



USF CLASS OF 2015-2016 BATTALION PHOTOGRAPH

University of South Florida 2015 - 2016 Buccaneer Battalion NROTC

5 MAY 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Semester Successes!

In this edition of the Buccaneer Battalion newsletter, our unit has the honor of announcing many events and accomplishments that have occurred during the spring semester. The vision statement, established by the upper level battalion staff, was a nod to the popular expression, "work hard, play hard." Our midshipmen have accomplished this motto with excellence. Ten seniors are on track to commission, the annual Battle of the Bulls meet went without a hitch, and midshipmen earned exceptional physical readiness/fitness scores.

The mission of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) is to develop future officers. Focusing on mental, moral and physical strength, the mission is to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty and loyalty, and with the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Ultimately, NROTC commissions 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.

The University of South Florida is one of 150+ officer commissioning sources. The Buccaneer Battalion strives to inspire each and every midshipman to constantly be the best individual that he/she can be. We hold great pride in the work that is accomplished within this organization and the local community. Seeking self-improvement is a value which is developed here and will carry us far in the fleet. As such, the goal of this newsletter is to share with current members, affiliates, and alumni, the many ways in which our midshipman have worked hard to maintain the highest standards of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Commissioning First Class
Midshipmen

Color Guard Events

Battle of the Bulls

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Commissioning Seniors

The spring commissioning class of seniors, for the summer of 2016, consists of ten First Class Midshipmen. The prestigious honor, of pinning on those gold Ensign bars, is the result of four challenging years in the NROTC program. Some began as College Programmers, while others entered as Scholarship students. However, regardless of their start and chosen platform, all of these proud men and women have accomplished the same goal, to commission. Featured to the right and below are snapshots of a few of these remarkable midshipmen.

SHIP SELECTION



Midshipman Anna Dombroski,

our very own spring 2016 Battalion Commanding Officer, selected her first ship on 23 FEB 16. Soon after, she also passed her Nuclear Officer Interview with the Admiral James F. Caldwell. As a Chemistry major from the University of Tampa, she's shown excellence in academics and physical fitness. All of her hard work and commitment has earned her a place aboard the USS Gridley (DDG 101). This ship is currently stationed in San Diego, California, but will shortly be switching ports to Everett, Washington. She has a brilliant future in the Nuclear Surface Warfare Community!

FUTURE AVIATOR



Midshipman Travis Kujawski

began in the unit as a College Program midshipman from Spring Hill, Florida. He excelled as an underclassman earn Advanced Standing in the Battalion during his junior year of college. Advanced Standing, within the Naval ROTC is extraordinarily competitive and requires outstanding grades and fitness. As an Environmental Science and Policy major, MIDN Kujawski managed to keep his grades up in this difficult field of study, while maintaining all of the other aspects required of a well-rounded midshipman.



NURSING OPTION



Midshipman Carlos Robles

came to the Buccaneer Battalion all the way from West New York, New Jersey. He is a nursing major, graduating from USF with honors and has held one of the top three billets in the battalion. MIDN Robles will be reporting to NAS Jax Hospital as one of the NROTC Nursing commissioned nurses once he passes the NCLEX. With a challenging class schedule, clinical studies, and NROTC obligations, time management has been essential and will serve him well as he enters the fleet.

FUTURE MARINE

Midshipman Kelly Rene Wise

hails from Tampa, Florida. She has graduated with a 4.0 GPA and has two degrees, in both Psychology and Behavioral Healthcare. Following commissioning, MIDN Wise will attend the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. Her greatest feat in ROTC was passing Officer Candidate School. MIDN Wise was also the recipient of the Jason Holbrook Scholarship and recognized as the USF Cadet of the Year. She was one of our most valued midshipmen and the unit will miss her greatly as she goes on to build success in the US Marine Corps.



Color Guard Events



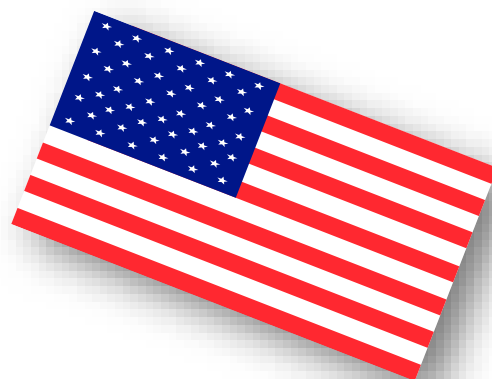
New this semester, weekly color guard practices were held in the mornings. Many motivated midshipmen, especially our fourth class, attended these practices. Here, they learned additional commands that were not included in the standard drill practices.

Drill Officer, Sgt. Ryan Collette (pictured left), was the primary coordinator of all color guard and drilling events.



The color guard featured, to the left, is a prestigious military appreciation dinner at the Chamber of Commerce.

The team included (from left to right) MIDN 3/C Apearre Ao, MIDN 2/C Stacy Campos, MIDN 4/C Kenneth Stephens, GySgt Joshua Wilson (AMOI), MIDN 3/C Ryan Peeling, MIDN 4/C Nathaniel Barthelemy, MIDN 2/C Ashly Sboray.



University of South Florida vs. University of Connecticut



Veteran's Appreciation Game

MIDN 3/C Stacy Campos, MIDN 4/C Alex Walker, MIDN 4/C Michael Thomason, MIDN 4/C Justin Lambeth and MIDN 4/C Theodore Sandoval were selected as the color guard detail to present colors for the Softball Military Appreciation Game. Then, during the game, MIDN 1/C Mary Bennett Hinson was recognized on the score board as the representative for the graduating Naval ROTC senior class.



Battle of the Bulls

Buccaneer Battalion hosted another successful Battle of the Bulls drill event for high school Junior ROTC cadets from several different schools in the south Florida area. The unique experience offered by this meet takes advantage of the mentorship our midshipman can offer, while providing the opportunity for JROTC students to competitively show case their abilities in athletics, academics, military drill and overall spirit. While this event is professional, there was plenty of fun to be had as midshipmen and cadets were able to share experiences and make lasting memories!



Physical Competition

An important part of any high school drill meet is the physical competition. Similar to the US Navy's Physical Readiness Test, there is a push-up and sit-up portion of each JROTC unit's overall athletic score. A steady cadence is played and cadets mimic the pace as our midshipman keep score and cheer them on.



Personal Inspection and Drill

The Personal Inspection (PI) portion is incredibly important in providing an opportunity for midshipmen to interact directly with cadets. Uniform care and appearance is the first aspect of PI to be reviewed. During this segment, our midshipmen point out the aspects of a cadet's appearance that promote the professional appearance expected while in uniform. Any detail areas that are lacking can also be addressed and corrected at this time. This evaluation is followed with several basic knowledge questions about the US Navy and their participation JROTC. The brief conversations that are sparked from these questions are, above all, a demonstration and practice in military bearing.

Chow and Camaraderie

While there was plenty of work put into facilitating the events, our staff and the cadets also found time to have good food and fun. Each JROTC unit competes to see who can show the most spirit, and Buccaneer Battalion was happy to join in on the excitement!





Community Service and Fundraising

The spring semester of 2016 was one filled with service to the community and our battalion. Our brilliant community service officer, MIDN 3/C Sandy Lall, and the fundraising officer, MIDN 3/C Joshua Kilmer, took initiative in their billets and prepared events where our midshipmen shined as leaders in the Tampa Bay area. During most weekends and many week days you could find midshipmen selflessly lending their time, from serving food at local kitchens to painting homes in low-income communities. In the fundraising area, Buccaneer Battalion participated in several events and gave a nod to the old idea of the classic "geedunk".



Paint Your Heart Out

The Paint Your Heart Out event coordinator worked with our fundraising officer and the day was expected to begin at 0800 and end by noon, however, Buccaneer Battalion midshipmen were able to complete the task of painting two full coats of paint in the time it took most groups to simply apply one. The finished product looked crisp and lifted the overall appearance and value of the neighborhood.

Geedunk

Pictured on the right is the original start to the Buccaneer Battalion geedunk. This small concession could be found in the Battalion Duty Office, and fed many hardworking midshipmen and cadets across all branches. Over the semester, as the momentum picked up, more items were added to the list and more permanent system is now in place.





Physical Training

The Naval ROTC program is highly successful in preparing midshipmen for the physical demands they will face in the US Navy and Marine Corps. In order to do this, the Buccaneer Battalion, takes advantage of a variety of exciting and challenging fitness events to maintain a high status of overall health of all battalion members. This spring semester was particularly successful, as every midshipman and MECEP excelled, driving a 100% pass rate.

Joint Activities

Our campus is one of the few, nationwide, to have an ROTC unit for all branches of the military. As such, we take a great deal of pride in joint collaboration to boost morale and unit pride. The spring semester events included the annual Commander's Cup, where the Naval ROTC did outstanding and earned second place overall.



Savage Race

Our midshipmen are always looking for opportunities to build camaraderie and challenge themselves physically. At the end of USF's spring break, several motivated midshipmen sacrificed their time to volunteer for the Savage Race obstacle run on Saturday. Of those midshipmen, six of them even chose to run the 6.5 mile race, representing our unit with physical stamina and excellence.



Pool Physical Training

This year, our midshipmen went to the USF pool and put in work! Physical training consisted of freestyle, breast stroke, technique exercises and sprints to prepare for the Navy's swimmer qualifications. This exciting change of pace is rare for our midshipmen and gave those midshipmen who prefer swimming, to running, the chance to shine.





Battalion Activities

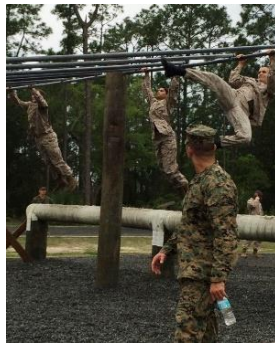
Naval Station Mayport

Visiting a naval base is the best way to gain insight into the fleet we are all striving to serve. Naval Station Mayport was a host of the trip, where our midshipmen toured the USS Vicksburg, USS Farragut, a P-8 plane and a helicopter squadron. As well as being informative, it is also a great opportunity for members to see equipment, meet sailors and build camaraderie with their peers.



Parris Island Trip

Our Marine Option midshipmen are required to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) during the summer between their junior and senior year of college. This training is famously challenging and there is no guarantee that a midshipman will pass, even prepared with the basic training from NROTC lab and physical training (PT). A step Buccaneer Battalion took this semester was a Marine Option trip to Parris Island. This intense 3 day OCS prep helped our midshipmen to have a taste of the intensity they will find at OCS. Of course nothing can compare to the real thing, but this experience involved valuable practices in leadership, solidarity through struggle and physical fitness through a multitude of varying obstacles.



Guest Speakers

This year's guest speakers consisted of several leadership panels, with esteemed speakers from Marine Corps, Navy and civilian platforms. Besides this, Buccaneer Battalion was also visited by several keynote speakers like Retired Colonel Goble and Rear Admiral Dixon, who discussed leadership development, self-improvement, and their personal experiences.



Khaki Inspection

Inspection is a large part of the midshipman experience because of its direct correlation to the military tradition. An inspection allows the leadership to see his or her military members in a one-on-one setting. By meeting with each person individually and evaluating uniform appearance, basic knowledge and military bearing, small corrections can be made and personal interaction occurs between each level of the chain of command.



Award Ceremony

The outstanding achievements of our midshipmen are distinguished in the proud display of ribbons on each uniform. This spring semester, midshipmen were recognized for having an exceptional GPA of a 4.0 or 3.5, participation on four or more color guard teams in a single semester, excellence in the Physical Readiness or Fitness tests, and much more.



Dining In

Dining In is one of the final events of each spring semester, open only to the first and second class midshipmen. This year's exciting cocktail hour and dinner was hosted in a private room at Maggiano's Little Italy. The room was alive with vibrant white uniforms, tasteful music and classy conversations, laced with laughter. As the night went on, fines were passed out by all midshipman and Mr. Vice (the battalion Executive Officer), SSgt Joshua Ley. Each trip to the "grog" (both alcoholic and not) started with a memory, ended with a good ole pat on the back and somehow the camaraderie, became even more apparent.





Pass-In-Review

At the end of each semester, the Pass-In-Review Ceremony takes place and midshipmen step up to their new billets. The acceptance of this honor and responsibility is both a timeless tradition and a symbol of the future as it indicates a "passing of the torch". This spring semester, the Battalion Commanding Officer, who is to commission as an Ensign, MIDN 1/C Dombroski was relieved by MIDN 2/C Vrontas. This motivating end to the semester leads to an exciting summer of commissioning, cruises and constant self-improvement.



Go Bulls!



University of South Florida

UPCOMING ISSUE

- Freshman Orientation
- Summer Cruise Experiences
- Commissioned Seniors
- Battalion Functions
- Volunteer and Community Service Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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