

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

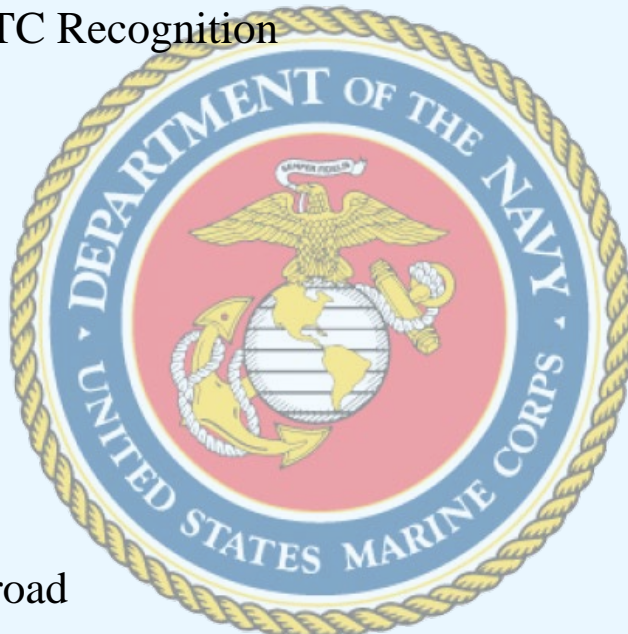
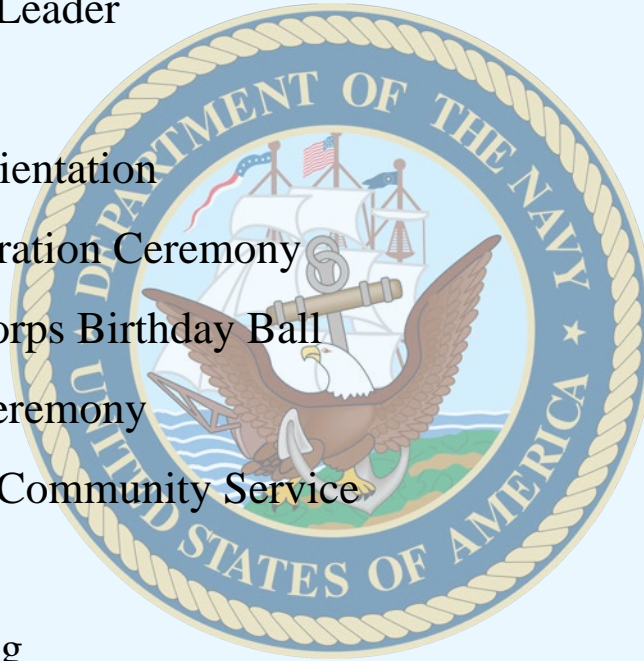
San Diego Consortium

Fall 2019 Newsletter



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From the Commanding Officer's Desk



Battalion family and friends,

The fall semester ended with hard work and perseverance from all of our Midshipmen and active duty members. We were honored to commission thirteen Ensigns and eight 2nd Lieutenants at our commissioning ceremony with guest speaker, Rear Admiral Stamatopoulos. In August before the semester began, fifty-three 4/C Midshipmen became new members of our battalion following the completion of new student orientation, a rigorous four day event held at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. NSO pushed our Midshipmen to their mental and physical limits while teaching them the fundamentals of life as a Midshipman. Every midshipman in our battalion learned a great deal this semester between their academics and club events, while supporting the community through volunteer service in the area.

Each and every member of the unit has made an impact which propels the unit to continued excellence. We will continue to take care of each other as we execute our mission of making exceptional leaders in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Captain Edwin D. Kaiser

Commanding Officer, NROTC San Diego Consortium

Senior Enlisted Leader



Battalion Families and friends,

We kicked off an outstanding fall semester with our new student orientation, and concluded with the commissioning of twenty-one new officers into active Naval Service. Throughout the semester the battalion leadership instituted a number of structural and training initiatives centered around empowerment, active communication and refining an operational mindset. These initiatives were largely based on feedback from within their own ranks, set a strong foundation for the peer development, and neatly align with their future roles as Navy and Marine Corp Officers.

This was my first full semester at the command, and I have been absolutely blown away by the dedication and professionalism of our Midshipman and active duty members. Throughout the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of NROTC Units across the country, and feel very confident that the environment this team has cultivated is the best in country!

Command Senior Chief (AW/IW/EXW/SW) Anthony D. Bush

Command Senior Enlisted Leader, NROTC San Diego Consortium

Battalion Top 3



MIDN 1/C Jacob Schultz

In all cases the theme of this semester has been change. Without the dedicated leadership of the student staff, the stalwart guidance of the active duty members of the unit, and the buy in and effort of everyone here, nothing that was tried this year would have worked. Because of everyone's efforts this semester, not a single second has been wasted. Thank you for all of your time and effort this semester and for working to make this one of the best units in the country. Have a safe and restful winter, and I look forward to working with everyone again next semester to further increase our training



MIDN 1/C Matthew Malloy

Serving as the Battalion Executive Officer this Fall has been a privilege and a challenge. With such a large unit spread out over five different schools, obstacles constantly arose and forced my team and I to be flexible and creative problem solvers. However, I noticed the impact I was able to leave on some of the younger members of the Battalion. Those moments made me think back to when I was a freshman and how much the seniors at the time helped me grow and become the person I am today. It was an honor to provide the same guidance to those who will be following after me at NROTC San Diego.



SSgt Erik Shepard

It has been an honor to serve this semester as the Battalion Command Master Chief. Leadership and confidence are not simply taught but developed through experience and challenges; often the best lessons are learned from failures. I am humbled to have the opportunity to take part in this process. I look forward to continuing my efforts throughout the upcoming semester and molding command presence among the future officers of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

New Student Orientation



MIDN 1/C James Pala

From the week of August 20th, 59 freshmen students participated in New Student Orientation (NSO). The goal of NSO is to prepare the high school graduates for success in Navy ROTC, college, and eventually as commissioned officers. They gained a foundation of how to act in a military environment. This included marching, uniform care, Battalion expectations, and collegiate success advice.

The focus of this year's NSO was directed at fostering a culture of mentorship between the 4/C and upper class Midshipmen. This included breakout sessions teaching about care for the uniform and mentoring time from their squad leaders and 1/C Midshipmen. During this mentoring time, they could ask honest questions about ROTC and college topics.

There was an overwhelming amount of support for NSO both from the NROTC Unit Staff as well as the upper-class Midshipmen. Over 50 Officers, Midshipmen, enlisted MECEPs, Officer Candidates, and civilian staff gave extensive time and effort to help plan and execute NSO. Without their efforts, NSO would not have been successful in giving the new 4/C Midshipmen the tools to succeed in college and ROTC. More than that, it gave the students from the five different schools in the consortium a chance to connect with each other. They began to develop morally, mentally, and physically in preparation to eventually become Naval Officers. On the final day, the new 4/C students pledged to "support and defend the Constitution" as Captain Kaiser swore them in as Midshipmen in the United States Naval Reserve.

9/11 Commemoration Ceremony



MIDN 1/C Daniel Chiavacci

It was an honor to serve as a detailer at USD's annual 9/11 ceremony. As we rang the ceremonial bell on the minute of each attack, I thought of the innocent lives that were lost, families who suffered, and those who gave their lives fighting in the following years to ensure our safety. The ceremony served as a reminder of why the men and women of our armed forces choose to serve and the grave responsibility they carry.

MIDN 2/C Sydney Squires

Each of the four plane crashes were memorialized at the time of their crash. With each reading, I would see more students stop, their smiles fade, headphones come out, and phones put away. This ceremony is an important reminder of the bravery and lives lost during 9/11. Its continued remembrance serves as a reminder that the country chose to be stronger in its wake.



Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball

SSgt Serge Ouedraogo



On November 1, 2019, NROTC San Diego celebrated the birthday of the US Navy and the US Marine Corps. This event is exceptionally important to the battalion members because it is a reminder of each branch's legacy, where they stand today, and where they are headed.

This year's traditional birthday message focused on Veterans. It is important for the current fighting force to appreciate the service and sacrifice of those who came before us. Rear Admiral McLane, our guest of honor, gave a brilliant speech to encourage the future Marine and Naval officers of the NROTC San Diego to continue to embody the core values of their branches and strive to be better leaders.

After 244 years, the US Navy and Marine Corps continue to be the mightiest, the most faithful, and the most revered professional fighting force the world has ever seen.

Veterans Day Ceremony

MIDN 2/C Justin Daus



The University of San Diego community has many different demographics that comprise its undergraduate and graduate population. One notable presence on campus is the student veteran community. Veterans across all branches make up USD's student veteran organization. They take courses with and partake in extracurricular activities with many members of the NROTC battalion (i.e. HERO Club, Associated Student Government, etc.). Thus, Veterans Day is a huge event both for the University of San Diego and NROTC San Diego members alike.



On November 8th, Navy ROTC San Diego partnered with University Ministry and the Student Veteran Organization on the University of San Diego's campus in order to conduct the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Lee Lennon, James Estillore, Samantha Douglass, and Ethan Wu were among the students in the NROTC color guard. Veterans, faculty, staff and students alike gathered to render honors during the ceremony.



Volunteering & Community Service

MIDN 3/C Michael Daly



Community service is incredibly important to the professional development of an officer. It teaches virtues such as teamwork, leadership, but most importantly empathy. Community service is empathy in action; it is putting yourself in someone else's position and making their feelings and necessities your own. Turning empathy into a habit can help an officer better relate to the enlisted sailors and marines they are charged with leading.



This semester alone, members of NROTC San Diego have cumulatively completed 2736 hours (equal to 114 days) of community service. Together we accomplished this as counselors, coaches, custodians, and through many other volunteer events scattered throughout San Diego. As the volunteer coordinator, I was able to personally watch Midshipmen lead children in carnival games at a fall festival, collect trash at a park to make room for families, give directions to a lost couple at a football game, and much more.

Battalion Drill



GySgt Christopher Long

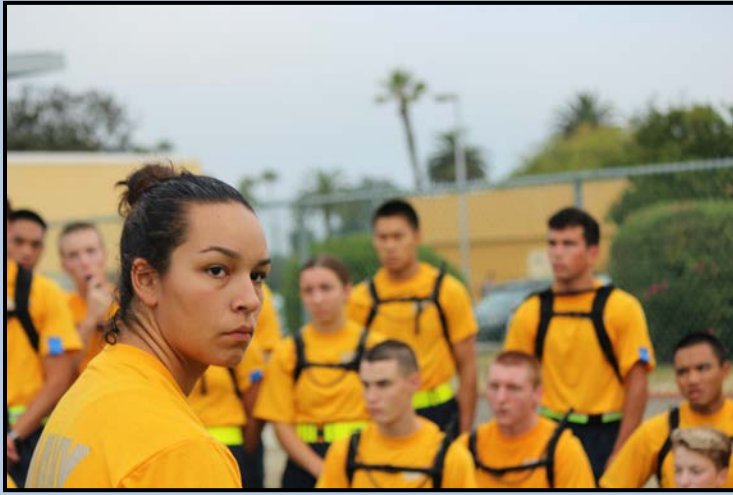
With my team of assistants and members of the Top Four, we collaborated to create ways in which we can improve various aspects of the Battalion. In the past, the unit would meet one Saturday each month and sit through a ‘death by Powerpoint’ strategy. We wanted to avoid these deficiencies. By incorporating various styles of classes that would encourage an interactive environment, we can increase unit cohesion and morale, ultimately bettering the output and effectiveness of our future officers.



During the Fall semester, we developed and executed over 18 hours of Battalion training that included student-led operational training and Company breakouts focusing on character development; over six hours of guest speakers with various backgrounds and professions; and other Command designated training. One of our guest speakers was a retired Marine Infantry Officer, a Bestselling Author, and a distinguished public speaker, **Major Scott Huesing**, who spoke to the Battalion about his leadership experiences and answered many questions from the students themselves. Major Huesing was just one of the many examples of exceptional guest speakers who took the time to visit and speak to the Battalion.



Physical Training



MIDN 1/C Connor Chaney

We have had a great semester of PT this fall. 22 individuals were able to improve their score enough to reduce their days of required PT. Our training plan saw great results across the board in our final PRT. Our PT sessions have been well motivated and effective. Mixing high intensity strength and conditioning with team based competition improved fitness while keeping morale and camaraderie high. Overall we had a great semester, and we are looking forward to the next one!

MIDN 2/C Tristen Daniels

A leader must lead by example, and that starts with being physically fit enough to excel in your duties. Serving the unit as one of the Physical Training Instructors (PTIs) this semester provided me the opportunity to positively impact other members of my unit by sharing my views of fitness with them and providing them with additional knowledge to improve themselves and the Navy team. Motivating the team meant not always being the happy-go-lucky peer, but instead bringing issues up to the front to tackle them head on. By the end of the semester, we had the fewest members on FEP in years. This shows the dedication of every member of our unit to physical excellence.



Intramurals



MIDN 3/C Doyle Schroth

As Intramural Coordinator, I was responsible for the planning and execution of intramural events between San Diego NROTC and sister service ROTC units. The purpose of these intramural events was to promote camaraderie, morale, and to interact with members of other ROTC units in the area. San Diego NROTC participated in two games of soccer and football, winning both of those games.

I learned many valuable lessons during my tenure as Intramural Coordinator. I learned the importance of clear communication and how the smallest thing such as the difference in lingo between different branches can cause a misunderstanding. I also learned how being able to problem solve quickly and think on your feet can make or break an event, as problems will almost certainly arise at the last minute with any type of event.

March On - ROTC Recognition

MIDN 2/C Christopher Colandene

As one of the largest influences in the colleges of San Diego, NROTC knows it is important to maintain a high level of respect and presentation. Being in the NROTC, we are instilled with the values of honor, courage, and commitment. Through our trainings, we practice these values. Teamwork and professionalism are also traits that the NROTC focuses on. The culmination of all values and traits we hold high is March On.

March On is one of the public events we perform to show the public and communities that we are here with gratitude for support. The March On is an event we perform once a year at the San Diego State Veterans Day Football game in which the battalion unites with Army and Air Force ROTC units to march on the field during the National Anthem. During our March On, the bands will play the Armed Forces Medley, which is adjusted to only represent Navy, Army, and Air Force. A joint color guard parades our national ensign along with each branch's flag.



As the music swells and the students and crowd cheer, it is a reminder of the support we are given from the community for our service and dedication to this country. This event ensures that the community of San Diego is united in its support of the NROTC and that the NROTC is here holding the highest standards for the country's finest city.



SpecWar Club

MIDN 3/C Olivia Adey & MIDN 2/C Brandon Ryczek

The goal of SpecWar Club is to prepare members physically, mentally, and morally for duty in the Special Warfare (SEAL) and Special Operations (EOD) communities. SpecWar Club is a group of highly motivated Midshipmen, ranging from Freshmen to Seniors, who strive to earn an opportunity to be selected for BUD/s or EOD training.



The club meets 5 times a week to train in the morning to become proficient in running, swimming, and overall calisthenics. A typical week consists of doing a variety of different workouts such as sprints, long runs, and swimming with fins. There is a healthy spirit of competition within the club and it always pays to be a winner. We hold each other accountable both in and out of uniform, and always strive to set the example for others to follow.

Aside from working out, the SpecWar club pays homage to service members of the SEAL and EOD community who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Reflecting upon their service to our nation reinforces camaraderie and respect within the club to motivate us all to remember why we want to be apart of these special communities.



SWO Club

MIDN 1/C Samantha Schwartz



This semester the Surface Warfare club took advantage of being located in San Diego, so close to Naval Base San Diego. The midshipmen were able to start their semester with a question and answer brief with junior officers aboard the USS Higgins (DDG). At this question and answer session, Midshipmen were able to learn more about the community. The junior officers were able to highlight their experiences deployed, their time at Basic Divisions Officer Course (BDOC), and how they dealt with qualifications as new officers. They were also gave insight to graduating and commissioning

Midshipmen were able to apply their knowledge from the question and answer session and learn more during a ship tour of the USS Essex. Here, junior officers lead midshipmen around an LHD and answered questions relating to this Naval platform. Students were able to get a different perspective and more advice from officers aboard a larger vessel with a different mission. Both opportunities were great learning experiences and incredibly informative into the world of being a Surface Warfare officer.

Midshipmen also had the opportunity each week to get hands on experience driving Naval ships in the Conning Officer Virtual Environment. This is a simulator that allows students to test their knowledge of directing the ship by virtually conning in and out of the port of San Diego or through an underway replenishment exercise. The SWO Club was very successful this year and we cumulated the semester by watching five commissioning midshipmen ship select.

Aviation Club

MIDN 1/C Matthew Malloy



The purpose of the club is to expose Battalion members to Naval Aviation. We are fortunate enough to be located within half an hour of Naval Air Station North Island and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Because of our proximity to these installations, we were able to schedule worthwhile aviation events such as squadron tours, museum tours, simulator events, and Q & A's with active duty pilots.

In my opinion, the most valuable event we scheduled this semester was an E-2 Hawkeye tour at NAS North Island. During my time with the Liberty Bells, I learned a lot from the pilots and flight officers there. I ended up staying in touch with them and invited them down to San Diego to show my classmates and I around one of their aircraft. They were able to fly down during the semester with a full crew to North Island and give aircraft tours to fifteen midshipman and answered all their questions ranging from flight school to the best bars in Ventura County.

Some other events we were able to schedule as a club include the Miramar Airshow, Q & A's with active duty MH-60 pilots, test pilots, and ATSB study sessions for anyone interested in the aviation pipeline. I would like to thank LT Fritts for providing guidance and contact information to get the ball rolling for scheduling events. The Aviation Club provides its members with unmatched opportunities compared to other commissioning programs and is undoubtedly one of the best assets to NROTC San Diego.

Sub Club

MIDN 2/C Corey Sizemore



The NROTC San Diego Submarine Club hosted a variety of different events this past semester. We kicked it off with a tour of the Navy Marine Mammal facility here in Point Loma. This event was awesome because we were able to get a tour for our unit only and were shown all kinds of sea life. Not only was it fun, it was also informative as they spoke about how they use mammal life in the Navy.

Another event we hosted was Sub Club Movie Night. This was not as informative as other briefs or luncheons we may have had, but it's a great way to bring together our club and unit. This semester we watched Hunter Killer. Once a month, the Naval Submarine League hosts a luncheon and invites our unit to come out and meet active and retired Submarine Officers. While enjoying a delicious free meal, we listen to high ranking officers speak about a variety of different topics.

This Spring semester will be even better with another variety of events. If you are interested in becoming a nuclear officer (Subs or SWO(N)), our Submarine Club is definitely for you. So, join and start attending our awesome events!

Semper Fi Club

MIDN 2/C Emerson Giesbrecht



Semper Fi club provides opportunities to build camaraderie among the active duty students and MIDN of Alpha Company seeking to commission as Marine Corps officers. Throughout each semester, the club creates opportunities for Marines and MIDN to tour unit spaces and speak with current and retired officers at local bases such as MCAS Miramar and MCB Camp Pendleton.

At such events, Marines and MIDN have the opportunity to learn more about future MOS opportunities and gain knowledge about what to expect once they join the fleet. Additionally, the club encourages members to create their own events and spend time together outside of unit functions. Some events include attending graduations at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, working out together, and going to a shooting range. Events like these allow the marines and MIDN of Alpha Company to share experiences and learn from one another.

In hosting these events, Semper Fi club creates a space to teach many of the intangible skills that will undoubtedly serve the students of NROTC San Diego as well as they enter the fleet as Marine Corps officers.

Battalion Merit

September



MIDN 1/C James Pala



SSgt Kienan Wubs

October



MIDN 3/C Aidan Perry



SSgt Serge Ouedraogo

Midshipmen Abroad

MIDN 2/C Kaleigh Molinari

This semester I have been so lucky as to study abroad in Patagonia, Chile while pursuing my undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies. Throughout the semester, much like any average semester, I have taken eighteen credits of environmental science classes. However, here, my quizzes occur outdoors on the islands that Charles Darwin walked on and my tests are administered along the glaciated mountainside of Torres del Paine National Park. I have been able to hike along the Fitz Roy Mountains and sail around Cape Horn. I have been so blessed to live in a land filled with glaciers and guanacos for the last four months.



This semester has not only served as a stunning change of scenery from San Diego but as a time for me to think about my inner purposes and motivations. Studying abroad has provided me with perspective on the power of purpose. Yes, mountains are beautiful and, yes, beautiful places can add to a sense of inner peace. But when one climbs a mountain, who do they help? What do they contribute? This semester abroad has further allowed me to develop my inner drive to be a part of *more*, in every cliché sense of the word.



Ironically, spending a semester away from the NROTC consortium has endowed me with a sense of pride to be a part of an organization and know individuals who have dedicated their young adult life to being *more*. As I sit here writing these paragraphs, I cannot help but to think about the Midshipmen commissioning this winter. These individuals have served as my role models throughout my two and a half years in college and NROTC. They are strong, intelligent and dedicated individuals whom I am more than excited to one day serve alongside in the U.S. Navy.

Fall 2019 Commissioning

MIDN 2/C Jovanna Salvador



United States Navy

ENS Nicole Carner

ENS Samuel Melin

ENS Evan Ferree

ENS Devon Mockridge

ENS Jackson Herget

ENS Stephen O'Malley

ENS Jeffrey Keeler

ENS Nathan Sauer

ENS Nolan Kolden

ENS Craig Taylor

ENS Zoe Mau

ENS Jacob Thomas

United States Marine Corps

2nd Lt Julian Adams

2nd Lt Giorgio Konstantaras

2nd Lt Dominic Escuela

2nd Lt Michael Lagalbo

2nd Lt Austin Francisco

2nd Lt Christopher Long

2nd Lt Cristian Goujon

2nd Lt Nicholas Slominski

The goal of ROTC is to commission officers. The commissioning ceremony is always an exciting time when we get to see the culmination of our Midshipmen's time here. Our comissonees will be spread across the Navy and Marine Corps with some attending flight school, some heading straight to ships across the world, and our Marines all heading to The Basic School before finding out what community they will go to.

The Fall ceremony occurs aboard the USS Midway; as an important part of history, it is a way to connect the past to the future of the Navy. Many have family and friends travel a long way to pin them and be there to send them off to start their naval career. Many will be saying goodbye to friends they have gained during their experience here. Many will see their friends again in the fleet throughout their career.

