



NROTC

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



UPENN NROTC
NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL REPORT

FALL 2022 - FALL 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO

COLONEL VINCENT J. CIUCCOLI

This Annual Report highlights UPenn NROTC's commitment to serving our communities and nurturing the development of future naval officers while maintaining responsible stewardship. Through collaboration with key stakeholders and diverse achievements, we showcase our dedication to aligning with UPenn's strategic goals and the broader naval officer accessions enterprise under Commander, Naval Service Training Command's (CNSTC) guidance.



Our primary focus remains on preparing midshipmen for leadership roles in the Navy and Marine Corps. We uphold a unique responsibility to engage with our host institution, crosstown universities, and the local Philadelphia community. Our network of supporters, including alumni, veterans, families, and friends, contributes to our midshipmen's intellectual growth, preparing them for their future careers. These communities offer academic seminars, scientific labs, and experiential learning opportunities complementing their studies. UPenn provides essential resources and spaces, with ongoing renovations at the Hollenback Center and Annex enhancing our facilities. Our commitment extends to being active members of the Philadelphia community. Through service projects and volunteer initiatives, midshipmen give back to our city and witness the positive impact of service firsthand.



These experiences instill valuable lessons for their future Navy and Marine Corps careers. Furthermore, we seek to positively impact our community beyond the confines of our three universities. In the spring of 2023, our senior class visited New York City, engaging with the Council on Foreign Relations, US Customs and Border Patrol officials, and JP Morgan's risk management team. This exposure provided a holistic understanding of leadership in diverse communities. In the fall of 2022, our freshmen class attended a leadership course at the Outdoor Odyssey Leadership Academy in western PA, challenging their boundaries and instilling leadership philosophies pioneered by Major General T. S. Jones, USMC (Ret). Both experiences expanded our midshipmen's worldview and imparted critical leadership lessons.



The development of naval leadership is an ongoing endeavor that we take great pride in. We prepare our future officers to lead with integrity and dedication, equipping them to face the challenges of austere and unpredictable environments. Despite the challenging recruitment efforts in competitive educational and employment marketplaces, we are confident that our midshipmen will emerge as well-prepared leaders, embodying our core values and a warrior spirit.

Vincent J. Ciuccoli

V. J. CIUCCOLI
COL USMC

OPENING REMARKS SPRING 2023 BCO



The Spring 2023 semester was packed with memorable events - with notable guest speakers, a Consortium-wide Spring Review Ceremony, the Villanova Military Excellence Competition, and a 1/C PME trip to New York, we have been busy. All classes made strides in their professional development and made this semester a success. Our Battalion relied on 4/C Midshipmen as Squad Leaders, while 2/C and 3/C held Battalion Staff billets and our 1/C served as mentors. Below are some highlights of our year.

- MIDN 1/C Dominic Scurio, SPRING 2023 BCO -

OPENING REMARKS FALL 2023 BCO

The Fall 2023 semester begins a new chapter for UPenn NROTC. Moving to the Franklin Annex, the unit looks different than in previous years. Also new this semester are 7 prospective Midshipmen that we hope to welcome after Kilo Company. They will hit the ground running and be in good hands as this semester's emphasis is on junior leadership opportunities and senior mentoring. The unit looks different, but our mission remains the same- commission Naval and Marine officers of the highest caliber.

--- MIDN 1/C Will Tinney, FALL 2023 BCO ---



OUTDOOR ODYSSEY | FALL 2022

October 29 - 30, 2022

Our 4/C MIDN had the incredible opportunity to venture into the Pennsylvania wilderness along with Villanova's 4/C MIDN. Together, they embarked on exciting challenges and interesting bonding experiences. Some of these events included ziplining, blindfolded mazes, dodgeball, obstacle courses in the air, building fires, and navigating through tricky scenarios with the help of camp counselors. The MIDN had a lot to say about the event, which went through the night.

"Outdoor Odyssey provided me with a way to develop my leadership skills while going through super fun experiences" - MIDN 4/C Wang



Getting Motivated

The 4/C had a special chance to receive several motivating talks from the head founder and executive director of Outdoor Odyssey, USMC General T. S. Jones (Ret). General Jones served for nearly 4 decades. He spoke about the process of instilling USMC core values into his camp, and how he inspires young men and women.

VADM CHEESEMAN VISIT FALL 2022

November 14, 2022

Vice Admiral (VADM) Cheeseman, Chief of Naval Personnel, visited the Philadelphia NROTC Consortium to address the unit and tour Penn's and Drexel's campuses. VADM Cheeseman also met with Drexel University President, John Fry. VADM Cheeseman answered many of the Consortium's questions and provided wisdom from his extensive and varied experience in the Navy. The unit was joined by members of University Life as well, including Vice Provost Tamara King, Director of Career Services Marjan Gartland, and Barbara Hewitt of Career Services.



Behind the Scenes

This was a rare and valuable opportunity for the midshipmen of the Philadelphia Consortium to talk to a member of the Navy's highest echelons, and learn more about the internal logic of the organization at large, especially with regards to current initiatives.

1/C NEW YORK TRIP | SPRING 2023

March 17, 2023

The 1/C MIDN took a trip to the Big Apple to visit tourist attractions and meet with leaders of large corporations to discuss best practices in the civilian sector.

MIDN 1/C Chung had this to say about the trip, *"It was a great opportunity to spend time with my fellow 'firsties' outside of our typical setting at the unit. It also showed me how valuable your network is because we were able to see some very cool things due to long-standing connections."*



Join the Navy; See the World.

The 1/C met with a panel from the Center for Foreign Relations where they had the opportunity to view national policy from a wider lens. Bridging the civil-military gap, the 1/C were exposed to a perspective that ordinarily would be beyond the scope of the NROTC curriculum.

VISIT FROM VADM ROEGGE | SPRING 2023



February 22, 2023

Retired VADM Frederick Roegge came to inform the Battalion about the nuclear navy and its role in maritime operations. The VADM has had an impressive Naval career, including serving as the Commodore of Submarine Squadron 22 and Commander of the US Pacific Fleet Submarine force.

VISIT FROM RDML EPPS | SPRING 2023

March 16, 2023

The unit was fortunate to host a special guest in our weekly lab, Rear Admiral Kenneth Epps. RADM Epps commissioned through NROTC at Vanderbilt University and came to discuss his experiences throughout his time in the Navy. He emphasized the key components of his trials and their effects on his career.



CORNELL MILITARY EXCELLENCE COMPETITION | FALL 2023

October 20-21, 2023

Fourteen midshipmen traveled north to Ithaca, NY to compete at a Military Excellence Competition (MEC) hosted by Cornell. There, they participated in events like the 5K race, fitness medley, 4x400 medley, color guard competition, tug of war, and much more. We competed among many other NROTC units including Cornell, RPI, and Rochester, as well as the academies: USMA, USCGA, USAFA, and USNA. Our 4x400 team placed 3rd out of 8; it was a successful, yet difficult event. The battalion looks forward to future events and MECs to show off our abilities.



Dominating the Fitness Medley

MIDN 2/C Bishay, and MIDN 3/C Himes participated in the most difficult event offered: the fitness medley. The event consisted of a maximum plank, maximum pull ups, maximum number of bench presses at 135lbs, followed by a 5k.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BALL FALL 2023

November 10, 2023

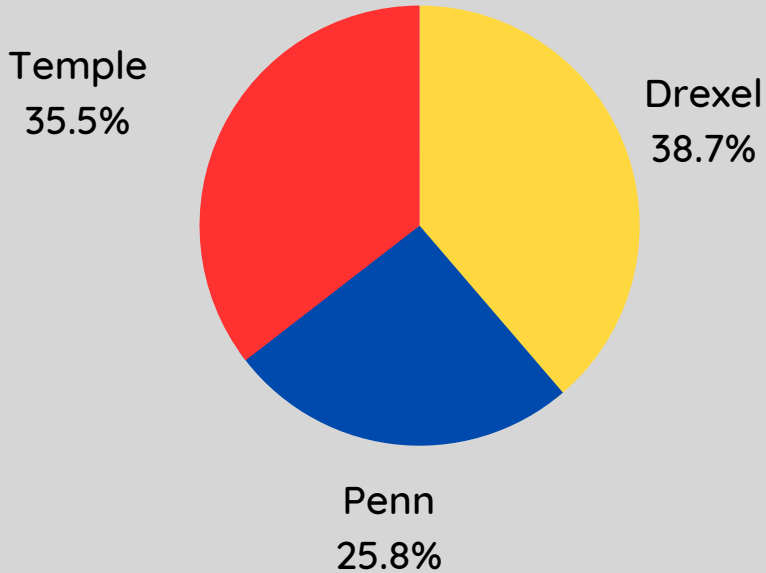
This fall, our MIDN celebrated the 248th annual Navy and Marine Corps Ball on the Marine Corps Birthday! All the MIDN put many hours (and early mornings) into planning and practicing for the ceremony. The night began with the Birthday Ball Ceremony, then led into dinner and celebration. Our guest of honor, the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major (Ret.) Alford L McMichael gave an incredibly insightful and motivational speech that inspired every MIDN in the room.



In the Navy

A special thanks goes out to MIDN 3/C Foran, the Ball Officer, whose hard work ensured that the ball ran efficiently and that everyone had a wonderful time. Further, none of this would have been possible without the Alumni Fund, which was crucial in getting ball underway.

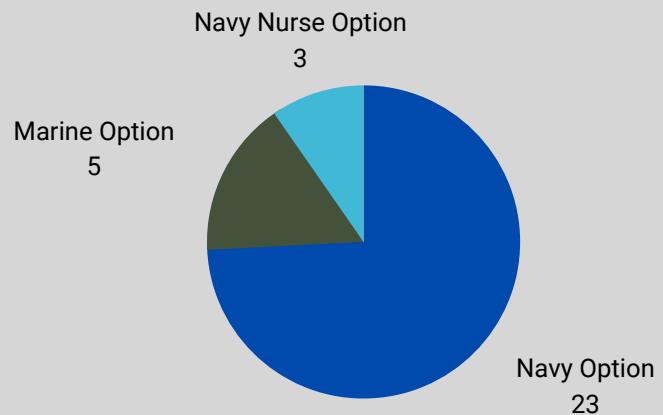
MEET THE MIDSHIPMAN



The Composition
Our unit boasts a size of 31 MIDN.

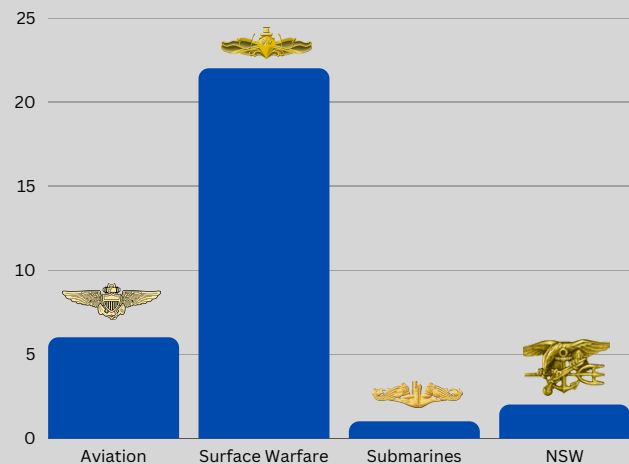
Hoorah vs. Hooyah

The unit consists of hardworking Marine, Navy, and Navy Nurse options. The adjacent chart shows our current composition of service communities.



Future Leaders

MIDN continue to express interest in a variety of service assignments. Given their stellar performance, Navy Options often get their first choice of warfare area.



MARINE OPTIONS

Marines represent the face of our Nation because they come from all parts of it, contributing different backgrounds and walks of life into the fight that defends America's way of life.



Just Keep Ruckin'

This picture, from the 9-mile ruck completed by the Penn and Villanova Consortium, is just one of many hikes that our Marines, and sometimes Navy options, embark on with packs weighing up to 90lbs!

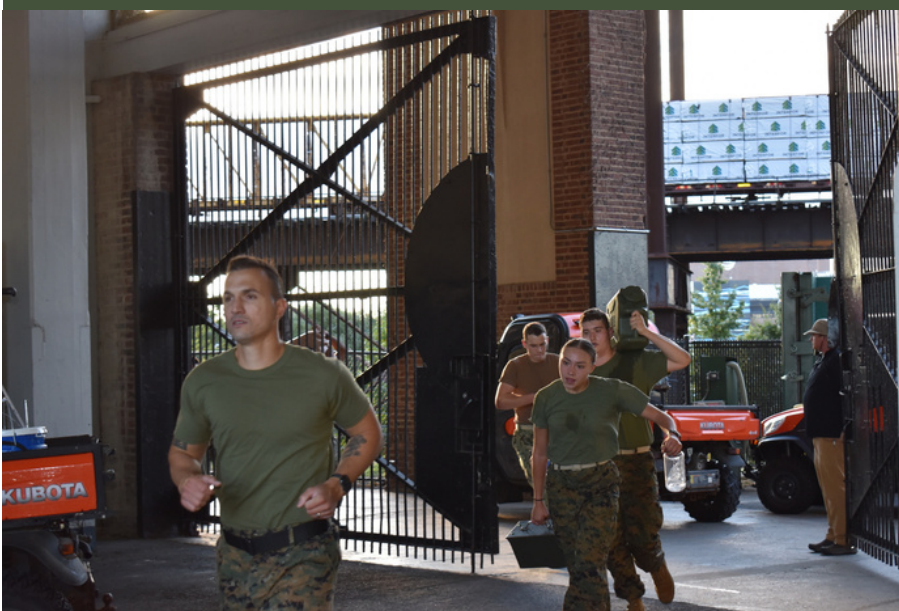
The Proper Motivation

Pictured below is GySgt Martinez, the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor. He ensures that the midshipmen are properly prepared for Officer Candidate School and The Basic School, and their future careers in the Navy/Marine Corps.



Purpose is Everything.

MIDN 1/C Dwyer (pictured above) describes his reason for becoming a Marine as "*fulfilling his purpose of service,*" which explains his dedication to the unit.



Alumni Spotlight

The University of Pennsylvania NROTC Battalion celebrates Class of 2012 Alumna USN Lieutenant Commander Amanda Day (maiden name Spaeder) and Class of 2014 Alumnus USMC Captain Gabriel Benjamin. The battalion proudly recognizes alumni contributions to our great nation long after they leave our unit.

LCDR Day received the Naval Postgraduate School's Superior Service award in the fall of 2022 for her efforts performing volunteer work with the local Girl Scout troop in Monterey, California. The Superior Service Award recognizes community engagement and sustained excellence in academic performance. Lcdr Day graduated with distinction from the Fall 2022 National Security Affairs Department.



Captain Benjamin is a 2014 Drexel University graduate of the PENN NROTC Battalion. Captain Benjamin received the Naval Postgraduate School's Marine Corps Association Superior Service Award for Outstanding U.S. Marine Student - "this award is presented to an outstanding student based on quality point rating (GPA), thesis/capstone project, curricular, and extracurricular activities." While at NPS, Captain Benjamin achieved an impressive 3.84 cumulative GPA. He also completed many volunteer hours for various non-profit organizations.



Stay Connected with the Battalion!

Instagram: @upennnavalrotc

Website: nrotc.universitylife.upenn.edu

