



THE JOINT MILITARY LEADERSHIP CENTER

2018 NEWSLETTER ■ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.



New Student Orientations

The Naval and Air Force ROTC programs each have an orientation program for their students joining their respective units just prior to the start of the fall semester. The Air Force New Student Orientation is a one day event that consists mostly of presentations, introductions of staff/student leaders and administrative processing for the new Air Force cadets to smooth their transition

and prepare them for the first week of ROTC. The Naval ROTC Midshipman Orientation is quite a different experience. This is a three day orientation which not only encompasses the features of the Air Force orientation but quickly introduces the midshipman candidates to the Navy/Marine military discipline, customs and courtesies; physical training and assessments; swim

qualifications; and development and application of the Naval Service's Core Values of honor, courage and commitment. During their orientation, the students remain overnight in the CWY building. This three day event culminates in a ceremony in which the new Midshipmen are formally admitted into the Buccaneer Battalion in the presence of family and friends.



Joint Run, 18 September - In Honor of Patriot Day 9/11



Hurricane Irma greatly impacted the lives of all at USF during the Fall 2017 semester, including the cancellation and rescheduling of many events. The annual Patriot Day Joint Run was no exception and was conducted one week later on Monday, 18 September. This year's run was planned and led by the Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion. **SSgt George Lopez**, a new MECEP student assigned to USF, was the Buccaneer Battalion's lead planner.

Similar to last year's run, the combined formation of the Army Suncoast Battalion, Naval Buccaneer Battalion and the 158th Cadet Wing observed a moment of silence to pause and reflect on the events that took place on 9/11 and then ran a spirited 3 mile route on the Tampa campus. Following the run and cool down exercises, **CAPT John Schmidt**, spoke to all the ROTC students about the importance of the military services joining

together, the students' commitment to serve in light of the events that took place on 9/11 and to "Never forget!" University Communications and Marketing (UCM covered the entire event live on the university's Facebook page and posted videos of the event including a lengthy interview with several cadets and midshipmen of each ROTC unit conducted by **Michelle Young** of UCM.



Homecoming “Running of the Bulls Parade”

After last year’s inaugural participation, the USF ROTC units once again took part in the Running of the Bulls Parade to celebrate the university’s Homecoming Super Bull XXI. The parade was led by the ROTC Joint Color Guard followed later in the parade by the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC students marching proudly in formation. The formations were greeted warmly by the crowds of university students, faculty, staff, alumni and family along the campus parade route. Meanwhile the ROTC unit cadre members and their families enjoyed a parade watch get together at C.W. Bill Young Hall. Thank you to **Lori Matthews** and **Christine Borgia** for once again organizing the event with some tasty foods and beverages for all ages.



MIDN 2/C Alexander Walker

Congratulations to MIDN 2/C Alex Walker, one of only eight individuals in the U.S. to earn the Medal of Honor Scholarship from the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) Foundation in 2017!

The award was presented to him by Medal of Honor recipient CSM Gary Littrell, U.S. Army (Retired), and Michael Caldwell, chief operating officer of the MOH Foundation.

More on MIDN 2/C Walker’s achievement can be found here: <http://news.usf.edu/article/templates/?a=8022&z=220>

Salute to Service Football Game

The 2017 Salute to Service Football Game saw USF take on the University of Houston on Saturday, 28 October. The game was originally planned for November 4th against the University of Massachusetts but Hurricane Irma changed that. Thank you to **GySgt Timothy Petersen** (Naval ROTC) for his key coordination and planning for a successful pre-game march on the field with the USF ROTC units and the



ROTC Joint Color Guard as well as significant ROTC participation with the USF Spirit Squads during the game. The Fall 2017 Semester commanders who led their ROTC units on the field were **Cadet Dillon Dunnigan** of Naples, Florida who led the Army Suncoast Battalion onto the north end zone while **Midshipman Sean Conners** of Tarpon Springs, Florida led the Naval Suncoast Battalion and **Cadet Alex Fernandez** of Norfolk, Virginia led the Air Force 158th Cadet Wing onto the south end zone.

CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarships

This year's recipients of the CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarship award are: Army ROTC – **Cadet Alexander Abraham** and **Cadet Stormy Lindsay**; Naval ROTC – **Midshipman Timothy Carney**; and, Air Force ROTC – **Cadet Hector Colon**. **John and Cynthia Harper** hosted a luncheon for the students at the Top of the Palms restaurant to meet and personally congratulate the students on their selection. A formal presentation of the scholarship awards to these students was made by the Harpers on the football field at the Salute to Service Football Game on October 28th. Midshipman Carney attended the U.S. Naval Academy Leadership Conference in Annapolis, MD; Cadets Alexander Abraham, Stormy Lindsay and Hector Colon attended the U.S. Air Force Academy National Character and Leadership Symposium in Colorado Springs. The Harpers, both USF Alumni, set up the CPT Jason Holbrook Memorial Scholarship in memory of their son-in-law, CPT Jason Holbrook, who was KIA in Afghanistan on July 29, 2010.



Each scholarship recipient is selected by their respective ROTC units based on their superior performance as a cadet/midshipman, demonstrated leadership abilities and potential for assuming positions of greater responsibility both in the ROTC program and as a commissioned officer.

New USF Foundation Scholarships for ROTC Students of All Branches



The 495th Legends Scholarship: The 495th Legends is a volunteer organization created in 2004 as a not for profit company by the leadership members of the 495th Transportation Company based in Lakeland, Florida, who served together in Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. As one of their initiatives, the 495th Legends started a scholarship program with the USF ROTC programs to financially assist ROTC students with a scholarship. The 495th Legends hosts several golf tournaments each year as their main fundraising effort including a Veterans Day Golf Tournament in Zephyrhills. As a result of these fund raising golf tournaments, the 495th Legends Scholarship became an endowed scholarship last year. **Ronnie Guy** of the 495th Legends met with USF Development Officers, **Julie Gillespie** and **Kemel Thompson**, the Commanders of the ROTC units and the JMLC to set in place award criteria, award amount and process to determine recipients. The inaugural recipients of the 495th Legends are **Cadet Phillip White** (Army ROTC), **Midshipman Joshua Stringer** (Naval ROTC) and **Cadet Anna Bridges** (Air Force ROTC). The award in the amount of \$675 was presented at their respective end of year Military Award ceremonies. Each recipient was completing their third year of ROTC and were selected for outstanding performance in academics, physical training, and professional development.



JMLC Selfless Service Award:

The 2017 recipients of the JMLC Selfless Service Award are **Cadet Sydney Lowman** (Army ROTC), **Midshipman Katelyn Sleeter** (Naval ROTC) and **Cadet Kati Lichi** (Air Force ROTC). The awards were presented at each unit's end of year awards ceremony by the Director of the JMLC. This award recognizes one ROTC student from each service ROTC program for demonstrating outstanding leadership and exemplifying self to the highest standards of conduct and the respective service's core values. In addition to her 4.0 Military GPA and 3.22 academic GPA, Cadet Lowman spearheaded an event to raise \$1500 for a fellow Cadet whose home was destroyed by a house fire, resulting in a total loss of all personal belongs for himself, his wife, and newborn son. Midshipman Sleeter is an Industrial Engineering major with a 3.23 GPA and in the top 20% of her class in military aptitude and naval science and recently served as the Battalion's Administrative Officer and as a Company Commander. While demonstrating excellence in academics and other duties, Cadet Lichi consistently volunteered for ROTC and community activities including the Salvation Army Fall Festival, participation as a drill judge at multiple JROTC drill meets and the Civil Air Patrol.



Greater Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce ROTC Student of the Year



The ROTC Cadet of the Year Award is a recognition of an exceptional ROTC Cadet by the Military Council of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. This award acknowledges participation in activities that provide significant service to our Tampa Bay Community. This year's Cadet of the Year is **Cadet Anna Bridges** of the Air Force ROTC. Cadet Bridges has shown continuous commitment to selfless service and excellence. She has taken time from her rigorous schedule as a pre-medical Biomedical Sciences major to volunteer in the community

and has shadowed pulmonary and critical care doctors at Tallahassee Pulmonary Clinic for 34 hours. From January to August of 2017, Cadet Bridges maintained a regular shift volunteering at the Hope Lodge despite taking sixteen credit hours, excelling in ROTC training, and maintaining outstanding physical fitness. The Hope Lodge is run by the American Cancer Society and serves as a place for cancer patients and caretakers to stay during treatments. As a general volunteer, Cadet Bridges spent three hours a week answering phone calls from potential residents, checking patients in, maintaining cleanliness of the facility, and more for a total of over 50 hours.

When Florida was in a state of emergency for Hurricane Irma, Cadet Bridges saw a call to action and became involved with the American Red Cross. After signing up for a twelve-hour shift at a Red Cross shelter in Tallahassee, she realized the severe shortage of Red Cross staff and surplus of over 600 evacuees, then took it upon herself to help. Cadet Bridges helped evacuees who did not speak English by speaking Spanish with them, solved problems for people without bedding or food, and independently managed a second on-site shelter for about 100 evacuees for 36 hours. Through these experiences Cadet Bridges learned the value of positive human interaction in times of stress and tribulation.

Halloween Run

The Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion celebrates Halloween at their morning Physical Training (PT) by permitting their students to dress up in costumes as long as the costume allows them to fully participate in PT. This year, many members of the Army Suncoast Battalion joined them making this the first Joint Halloween Run. There were some rather interesting and entertaining costumes to liven up the normal PT routine.



Tampa Bay Lightning "Hero of the Game"

During this past NHL Hockey season, the Tampa Bay Lightning continued to show their appreciation to the military by honoring local active duty personnel and military veterans with their Military Standing Salute at each Lightning home game. During the 2nd period of the game, the military honoree and his family are recognized on the floor to a very welcoming reception by the Lightning hockey fans. It is a very emotional moment for all! Each USF ROTC unit was given the opportunity to select one active duty service member for this special recognition. **Capt Adam Beck**, Air Force ROTC instructor; **MSG Jason Hall**, Army



ROTC instructor; and **Petty Officer 1st Class Troy Kinder**, Naval ROTC Officer Candidate (OC) were honored at individual games.

In addition to the 2nd period recognition, each honoree is awarded 4 tickets and a free parking pass to the Lightning game at which there were to be recognized.

Joint Commissioning Ceremony



In December 2017, graduating ROTC students participated in the inaugural joint commissioning ceremony. Family and friends surrounded nine graduating USF students Dec. 9, helping pin new rank insignias onto the shoulder straps of the students' uniforms, decorations that represent the new commissioned officer's rank in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. The time-honored commissioning ceremony is typically held separately for each branch of the military, so the joint event was the first time USF graduates with the three ROTC programs at USF

were commissioned together. The timing was right with a small graduation class and a desire to highlight that the University of South Florida is unique with its Joint Military Leadership Center.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was **Alexander G. Toth**, a U.S. Army veteran who served more than 25 years in the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and retired as the senior assistant regional director in charge of DEA Enforcement Operations for several South American countries. He is currently a PhD Presidential Fellow in the USF Criminology Department. The Fall Commissioning Class of 2017 are: 2LT **John Christians** (Army), BA in Political Science; 2LT **Andrew Hornacek** (Army), BA in History; 2d Lt Aaron Galang (Air Force), BS in Mechanical Engineering; 2d Lt **Jessica Swantek** (Air Force), BS in Electrical Engineering; ENS **Stacey Campos** (Navy), BS in Business Administration; 2ndLt **Jeannie Bailey** (Marine Corps), BS in Business Administration; 2ndLt **Matthew Belleci** (Marine Corps), BS in Criminology; 2ndLt **Christopher Ryan Collette** (Marine Corps), BA in International Studies; and, 2ndLt **Edward Hill** (Marine Corps), BS in Criminology.

ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC)

This academic year the ROTC Living Learning Community (LLC) welcomed 30 new and 6 returning ROTC students to the Maple residence hall, our smallest group of ROTC residents since our inaugural year in 2011. Our Residence Hall Advisors this year were **Dylan Suttle**, a former resident



of the ROTC LLC, and **Cadet Christina DelInnocentiis**, a former resident of the Honors LLC and third year Air Force ROTC student.

The residents of the ROTC LLC had a very busy year. Here are some highlights of this year's activities:

- To kick-off the 2017-2018 year, the ROTC LLC teamed up with the Pre-Nursing and Green LLC for a Welcome Cookout. This was a wonderful opportunity for the residents to meet and get to know each other across these different residential communities within the Maple



Housing complex thanks to **Alfredo Oliveira**, the Residential Life Coordinator of Maple Housing. Though foul weather was threatening the event, the weather was cooperative and everyone enjoyed the grilled hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings while some were able to play on the volleyball and basketball courts nearby or toss around a Frisbee or football.



- House Calls continues to be the most popular of the ROTC LLC programs. The residents receive the benefit of hearing from a number of ROTC instructors from each service in informal setting outside the classroom and office setting. This year's House Calls featured **MAJ Richard Harrelson**, Army ROTC and **LT Ho Le**, Naval ROTC. LT Le is a nuclear submarine officer and USF Naval ROTC alumnus Class of 2010. He is the first Naval ROTC alumnus to return as a ROTC instructor. For his House Call, the RAs served "submarine" sandwiches during his talk with the residents.

Also two of the House Calls in the Spring 2018 Semester featured a Joint Panel. One was a joint panel of commissioned officers. The panelists were **CPT Deisy Wolfe**, Army ROTC; **Major Nathaniel Redman**, USMC, Naval ROTC; **LT Jeffrey Ledford**, USN, Naval ROTC; and **Major Derek Reimer**, Air Force ROTC. The interaction with the students was very lively as each speaker provided their unique service and personal perspective including display of some spirited inter-service rivalry! The second joint panel was a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) panel consisting of **MSG Jaime Castro**, Army ROTC and **GySgt Timothy Peterson**, Naval ROTC. Each provided a vital insight into officer/enlisted working relationships based on their own extensive personal experiences and reflections. This House Call was well received by the ROTC residents based on the amount and types of questions they asked and the discussions that ensued. As an indication, this particular House Call lasted for two hours whereas most House calls are typically 45 minutes to an hour!

Visit to U.S. Special Operations Command



During the Fall Semester, a group of 20 ROTC students visited the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquarters at MacDill AFB. The visit was hosted by the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Acquisition, Technical and Logistics (AT&L) branch of

USSOCOM. SOF AT&L is responsible for all USSOCOM research, development, acquisition, procurement, and logistics. The Senior Enlisted Advisor, **SGM Richard "Skip" Holman**, gave the students a very informative and captivating presentation on the mission of USSOCOM as a Unified Combatant Command and how SOF AT&L carries out its mission to provide rapid and focused acquisition, technology, and logistics support to Warfighters, delivering the most effective capabilities to our Special Operations Forces. Having served over 20 years in SOF, SGM Holman captivated the students' interest with his personal experiences including his participation in operations depicted in the movie, "Blackhawk Down".

Visit to U.S. Central Command



A group of 14 ROTC students from all the ROTC units paid a visit to U.S. Central Command headquarters at MacDill AFB on Friday, 30 March. The students were presented a brief by **MG Karen Gibson**, Director of

Intelligence (J2) who spoke about U.S. Central Command's Area of Responsibility and its mission in the Middle East. MG Gibson has a distinguished career having served in a variety of Military Intelligence, staff and command positions including a recent assignment as the Director, CJ2, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. She answered a variety of thoughtful questions posed by the students amidst her very busy schedule. She was followed by a panel of officers and NCOs representing each military service and a diversity of career backgrounds who took a genuine interest in sharing their unique experiences and lessons learned during their respective careers with our students. This was a wonderful opportunity for these ROTC students to not only visit a unified combatant command staff where major policy and strategic decisions are made but also to discover more about a career in the military from a variety of career military personnel.

2017-2018 Commanders' Cup

The Naval ROTC Buccaneer Battalion is the "repeat" Commanders' Cup Champions. After the Buccaneer Battalion posted victories in Basketball and Soccer, the Army Suncoast Battalion made the annual competition more interesting this year when they won Volleyball, a new addition to the Commanders' Cup competition, and Ultimate Frisbee events. In the final event of the year, Flag Football, the Buccaneer Battalion won a competitive round robin series of games and retained the Commanders' Cup.



A special thanks to Army Cadet **Nathaniel Cummings**, Marine **SSgt George Lopez**, and Air Force Cadet **Kati Lichi** who planned and executed the fall semester basketball and soccer events and to Army Cadet **Alex Walloga**, Midshipman **Mario Reyes-Munoz** and Air Force Cadets **Kali Hart** and **Oliver Reed** for the spring semester Cup events. They did a great job in planning, forming the teams and ensuring the events went smoothly with a lot of excitement!

4th Annual ROTC Senior Celebration

The fourth annual ROTC Senior Celebration was held on Friday, April 20 in the CWY building. The "Celebration" recognized the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC students graduating and commissioning into their respective service branch during the 2018 calendar year. During 2018, the USF ROTC programs will commission a total of 73 Second Lieutenants/Ensigns – 32 Army, 9 USMC, 6 Navy and 26 Air Force. This year we honored **Dr. Dean Martin**, Professor



Emeritus of Chemistry. Dr. Martin is a steadfast supporter of the USF ROTC programs. Not only does he attend almost every service ROTC Commissioning Ceremony but he has set up and funded a scholarship for each ROTC unit that provides an award to an outstanding ROTC student on an annual basis. If that was not enough, Dr. Martin also purchases a brick on the JMLC's Pathway to Selfless Service in front of CWY Hall to honor individual ROTC Commanders when they complete their tour of duty at USF. Mr. John Sarao presented him a framed picture of a brick that will honor Dr. Martin's support. The engraving on the brick will say, "Dr. Dean Martin, Master Bricklayer 2018". Additionally, each ROTC unit presented Dr. Martin with a unit PT shirt. Another amazing fact about Dr. Martin is that he is dedicated to physical fitness and can be found early each morning at the Recreation Center working out about the same time as the ROTC Physical Training sessions. Once again, the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) sponsored the event. Special thanks to **Jennie Koutrouba**, Branch Manager of Navy Federal's Tampa office for the financial support and **Lori Matthews** of the JMLC and **Christine Borgia** of the Army/Naval ROTC units preparing the delicious variety of food for those in attendance.

Joint Picnic – Friday, March 2



Students, ROTC instructors and support staff of all the ROTC units gathered together at USF's Riverfront Park to enjoy a barbeque and each other's company in a casual outdoor setting. It was a beautiful, sunny Florida winter day as we enjoyed eating hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks. **Sgt Pierre Sajous**, a MECEP in the Naval ROTC, was the grill master and did a superb job in satisfying everyone's hunger. This was the first Joint Picnic sponsored by the JMLC and will most likely become an annual tradition.

Project Global Officer (GO) Blog

During the summer of 2017, Army **Cadet Stormy Lyndsay** participated in a Russian language immersion program with the University of Pittsburgh sponsored by the Department of Defense's Project Global Officer. The 8 week program took



place in the country of Estonia. She and other ROTC students from a variety of colleges and universities across the country studied the Russian language at a local university in the town of Narva on the border with Russia. Cadet Lyndsay chronicled her experience throughout her time there by maintaining a blog that was simultaneously posted on Cadet Lyndsay's web page and on USF social media to share her unique experiences. Her blog is posted at this link: <https://projectgoestonia2017.wordpress.com/> During the summer of 2018, Midshipman **Logan Woods** and Cadet **Connor Dunn** will be participating in Project GO programs. Midshipman Woods will be studying Chinese in Beijing and Cadet Dunn Russian in Estonia. Both will be maintaining a blog similar to Cadet Lyndsay to share their experiences.

Solid Terrain Maps with 3D Relief

About one year ago, the JMLC was approached by U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to see if we were interested in obtaining by loan, solid terrain maps with 3D relief for planning activities for Afghanistan, Syria and North America contingencies, a \$1.5M investment that was no longer being utilized by USSOCOM. The maps come in 4' x 8' sections and are clearly painted with Google Earth imagery in detail and can be hung on a wall. We agreed to accept the maps of Afghanistan which consists of 20 sections for a total measurement of 32'x20'. These map sections are being placed within the 2nd floor classrooms of CWY and can be used by instructors for teaching military strategy/tactics or reviewing military history.



Visit by Senior National Representatives of the Coalition at U.S. Central Command



Since the 9/11 attacks that took place in 2001, the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) at MacDill AFB has been directly involved in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and all other military operations in the Middle East. To facilitate these operations with partner nations, military representatives of each nation have been assigned to work side by side with their U.S. counterparts at USCENTCOM. Over 50 nations are represented in this Coalition. One day during the Spring semester, a class of Air Force ROTC 3rd year students and Naval ROTC Marine Option Midshipmen and MECEPs were paid a visit by several Senior National Representatives (SNR) of the Coalition. **BG Hans Ilis-Alm** (SNR of Sweden) and the SNR of Pakistan spent time with the Air Force cadets while **BG Michael Schoy** (SNR of Germany) and **Col Arnaud Lambolez** (Deputy SNR of France) spoke with the Naval ROTC Marines. This really was a unique opportunity for all. The students enjoyed learning about the role and mission of the Coalition while hearing the individual SNR perspectives and thoughts on current issues in the Middle East and about their country and military service. The visiting officers enjoyed the dialogue with our students and found the visit informative. The whole concept of ROTC on a civilian college campus is a novel concept to them.

Women in Naval Service Symposium

The University of Michigan NROTC sponsored a “Women in Naval Service Symposium” on March 23 and 24 to inspire and inform the next generation of women on women’s challenges and opportunities as naval officers. Thanks to travel funds provided by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, **Dr. Paul Atchley**, the Buccaneer Battalion was able to send five midshipmen to this symposium – **Katelyn Sleeter**, **Danakiss Betancourt**, **Rachel Cabrera**, **Reilly Maxwell** and **Anna Phillips**. The symposium blended formal presentations and panel discussions that gave the attendees the opportunity to interact with successful women from the senior enlisted and officer ranks including unrestricted line communities, the Nurse Corps and the Marine Corps.



Joint Military Leadership Center

John Sarao

Executive Director

jsarao@usf.edu • 813-974-7841

Lori Matthews

Administrative Specialist

lorimatthews@usf.edu • 813-974-2615

Joint Military Leadership website:

<http://www.usf.edu/undergrad/jmlc>

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usf.edu/undergrad/jmlc

