



NROTC

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



UPENN NROTC
NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL REPORT

FALL 2023

SUMMER 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO

COLONEL SCOTT A. GEHRIS

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I assume the role of the new Commanding Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. Having served over 30 years in the United States Marine Corps, I hope to bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and a deep commitment to the principles of honor, courage, and commitment that are the cornerstone of the NROTC program.

I began my career in the Marine Corps in 1993, obtaining the rank of Corporal before my eventual commissioning as a second lieutenant in 1997 upon graduating from Pennsylvania State University. I have served in various capacities and theaters, including deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Resolute Support, and the Pacific Theatre. Most recently, I served as the Chief of Staff, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, in July 2023.

I look forward to collaborating with our host institution, the University of Pennsylvania, and our cross-town affiliates, Drexel and Temple Universities, to create the best possible training environment for our battalion. Two priorities I have already identified are increasing the size of the battalion and working with the University of Pennsylvania to afford course credit for Penn MIDN. I would greatly appreciate any insight that you, our unit alumni, can provide to assist me in these efforts.



Through rigorous coursework and a deep commitment to excellence in all we do, I am certain that this battalion will produce superior Naval and Marine Corps Officers.

Semper Fi.

S.A. Gehris, Col, USMC

OUTGOING REMARKS SPRING 2024 BCO



We entered the Spring 2024 Semester with the goals of improving morale, increasing meaningful outreach, and further developing our midshipmen as leaders. We empowered Midshipmen to be honest and provide feedback in a small unit setting. We sent Midshipmen across the country to attend conferences and competitions. And we challenged our junior Midshipmen with collaterals and leadership billets. The unit is smaller but stronger than ever. As we move back home to the Hollenback next term, I have faith that the new leadership team will continue this tradition of excellence. - ENS Jacobs, Spring 2024 BCO

OPENING REMARKS FALL 2024 BCO

As the battalion returns to the Hollenback Center for the Fall 2024 Semester, our goal will be to execute small details to perfection. By focusing on the minute and day to day tasks, we hope to create a foundation of integrity and servant leadership amongst the battalion. This unit has a history of accomplished Midshipmen, and we will spend this upcoming semester creating the building blocks of high achievement. The Midshipmen staff and myself will be working to grow the battalion mentally, morally, and physically while maintaining high morale. - MIDN 1/C Suh, Fall 2024 BCO



COLORADO MILITARY EXCELLENCE COMPETITION | SPRING 2024

March 7 - 10, 2024

Our 4/C Midshipmen had the incredible opportunity to venture into the Colorado mountains along with some of Villanova's 4/C MIDN for the annual Endurance Race at the University of Colorado Boulder. Together, they embarked on exciting challenges and unique leadership experiences. Some of these events included a swimming portion in NWUs, CASEVAC, exercising with logs, and summiting Green Mountain with ILBE packs containing a total of 160 pounds.

"The Endurance Race provided me with arduous challenges that brought me closer to my peers and forced me to grow as an individual physically and mentally" - MIDN 4/C Crawford



Getting Motivated

The 4/C had plenty of motivation while summiting the mountain as Colonel Ciuccoli made the trip to Colorado and even summited with these motivated 4/C. Additionally, Staff Sergeant Korsunsky, the only MECEP participant from the University of Pennsylvania, remained motivated until the very end. He has recently been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant (pictured left).

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES



October 27 - 28, 2023

George Washington University Capital Conference

At the George Washington University Capital Conference, Midshipmen had the opportunity to spend a weekend learning from expert speakers at our nation's capital. The conference highlighted emerging issues of technology, ethics, leadership, and their effects on national security. This experience allowed Midshipmen to engage with civilian and military leaders alike.

February 8 - 11, 2024

Notre Dame Naval Leadership Weekend

Midshipmen from the UPENN Battalion attend the Notre Dame Naval Leadership weekend. This year's key note speaker was LtGen. David Bellon, USMC. The leadership conference featured many active duty and retired Navy and USMC leaders. These speakers highlighted their own tools to success in their careers and provided Midshipmen with experiences and skills to grow their own leadership tool bag and succeed as future officers.



April 5 - 6, 2024

Yale Leadership Conference

This year the Philadelphia Consortium sent 6 Midshipmen to the Yale Leadership Conference. These Midshipmen had the opportunity to network with Cadets, Midshipmen, and Officers from schools all around the country. The keynote speaker of this year's conference was Assistant SECNAV Franklin R. Parker. This conference also featured a seminar and Q&A about AUKUS presented by flag officers from the Australian and United Kingdoms Navy as well as the United States Navy.



SPRING REVIEW SPRING 2024

April 12th, 2024

Spring Review is a highlight of the academic year, showcasing the dedication and proficiency of Midshipmen in training. This year the Philadelphia Consortium was honored to host Major General William J. Bowers as the event's guest speaker. The words of MajGen. Bowers and Col. Ciuccoli were truly inspirational and made this award ceremony memorable.



Behind the Scenes

Against the backdrop of precision drills and disciplined formations, Midshipmen demonstrate their proficiency in Naval traditions and protocols, reflecting the values of professionalism and teamwork instilled throughout their training.

DINING-IN SPRING 2024

April 27, 2024

During the Spring of 2024, the Battalion hosted its first Marine Corp Dining In Ceremony. The evening was filled with camaraderie and Esprit de Corps as the unit wished farewell to our Commanding Officer and commissioning seniors. Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, our commanding officer, was the honored guest of the evening, and MIDN Bryan Suh served as the ceremony's president. The Midshipmen enjoyed the ceremony, and it will likely become a yearly tradition of the Battalion.



In the Navy

A special thanks goes out to the senior midshipmen for their invaluable mentorship and unwavering involvement. Your dedication, guidance, and exemplary leadership have shaped the next generation of midshipmen. Thank you for being the role models we aspire to emulate and for your lasting impact on our program.

MOTIVATIONAL RUN | SPRING 2024

April 26, 2024

The last PT before the 1/C commissioned was one that will surely never be forgotten. The entire battalion ran through the city of Philadelphia. Each midshipman had the opportunity to lead the group in cadence to build morale and unit cohesion.



HOLLENBACK RENOVATIONS



Sneak Peek!

The University of Pennsylvania has invested approximately \$300,000 to enhance the Hollenback Center for Midshipmen. Improvements included HVAC work, new carpeting, projectors, monitors, and much more. These improvements aim to create a more comfortable and effective learning environment for midshipmen.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY SPRING 2024

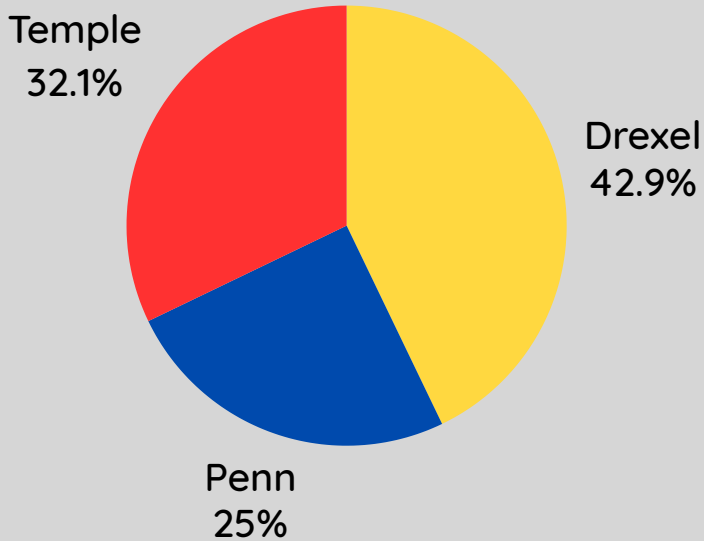
May 18, 2024

The United States Naval Officer's Commissioning Ceremony is a time-honored tradition steeped in dignity and pride. On this momentous occasion, family, friends, and distinguished guests gathered to witness the culmination of years of rigorous training and dedication. Held with precision and solemnity, the ceremony symbolizes the transition of newly minted officers from candidates to leaders, ready to uphold the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Each officer takes their oath with unwavering resolve, pledging to serve their country with integrity and to defend its freedoms at all costs.

As they receive their commissions, the atmosphere brims with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation for the challenges ahead. It is a celebration of achievement and the beginning of a noble journey in service. This year's guest of honor and guest speaker was Rear Admiral Donald M. Plummer.



MEET THE MIDSHIPMAN

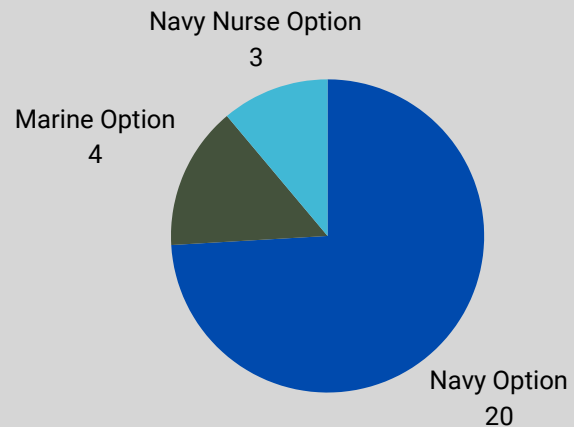


The Composition

As of May 2024, our unit boasts a size of 27 MIDN from Drexel, UPENN, and Temple University. The number of Midshipmen at each school is represented on the adjacent chart.

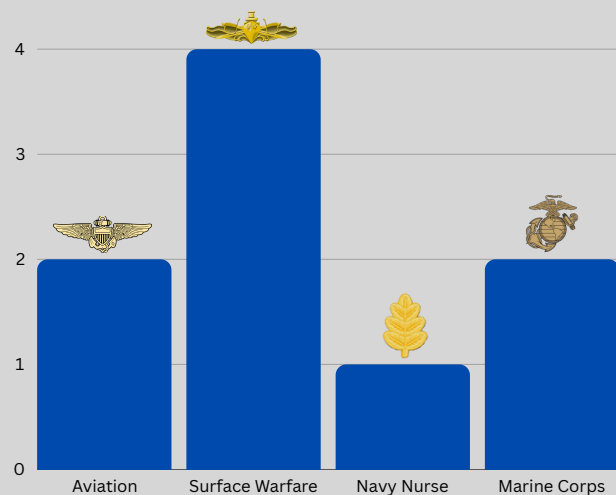
Oorah vs. Hooyah

The unit consists of hardworking Marine, Navy, and Navy Nurse options. The adjacent chart shows our current composition of service communities as of May 2024.



Future Leaders

In the spring of 2024, the unit commissioned 9 new Ensigns and 2nd LTs. Their selected designators are shown on the chart.



New Alumni Spotlight

2nd Lieutenant Quinn Button

Quinn Button is from Doylestown, PA. He graduated with a bachelors in Economics from Drexel University. 2nd LT Button commissioned into the Marine Corps and has reported to The Basic School in Quantico VA.



Ensign Jason Grady

Jason Grady is from Hillsborough, NC. He graduated with a bachelors in Political Science from Temple University. Ensign Grady commissioned into the Surface Warfare Community, and will report to the USS Truxtun in Norfolk, VA.



Ensign Gabrielle Grandjean

Gabrielle Grandjean is from Sanibel Island, FL. She graduated with a bachelors in Marketing from Drexel University. Ensign Grandjean commissioned into the Surface Warfare Community, and will report to the USS Roosevelt in Rota, Spain.



Ensign Ella Henderson

Ella Henderson is from Cumberland, RI. She graduated with a bachelors in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. Ensign Henderson commissioned as a Navy Nurse and will report to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton CA.



Ensign Nolan Jacobs

Nolan Jacobs is from Houlton, ME. He graduated with a bachelors in Environmental Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Ensign Jacobs commissioned into the Surface Warfare Community, and will report to the USS Lenah H Sutcliffe Higbee in San Diego, CA.



New Alumni Spotlight



Ensign John-Michel Szulinski

John-Michel Szulinski is from the suburbs of Chicago, IL. He graduated with a bachelors in Business and a minor in Music from Drexel University. Ensign Szulinski commissioned into the Surface Warfare Community, and will report to the USS Jack H Lucas in San Diego, CA.

2nd Lieutenant Will Tinney

Will Tinney is from Bel Air, MD. He graduated with a bachelors in Global Security at Temple University. 2nd LT Tinney commissioned into the Marine Corps (Res.) and has reported to The Basic School in Quantico, VA.



Ensign Amanda Yagerman

Amanda Yagerman is from Bayside, NY. She graduated with a bachelors in History and English from the University of Pennsylvania. This spring, Ensign Yagerman commissioned as a Student Naval Aviator and will report to flight school in Pensacola FL.



Ensign Sophia Zegarski

Sophia Zegarski from Melbourne, FL. She graduated with a bachelors in Economics from Temple University. Ensign Zegarski commissioned as a Student Naval Aviator and will report to flight school in Pensacola, FL.



Stay Connected with the Battalion!

Instagram: @upennnavalrotc

Website: nrotc.universitylife.upenn.edu

