



# THE CAPSTAN

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



### “CAPTAIN’S CALL”

Another academic year has come and gone here at NROTCU Berkeley, which means we welcomed more outstanding young men and women as officers into the US Navy and Marine Corps. This year we sent nine ensigns and three second lieutenants out to the fleet – you can read more about them inside. Congratulations and BZ to our 2021 graduates!

The 2020-21 academic year was fully virtual here at Berkeley, as was all instruction at the university. But we were far from idle this past Spring, thanks to the continued tenacity and enthusiasm of the students at this great NROTC unit. We implemented and executed a personnel qualification standard (PQS) for all new midshipmen to introduce them to this fleet concept and improve their naval knowledge. Our students attended a seminar for the US Naval Institute’s American Sea Power Project, and a Q&A with ADM William McRaven, USN (ret). And in May we held the first ever virtual Nimitz Memorial Lecture featuring LTG H.R. McMaster, USA (ret) as the keynote speaker.

Of course, another semester passed means some more change at the unit. In May we welcomed LT Kent Sayre, USN, as our newest naval science instructor. He came to us from Mayport, FL, where he was a member of the Blue Crew of USS DETROIT (LCS 7), and we look forward to all he can share with the midshipmen. In June we said fair winds and following seas to Maj Adam Craig, USMC. He did an outstanding job as the XO and Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) for the past four years, and drastically improved the effectiveness and efficiency of this unit. He is now off to be the operations officer at Marine Corps Information Operations Center in Quantico, VA, and we wish him, daughter Adalie, and son Hayden all the best as they head back to the crossroads of the Marine Corps. Our new XO and MOI is Maj Lane Avery, USMC, who came to us from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, along with wife Bevan and young son Clarke. It is great to have them aboard.

All of us at NROTCU Berkeley appreciate the support all of you who read this letter have continued to provide throughout this challenging year. We look forward to seeing you around campus. Go Bears!

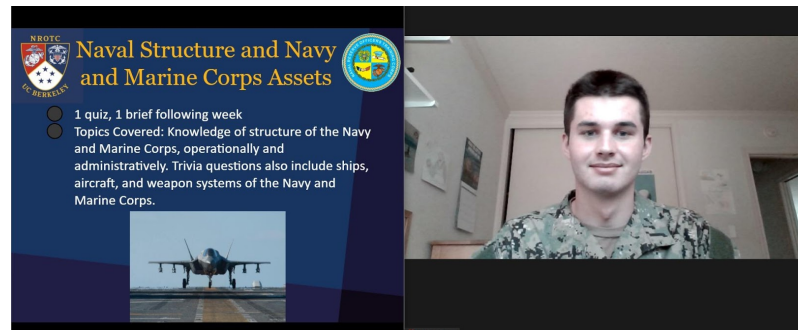
Sincerely,

CAPT Travis Petzoldt, USN  
Commanding Officer

## DIVISION COMPETITIONS

This semester, the midshipmen of NROTCU Berkeley did not allow the limitations of the virtual environment to stop them from achieving a productive and fulfilling training experience. The Operations Department (OPS), led by MIDN 2/C Wylen Winchell, spearheaded the creation of “Division Competitions.” These were weekly assessments to test Navy and Marine Corps knowledge in which eight division-sized elements competed for the best scores.

The Division Competitions opened with a crew-wide Naval History test proctored by MIDN 2/C Nathan Moore, OPS Department Leading Chief Petty Officer. Division members buzzed in using the “raise hand” feature on Zoom to answer questions, which ranged from general trivia to pre-WWI Naval history. The following week, midshipmen gave presentations on the questions they answered incorrectly during the preceding competition. Subsequent competitions followed a similar format as midshipmen competed in tests of their Naval structure, tactics, assets, and geography knowledge. The crew’s penultimate Division Competition event was a simulated “War Games.” Navy Option midshipmen were tasked with producing all the methods by which a US destroyer could successfully damage or sink a rival Chinese Luyang III-class destroyer. Marine Options received a scenario outlining an attack on an objective, and were tasked to craft a Warning Order they would issue to a squad-sized element. The concluding event of the Division Competition was the Knowledge Event. Based on their rank in the competition, individual divisions faced off against each other to claim the winning title. Moderators of the competition quizzed each division on knowledge they are expected to know for military inspection. Midshipmen were expected to know the answers verbatim, and to speak with confidence.



Current and Future Operations Division emerged victorious, followed by General Supply Division in second place and Training Division in third. The competition events were an excellent way for the crew to engage within an online training platform. MIDN Winchell and his Operations department demonstrated great ingenuity and commitment to their Navy training through the formulation and execution of the events.

## TRI-SERVICE COMPETITION and MIDN OF THE SEMESTER

This spring, the midshipman crew competed against the Army and Air Force ROTC units at UC Berkeley in a Tri-Service running competition. The objective was to run the greatest average distance per participant over the course of four days. Navy won the event, achieving the highest per-person average of 14.11 miles. A special shout-out goes to MIDN 1/C Jaqueline Templeman who ran an impressive 54.37 miles, lifting Navy’s score high above those of the other branches!

Each term, the NROTC program recognizes one exemplary student by awarding the Midshipman of the Semester. This award highlights the midshipman who impacted their peers positively, exemplified superb leadership, demonstrated great professionalism, and presented themselves in a manner consistent with Navy and Marine Corps values. This term’s Midshipman of the Semester was MIDN 4/C Graham Chernik, who studies International Relations at Stanford University. Notable considerations during selection were MIDN Chernik’s outstanding performance during the Division Competitions, and his attention to detail throughout the semester. Congratulations to MIDN Chernik for demonstrating the characteristics of a future Marine Corps officer!



Among UC Berkeley's many proud accomplishments is its long-standing history of educating military officers. Berkeley students are fortunate enough to receive the well-rounded and rigorous education required to have a successful career in the United States Armed Forces. Berkeley alone has given the United States Navy nine admirals—Vice Admirals Joseph Williams Jr., Kenneth Ray Wheeler, Robert Thomas, Murrey L. Royar, Yancy B. Lindsay; and Rear Admirals David Goggins, Robert N. Colwell, Casey W. Coane, and Rawson Bennet II. Berkeley has also given the Marine Corps five generals—General Oliver Prince Smith, Major General William C. Groeninger III, and Brigadier Generals Michael I. Niel, Harry B. Liversedge, and Bertram A. Bone. UC Berkeley alumni-turned-flag officers have served in every American engagement since the Second World War. They served in capacities ranging from leading worldwide Naval photographic intelligence agencies (RDML Colwell), to commanding Marines across numerous campaigns in the Pacific Theatre during the Second World War (BGen Bone).

This semester, we recognize the achievements of Marine Corps General Oliver Prince Smith. General Smith graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1916 before commissioning as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in May of 1917. General Smith began his long and successful career serving throughout various Marine Corps installations in the Pacific as a garrison officer, supporting and leading the day-to-day duties of the garrison. As a testament to his well-rounded officer training and abilities, then-Captain Smith was moved to Washington D.C. to command Marine personnel stationed in the nation's capital. Following this, he was successful in both field and administrative commands; his various roles included being the U.S. Naval attaché to France, an officer instructor at the Marine Corps schools in Quantico, Virginia, and the Operations Officer at the Fleet Marine Force in San Diego. Once World War II began, General Smith was moved to Washington where he was the executive officer of the Division of Plans and Policies. He ran the division for approximately a year and a half before being transferred to lead the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in the Pacific. He earned his position as a Brigadier General very quickly during his redeployment in the Pacific, where he commanded troops in many operations—most notably, in Peleliu and Okinawa. Five years after the end of the Second World War, Brigadier General Smith was promoted to the rank of Major General and given command of the First Marine Division. There, he served as the commander of both the amphibious invasion of Inchon, and the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. The latter was where he famously said, "Retreat, hell! We're not retreating, we're just advancing in a different direction," after giving the command to advance back to friendly American lines, after being encircled in the freezing cold. In 1951 General Smith returned to the United States and continued to lead Marines as the base commander of Camp Pendleton, advancing to the rank of Lieutenant General, and finally, General, by the end of his 38-year service to his country in 1955. General Smith's successes in a variety of military environments demonstrated his strengths as a highly capable, inspirational, and knowledgeable leader.



## SPRING 2021 COMMISSIONING

With the conclusion of the 2020-2021 academic year comes one of NROTCU Berkeley's crowning achievements: the commissioning of our 1/C Midshipman as Ensigns and Second Lieutenants in the US Navy and Marine Corps. After four years of technical training and physical development, each of our commissioning officers has an exciting journey ahead that they have long been anticipating.

### NROTCU BERKELEY 1/C COMMISSIONING



#### AVIATION

MIDN Clay  
MIDN Bohan

#### SURFACE WARFARE

MIDN Hong  
MIDN Rielage  
MIDN Brady

#### SUBMARINES

MIDN Nguyen  
MIDN Santos

#### MARINE CORPS

MIDN Templeman  
MIDN Cairnie  
MIDN Gee

#### SPECIAL WARFARE

MIDN Yoakum  
MIDN Jorge



### WHERE THEY ARE HEADING



Joining the aviation community are Ensigns Erica Clay and Tyler Bohan. They will report to flight school in Pensacola, Florida this August to earn their Wings of Gold as Naval Aviators. As new members of the SWO community, Ensigns Sofia Hong, Chris Rielage, and Aidan Brady will attend Basic Division Officer Course this fall before heading to their respective platforms. ENS Hong will report to the USS Essex (LHD-2) out of San Diego, ENS Brady will report to the USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) out of San Diego, and ENS Rielage will report to the USS Benfold (DDG-65) out of Yokosuka, Japan. Ensigns Brandon Nguyen and Michael Santos will join the submarine force and attend Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina later this year. Having graduated OCS last summer, 2nd Lieutenants Jaqueline Templeman, Cameron Cairnie, and Lawrence Gee are ready to report to The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia to further develop as officers in the Marine Corps. They will receive their military occupational specialty (MOS) assignments upon graduation from TBS, and are excited for the challenges that lies ahead. Finally, Ensigns Zane Yoakum and Bradley Jorge will report to Naval Special Warfare training in San Diego to become Navy SEALs. We are incredibly proud of each of the commissioning 1/Cs this year, and grateful for their contributions during their time at NROTCU Berkeley. Best of luck to all of them—we can't wait to see what they will accomplish!

