



# THE JOINT MILITARY LEADERSHIP CENTER NEWSLETTER



2013

## Friends of The Joint Military Leadership Center Brighten the Halls of CW Bill Young Hall

Thanks to generous supporters of the JMLC and the ROTC programs at USF, two new magnificent prints adorn the hallways of C.W. Bill Young Hall. The first was donated by the Clearwater Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). At an Air Force ROTC Leadership Lab on September 13, 2012, **Gerald C. "Bud" Berry**, Army Air Corps, World War II veteran, led a group of MOWW Clearwater Chapter members to present a framed print of "The Eagle's Nest—The Band of Brothers and the War's Last Prize". The John Shaw print depicts E Company, 101st Airborne Division celebrating the end of World War II at the Eagle's Nest. The MOWW supports the ROTC programs every year with "Award of Merit" medals to outstanding cadets.

On December 5, 2013, **Bill and Suzy Eickhoff** presented the JMLC with a framed printed copy of famed aviation artist Sam Lyon's "Angels Over Annapolis". The Eickhoffs have been big supporters of USF Athletics over the years and were thrilled to have this opportunity to contribute to our facility. Both of these exquisite prints are on display on the second floor of C.W. Bill



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## Friendly Competition

Several Joint athletic/physical training events were planned and executed during the academic year.

A Joint Field Day assembled about 25 – 30 cadets of the Army and Air Force ROTC programs on a Saturday morning just prior to the last week of the Fall semester, to play soccer, flag football and ultimate Frisbee on a beautiful Saturday morning. The goal was for the ROTC students to get together in a recreational and social atmosphere, play some sports and have fun. This was the first time sport teams were organized with students from more than one service instead of Army vs. Air Force. The students enjoyed their time and had the opportunity to get to know ROTC students from another service. The entire event was well organized and executed seamlessly. WELL DONE to **Air Force**

**Cadets Kristopher Wasielewski and Galen Abrams** for taking the lead in organizing the event. Also, WELL DONE to **Army Cadet Rosaneli Ledesma** for assisting and coordinating Army participation. Cadet Abrams also deserves credit for the initial concept for this Joint Field Day.

The annual Joint ROTC Run was held on Tuesday, December 4. After initially forming up within their respective units, the 400 plus ROTC students re-assembled as three companies with members of each service integrated within each company for the 2 mile run around campus. The running formation was led by **Army ROTC Cadet Stephanie Germeroth, Naval ROTC Midshipman Benjamin Bontrager and Air Force Cadet Sean Tracey**. The “joint” platoons ran in formation with students from each service taking turns leading the cadence and motivational songs. Upon completion of the Joint Run, the units reassembled in the track and field stadium to hear a few words from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, **Dr. Robert Sul-lins**. He took a few minutes to thank the ROTC students for their service and stated how proud he was of them for their dedication. **Col Kevin McElroy** (AFROTC), **CAPT Kevin Kenney** (NROTC) and **MAJ Scott Dunkle** (AROTC) then addressed the students about the importance of “Jointness” - working effectively with the other military services and understanding their capabilities, limitations and service culture.

A “mini” Commander’s Cup event was held on Friday, April 12. Organized by **Army Cadet Alexandra Espinel** and **Air Force Cadet Matthew LaRue**, it was Army versus Air Force in a cadre (3 on 3) basketball challenge, and cadet competition in ultimate frisbee, flag football and basketball. A full scale Commander’s Cup was unable to be conducted due to scheduling conflicts, so Army retains the coveted Commander’s Cup for another year.



“Joint” Field Day participants.



Cadets and Midshipmen prepare to start the Joint Run.



Cadets John Kelley, Jason Moore and Neli Ledesma at the Joint Field Day



# Welcome to New ROTC Commanders

For the Joint Military Leadership Center (JMLC) and the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC programs at the University of South Florida, the 2012-2013 Academic Year started out like any other, with a sprint... and did not slow down until after the last Spring 2013 Commissioning Ceremony was over. To start off the year, each ROTC unit welcomed a new Commander. Welcome aboard to **CAPT Kevin Kenney**, Commanding Officer USF Naval ROTC, **Col Kevin McElroy**, Commander Air Force ROTC Detachment 158, and **LTC Alexander Espinosa**, Commander, USF Army ROTC!



CAPT Kevin Kenney



Col Kevin McElroy



LTC Alexander Espinosa



Army Cadet Rosaneli Ledesma



Midshipman Robert Riggs



Air Force Cadet Cody Campbell



## USF ROTC Students Participate in Leadership and Foreign Affairs Conferences

This academic year's recipients of the **CPT Jason Ellis Holbrook Memorial Leadership Award** were **Army Cadet Rosaneli Ledesma**, **Midshipman Robert Riggs** (Clearwater Christian College), and **Air Force Cadet Cody Campbell**. Cadet Ledesma and Midshipman Riggs attended the West Point National Conference on Ethics in America (NCEA) in October and Cadet Cody attended the Air Force Academy's National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS) in February. Through the USF Foundation, Mr. John Harper and his wife, Cindy, established the CPT Jason Ellis Holbrook Memorial Leadership Award, in honor of their daughter's (Heather) husband, U.S. Army Captain Jason Holbrook, who was killed in the line of duty at Tsagay, Afghanistan in July of 2010. The scholarship provides funds for ROTC students to attend a nationally recognized leadership conference. In future years, the CPT Holbrook Award will support sending six ROTC students to leadership conferences every year.

In addition to the CPT Holbrook Award recipients, the JMLC provided support to other ROTC students to represent USF at conferences. **Air Force Cadet Malory Duerr** (University of Tampa) accompanied Cadet Campbell to the Air Force Academy's NCLS and **Midshipman Kyle Mako** attended the Notre Dame Leadership Weekend. Attendance at any one of these leadership conferences is a once in a lifetime experience for these students as they hear from many prominent leaders in the military, civilian government, business, sports and academic fields while interacting with fellow college students from all over the country.

**Army Cadet Stephanie Germeroth** was one of two USF students selected to represent USF at the annual Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) in Annapolis, MD. 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.

# ROTC LIVING LEARNING CENTER

After a very successful inaugural year, the ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC) doubled in size and for its second year occupies the first two floors in the Maple A Residence Hall. With 12 returning residents, we welcomed 38 incoming freshmen ROTC students from all services into the LLC. We had a much better representation of each service ROTC within the LLC this year. Some new features and programs were also introduced to improve the quality of life based on feedback received from ROTC residents the previous year – addition of tables and chairs in the kitchen areas to provide quiet study areas for individual and small group study; brand new flat screen TVs on each floor; a large white board in the common area of each floor to leave messages or other information; addition of new furniture in the common areas and several board games and cards for relaxation and group activities.

Several new events were added to last year's programming to further improve the social interaction between the residents and their cultural awareness. As part of the Week of Welcome, newly arriving residents had the opportunity to get to know each other during a pizza social hosted by the JMLC in the Joint Student Lounge in C.W. Bill Young Hall. Then, to close out the Fall Semester and provide relief during Final Exams before the Winter Break, another social was hosted with refreshments for the ROTC residents and the opportunity to spend time honing their weapons handling skills on the EST 2000 small arms weapons simulator.

To increase the cultural awareness of the ROTC residents, the JMLC in partnership with the U.S. Central Command's Coalition Partners, hosted a presentation by Swedish Army **Major Tor Bengtsson**. During his presentation, ROTC residents were treated to Pepparkakor (Swedish ginger cookies) and Glogg Apple (Swedish spiced apple drink). Major Bengtsson connected very readily with our students and gave a short, very informative overview of Sweden, its culture and people, military/government, and security concerns.

In line with the university's goal to have every student participate in some sort of Education Abroad experience during their time at USF, the Education Abroad Office visited the Maple Residence Hall classroom and provided interested ROTC residents an overview of education abroad programs available. Included were current students who had recently returned from an education abroad program to talk about their experiences and answer questions.



**LIVE IT** **JOINT.**  
**LEARN IT**

Continued from page 4.

We also continued the highly successful, House Calls program from last year. Occurring on a weekday evening within the Maple A Residence Hall, House Calls features ROTC instructors or other visiting military guests who talk informally with the LLC residents about their military careers and experiences with an open Q & A session. This year the House Call guests were **LT Ian Hayes**, a Naval ROTC instructor; **MSGT William Patterson**, USA (Retired) and **MSG John Brennan**, Senior Military Instructor, Army ROTC; and **Major Keith Lorenz**, Air Force ROTC instructor. The sessions were typically very interactive and also included food and refreshments for everyone's enjoyment. It also provided the students a mix of perspectives from each branch of the military and from junior/mid-grade officers and senior NCOs.

**LIVE IT  
LEARN IT** **JOINT.**

Similar to last year, residents had the opportunity to make two trips to MacDill AFB – during the Fall, the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquarters, and in the Spring, the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) headquarters. In both visits, the cadets and midshipmen received a command brief, visited each command's Joint Operations Center (JOC) or War Room and talked to officers assigned to the command headquarters for a Q & A session. The purpose of the visits is to give ROTC students an overview on how a joint unified combatant command operates with commissioned officers/NCOs from each military service.

We will continue to make improvements to enhance the ROTC LLC programming and overall quality of life based on the experience of the last two years and input from our residents. For next academic year, we will have 20 residents returning which will give us the ability to start an informal mentoring program to assist new incoming students with their transition to residence life, ROTC and university life in general.

## **Valor Becomes Official USF Student Organization**



**Midshipman Adam Taylor's** hard work and initiative were instrumental in standing up the Valor Movement at USF, or *Valor*, as an official USF student organization at the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester. Midshipman Taylor then served as the organization's President during the academic year. The purpose of Valor is to develop opportunities for leadership development and promote spiritual discussion among its members. Valor is affiliated with the Military Ministry of Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). Retired Navy Chaplain **Rick Hamme**, currently in service with the Military Ministry of Cru, assisted the organization at its weekly gatherings and served as a mentor to several students in the organization.

## **JMLC Awards Selfless Service Awards**

This year's recipients of the JMLC Selfless Service Award are **Army Cadet Cedric Street**, **Midshipman Krista Chapin** and **Air Force Cadet Jonathan Huang**. 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.



# THE SUNCOAST BATTALION IN ACTION





The 2012-2013 academic year was truly a year of excellence for the Cadets of the USF Army ROTC program, home of the Suncoast Battalion. The year started strong with the senior class returning from Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), hosted in the beautiful state of Washington at Joint-Base Lewis McCord, eager and ready to lead the battalion. The returning Cadets continued a Suncoast tradition of excellence with 12 Cadets earning an overall excellent evaluation, and nine Cadets earning the RECONDO badge. Furthermore, the Suncoast Battalion had three Cadets make it in the top 100 in the National OML out of 5,592 Cadets.



Between being assigned new leadership roles and responsibilities and getting to know the Battalion's new Professor of Military Science, LTC Alexander Espinosa, and Senior Military Instructor, MSG John Brennan, the senior class had a lot to learn! Nonetheless, the Cadet leadership quickly sprang into action, organizing the Battalion FTX at Withlacoochee State Forest, the M16 zeroing range at MacDill Air Base, Day/Night Land Navigation and STX training, and the very successful Golf Tournament which was sponsored by AUSA. The MSIV leaders were very effective in their execution, setting a high standard for their peers and junior classmen to emulate.

The spring semester was loaded with numerous responsibilities, which included introduction to Patrolling, more Land Nav and STX training, the Battalion and Brigade FTXs, Adventure Training, MSIV Staff Ride of the Battle of Mogadishu, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ruck-a-Thon, and the Military Ball. The spring semester proved to be an exciting semester and undoubtedly a challenging one for the Cadet leadership, nevertheless, they overcame the obstacles to finish it off strong.



The 2012/2013 academic school year culminated with a number of accomplishments. The Suncoast Battalion commissioned 23 Second Lieutenants, six of which were Distinguished Military Graduates, and contracted 41 new Cadets into the AROTC program.

The USF AROTC program continues to excel through the hard work and dedication of the Cadets of the Suncoast Battalion. Congratulations to the newly commissioned Second Lieutenants!



USF Tampa and USF St. Pete Commissionees



St. Leo Commissionees

The 2012-2013 academic year has been a great one for the University of South Florida's Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit, filled with opportunities for our students to experience the richness and diversity of college life while working towards their final goal: to earn commissions in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. This has been an especially meaningful year to us because it is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the unit here at USF, a milestone that we are proud to have achieved with the strong support of USF and the Department of the Navy. Our Guest of Honor for this year's Commissioning Ceremony, which was held on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, was **Captain Richard Dick, USN (ret)**, who was the first commanding officer of the unit and was the very first member of the Buccaneer Battalion. He gave a great speech filled with good advice and time-tested leadership to all of our newly commissioned Ensigns and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts.

As in years past, we began with new student orientation in August the week prior to classes starting. This year we had 30 new students, 23 of whom were on full academic scholarship, including tuition, fees and books. We also welcomed three new Marine Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECEP) students, who were hand-picked from the enlisted ranks of the Marine Corps to attend USF as full time students while still serving and drawing pay as Marines. Our current demographics are as diverse as our nation, with 26 females and 63 males and including a student who emigrated from Poland, One whose family hails from India, and Midshipmen from all over the United States. Over 92% of enrolled students are on scholarship and receive yearly benefits totaling about \$1 million for tuition, books, fees and monthly stipends.

The University of South Florida Naval ROTC produced a total of sixteen new officers during this academic year, including ten Navy and six Marine Corps officers. These new leaders are off to be trained in their selected warfare specialties, including Infantry, Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Submarine, Surface, Special Operations, and many others.

The Buccaneer Battalion has served our community throughout this year, including well over two dozen events that include the USF School of Nursing Joint Forces conference, the Safety Harbor Veteran's Boat show, Stampede of Service, USF Homecoming Parade, Operation Helping Hands, and the VA Hospital's adaptive sports program for wounded warriors and their families. In February we again hosted the 9th annual "Battle of the Bulls" Drill Meet for local NJROTC high school programs. Thirteen high schools participated in the one day competition with well over 1,000 students and friends attending and seeing the beautiful USF main campus at its best. USF's Buccaneer Battalion continues to support USF athletics, including providing Color Guard services prior to Bulls Football games, Supporting USF female Softball and Basketball, and hosting this year's Toughest Bull competition, an annual event held on campus involving running, swimming, pushups, sit-ups, and pull-ups, all done as endurance events. The unit is also involved in numerous outreach activities, including (to name but a few) USF's School of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Engineering, and Office of Veteran's affairs. As in years past, the Battalion has a yearly Dining Out (formal dinner) and a final Pass In Review Parade, where deserving Mids are given awards for excellence. This year's Navy League Sword winner was **Midn 1/c Benjamin Bontrager**, and the Daughters of the American Revolution award for outstanding Female went to **Gunnery Sergeant Jenifer Altman**.

Overall it was an outstanding and rewarding year for everyone here at USF, and we look forward to beginning the new school year with the incoming freshman class. New student orientation will begin 19 August here at the Congressman Bill Young (CWY) building on campus. We hope to see you there!



2013 Spring Commissioning, USF Marshall Center



Captain Richard Dick, USN (Ret.)



# NAVAL ROTC



**Ninth Annual Battle of the Bulls**



**▲ Spring 2013 Pass In Review and Awards Ceremony ▼**



# Detachment 158 Update



**AIR FORCE ROTC**





## Detachment 158 Update

The 2012-13 academic year was exciting for AFORTC Detachment 158. The school year began with cadets representing the University of South Florida and several of our cross-town institutions' University of Tampa, Clearwater Christian College, St. Petersburg College, Embry-Riddle University, Hillsborough Community College. Throughout the year our strength ranged from 80 to 180 cadets. The detachment also has administrative responsibility for several active duty officer and enlisted members pursuing advanced education at the University of South Florida. Detachment 158 was led by Colonel Kevin J McElroy and a staff of three instructors, two noncommissioned officers and the USF staff assistant, Mrs. Brenda Faulk. Mrs. Faulk celebrated her 31<sup>st</sup> year with Air Force ROTC and has been with the detachment since the program began at USF.

The Fall 2012 term began with the orientation of approximately 130 new cadets. The challenge of academic Air Force classes, twice weekly physical training at 0600, and the Thursday two hour Leadership laboratory settled into a routine. The General Military Course cadets learned the essentials of active followership through drill and ceremonies, group leadership projects, and community service projects. The Professional Officer Course cadets continued in there execution of the syllabus objective polishing their leadership skills in preparation for their commission and active duty assignment.

The Cadet Wing is active throughout the community in community service projects and fund raisers to support cadet activities. Cadets are active with Bulls Heaven throughout the USF Football season. 18 cadets participated in an orientation flight in a KC-135 Refueling Tanker and visited the Air Force Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base. The Cadets participate in a flight challenge at the Combat Dining-In celebrating Air Force history and fostering camaraderie. The Spring 2012 term continued at a fast pace. 20 Cadets mastered the challenge of USF Ropes Course and the rest of the detachment participated in numerous group leadership projects. Det 158 hosted numerous JROTC visits and they celebrated a successful year by carrying on the Air Force tradition of a Military Ball, hosting General Arthur Lichte, USAF Retired, who shared his valuable career insight. Det 158 garnered 9 pilot slots and 18 Field Training slots for the second year cadets to prove their merit. The cadets will participate in an intense one month summer training program at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

The end result of this successful year was the commissioning of eleven cadets into active duty service to their country as Second Lieutenants. The cadets will serve in various career fields: Pilot, Combat Systems Operator, Logistics Readiness, Developmental Engineer, Aircraft Maintenance and Cyberspace Operations. The year culminated with Lt Col Mark Llewellyn returning to the Reserves and Lt Col Alan Blanchard taking his place as the Education Officer for the Detachment. Air Force ROTC Detachment 159 will continue to fulfill the mission of building Air Force Officers that lead in Air, Space ,and Cyberspace.



## 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” Learning Center and Program that educates, trains, and prepares future Armed Forces Officers to value, operate and conduct successful operations in a joint, multinational, interagency and multi-component, and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) environment & an Academic Center of Excellence for national and military defense strategies, leadership development, and global understanding and education.

## Our Focus

### Organizational Development and Oversight

\* To encourage and provide opportunities for ROTC students to interact 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 cadets, officer candidates, and midshipmen.

### 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 fully implement the various program requirements in order to establish relevance with the academic and military community.

\* To communicate with the three ROTC Cadet Commands, in order to determine the feasibility of systematically enhancing the current pre-commissioning curriculum requirements.