of my cruise, we were given the opportunity to participate in the Honor Flight. The honor flight was established to bring WWII veterans from all over the country to Washington, D.C. to see their monument, and I was paired with was Master Navy Bugler Rodger Peddle. Mr. Peddle is 92 years-old and served three years in the navy all during the war. When we visited the WWII monument, his sister and nephew came by to see him, which made the whole ordeal more special. Being with someone who experienced things we can only read in textbooks was very surreal. We continued the day and it was great to have been a small part of his long journey. This will be an experience I won't soon forget.

SNEAK PEEKS OF SUMMER FUN



Chill and Grill

MIDN Harbison [Right] holding a pair of tongs is seen posing with MIDN Sutton of Texas A&M University of Galveston [Left]. They helped grill 150 racks of ribs and chicken at a Steel Beach Picnic on the flight deck of USS New Orleans (LPD-18) after a 3-day assessment held by INSURV [Board of Inspection and Survey].



Joint-Military Effort!

MIDN 1/C Carlos Robles [Left] is pictured with USF alumni Army 1st Lieutenant Manson [Right].



Honor Flight

MIDN Robles, along with a few other fellow midshipmen, are ready to receive World War II veterans from the airport in order to transport them to memorials dedicated to them in Washington D.C.

Officer Candidate School

by MIDN 1/C Kelly Wise
Marine Option



In addition to the entirely-male first increment and an estimated 200 males who graduated the second increment, only 33 females graduated Officer Candidate School (OCS) for the PLC/NROTC combined course this summer. Females are put in an all-female platoon, and do much of the training and evaluation within the platoon. However, events such as the Montford Point Challenge and Field Day incorporate activity amongst both genders, with the intentions of developing camaraderie and teamwork.

The most challenging aspect did not pertain to my interaction with either the males or females, but was rather an individual test. The Endurance Course begins with the Obstacle Course, after which candidates grab an LBV [Load Bearing Vest] with two full canteens and their rifle, and head off down a mildly hilly trail. Along the three-mile route are

obstacles that include under-over logs, barbed wire-topped trenches, water obstacles, and a cargo net.

After failing the E-Course by seconds on both the practice and the graded event, I was given another chance to run the course. I was not going to let eight seconds prevent me from becoming a Marine. During the course I prayed for strength, thought of those who had helped me on my journey, and thought about the Marines who came before me and ran that very path. This motivation allowed me to pass the E-Course with minutes to spare.

I am very blessed to have a strong support system of many individuals who helped me along the way, and with their guidance I was able to achieve something that seemed unobtainable when I first became a Midshipman.

MIDN Wise [pictured in the front] acting as Fire Team Leader during Small Unit Leadership Evaluation (SULE) posting as security for casualties/the injured.

USF vs. UCF Volleyball Tournament

Veteran's Appreciation Game



MECEP SSgt Bailey was selected as an honoree during a volleyball match between USF and UCF on 4 November, 2015 in the Sun Dome. The home game honored currently-serving and retired veterans as part of Veteran's Day in November.



Freshmen Orientation 2015

Before the beginning of every school year, University of South Florida's Buccaneer Battalion hosts a three-day, arduous journey known as Freshmen Orientation, in order to help incoming 4/C Midshipmen acclimate to the rigorous schedule accompanied by the start of the school year. The goal is to instill good order and discipline, motivation, and habit of physical activity through repetition, physical training (PT), and drill. This year's Freshmen Orientation was ultimately a major success, with a total of 27 freshmen successfully completing training: 26 males and 1 female.



Throughout the course of the training process, key events helped instructors evaluate progression of the incoming freshmen, including the Physical Readiness Test (PRT), drill, Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), and swim qualifications.

Physical Readiness Test (PRT)

The PRT is a three-portion physical exam consisting of curl-ups, push-ups, and a 1.5-mile run.



Drill

Drill primarily took place in the school gymnasium, where basic drill positions such as *Attention*, *Right/Left Face*, and *Parade Rest* were taught.



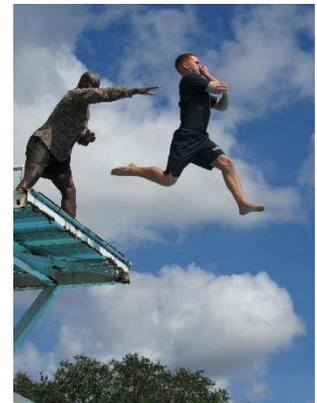
Leadership Reaction Course (LRC)

The LRC, taken place on the USF Fitness Trail on campus, was an approximated four hour-long course designed to test the leadership characteristics of each midshipman when assigned a difficult task. With a total of four stations scattered throughout the trail, squads would rotate between each, switching the "Leader" at every station. Every switch prompted a different mission assigned to the Leader, who would then brief his/her squad with the task at hand. The instructors necessitated the completion of the mission under a certain time limit while expecting each member to successfully utilize the tools given to them (ammo cans, wooden boards, long ropes, etc.), and to also meet the restrictions and limitations prompted by each mission.



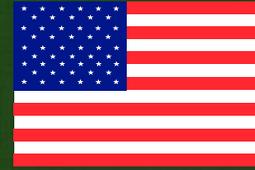
Swim Qualification

The swim qualifications involved transporting the incoming 4/C MIDN to the nearest pool facility to earn their 3rd-class "swim qual" and 2nd-class "swim qual."



Characteristics of each class included jumping from a 20-ft. diving board while maintaining proper form, surfacing using the appropriate technique, demonstrating accurate knowledge of the butterfly, side, and backstroke, as well as holding the Dead Man's Float for a certain period of time. The midshipmen were under constant supervision at all times.

Color Guard Events



The first color guard of the semester: MIDN 3/C Brandi Vance, MIDN 2/C Gabriel Rodriguez, MIDN 3/C Sean Conners, MIDN 3/C Katelyn Sleeter, and MIDN 3/C Apearre Ao conduct a color guard for the first home game of the season for University of South Florida's football team at Raymond James Stadium.



Members from all branches of ROTC at USF participated in a Homecoming Color Guard: MS3 Dugo, MS3 Cottrell, MS3 Yarbough, MIDN 1/C Varicak, MIDN 3/C Sleeter, AS200 Kirk, and MIDN 3/C Vance.

For more information or pictures about USF NROTC, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/USF-Buccaneer-Battalion-NROTC-43734394974/?fref=ts> or [USF_NROTC](#) on Instagram and follow us!



Community Service and Fundraising Opportunities

This semester, USF Buccaneer Battalion has strived to increase participation in volunteer service throughout the community and fundraising opportunities for the battalion, in the hopes of successfully giving back to those who have supported our unit, the school, and the surrounding communities. With a plethora of new opportunities rearranged by our temporary Community Service and Fundraising Officers, we were able to participate in a great number of volunteer opportunities—with at least three of them being all-day events—and a multitude of fundraising opportunities.



FEEDING AMERICA TAMPA BAY

The goal of this event was to inspect, categorize, and package as much food items as possible to be distributed to the Tampa Bay community. The 24-hour Sort-a-Thon was a huge success, distributing over 60,000+ lbs of food total, and 14,000+ lbs sorted and packaged in our shift alone. Go Bulls!

KABOOM PLAYGROUND BUILDING PROJECT

Hosted by the same organization as Day of Inspiration, Battalion decided to help out a day-long project involving the children at Rotary's Camp Florida, a camp serving over 3,000



members of the USF Buccaneer construction of a playground for children with special needs yearly.



FIT4TRUTH: DAY OF INSPIRATION

Fit4Truth, a non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding and supporting the lives of at-risk adolescents and children, is led by Beau Blouin and hosted a day-long event known as Day of Inspiration. Finney's Tiger-Rock Martial Arts, Way of Life Bootcamp, the local K9 Unit, and multiple other organizations along with USF's NROTC unit contributed to being mentors and support structures for the children.

The event gained local news coverage and was a great success in promoting National Adoption Awareness Month for the month of November.



Battalion Functions

This semester, the focus has also drastically increased on camaraderie amongst the Battalion. Fostering companionship among members of the same organization not only provides a comfortable environment for all those involved, but boosts morale and promotes productiveness and conscientiousness.

9/11 Joint-Unit Run



To start the year off with great pride and motivation, a joint-military, campus run was conducted between all branches of the ROTC's offered at the school—Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force—in commemoration of September 11, 2001. The run was conducted on campus grounds, with each service chanting and repeating their respective cadences until the training session ended back on USF track.

Travis Manion Foundation Run



In another event supporting those who have experienced or witnessed 9/11, members of the Buccaneer Battalion, even including our Commanding Officer CAPT Ipock and Marine Officer Instructor Capt. Thomas, participated in a 5K run early in the morning, earning several awards. It was a wonderful opportunity for all, and the support shown for this event was outstanding.

Back-In-The-Saddle (BITS) Brief After-Party



After a four-hour-long GMT brief with the entire Battalion reunited, many members from the unit spent a few more hours socializing in the sun! Delivered pizza and homemade appetizers were contributed by various Midshipmen, and activities such as table pool, television for the USF vs. Maryland football game, and outdoor pool were available.



"O-Course" at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University



Bravo Company decided to switch things up a bit this semester by taking all Marine Options to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University to run through the Obstacle Course [O-Course] in order to gain familiarity of this course for OCS. Not only did our Marine Options gain much needed practice during this all-day event, but the Midshipmen were accompanied by MOI, Captain Thomas, and four MECEPs: SSgt Bailey, SSgt Belleci, SSgt Lopez, and SSgt Williams.

Halloween Run!



Here was yet another opportunity to incorporate some PT into an upcoming holiday! Buccaneer Battalion members were extremely enthusiastic as Midshipmen dressed up anywhere from animals to horror movie characters to members of different branch of services. Dressed in bulky, stuffy, or simply inconvenient costumes, the battalion ran a motivating, cadence-driven two miles and finished with an extensive, yet humorous, stretching session afterwards.

USF vs. Temple Football Game – Veteran's Game



In honor of Veteran's Day on 11 NOV., 2015, the USF vs. Temple football game was dedicated to honoring past and present veterans by hosting their game as a tribute to military members. All USF ROTC branches participated in a striking display of marching out onto the field at the beginning of the game and executed it with grandeur and precision.

Education in Action



The entirety of USF's College of Education came together after a long hiatus period for a major group luncheon, with USF NROTC's Color Guard presenting the National Ensign. Starting from the left to right, the NROTC Color Guard was composed of: MIDN 4/C Eichhorn, MIDN 4/C Lambeth, MIDN 3/C Craft, MIDN 4/C Amrhein, and MIDN 4/C Barthelemy. They were escorted by Gunnery Sergeant Wilson, and posing with them in the picture above is Catherine Beaudoin, a middle school teacher selected for Teacher of the Year for the State of Florida.

Navy/Marine Corps Military Ball



The 240th Navy Marine Corps Ball at University of South Florida was a great success, with a grand display of formalities by our very own Battalion members. The event, taken place at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Tampa, FL, first proceeded through the honored traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps through presentation of the colors, a complete sword detail, a cake-cutting ceremony, honoring the fallen and missing through the POW table, and a brief message from the Battalion Commanding Officer, CNO and Commandant of the Marine Corps. The night ultimately ended with great food and dancing with friends and family, giving way to the start of another successful semester.



GO BULLS!

University of South Florida

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- Battle of the Bulls Drill Competition
- NROTC Battalion Photo
- Volunteer/Fundraising Events
- Color Guard Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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To make a donation:
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