USC NROTC
80th Anniversary Celebration
April 3rd and 4th, 2020

As details are finalized, they will be posted on the Alumni League web site (www.uscnrotc.org). We will also email out registration information in January. If you prefer, we can mail a hard copy to you, please see page 24 (back over) of this newsletter for more information.

Our NROTC unit will soon be celebrating 80 years and our Alumni League has been around almost half as long. Do you know how it all started? Col C.J. Horn, was the professor of Naval Science (1982-1985) when our Alumni League was founded and he was kind enough to give us some insight on how it all began.

Alumni League . . . in the Beginning
by C.J. Horn

I assumed command of the USC Naval ROTC in July, 1982, relieving Capt Ben Sutherlin, U. S. Navy. As he was leaving, he said that some Trojan midshipmen from the 1940’s had approached him to discuss forming an alumni group with the University. When he told them about the impending change of command, they all agreed to wait until I arrived. Indeed, within days of my arrival I was visited by a group which included John Franklin, George Stone, and Art Millbern. They said that in the intervening years since they had attended USC, some of them would occasionally gather and talk about their student days and military services. Eventually, several came up with the idea of forming a more official group of their shipmates and be connected with the University.

John Franklin told me they were excited about what they wanted to do, but weren’t sure how to become an official group within USC. It was pretty obvious to me that they were determined and knew what they wanted to do. Even though I was new and not a former midshipman myself, I thought they were onto something special. They impressed me with their deep affection and pride for USC, the Naval Services, and the NROTC. Plus, they continued on page 6
Another academic year is well underway at USC, and all the 11 new midshipmen of the Class of 2023 are getting used to college life and being an active part of the Trojan Battalion. Things have been busy on campus this fall with the installation of the new USC president – **Dr. Carol Folt**, and the new NROTC unit commanding officer – **Col Sean McBride, USMC**. Col McBride took command this summer and is settling in to life in southern California and USC after his last tour in Stuttgart, Germany. He is ably assisted by his wife Michelle who is a USC alumna, who is happy to be back in the southland and associated again with USC!

Your NROTC Alumni League had a terrific luncheon event in mid-August. Held at the USC Orange County Center in Irvine, it featured a fantastic presentation by **CDR Cliff “Red” Skelton, USN (Ret)**, who was our first USC “Blue Angel” pilot! “Red’ gave a stimulating talk on “Leadership and Teamwork,” which included some videos of his time flying with the Blue Angels, and lessons learned that apply to our civilian lives and careers. Next, we bused over to tour the “**Lyon Air Museum**” at Orange County Airport, followed by lunch back at the USC Center. It was great seeing longtime friends and meeting new NROTC alums.

2020 will be a big year for the USC NROTC unit as it celebrates its **80th Anniversary**! Having graduated thousands of Navy and Marine Corps officers in its eight decades, it continues as one of the premier NROTC units in the country! Plans are underway to mark this special history with a combined midshipmen **Spring Ball and Alumni League 80th Anniversary banquet** on Saturday, **April 4, 2020**. This will be a weekend event for alumni, with a Reception on Friday evening, a campus tour on Saturday (including the new USC Village). Registration information will be available in early 2020. But mark your calendars now, **save the date**, and plan to join us for a fantastic celebration!

Again, based on your tremendous generosity, we were pleased to award **$1,000 scholarships** to five deserving midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion for the Fall semester. It is very satisfying to help assist these fine young men and women, that will be future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps. They thank you, and I thank you…keep those generous tax-deductible checks and online donations coming! **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

**Still Fighting On. . .**

**Paul**
On June 21st, after a very thorough and professional turnover with Col Chris Michelsen, I took over as the CO of the NROTC Unit LA Consortium at a well-attended ceremony held adjacent to our PED building. My wife Michelle and I would like to thank Chris and Kelly for their hospitality and efforts that have set us up for success. Most importantly we’d like to thank them for their decades of service to our country, our Corps, and our families. Chris and Kelly are making their way to Cincinnati where he is embarking on his next career, and I’m sure I speak for all of us in wishing them and their family fair winds and following seas.

After seven years overseas (four in Okinawa; three in Germany), and 28 years of service on Marine & Navy bases with Marine or joint commands, the move here to Los Angeles and the assignment to NROTC was a bit of a culture shock, for me. Michelle, a Pasadena High School grad and Trojan Alumna (class of 19??), had no problem reintegrating into the Southern California lifestyle, although the speed and volume of traffic took a little getting used to. I’m actually not sure that I’ll ever get used to it.

I am absolutely honored to have this opportunity to influence our next generation of naval leaders. This will be my final tour in the Corps, and I can’t think of a better way to go out than by passing on some of the experience and knowledge that I’ve gained over the past 36(!) years. Every morning when I walk out of the Downey Street parking structure, I pause for a minute to appreciate where I am and how fortunate I am to be part of the Trojan family.

As a Marine, I fully appreciate and respect customs and traditions. I knew that USC was the place for me as I observed the solemnity and relaxed formality of the convocation ceremony kicking off the fall semester, complete with the march-on of each of the USC colleges with the Spirit of Troy Marching Band providing 45 nonstop minutes of music.

My admiration and respect for USC was further solidified on September 3rd when we tragically and unexpectedly lost one of our Midshipmen, MIDN 2/C Ben Duma. In the Marine Corps, we pride ourselves on “taking care of our own”. The response to this tragedy by the USC faculty, staff, and student body was comparable to anything that I’ve experienced in the Corps. The USC Crisis Response Team was out in force, with counselors standing by our spaces even before I arrived, and remained late into the night. With very little notice, the Catholic chapel on campus transitioned the daily mass into a memorial service that was attended by over 400 students. The University Crisis Intervention Team hosted an evening gathering for students to support one another and visit informally with counselors. This event was attended by 700 students and faculty, including President Folt, who provided words of support to the group. The battalion hosted Ben’s parents for a day, with several of Ben’s closest friends spending several hours in the wardroom sharing stories.

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**Bulletin Board**

**How to Contact Us:**

USC Naval ROTC Alumni League  
Department of Naval Science  
University of Southern California  
3560 Watt Way, PED Room 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0654

NROTC Office Phone Number: (213) 740-2663

Our NROTC Alumni League members are scattered all over the world and it is always fun trying to keep up with all your moves and changes. One way that we can keep up, is for you to complete the “Update My Information” section of the Return Slip of The LOG when you send in your tax-deductible dues and contributions. Another way is to access the USC Alumni Association website [http://alumni.usc.edu/benefits/online.html](http://alumni.usc.edu/benefits/online.html) to update your profile, e-mail or mailing address. Whenever you move, get promoted, change your email address, go online to the USC Alumni site and pop in the current info. We don’t want you to become LOST…

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**Don’t FORGET!! 2019 Membership Dues are due NOW!**

Please complete the form on the back page, write your tax-deductible check and send it to the Treasurer, Ed Tannenbaum, using the self-addressed envelope or to the NROTC Unit - Attention: Alumni League, at the address listed under “How to Contact Us”

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**Board of Director’s Meetings**

All NROTC Alumni League Members are invited to attend the Spring and Fall Board Meetings as non-voting attendees. Reservations can be made with Paul Alwine: Home (949) 559-8659 or cell (949) 636-0603. The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 10:00 on the USC Campus.

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**NROTC Alumni Scholarship Endowment**

As of 31 July 2019 the balance in the NROTC Scholarship Endowment was over $269,000. We awarded $10,000 from the spendable account through 31 July 2019. $5000 scholarships in November 2017 and April 2018. Any questions regarding the Scholarship Endowment and our scholarship program, call Jerry Vieau ’68 at jerryvieau@yahoo.com

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**From the Ship’s Store**

**Trojan Battalion Items:** USC NROTC Polo Shirts -$40, and USC NROTC Challenge Coins - $10 each.

To Order: Contact NROTC Office listed above -“How to Contact Us”.

**Alumni League Items:** Tote Bag - $25, Alumni League Challenge Coins - $12, Bottle Openers (made from 50 Caliber Bullets - $42. To Order: email log_editor@yahoo.com

*All proceeds goes toward the support of the Trojan Battalion*
CO’s Update

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of their time with Ben. One of our Midshipmen started a “Go Fund Me” account to raise money to assist Ben’s family with expenses related to the funeral. Ben’s parents have generously offered that money for a scholarship in Ben’s memory. As I write this, we have raised almost $30,000 towards our $50,000 goal. Many of our Alumni League members have donated generously, which is very much appreciated by Ben’s family. If any others would like to contribute, the account is located at: https://www.gofundme.com/f/fight-on-forever-ben.

The Trojan Battalion continues to fight on. We welcomed 11 new 4/C Midshipmen in August, bringing us to a total of 70 motivators, which is very consistent with our manning over the past five years. That said, I have made recruiting one of my priorities; I see no reason at all why we can’t grow to 100 strong. I could use your help with this. If you know of any high-performing high school students or USC students that you think have what it takes to join the Trojan Battalion please put them in touch with our recruiting officer LT John Frnka (john.frnka@rotc.usc.edu), or just get them to our spaces in the PED and we’ll take it from there.

Our door is always open to our NROTC alumni. If you find yourself in our area, please stop in for a cup of coffee and to share some war stories; they need not be true to be appreciated. We’re happy to let you check out the ward room – I’m confident that it is largely unchanged since you graduated, no matter when that was!

Let me close by thanking our Alumni League for their active support of the Trojan Battalion. While attending the Prospective CO’s orientation course in Pensacola in August, I was approached several times by my counterparts from across the country who had heard about our League and wanted to know how to stand up a similar organization. Our League is literally known around the country for its sustained, superior support to the Trojan Battalion, and I am proud to be associated with you. We look forward to celebrating the Alumni League’s 80th anniversary in conjunction with our Spring Ball in April, and hope that many of you can attend the festivities.

Speaking on behalf of the battalion and staff, thank you for your support and for continuing to fight on!

Semper Fidelis,

Sean McBride
Alumni League

said they would love to help the current unit in any way they could. I was more than happy to help and worked closely with them.

I briefed their request to the Dean of the School of Public Administration, which had oversight of the three ROTC’s, and he said he would gladly support the idea. We then briefed the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) and received the blessing from that staff. With great enthusiasm, John Franklin and a growing number of his shipmates, some of whom were still active in their careers, went right to work. One of the really important early tasks was researching and then contacting former midshipmen (which is still ongoing). At the same time they began to build an organizational chart and a financial plan.

It is impossible to list all the early key players and achievements, but it is appropriate to name a few. John Franklin, of course, probably put in the most hours, days, and effort in the beginning. Art Millbern and Bob Benner seemed to offer needed organizational skills; Bob Stevens, former Midshipman Battalion Commander, exuded timely insight and leadership. Bryan (Bill) Stevens mentored the sailing program for the midshipmen and wrote the first newsletters, which were the precursor of The Log. So much happened so fast that the success and accomplishments of these early pioneers is hard to believe. They said they wanted to “help” the NROTC Unit. Wow, have they ever! They and the present Naval ROTC Alumni League have provided amazing financial support, awards, funded a computer lab, assisted the sailing program, to list some of their “help.” And, like any such organization, they have provided for social affairs, tours, luncheons, business meetings, and other gatherings.

An interesting sidelight: Indicative of the pride and conviction of their nascent alumni league idea, John Franklin sent out “start-up kits” to all the other 65 NROTC’s in the country. We have learned that some of those units started similar programs.

Finally, a special note of appreciation to a well-known and much-loved member of the University of Southern California, Dean Norman Fertig. Although not a product of the NROTC, Dr. Fertig was a Navy combat veteran (Battle of Okinawa), who knew USC like no one else. In the formative years of the Alumni League he graciously and wisely offered insight and a steady hand as the League grew. In showing his care and sponsorship of the NROTC program, he traveled to Lubbock, Texas, to participate in the dedication ceremony of the new unit at Texas Tech University where I was assigned after my tour at USC.

Finally, my wife, Suzi, and I are so proud to be associated with the Alumni League. I am also pleased to see the ongoing leadership of Captain Paul Alwine and others as they nurture the continued growth. I have been able to follow the progress of the League for 37 years now, mostly through copies of The Log, which is so timely, newsy, and very informative.

In a way that the Navy understands, the formation and finished product of the Alumni League reminds me of “new ship construction.” This group started with little more than a great idea and energetic workers and built a beautiful ship. BZ!

Col Carl. J. Horn received his Masters of Science degree in Education from USC in 1978 and was the Professor of Naval Science (PNS) at USC from 1982 - 85, then served as the first PNS at Texas Tech from 1985-87.

John Franklin and Col C.J. Horn
Supporting the Alumni League

Thank you Alums for your continued support of the Alumni League and the Trojan Battalion!

We understand your time is valuable and perhaps a method other than writing a check and mailing it to the League may be a more convenient way for you to donate. With this in mind, we wanted to share the online donating option available to you to support the USC Midshipmen through the USC NROTC Alumni League.

First, and most importantly, all donations go through the University and are an allowable tax deduction as a contribution as a 501(c)(3) donation.

Your annual Member Dues Donation of $25 goes to NROTC Alumni League Fund (22-5506)

Additional contributions can be made to:
NROTC Alumni League Fund (22-5506) and/or NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment (98-4296)

The NROTC Alumni League Fund (22-5506) is the best vehicle for the League’s Board of Directors to support our midshipmen. Your donations, which are tax deductible, are available for immediate use, and support the drill team expenses and travel, student awards, printing of The Log, the glider flight program, Wardroom improvements and other emergent midshipmen needs.

The Alumni League Board administers the NROTC Scholarship Endowment Spendable (28-4296) account, which is fed from 98-4296 listed above. Five $1,000 scholarships are awarded each semester to midshipmen selected by the Board’s scholarship committee. This money is to be used by the recipient for University related expenses. The glider flight program also receives $2,000 from this account each academic year.

How to Contribute

Checks:
Payable to USC NROTC Alumni League, can be mailed to Edward Tannenbaum, 12812 Bristol Circle South, Los Angeles, CA 90049. There is a page in the Log with a form that can be used.

Online donations:
• Go to “giveto.usc.edu”

• Under the heading “Tell us about your gift”, select either “I am making a new one-time gift” or “I am making a recurring gift” (as appropriate)

• Under heading “Choose where to direct your gift” select “Please direct my gift to a specific school or program”

• Under the heading “Academic Units”, choose the “+” for Public Policy “USC Sol Price School of Public Policy”

• Three-fourths of the way down the list, you will see USC NROTC Gift Fund which feeds 22-5506 and USC NROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund which feeds 98-4296.

USC NROTC 80th Anniversary
Celebration April 3rd and 4th, 2020
Details will be posted on our web site as they are finalized.
Go to www.uscnrotc.org
NROTC Class of 1979 held 40th Reunion

by Bob Bennett ’79

Class of ’79 held their 40th reunion celebrations during the weekend of September 6th and 7th, 2019. On Friday, the first event was a tour of the McKay Athletic Center, followed by a Heritage Hall open house and then an almost private pep rally with band, football team and cheerleaders. This is the traditional “Jock Rally” held the day before a home football game. Photos at Tommy Trojan were followed by an evening at Traditions on campus. Traditions is a restaurant/bar located in the basement of the Ronald Tutor Student Center - and like many other things on campus, did not exist 40 years ago.

Saturday started with a gathering in the Wardroom – not much has changed in that room -- followed by a tailgate in Exposition Park. This event was interrupted for an on-field photo session at the Coliseum with a special appearance by Traveler in the background. We went back to tailgating until it was game time. The football team put the icing on the cake and gave us one of the best USC football games in recent years – beating Stanford is always nice.

In attendance were Mark Busch, Brian & Donna Geren, Ron MacLaren, Craig & Liese Kennedy, Bob Frankel, Angel Mariano, Jim Tertocka, Bob Smith, Rich Suttie, Byron & Karen Veasey, Eric & Rosanna Vanderslice, Dave & Karen Waran, Bob & Diana Wiedower, Steve Van Horn, and Bob Bennett. There were a few visitors as well: the unit CO, Col McBride and his wife Michelle, and former unit secretary, Awilda Pena. Also, Paul & Binnie Alwine, and Frances & Dan Annarella from the Alumni League stopped by to catch up with the group.

Bravo Zulu Bob Bennett and Craig Kennedy!

This reunion would not have been possible without the hard work and relentless efforts of these two gentlemen to track down and invite all their classmates. Considering Bob lives in North Carolina and Craig in Nebraska, they managed to remotely put together an excellent reunion! Job Well Done!
How to Plan a Class Reunion (a.k.a. how to herd cats)

Are you thinking about having a class reunion? To help you in making your decision, we thought it would be worthwhile to let everyone know about how those classes and groups that have recently conducted reunions went about putting on their events.

The key to success is to get started early! You will need plenty of time (six months minimum but a year or more is better), as there is a big effort in trying to locate, contact, and hopefully get a response back from everyone. And the best starting point for contact information is from the NROTC Alumni Log mailing list. From this list, you can get available email and mailings addresses in order to contact your classmates. While this will not be a complete listing, it will get you started, and you would be surprised at how many missing classmates will be found because of contacts your classmates have among themselves. Online sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Intelius are also great to help find missing classmates.

The next biggest item to have is a co-chair. There is way too much work for one person to handle, especially if you are trying to make all the arrangements from long distance. Most importantly, the co-chair provides a second set of eyes on outgoing emails and letters, serves as a sounding board as decisions are made, and can take responsibility (credit or blame) for some of the different reunion events.

Once you have the listing and a co-chair, the next item to work on is getting consensus among you and your classmates as to when and what the event will be. This is the “herding cats” phase! While you can select any anniversary or significant date you want, recent reunions have successfully leveraged their classes’ 40th anniversary year. It is at this point in life when most classmates have the flexibility to travel and get together, particularly if you intend to have your reunion in conjunction with a football game. If the plan is to attend a football game, it’s best to avoid the university homecoming weekend. USC homecoming weekend is total chaos – crowded, too many competing events, and there is a lack of space. The two most recent NROTC class reunions were held early in the football season.

Communicate! Letting everyone know the process for selecting the date and giving folks a chance to come to the event (even if they said no at first) helps. Letting everyone know the deadlines early - for buying tickets, getting firm headcounts for the tailgate, etc. is very important. Letting everyone know the price range of tickets, tailgate costs, etc., ahead of them having to commit prevented surprises.

If you plan to attend a football game, go through the USC Group Tickets Sales Office and outsource your tailgate. Contacting the USC Ticket Office early for group sales allows you to get seats together, they can also help you get on the field for pictures before the game and have your reunion group recognized on the big Coliseum screens. As for the tailgate, there are several companies that provide turnkey events. While more expensive, this approach allows everyone, including you, to be part of the event instead of having to worry about setting it up, getting the food and beverages, and cleaning it up afterwards. These companies provide the tents, chairs and coolers, have contracts with catering and beverage companies and will have everything set up for you when you arrive. And most importantly, they will clean up and tear down the site for you. So when it is game time, everyone, including you and your co-chair, can just walk to the Coliseum. This is especially important if the organizers are from out of town.

Whether you go to a Football game and/or choose to tailgate, having an informal gathering in the P.E. Building Atrium is also special. It brings back great memories of Unit gatherings, Drill days and Keggers (they don’t do that anymore), while also getting the chance to talk with some of the Midshipmen in the Wardroom.

Conducting all the planning and coordination for a reunion can be time consuming, but it is well worth the effort! At the end of the day, we found that everyone thoroughly enjoyed their reunions. Reconnecting with classmates that you haven’t seen in years is PRICELESS!

So, are you thinking about having a reunion? Contact Bob Bennett, NROTC Alumni League Reunion Liaison, at robert.m.bennett@outlook.com or 703.922.6361. Bob can walk you through the process.
Back at the Battalion

Welcome Class of 2023!

Hanna Persky -- San Francisco, CA
John Lochtefeld -- Darien, CT
Sophia Clements -- Fenton, MI
Patrick Gallo -- Brookline, MA
Jason Zilberfarb -- Andover, NJ
Sho Flores -- Tokyo, Japan
Gabe Kott -- Annapolis, MD

Nick Imig -- Penns Grove, NJ
Bryce Alexander -- Newport, RI
Nick Messina -- Boca Raton, FL
Niki McCormick -- Laguna Niguel, CA
Joseph Bioche -- Marion, IA

From the Battalion:

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the loss of one of our own, Benjamin Duma. Ben was a junior engineering student from Atlanta, Georgia. Simply put, he was one of the most heart-filling, wonderful midshipmen we had. He was the type to brighten the room, infect everyone with his laughter, and lift the spirits of those around. We will miss him deeply.

Fight on forever, Ben.
Glider Flight Program Fall 2019 Update

The Alumni League’s Glider Flight Program is in its second year. This fall, 5 midshipmen participated in first level training conducted at the USC campus and at Mountain Valley Airport in Tehachapi, CA. MIDN 2/C Alec Wyndhamsmith, MIDN 2/C Michelle Reiss, MIDN 2/C Stephen Zimmer, MIDN 2/C Madeleine Yi, and MIDN 3/C Evan Molenda began their training by receiving a two hour brief at USC on the Thursday before their weekend flight date.

Flying was conducted on Sunday, 8 September, along with the weekends of 14-15 and 21-22 September 2019. Each midshipman was scheduled on a separate day for 4 flights in two different types of glider aircraft. Basic flight maneuvers were introduced, allowing each student the opportunity to practice and obtain a feel for motor-less flight through the use of the glider’s primary and secondary flight controls.

The flying day started with an airfield orientation followed by a classroom/preflight brief reviewing the topics covered the previous Thursday at USC. Each flight consisted of an aircraft tow to 4000 ft above the airport, maneuver introduction and practice, approach and landing demonstration, and post-flight debrief. Flights lasted between 20-30 minutes, with times varying due to atmospheric conditions and altitude lost during maneuver practice. The flight day concluded with lunch at the airport cafe and each student receiving a textbook (FAA Glider Flight Manual) and a logbook that recorded each of their flights.

The five students were briefed on future training opportunities under Level Two of the League’s glider program. Matching funds up to $2500 will be provided to a limited number of those desiring to pursue training leading to solo flight and the FAA private pilot glider rating prior to their assignment to Pensacola.

The League thanks glider instructor and USC NROTC alumnus Robert Crawford ’75 for assisting in the on-campus portion of training being conducted at USC’s Tutor Center. The Tehachapi training site may be viewed at: skylarknorth.com.
1. What is MECEP?

A MECEP is a Marine on the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program

2. What are the requirements and application process?

The basic requirements are: to be a Sergeant or above, minimum of 3 years time in service, at least 1 year left on contract, minimum of 12 college credits (with at least 3 math or science and 3 English), be a US citizen, between the ages of 20-35, at least a minimum of one of the test scores (74 AFQT on ASVAB, 1000 SAT, 22 ACT).

Once a Marine meets the minimum requirements, they may submit an application to one of the three to four boards a year.

The application includes a formal letter to apply for the program endorsed by the Commanding Officer and the first general in his/her chain of command. Attached with the application is an interview board report; which is a formal report by a panel of officers and a senior enlisted meant to judge the candidate on everything from their manner, voice, professional knowledge, and anything else they deem relevant. The request also includes a handwritten essay, college transcripts, official test scores, a medical screening, and letters of recommendation and all training and basic personnel information found in the master record. Finally attached will be several statements of understanding regarding fraternization, ground service, sexual assault, and sexual harassment; as well as a list of required documents/screenings regarding citizenship, marriage, tattoos, drugs, minor traffic violations, and non-traffic arrest, and any negative paperwork received in the Marine Corps which may preclude them from the program.

If the Marine is selected for the program, they will be assigned a class date for Officer Candidate School (OCS). After completing OCS they can apply to a school with an NROTC program and once accepted may submit for orders to that school where they will be attached to a reserve unit administratively and report to the Commanding Officer of that NROTC unit.

3. Is it a full scholarship or do you have to pay for part of your tuition?

The program is NOT paid for by the Marine Corps, Marines are encouraged to use their GI bill, apply for financial aid, and scholarships.

4. What are the MECEPs roles at the Trojan Battalion?

Every school is a little different in regard to requirements for MECEPs, listed below are the requirements for MECEPs at USC. To sum it up, we’re expected to get our degrees, prepare for TBS, be a part of the battalion, and help the midshipmen through example, planning and executing training events, and classes.

- Maintain a full-time student status in the pursuit of a bachelor’s degree.
- Complete Naval Science courses in preparation for officer commission.
- Execute leadership billets within the student run NROTC Battalion when assigned.
- Plan, coordinate, and execute NROTC events when assigned.
- Participate in NROTC Battalion activities, labs, drills and functions.
- Prepare mentally and physically for TBS.
- Pursue academic excellence by maintaining a 3.0 Grade Point Average or better.
- Pursue physical excellence by maintaining a 275 PFT or better.
- Set the example in character, judgment and behavior both on and off duty for midshipmen and fellow MECEP students to emulate.
- Present a positive image of the Marine Corps and MECEP program to the university, Navy staff, local community and midshipmen.
- Mentor and assist in the training and professional development of midshipmen.

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5. What do you do in the summer (do you go on cruises with the MIDNs or have other obligations)?

The requirement for the MECEPs over the summer seems largely dependent on the CO. Previously, due to the high cost of tuition over the summer, Marines attended school at a local community college for transfer credit, attended a training that would be beneficial to the unit/Marine Corps (martial arts instructor course, Marine Corps Water Survival instructor course, etc.), or intern for their specific major. The previous CO changed it to class all year round whether at USC or a community college and any time outside class was spent helping out the unit with various projects. The guidance under this CO has not yet been put out.

6. Do you get full pay while you are in college and are you eligible for promotions?

While on MECEP, we remain on active duty and continue to receive full pay and benefits. Once accepted to the program we receive non-competitive promotion; meaning our packages are no longer briefed on promotion boards and we are instead automatically selected for promotion by our equivalent seniority to those in the fleet with the same time in service (TIS) and time in grade (TIG).

7. What are the commitments after graduation and commissioning?

A six-year obligation is established at the end of the second year of studies so we can maintain a minimum four-year obligation upon graduation. Following graduation Marines will leave USC to attend 6 months at The Basic School in Quantico, VA followed by occupational specialty school(s). We are not obligated to return to our previous Military Occupational Specialty.

8. Any other important information about the program that you would like the readers to know?

“MECEP is by no means an easy path, and only those with a vested interest in the future of our Corps institution even consider it. Attending USC allows me not only to receive an amazing education but impart years of knowledge on those that represent the future of our armed forces. Mistakes and successes, failures and triumphs; all shared to future officers that could potentially avoid similar errors in their careers and focus on new and difficult issues. In a world of growing uncertainty and turmoil, I feel blessed not only to teach, but learn alongside this new generation of officers.”

-SSgt Michael Luce

“MECEPs are working on becoming the bridge that brings Officers and Enlisted Marines together. My main mission as an officer would be to bring back the importance of small unit leadership and that entails making Corporals and Sergeants the backbone of the Marine Corps. I’d prioritize giving NCO’s back the responsibility that was assumed by company grade officers in the past decade due to rapid promotions cycles that pushed junior Marines into positions/ranks they weren’t ready to assume as a result of the Marine Corps’ expedient draw down which saw a lot of veteran leadership leave our Corps.”

-Sgt Hector Flores

Glider Flight Program
Receives Big Donation!

The USC NROTC Alumni League is excited to announce the donation of $6500 to the League’s Glider Flight Program by 1962 alumnus and League board member Edward Tannenbaum. Ed’s donation is to the 5506 general account and will be earmarked for level two glider training.

This will allow USC NROTC future Naval Aviators and Glider Flight Program participants the opportunity to pursue additional flight training leading to solo flight and the FAA private pilot glider rating prior to assignment to Pensacola.

BZ Ed! Thank You and FLIGHT ON!
Meet the MECEPs

Name: Sgt Flores, Hector
MOS: 0111 Administrative specialist
Years of Service: 6 1/2 years of service
Hometown: San Diego, CA
Major: Public Policy and Development
Noteworthy: First generation college student, 4th generation American and Armed Services member. Will be the first Officer in the family.

Name: SSgt Garza, Josefina
MOS: 0111 Administrative specialist
Years of Service: 9 years
Hometown: Boise, ID
Major: Economics

Name: Sgt Gunning, Christopher
MOS: 3451 Financial Management
Years of Service: 7 years
Hometown: Groton, CT
Major: Russian

Name: GySgt Hodge, Michael
MOS: 0369 Infantry Unit Leader
Years of Service: 7
Hometown: Lemoore, CA
Major: Public Policy
Hobbies: Surfing with my 3 sons, hunting/fishing, and coaching youth baseball and Pop Warner football.

Name: SSgt Luce, Michael B
MOS: 5811 Military Police
Years of Service: 9
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Major: Intelligence and Cyber Operations

Name: SSgt Ramirez, Pedro
MOS: 3043 Supply Administration and Operations
Years of Service: 7
Hometown: Maui, HI
Major: Economics

Name: SSgt Oqueli, Isai
MOS: 0811 Artillery Canon Crewman
Years of Service: 10
Hometown: Los Angeles and Frederick CO
Major: International Relations
Minor: Human Security and Geospatial Intelligence
Noteworthy: 2 brothers are Marines.
Hobbies: Reading, running, snowboarding, and traveling.

Left To Right
Top Row:
SSgt Pedro Ramirez
SSgt Michael Luce
GySgt Michael Hodge

Bottom Row:
Sgt Christopher Gunning
SSgt Josefina Garza
Sgt Hector Flores
SSgt Isai Oquelli
Alumni League Luncheon and Tour of Lyon Air Museum

The Alumni League held the annual luncheon on Saturday, August 17, 2019. The event started at the USC Orange County Center with coffee and refreshments and a very informative presentation by Cliff Skelton ’78. Cliff “RED” Skelton was USC NROTC’s first Blue Angel pilot. He shared some of his experiences in the Navy and his time with the Blue Angels and discussed key leadership philosophies used by the Blue Angels that can be applied to both the military and the business world.

After the presentation, we boarded a chartered bus to the Lyon Air Museum located at the nearby Orange County John Wayne Airport. Although the airport is only a few miles from the USC center, due to very limited parking, providing transportation seemed prudent. The Lyon Air Museum features military aircraft, World War II memorabilia and a display of rare automobiles (this summer, the featured cars were Ferraris). One of our League board members, Bob Brockmeier ’63, is a docent at the museum and shared many interesting facts and insights about the various displays.

After spending a leisurely 90 minutes or so at the museum, we took the bus back to the USC center for lunch and more time to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances. A good time was had by all. We hope that you are able to join us for some of our future activities - perhaps the 80th anniversary celebration in April?

The pint size Ferrari with the Tom Selleck cut out was built for General Lyon’s son and appropriately called “154” because it is half of a “308” Ferrari used on the T.V. show Magnum P.I. which ran in the 1980’s.

Cliff “Red” Skelton’78 and Paul Alwine ’62 (right) at the Lyon Air Museum
This section of The Log is to share brief “happenings” or news items with our NROTC Alumni League members. It is organized by decades of your commissioning date for ease in finding info about your ’SC classmates. Submissions can be sent via e-mail to Frances Annarella at: log_editor@yahoo.com or on the return slip along with your annual dues. Please keep it brief and please PRINT clearly. Note: If you e-mail us, please include your commissioning year.

1940’s

Harry Tow ’47: I am an NROTC graduate, from a group of 1945 V-12 transfers from Redland University to USC NROTC. As a close knit group, we held reunions every couple of years. As a group, we’ve held various service and civilian careers (Naval Intelligence, Seabees Reserve, Submarines, Surface ships, Civil Engineers). Great NROTC program, we remain grateful.

1950’s

George Strella ’51: Am 90 years young this July. My wife passed in 2012. I’d love to hear from my classmates, contact me at georgestrella@cox.net. Many thanks to Ed Tannenbaum, Paul Alwine and other loyal SC grads who have kept the Alumni League active.

William C Green ’52: Living in Coronado, in the process of turning family business over to the next generation. Battling Mesothelioma - too many shipyard overhauls!

Peter Donald Maher III ’55: I am still active (secretary of the board and tutor) with the teen center, Save Our Youth (SOY) in the barrio of Costa Mesa, CA which my wife co-founded in 1992. SOY recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. We serve around 400 youth every year and now have one to three alumni in every college and university in California and some out of state. I continue to go to different countries with Global Volunteers every year teaching conversational English. This plus Navy, work-related and tourist travel totaled 52 countries as of 2018 (which surprised me!). Our five children and seven of ten grandchildren have completed college with several having postgraduate degrees. The last three still in college - couldn’t help bragging!

Victor S. Gulliver ’57: I’m always pleased to receive my copy of the Log. Thanks and well done to the officers of the Alumni League who make it all happen. Cheers to my classmates. Remember if you aren’t getting older, you have a serious problem.

George L. McMichael ’57: My wife, Paddy, and I have moved again, our 30th address in 55 years of marriage. We are again in Chesapeake, VA, moving again to be close to daughter Liz, son-in-law Dave and four grandchildren. We are on three and a half acres, which we share with two alpacas, eight goats and 14 chickens.

1960’s

John Gobbell ’60: Recently, I did an article for The Tin Can Sailor, a quarterly magazine for destroyer veterans. “Titled SOSUS and Connecting the Dots”, it is a piece about my personal experience with SOSUS over a period of fifty years, from age twelve to the present. And in particular, it deals with my naval experience and what a fantastic job our Navy has done while keeping their mouths shut while other (ahem) services shoot some lip.

Note: Stay tuned! We will be publishing John’s article in our next newsletter.

Paul Alwine ’62: Another trip around the sun! A great cruise around the Mediterranean in April, and a month long self-drive trip around Ireland in July. So much fun driving on the “wrong side” of the road! Looking forward to our 80th anniversary of the NROTC Unit in spring 2020!

Chapman Cox ’62: Congratulations Eddie on your recognition as Admiral of the League! Your selfless
service is an inspiration to all of us and an unsurprising continuation of the leadership we all knew in the class of ’62

Byron “Red” Cavaney ’64: Recently inducted to the Half Century Trojans Hall of Fame!

David Troutman ’68: Congratulations to Jerry Vieau and his new responsibilities with the Alumni League!

1970’s

Gene Talmadge ’70: Appointed to City of Camarillo Planning Commission 2019 for a four-year term. Completed three terms as President of California association of Environmental Professionals (AEP).

Don Davis ’71: “Almost” retired from public education law. Still doing some consulting for the L.A. School district. My wife, Julie, is a professor of education at Rossier/USC so I get to campus often. Best wishes to all.

Stephen Troutman ’71: I continue to be heavily involved in mentoring entrepreneurs and small business with SCORE. I am also involved in Adult Enrichment Education, both teaching classes, facilitating discussions, and on the volunteer board supporting this activity. My most recent presentation topic is “Nuclear weapons Technology and Policy.” This presentation draws on the International Relations School’s “Nuclear Policy” class I took as USC as part of my NROTC requirements.

Jeffrey Stearns ’72: Visited California in August 2018 to attend my 50th high school reunion. Reunion turnout was pretty good considering retirements and deaths were preeminent. First time back since 2011, and amazed by all the changes in my hometown. Still busy as a Michigan commercial real estate transaction law specialist. My wife, Denise, retired and keeps me busy around the house with “honey-do’s”. Celebrated 31st wedding anniversary last October. I look forward to reading what my NROTC classmates are doing, and always sad to find out about those who have “crosst the bar.”

Bruce K. Nelson ’76: Recently co-founded a pharmaceutical company to replace opioids with non-addictive alternatives for pain relief. Sponsoring high school seniors to apply to the NROTC programs at USC and that other school across town. Living in Corona Del Mar and hoping for a controversy free year at USC. Perhaps a winning football season?

Paul Nemechek ’78: Gloria and I are still hanging out in the Pacific Northwest and moving to Whidbey Island full time in 2020! Fight On!

1980’s

Linda Sellers Shields ’84: Served 12 years on active duty in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps, including tours in public works, resident officer in charge of construction, ocean facilities diving officer, and the Seabees.

Tera Lea Turner Salo ’86: After nearly 40 years enlisted/officer, active and reserve service, I retired April 2019. I first went to Boot Camp in spring 1979, and was the first female MM to report to “A” school at Great Lakes assigned to Nuclear Power. I went to NPS Orlando and qualified S8G in Ballston Spa NY. As MM2, I spent 2 years there as staff operator and instructor, then reported to USC as MIDN. I was the Jr. Editor of the Seahorse and the only female on the drill team my freshman year. Upon commissioning, I served as Surface Warfare Officer on the USS Dixon, (AS-37), then SWOS instructor. In the Reserves, I was with CTF, C3F, CNFK, MIUWU, 14WG, EODG and ended with Undersea Warfare Development Center in San Diego. Currently, I’m a project manager/facilities planner for the USMC at Camp Pendleton. Still got a travel bag! Fight On!
In the fall of 1956 in Naval Flight School in Pensacola, our pre-flight class of recently commissioned Navy and Marine officers was ushered into a decompression chamber, and the air was pumped out to simulate the atmosphere at about 35,000 feet up. It was a test to see if anyone had physical problems at jet-high altitudes. An instructor accompanying us asked for a volunteer to remove his oxygen mask.

Pre-flight had been a gauntlet of demanding challenges. The very first week we had each been strapped into the fuselage of a circa WWII fighter—the infamous “Dilbert Dunker”—which then slid down a steel ramp crashing into a deep pool, where it flipped upside down and sank to the bottom. Next we were dangled from a parachute harness, then dropped into another deep pool, to extricate ourselves from the parachute, swim to a tiny unstable rubber raft, and with acrobatic moves, crawl into it. There were a three-story hand-over-hand rope climb without a safety line, front and back flips on a trampoline, a one-mile swim in a pool so crowded that we were crawling over each other, and an obstacle course to be run in a time limit, the obstacles hazardous enough to injure a few classmates, and convince others that they really weren’t that keen on military flying.

Taking off my oxygen mask at 35,000 feet with classmates and instructors about was a piece of apple pie. I had been a county lifeguard on a wave-booming stretch of beach, and I was curious about the effects of anoxia. I volunteered and took off my oxygen mask.

The first thing I noted was the smell. We had been warned not to eat spicy foods or drink beer the night before, but in an exercise of bravado a group of us had celebrated the end of pre-flight at a pizzeria. Now in the decompression chamber the reduced air pressure released gastrointestinal gases an officer and gentleman normally restrains.

The instructor held up a pack of cards and told me to call out the cards as he displayed them. We played this game a few minutes, while I experienced a definite light-headedness. Then suddenly I was being grabbed and held as my oxygen mask was being strapped back on.

When we returned to sea level, the instructor debriefed me. How did I feel? Fine. But it was like having drunk too many martinis. Did I think I could fly in that condition? I hadn’t flown yet, but I imagined it was like driving after a few drinks. You really had to be aware, slow down, and concentrate.

The instructor nodded, then said, “Perhaps you should get dressed before you leave.” What? I look down. My tie was undone, and my shirt half off. I had no memory of undoing anything.

While I was buttoning up, John Davis, my USC NROTC classmate, and Gene, a Purdue NROTC grad, recapped my performance. During the card game at one point I kept repeating, “Jack of diamonds…Jack of diamonds…Jack of diamonds,” for every card, and then became incoherent.

“Setlowe, what were you thinking?” Gene asked. “This is the Navy. You never volunteer.”

Less than a year later the three of us were at Whiting Field finishing up formation flying and fighter tactics when the Navy asked us to “volunteer,” this time for two more years of active duty—for a total of five-and-a-half years of active duty—if we wanted to continue flying. It cost over a million dollars then to train a Navy pilot, and they did not get a return on their investment if we left the service after just two years of receiving our wings.

Two thirds of the flight students demurred, and we were transferred to sea duty to complete our service. John Davis served on a destroyer in the Pacific, and I was assigned to Ops aboard the aircraft carrier Midway.

But Gene, contrary to his advice to me, “volunteered.” “I never wanted to be anything else than a Navy pilot,” he later told me.

continued on page 19
Never Volunteer

After the Navy, John enrolled in law school at Cal, and I went to work as a staff writer on the now defunct San Francisco Examiner, with the long range ambition of becoming a novelist. Gene completed his second tour flying Douglas A-4 Skyhawk jets on and off the carrier Shangri La.

The last time I saw John Davis—by then a successful lawyer in San Diego—was at the 1964 Republican convention in San Francisco, which I worked as a reporter.

And damned if Gene hadn’t volunteered again, this time to NASA as an astronaut. Gene Cernan was the third man to walk in space on Gemini 9, flew to the moon on Apollo 10 to survey the landing sites for his fellow Purdue schoolmate Neil Armstrong’s landing two months later, and commanded Apollo 17, our final trip to the moon.

On occasion we exchanged letters and phone calls. I had sent him copies my novels. “The Brink” drew on my experiences in flight school and aboard Midway. “The Experiment” was sci-fi about a frustrated astronaut. Gene was writing his own memoir “The Last Man on the Moon.”

On one call I reminded him of his advice to me in Pensacola about never volunteering. He didn’t remember it.

Greg Maguire ’88: Great seeing the class of 88! That were able to attend our 30 year reunion in Oct 2018!

1990’s and 2000’s

Nothing to Report

2010’s

Natalie Smith Poggemeyer ’13: Completed a deployment with the 26th MEU in 2018 as the Communication Strategy and Operations Officer. Currently stationed as the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA pursuing a Masters Degree in the Foreign area Officer training pipeline.

TAPS

Farewell and bon voyage to our departed shipmates.

A donation has been made to the USC NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment in the name of each officer listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Hardy ’46</td>
<td>Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip S. Clarke ’47</td>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore H. Stokes ’47</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Paul Weickert ’47</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>R. Bruce Campbell ’49</td>
<td>Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas S. Baker, Jr. ’51</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>William L. Sweet ’54</td>
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Note: All names are published and donations are made to the Alumni League Scholarship Fund in their honor when their passing is brought to our attention.
August 26, 2019, several members of the 1987 class gathered together to lay a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Quite a few of our alumni live in the DC/Southern Maryland region, considering that the Pentagon, NAVAIR and NAVSEA are all in this area. One day, my classmate, Brett Raynor, and I were discussing some options to get our group together and I remembered that my son’s Cub Scout Pack had laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This moving event was easy to arrange and would be a unique experience that would bring us together. Notifying our group, Steve Gallagher, Todd Porter and Jim Western all responded with the affirmative. When I had first arranged the wreath laying for the Cubs, the process was through written letters and the U.S. Mail. A little googling now made the process all automated and online.

Here’s what we did along with a few tips and recommendations:

I put our name in and selected a good DTG (date & time for those who have been away too long!). From experience, I wanted to find a good slot where our wreath would stay out as long as possible. When the next group comes, the old wreath is thrown away. If you are planning to do this, avoid the holidays, where different groups lay wreaths every ½ hour. Also, avoid the weekend. Youth groups like the weekends to deconflict from school. We chose a Monday workday, which meant we all had to take some leave, but our wreath stood a good chance of being on display for at least a day, maybe up to three days.

Along with the confirmation, the Tomb Guards will send a list of do’s, don’ts and the dress code. Arrive 30 minutes before show time. There is no parking at the tomb, so plan accordingly.

You must purchase and bring your own wreath, which the duty guard will inspect. Afterwards, it’s just waiting for the scheduled time.

When we were there, we met the Assistant Sergeant of the Guard who had just visited USC with the plan of attending to earn his MBA. He welcomed us into the guards inner sanctum (not open to the public!), gave us the brief and inspected our wreath. Then, we waited at the top of the steps leading to the Tomb.

The changing of the guard took place, then the duty sergeant came to us, while the bugler took his post. The corporal already had our wreath waiting. We marched down, took hold of the wreath and laid it center stage, at the base of the Korean War soldier tomb. The bugler sounded Taps. We returned to the top of the stairs and could see several of the visiting veterans had teared up. The whole ceremony took only about five minutes, but it was a very powerful and moving five minutes.

Afterwards, we visited the graves of John Glenn, and classmate 1st Lt Kevin Wooten, USMC. Kevin was killed in a helicopter crash shortly after graduating from TBS. He was good friends with Jim Western and many of the Marine Options from our era. I had completely forgotten, but had wanted to take everyone by CAPT Ben Sutherlin’s grave. Ben Sutherlin served as CO of the NROTC Battalion prior to Col C. J. Horn. Upon retiring from the Navy, he served in the California State Military Reserve and earned the rank of Brigadier General. He passed away in 2014.
The Photo Gallery

Welcome Col McBride to the Trojan Family!
Welcome Home Michelle!!!

Derek Robins '82 (left) and his wife, Lynn with Jim Hull '82 on the field before the USC-Utah Game.

Frances Annarella '81 (right) with a couple of “FIRSTs” - Ann Mathews ’77, first female USC NROTC graduate and India Anderson, first female Drum Major, Trojan Marching Band

Paul Alwine ’62 (right) presented Col Chris Michelsen a desk top Tommy Trojan Statue as a gift from the Alumni League at his Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony, July 2019.

Fight On!
USC NROTC Alumni League
ASSOCIATE Membership

The USC Naval ROTC Alumni League is an all-volunteer organization of the university whose mission is to provide the Midshipmen of the Trojan Battalion with things such as supplemental scholarships, achievement recognition, an alumni-funded computer lab, and Drill Team funding assistance. We provide mentoring and an “alumni connection” for current Midshipmen when and where possible. **Associate membership is available to families and those interested in the USC NROTC unit**, to provide additional much needed financial contributions. All Associate members receive the semi-annual newsletter - “The LOG” as well as invitations to Alumni League Events.

☐ Family Membership:
In Support of Midshipman: 
Anticipated Commissioning Year: ______

☐ Associate Membership:
Affiliation (e.g., Staff, former Midshipman) 

Here is my contribution for the USC NROTC Alumni League and Trojan Midshipmen Battalion:

$ 25.00  Associate Member Dues Donation for 2019

$ ______ Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)

$ ______ Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment

$_______ TOTAL

Name: 
Address: 
City:  State: ______ Zip Code: 

Email Address (please print in all CAPITAL letters):

Phone:

Please Return this page in the envelope provided.
Make checks payable to: **USC NROTC Alumni League**
Mail to: **Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer**
12812 Bristol Cir
Los Angeles, CA  90049
USC NROTC Alumni League REGULAR Membership

All Graduates of the USC NROTC Program are REGULAR members of the Alumni League. Please use this form for donations and updates.

Name: ____________________________ Commission Year: __________

Here’s my support for the USC NROTC Alumni League and the Trojan Midshipmen Battalion

TAX DEDUCTIBLE (Note: You will receive a donation receipt from the University)

$ 25.00 Member Dues Donation for 2019

$ _____ Additional contributions for Special Events (e.g., Drill Team, Computer Lab, etc.)

$ _____ Extra Donation for the NROTC Alumni League Scholarship Endowment

[_____] My company will match my gift. Contact your Company HR Dept for form and assistance

$_______ TOTAL

Please Return this page in the envelope provided.
Make checks payable to: USC NROTC Alumni League
Mail to: Edward Tannenbaum, Treasurer, 12812 Bristol Cir., Los Angeles, CA 90049

[ ] Please update my record

Name: ____________________________ Date of Commission: __________

Address: ____________________________ Year & School of Degree: __________

City, State & Zip Code: ____________________________

Email address (please print in CAPITAL letters):

______________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Spouse Name: ____________________________

For “DECADES DOINGS” Name: ____________________________ Commission Year: _______

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USC Naval ROTC 80th Anniversary Celebration

It has been EIGHTY years since the Trojan Battalion was founded! A lot of history, memories and heroes have graced us with their presence over the years. It’s time to reconnect with our brothers and sisters in arms and celebrate our achievements. Please join us on April 3rd and 4th, 2020.

Information regarding the celebration will be announced via email and on our web site. For those who prefer paper copies, please let us know and we will be happy to mail out the registration form when it becomes available.

For planning purposes, please complete the below information and return it to Ed Tannenbaum in the enclosed envelope. For more information, contact Paul Alwine at alwine@cox.net or Frances Annarella at log_editor@yahoo.com.

Name:______________________________________________ Commission Year __________________

☐ YES, I plan to attend!  Total Number of guests (including self) ___________

☐ NO, sadly I cannot attend, see you at the 85th!

☐ Email the registration form to: ______________________________________________________________________

☐ I like getting mail, please send a hard copy of the registration form to: