



USF SPRING 2018 BATTALION PHOTOGRAPH

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 naval or marine 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 Spring 2018 Semester.

# USF BUCCANEER BATTALION SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

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## Pass in Review – Change of Command Ceremony

Each spring, the Buccaneer Battalion hosts its annual Pass in Review Ceremony. This is a long standing tradition in the Navy and Marine Corps. During the ceremony, the battalion stood in waiting as the commanding officer, Captain Schmidt, handed out several awards to the deserving midshipmen of the unit. The battalion then marched around the parade field, saluting the new Battalion Commander and Commanding Officer, before returning to their post to await dismissal. This time honored ceremony marks the passing of the old chain of command, and the welcoming of the new chain of command.





## Battle of the Bulls

Each year, the Buccaneer Battalion invites NJROTC units from around the state of Florida to the USF Campus to demonstrate their skills in drill, military knowledge, physical fitness, and uniform preparation. USF NROTC hosted thirteen NJROTC units in this year's meet, with over 650 cadets competing. The Midshipmen, MECEPS, and Officer Candidates of the Buccaneer Battalion are tasked with judging the performance of the NJROTC units in each event. This provides the members of the Buccaneer Battalion with the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise in these subject areas, while giving the cadets an excellent example of professionalism and leadership.



## Commissioning Seniors

To conclude out semester, our graduating seniors achieved their long term goal on being commissioned officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. During the ceremony each graduating senior took the Commissioning Oath and then their new ranks were pinned on by loved ones. Afterwards the newly commissioned officers held a toast and received their first salute from selected enlisted personnel and exchanged a silver dollar return. At the close of the event the officers received gifts from the Buccaneer Battalion and offered guidance to upcoming seniors.



From left to right:  
Midshipman 1/C Apeare Ao, Navy  
Midshipman 1/C Sean Conners, Marine Corps  
Midshipman 1/C Patrick Coyle, Navy  
Midshipman 1/C Joshua Kilmer, Marine Corps  
Midshipman 1/C Ryan Peeling, Navy  
Midshipman 1/C Richard Piazza, Marine Corps



## Battalion Activities



### Spoto Drill Meet

In preparation for the Battle of the Bulls, members of the Buccaneer Battalion assisted Spoto High School NJROTC in hosting their annual drill meet. Midshipmen and MECEPS helped with grading drill, physical training, and the cadet's uniforms. Our Battalion was represented well, providing the young cadets with an excellent example of professionalism.



### Women's Symposium

Several members of the Buccaneer Battalion had the opportunity to attend the Women's Symposium hosted by the University of Michigan NROTC. There, our Midshipmen heard from many successful women about their experiences in leadership positions.



### Capture the Flag

This semester, the Buccaneer Battalion got out of the classroom and played several very competitive games of 'Capture the Flag'. This was a great opportunity for the Midshipmen and MECEPs to practice their small unit leadership skills in a fun, constructive environment.

## Naval Station Mayport Visit

Over spring break, a few of the Buccaneer Battalion's Midshipmen had the opportunity for some hands-on training at Naval Station Mayport, NAS Jacksonville, and Naval Submarine Base King's Bay. These Midshipmen got experience on the ship trainer and helicopter simulator and toured HSM 40, USS HUE CITY, and USS TENNESEE.



## Tampa Fire Rescue Visit

Tampa Fire Rescue welcomed the Midshipmen of Alpha Company this semester. These Midshipmen learned about the firefighting gear used by the department and received hands on fire hose training.





## Police Station Visit

Alpha Company had the opportunity to visit the Tampa Police Department to receive firearm training. Participating Midshipmen got experience with the rifle simulator and hands-on handgun training.



## Commander's Cup Champions

Each semester the ROTC units of USF compete in a series of athletic events known as the JMLC Commander's Cup. The Buccaneer Battalion was again successful in this semester's volleyball, flag football, and ultimate frisbee events against the Army and Air Force ROTC units.



## Guest Events and Community Service

### Enlisted Panel

This semester, the Buccaneer Battalion hosted an Enlisted Panel during lab. We were fortunate enough to have six current and former enlisted marines and soldiers to speak about their experiences and answer questions about building leadership and many other topics related to becoming future officers in the United States Armed Services.



### Meals on Wheels

The Buccaneer Battalion joined forces with Meals on Wheels to nourish, enrich, and strengthen members of our community. Members of the Battalion cleaned and sorted food containers for trucks, compiled documents for flyers, and created thank you and happy holiday card for those receiving meals.





## Big Cat Rescue

Members of the Buccaneer Battalion offered their time to volunteer at the Big Cat Rescue, an exotic cat sanctuary in Tampa. The volunteers assisted in restoring the sanctuary after damage caused by Hurricane Irma.



## Special Olympics

Select members of the Buccaneer Battalion gave their time to volunteer with the Special Olympics. The volunteers worked with the Motor Activity Training Program (MATP), a program designed for athletes who are unable to participate in official Special Olympics sports competitions due to their functional abilities. Our Midshipmen and MECEPs helped these athletes, who are 100 percent wheelchair bound, compete in the MATP Relay Race.





Buccaneer Battalion, University of South Florida

For more information, please visit:

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

or call:

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