The Navy and Marine Corps’ best are trained here

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On Saturday 19 March 2016, five midshipmen and two staff members from the Tar Heel Battalion traveled to the White Sands Missile Range in Nevada to participate in the annual Bataan Memorial Death March. The event is a full marathon through sand trails and mountains, where participants wear fatigues and carry weight—our rucks weighed in from 40 to 64 pounds!

It was a privilege to be given the opportunity to travel across the country (by Navy airlift in a C40—an interesting experience in itself) and compete in the Bataan Memorial Death March, representing both UNC NROTC and the US Navy. I can safely vouch for our team in saying that this experience is something that we will never forget.
On 9 April, the UNC Battalion hosted the annual consortium field and drill meet at the Eddie Smith Field House. This event is one of the many times Duke, UNC, and NC State assemble for friendly competition and is an opportunity to socialize with our peers from the consortium. This year also was a first in that we invited prospective midshipmen to attend and participate on their team of choice. NC State ended up winning overall, but it was still a great day for the Tar Heel Battalion to bond and compete as a unit.
The purpose of End of Year Exercise is to provide midshipmen with a realistic war-time scenario that tests their understanding of the capabilities and limitations of Naval and Marine forces. This year we executed a simulated invasion and defense of an island named Arpa.

The Battalion split into two teams and each was given a Carrier Strike Group and Amphibious Ready Group. We ran through two simulations, and each team “won” one. The submarines proved to be the most lethal assets, which delighted LT Barfoot, our submarine instructor!

End of Year Exercise is a great opportunity to both apply the technical knowledge we’ve gained throughout the semester and to come together as a Battalion and have some fun. Many thanks to MIDN 1/C Martin and SSgt Towers for organizing and running such a great event!
Highlights from the Semester

The Battalion presented GySgt Anderson with his retirement gift.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, spoke about the relationship between the media and the military.

MIDN 3/C Buhr was presented with the Marine Option Midshipman of the Consortium Award for 2016.
Highlights from the Semester

Awards Day recap

Sea Service Leadership Award .......................... MIDN 1/C Nancy Smith
CNO Distinguished Graduate Award ..................... MIDN 1/C Alisha Grass
Charles Julian Wolfe, Jr. Scholarship Award ........ MIDN 1/C Alisha Grass
Hudson Foundation Scholarship Award .................. MIDN 1/C Salvatore Savarese
Major Allen Barker Award ................................. MIDN 1/C Nancy Smith
Patrick Connor Award ........................................ MIDN 1/C Salvatore Savarese

MIDN 3/C Eason swearing the oath of appointment as a midshipman after receiving a Marine Corps scholarship

Marine Option (and a few brave Navy option) midshipmen participate in the annual field exercise at Camp Geiger. It didn’t rain (unfortunately), but the midshipmen still received invaluable training!

The 1/C and 2/C midshipmen were honored to host CAPT Gillespie and RDML Sharpe for a Dining-In at the Carolina Brewery. Highlights include RDML Sharpe’s thoughtful remarks as the guest of honor, CAPT Gillespie’s performance as the President, and some hilarious charges!
On Saturday, 7 May 2016 the unit held its most important event of the year: commissioning the newest ensigns and second lieutenants into the Navy and Marine Corps. We were honored to have Brigadier General George W. Smith, Jr., USMC (UNC ’85) join us as the guest speaker.

Congratulations to our newest ensigns! We won’t have them “stashed” at the unit for long, as their orders to the Fleet have arrived and they are set to begin their journey as naval officers.
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Upcoming Events

- Summer cruises
- Rest and relaxation
- New Student Orientation 2016

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