Welcome Aboard Fall 2008

Meeting the Commandant

The Naval War College has hosted a series of Maritime Strategy Symposia around the country. The purpose of each of these is to expose the American people to the missions and strategies of the United States Navy, the United States Marine Corps and the United States Coast Guard. The maritime forces of the United States have developed “A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower” to face the challenges of this century, such as transnational actors and the tightly connected world economy.

On 18 September 2008, the Durham Marriott Convention Center sponsored one of these events. General James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, gave the luncheon speech. Midshipmen throughout the North Carolina Piedmont Consortium were able to attend.

General Conway focused on the present and future situations of the War on Terror and the implications for our military. According to General Conway, the situation in Anbar Province in Iraq is improving, with mostly economic and political issues left to tackle. Afghanistan, on the other hand, is a safe haven for terrorists and their major source of income is opium. He stressed the necessity of more Marines in Afghanistan.

General Conway then spoke about the future of our country and the world, focusing on the predictions for 2020-2025. The demographics of the world are changing dramatically, with the threat of non-state actors acquiring dangerous weapons growing. The United States faces the possibility of another nation becoming more powerful, causing the world to change from a uni-polar to a multi-polar system. The War on Terrorism is far from over. With all these new threats facing the United States, what will be the role of the United States Marine Corps and what will be the solutions to these future challenges?

General Conway stressed the importance of forward presence. Engagement with developing nations not only prevents combat, but also makes extremism less attractive. He also emphasized force projection, which is the ability to project and sustain power across the world. He said that the Marine Corps needs to shift back to the role of an expeditionary force to fulfill this mission. General Conway also highlighted the need for new equipment, such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

After discussing the role of the Marine Corps in the 21st century, General Conway took questions. He discussed the psychological need for Osama Bin Laden to be captured even though Bin Laden probably does not have much influence over Al Qaeda. When asked about the challenges to the exponential growth of the Marine Corps, he said he is not worried about keeping up the momentum of this growth.

General Conway gave an excellent speech. Everyone in that room was confident in the direction the maritime forces of the United States are going. Throughout his speech, General Conway spoke about the youth serving in the military. He called the courage, teamwork, and self-sacrifice of this young generation “eye-watering”, trusting that our country is in great hands. After the rousing speech, General Conway took a moment to meet the midshipmen. He left after taking a picture with each unit and shaking everyone’s hand, leaving everyone excited about the future of the country and the United States Marine Corps.
Welcome to the Fall 2008 Semester for the Naval ROTC at UNC-CH! The Midshipman staff and I are all very excited to begin this new term of training with the unit.

For the First Class, we are returning as the senior leaders within the Battalion. Finally, it is our unit to completely mold and form as we see fit. Take up the initiative to finally put into action those ideas that have been stewing since freshman year and let’s leave our legacy here as we commission over the next few months.

Second Class, you are finally coming into your own as you become major players about the unit. You now have all the privileges associated with your class, but do not forget that with that rank comes responsibility. Make sure you make your presence known as you prepare to become the leading class in the Battalion.

Third Class, many of you are stepping into your first leadership roles ever and certainly for all of you it will be the most challenging as you lead not only the Fourth Class, but many of your own peers. Continue to support each other in your endeavors and manage your time wisely. You will face many leadership challenges in your military career, so learn early from your experiences here.

Fourth Class, as you work to find your niche in the Battalion, I urge you to remember all those that have gone before you through the NROTC program and the Naval Service. They have persevered through all the same challenges you have, including adaptation to the military lifestyle and the academic rigor of UNC. Their success is a good indication of yours, so long as you take the time and initiative to pursue your goals.

The strength of each of these classes indicates the collective professionalism and future success of the Battalion this semester. Remember to work hard, but also to enjoy the college experience. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming semester and in our future years as Officers in the Naval Service. Good luck and Semper Fi!

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9/11 Silent Memorial Run

September 11, 2001. A national crisis shocked the nation, bringing millions of people together in a time of tumultuous hardship. Numerous deaths and broken hearts resulted from the obliteration of the World Trade Center and the partial destruction of the Pentagon. Acts of valor were witnessed everywhere as men and women of all ages stuck together exuding patriotism, courage, love, and hope for the coming years of war that would soon rock our world. The people who gave their life and their service to help during this time of chaos and of immoral acts of humanity will always be remembered.

The United States military holds very close to heart this terrible moment of history, recognizing and remembering the men and women who died for their country and who gave their service willingly. Here at UNC-Chapel Hill, Naval ROTC, Army ROTC, and Air Force ROTC, take part in an annual 5K run marking 9/11 as a day of silent memory and respect. This 5K is open to the public and it is strongly recommended that everyone comes out to show their gratitude for the service of our heroes. 0600 is the time of day when all ROTC units comes together at Hooker Fields. When all three units fall into Battalion formation, everyone is united. Everyone stands as one, and with this we run together in silence, recalling the day that changed every single American.

UNC remembers 9-11 with memorial American flags in front of Wilson Library
MIDN Around Campus

MIDN 1/C Powell, USMCR
"I am on the Varsity Fencing team and I'm slowly crawling towards fluency in Arabic. As for why, I'd say both are for both personal enjoyment and professional development. Though the applications of the latter are probably less obscure to most people, I believe my skill with swords will serve me in good stead as an officer in the Marine Corps. Combined with proficiency in a few foreign languages, we have the makings of an international mystery man."

MIDN 2/C Martin, USNR
"I have been involved with the emergency medical services since I first joined the Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad (RVRS) at the age of fifteen. Through my involvement with RVRS, I received training in many aspects of the emergency response community. This training included, emergency medicine, hazardous materials, high and low angle rope rescue, vehicle extrication, and many people skills that I hope will serve me well in the Navy."

MIDN 3/C Kantarakias, USNR
"I have taken classical voice lessons for six years and I love to sing opera because it provides inspiration and a spiritual renewal for me. I also take part in the Carolina Jiu Jitsu sports club because it is a good way to release stress, learn self-defense techniques, and it provides a highly competitive atmosphere."

MIDN 4/C Votipka, USNR
"As far as interesting skills go, I was ranked 3rd in the state among all percussion players in high school. I played with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra this past June. My favorite percussion instrument is the snare drum. I also have started participating in Campus Crusade, an organization that holds worship services every week."

Upcoming Events

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MIDN of the Month

MIDN 1/C DeMore

Academic Excellence

Must have 3.5 semester GPA

- MIDN 1/C Bower
- MIDN 1/C Driver
- MIDN 1/C Hayes
- MIDN 1/C Hodgin
- MIDN 1/C Kennedy
- MIDN 1/C Powell
- MIDN 1/C Van Cott
- MIDN 2/C Holder

Other Awards

Hudson Award of $5,000
MIDN 1/C Powell

Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association Educational Foundation Scholarship of $2,000
MIDN 1/C Hodgin

Academic Achievement

Must have 3.25 semester GPA

- MIDN 1/C DeMore
- MIDN 1/C Eubanks
- MIDN 1/C Pardue
- MIDN 1/C Santos
- MIDN 2/C Tessman
- MIDN 3/C Hayes
- MIDN 3/C Kantarakias
2008 Cruise Memories

Flying High—1/C Aviation Cruise

MIDN 1/C Spitler, USNR

For my 1/C aviation cruise, I took a ride in the smoothest flying aircraft around, the F-18F Super Hornet. My orders sent me to STRKFITWINGLANT, located at NAS Oceana. Fifteen Midshipmen reported to the Wing at the end of May, and spent the following month attached to its various squadrons. A Midshipman from Miami of Ohio and I had the pleasure of joining VFA-211, the Fighting Checkmates. The crew was great and welcomed us to sit in on briefs and interact with the maintenance shops. I saw how aviators operate on a daily basis. I joined in the competition for Mutha, a spirit contest among squadrons. I was able to log several hours in the simulators and constantly wrangled for actual flight time. Several Midshipmen, especially those assigned to single seat squadrons, were given flights riding with students at the RAG, or Replacement Air Group (VFA-106 Gladiators). -34s from the Weapons School also offered extra, albeit bumpier, time in the air.

I was surprised by the amount of work that is involved in running a squadron. For example, for every flight hour logged each jet requires around fifteen maintenance hours. Flying is much more than giving the plane a love tap and turning up the throttle. Many things are required for one flight: flight planning, briefing, pre-flight checks, the flight itself, and debriefing. There are many situations to plan for, like Air Combat Maneuvering (ACM), which most aircrew will never experience in real life, yet must be prepared to execute.

This experience solidified my desire to become an aviator. As long as I'm in the air, I do not care what platform I fly. This desire does not stem from wanting to be Maverick; from my summer stints in the fleet, it appears that most ‘Mavericks’ do not command much respect from their peers. Everyone I talked to enjoyed their job. Even if I never ride in a jet again, at least this experience will let me tell my friends what pulling seven G’s feels like.

On the Other Side—1/C FOREX Cruise

MIDN 1/C Driver, USNR

This summer I was able to participate on a FOREX (Foreign Exchange) cruise with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force. This cruise was an amazing experience for me. I was able to learn a lot about the Japanese culture and traditions. Each American Midshipman on this cruise was paired with a Japanese Midshipman. Communication was surprisingly well because each Japanese Midshipman was fairly proficient in English.

My journey started in Yokosuka, Japan. There, we were able to take in sights such as visits to the famous Kamakura Buddhist Temple and the early 20th century Japanese Battleship Mikasa. There also was a reception with American and Japanese admirals. Our Japanese counterparts took all the American Midshipmen into downtown Yokosuka for excellent Japanese food, drinks, and karaoke. From Yokosuka, we embarked on the JS Hatakaze, a Japanese Destroyer and set sail to Kure, Japan. The JS Hatakaze had striking resemblances to U.S. ships. The CIC, weapons systems, crew, bridge and many other aspects of the ship were very similar. When we got off the JS Hatakaze, we arrived in Kure and made a short trip over to Eta Jima Island where we got a taste of Japanese Maritime Officer Candidate School. Japanese OCS was intense but it was a great learning experience because we saw how the Japanese naval officers trained. Everything in the school was pristine and it was obvious that they had a high level of attention to detail. Luckily, we were able to enjoy some liberty in surrounding cities, including Miyajima and Hiroshima.

After the short stint at Japanese OCS, my FOREX ended but my summer cruise did not. I embarked on the USS Shiloh where we took our next stop in Sasebo during the Fourth of July weekend. Shortly after, we headed back to Yokosuka. Then our final night in Japan we got to visit Tokyo and celebrate our ending of our last summer cruise! All in all, this cruise was an incredible experience. The American Midshipman got a good taste of the Japanese Navy and culture.
When Pain Equals Pleasure—Officer Candidate School

MIDN 1/C Powell, USMCR

While other Midshipmen were assigned to drive ships, fly planes, and otherwise spend the Navy's money, I spent my summer (or, rather, half of it) on quite another type of "cruise" in the swamps along the Potomac River at Officer Candidates School, in Quantico, VA. We navigated neither helicopters nor frigates, but our own "nasty Candidate bodies," through the ancient and stagnant mud of the Quigley. We fired blanks from equally ancient M-16A2 rifles, and spent impossibly long, but never long enough, hours cleaning them. We fell in mud, in holes, and even off ropes. We suffered through Candidates' improvised marching cadences, belligerent Candidate Platoon Sergeants, and the creativity of Sergeant Instructors. Through it all, despite several dumped footlockers, stripped racks, and atrocious haircuts, we stayed true to the Marines' Hymn, and "never lost our nerve."

OCS represents perhaps the greatest hurdle on the path to gaining a commission. For Midshipmen and MECEPs attending OCS, the course is broken into two, six-week increments. The first increment runs from May to July, the second from July through August. Throughout each increment, Candidates are evaluated for leadership potential, a vetting process that relies on the keen observational skills of Sergeant Instructors and Platoon Commanders. By applying stress, fatigue, and pressure, the instructors look for weaknesses that may signify a lack of leadership ability. Candidates must perform up to par in daily physical training, as well as in numerous tested events, such as the endurance course, combat readiness test, and obstacle course. Lest it seem that OCS is purely physical, Candidates spend a large amount of time in the classroom, learning about Marine Corps history, squad and fire-team tactics, and anything else the curriculum deems essential. Tests on these classes constitute 25 percent of a Candidate's overall grade, with leadership comprising 50 percent, and physical fitness another 25 percent. OCS essentially culminates, during weeks 4 and 5, in a series of tests in all three areas. The most heavily weighted of these is the Small Unit Leadership Evaluation II (SULE II), in which candidates must lead a squad through various missions, and are graded on their leadership abilities. Once past this, Candidates prepare for and participate in a graduation parade, and finally are allowed to return to a normal life. Needless to say, this comes as a great relief to both staff and Candidates alike.

War Games—1/C SPECOPS Cruise

MIDN 1/C Hodgin, USNR

On 27 May 2008, I reported to Seal Team 7 in Coronado, California for my 1/C summer cruise. Twelve other Midshipmen and I, all interested in pursuing Naval Special Warfare, spent about four days in Coronado. A few days were spent at the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) Compound, but most of our time was spent receiving basic intelligence, logistics, and tactical briefs in order to prepare us for the time we would spend at a training facility in the desert.

A two-hour van ride took us to Niland, California; the home of Naval Special Warfare Group One's desert training facility. The group to which we were attached was preparing for an overseas deployment and they welcomed us into their group and allowed us to observe and participate in their training. We observed mission planning and profiling, mission execution, and then mission debriefs. Our days were filled with range time, weapons familiarizations and time alongside the SEALs learning about their experiences. The Naval Special Warfare Group 1 Training Detachment (NSWG-1 TRADET), to whom we were attached administratively, took personal time to instruct us and make sure our time was educational and informative. The Midshipmen spent the last days of the cruise playing the role of the Opposition Forces (OPFOR). Whether it was ambushing a SEAL patrol, taking hostages, or trying to stave off a SEAL attack from a mock village, every single Midshipman had a blast fighting the SPECWAR operators.

The month-long cruise was an outstanding glimpse into the rigorous training cycle of a SEAL Team. I was fortunate to learn about the expectations and roles that Junior Officers play within an operational SEAL platoon. I am extremely thankful for the opportunities I had this summer and for the SEALs of ST-7 and TRADET for taking us onboard.
**SWO = Saving the World—1/C SWO Cruise**
MIDN 1/C Johnson, USNR

It was an early morning out on the open Mediterranean Sea. The sun was just rising above the horizon creating a brilliant array red and orange which danced off the water like a mirror. As I lay in my rack, all was calm just as it had been for the last past two weeks. My long anticipated First Class Summer Cruise was becoming routine by each passing day. I was attached the USS Nicholas, a frigate, participating in the NATO sponsored “Operation Active Endeavour”, however, it was far away from active and I was desperately seeking some sort of excitement.

At that point the mere sighting of a pack of dolphin would have been satisfying. This boredom was soon to be accelerated into an unfathomable sequence of events which would make my summer cruise legendary for years to come.

The morning began just as ordinarily as any other with the morning reveille blaring over the MC letting those that were lost in deep sleep know to start their “fine Navy day”. I quickly jumped out of my rack and threw on my coveralls which reeked of a mixture of sea water, grease, and many days of hard work. As I looked around the tiny room I noticed that all my other ROTC shipmates were deciding to sneak in a few more precious minutes of sleep. This was understandable so I went about my business and reached for my cover. At this very time the ship began to list to the point where I thought it was going to topple. I stood in alert as the ship sped up to about 30 knots. I knew something was definitely different about this morning. I quickly found my way to the bridge. Here I found the face of a confused yet excited Commanding Officer.

As our ship sped over the Mediterranean Sea, I looked to the horizon and realized that an unidentified Japanese vessel was in our sights. Everyone was puzzled. The Captain was very uneasy and began to take precautions. He manned the 50 cal. machine guns and they were all locked and loaded. All individuals on the bridge were not sure what to make of the situation. We began our reports to NATO in regards to engaging the vessel. This had turned into a very serious matter. The vessel continued to speed over the horizon with the US naval frigate in pursuit. NATO was slow to respond and the situation took an odd turn. The vessel slowed to a stop and frenzy began topside. The thought of the people arming themselves ran through my mind. This non-threatening vessel was almost caught in great misunderstanding to say the least. Through further investigation we learned that the vessel was a Japanese fishing boat which was on its way home. This coming routine by each passing day. I was attached the USS Nicholas, a frigate, participating in the NATO sponsored “Operation Active Endeavour”, however, it was far away from active and I was desperately seeking some sort of excitement.

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During the past summer, I was a temporary passenger aboard the USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), a guided missile cruiser for my 2/C cruise. A Midshipmen’s 2/C cruise is their enlisted cruise, during which the Midshipman is paired with an enlisted petty officer. This “running mate” is supposed to ensure that the Midshipman learns about enlisted life from his experience aboard.

I embarked from the Croatian port of Split and spent about three weeks aboard. While onboard my vessel, I met Midshipmen from NC State, Virginia Tech, RPI, and UCLA. During the cruise, each of us stood a four section watch rotation. This watch rotation included watches on the Bridge, the Combat Information Center (CIC), and Engineering. While standing watch on the bridge, I was able to put to use the skills I learned in Navigation in the form of maneuvering boards and assisting the Quartermaster in the plotting of the ship as we traversed the Atlantic Ocean.

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Upon arriving in Norfolk, all of the Midshipmen, while glad to be going home for the summer, were nevertheless sad to say goodbye to the friends made while aboard the USS Philippine Sea. With any luck; however, we will see our friends again once we are commissioned officers in the United States Navy. As always, Semper Fortis.
Anchors Aweigh

Volume 19, Issue 1

Fleet Sampler Platter—CORTRAMID 3/C Cruise

MIDN 3/c Keilman, USNR

When people ask me what I did over the summer, I love how I have the best story in the whole room. What did I do? “I shot stuff, flew stuff, and blew stuff up! What did YOU do?”

Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) is the summer cruise that all rising sophomores enjoy after completing their first year in NROTC. We plunged into an active-duty world with Midshipmen from all across the nation to train at Naval Station Norfolk, home of the United States 2nd Fleet, set to learn about life in the three services of the Navy and life as a Marine.

For my first week, we were flown to Jacksonville, Florida and set up in luxurious Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQs) at King’s Bay for Submarine week. I came into sub week expecting sub life to be a cramped, miserable existence. How wrong I was! Even though I’m sure the life they provided for us (liberty every day and lots of free slushees and pizza) was much nicer than the life of the average submariner, we did spend one night aboard the USS Newport News (SSN-750). We saw how life aboard submarines brought the crew closer together. The command was leisurely, the crew respected one another, and it was a productive sort of brotherhood that really impressed me.

The second week was spent back at Norfolk for Surface week, where I was aboard the USS Normandy (CG-60) for three days. The officer in charge of the midshipmen was very informative, helpful, and engaging. We learned a lot about navigation at sea, directing the ship, and the life of a Surface Warfare Officer. As an added bonus, we were allowed to fire some of the smaller ship’s weapons, such as the .50 Caliber. All in all, it was an exemplary experience, and I’m glad I was able to enjoy it.

The third week was my most anticipated – Marine Week! Back in North Carolina, we had little time to enjoy the scenery before being acquainted Marine Corps life at Camp Lejeune. Despite intense Gunnery Sergeants and Staff Sergeants, the experiences we had were once-in-a-lifetime. We shot live rounds from various weapons, watched demolition demonstrations, ran obstacle courses, got trained in MCMAP, and even flew in a CH-53D Sea Stallion, a helicopter, into a mock city to play the most hardcore game of paintball imaginable. Unlike the other service selections, this week was not catered towards recruiting—there was no cheesecake or pizza. Marine week was as genuine as it was grueling, and just as fun.

Although Marine week was a hard act to follow, Aviation week surely tried. At this point, however, most Midshipmen were worn out and just ready to go home. We spent lots of time playing in expensive and sophisticated simulators, and eventually taking the controls of an T-34C Turbomentor for a minute. Having never been in a plane before Cortramid, this was probably the most nerve-racking and exhilarating experience that I’ll never want to have again. I’m elated that I got that opportunity, but I think once was enough. Exhausted from a busy month, the other Midshipmen and I retired to our racks, eager to get back home.

Overall, CORTRAMID was a good time; I got to spend time with people I knew from UNC-CH, but also was able to branch out and meet new Midshipmen and get a feel for what my fellow officers might be like. While at Norfolk, life was exceedingly, and to an extent, deceptively easy. We went to the beach every weekend and ate four meals a day and had liberty. At the same time, I was fully enlightened about a world most people never see, and certainly never get to take part in, and for that, I am truly blessed.
Adventures with Lymphomas and “the Pit” —Nursing Cruise

MIDN 3/C Stratton, USNR

I stepped off the plane in Dubai with a mixture of nervousness and excitement running through my veins. Though it was just before midnight on the night of 28 May, I was welcomed by 90 ° F temperatures. Just an hour later, I was headed to what would become my home for the next three weeks, the USS Nassau, LHA-4. My 3/C Nursing Cruise had begun.

Only aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships have enough space and carry enough sailors to require a true medical center on board. For this reason, I was headed out to an LHA, Tarawa class, to get my summer training. I was accompanied by 23 other nurse options (in addition to about 20 other Midshipmen), so we were split into three groups and had our training in medical every third day. There we worked with both corpsmen and the members of Fleet Surgical Team 2, who were detached to the USS Nassau for the deployment.

During my time spent in medical, we attended lectures, learned how to read charts, mix IV bags and more. However, my favorite aspect of my time spent in medical was by far the hands-on experience. I learned how to give an IV as well as how to take blood. I never missed a vein! With the help of a nurse, I performed an EKG on one of the other nurse options. I was even lucky enough to watch a surgery where the doctors and nurses on board removed 6-8 lymphomas (benign tumors) from a man on board. I even got to hold one of them!

My time spent in medical was really an amazing experience. I learned so much and got some great hands-on experience. Perhaps more importantly, I was able to determine that Navy nursing was definitely the career for me.

During the other two-thirds of my time spent on board, I was paired with an EM1 (Electricians Mate, Petty Officer First Class). I spent my time working with her and the other men and women in her division in the Aft Main Machinery Room (MMR) also known as “the pit,” which boasts temperatures of 110 °F and higher!

While I worked as an “EM-wannabe,” as I called myself, I got to learn about and work on machines about which I had no prior knowledge. That said, it was a really great experience. Less than a week before, I couldn’t even tell you what an EM really did, and there I was, replacing blower fans in an Ship Service Frequency Converter (SSFC). Additionally, I got to help with the testing of the shore power in a procedure called “shunting” and stand watch under the instruction of the Electricians Mate of the Watch (EMOW) in the aft MMR. I also helped test the cables of Ship Service Turbine Generator (SSTG3), a generator which had been damaged in a fire shortly before we arrived on board. But my pride and glory of being an “EM-wannabe” was when I was removed the electrical load from Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG2) and brought SSTG3 online under the instruction of the EMOW.

My experience working with the men and women from the E-Division on the USS Nassau was so enlightening and, actually, a lot of fun. If it wasn’t for the time I spent working with them, I don’t think I ever would be able to fully comprehend not only how smart these EMs and MMs are, but how much work they do on a daily basis. I consider my time working with them to be invaluable.

We were also given some very cool opportunities while we were on board. I got to fire the much-heard-about, mounted .50 caliber as well as a 12 gauge shot gun, spend an afternoon on an Landing Craft Utility (LCU) and, my favorite part, go up for a helo ride.

While on summer training, I also got visit some very cool places. We embarked on the ship in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, and disembarked in Sicily, Italy. We also went through the Suez Canal, which I really enjoyed.

This was considered my enlisted cruise, so I spent most of my time following around enlisted personnel. In NROTC, we spend a lot of time talking about officers. Living, eating, and working with the enlisted really gave me a new perspective of what it is like to be an enlisted sailor in the Navy. I learned how much work they do, how knowledgeable they are about what they do, and what their living and working conditions are like. It is my hope that I can take this new knowledge and remember it and apply it when I commission in just a few short years.

Summer cruise was definitely one of the most fun and valuable experiences of my life. It gave me a great idea of what I have to look forward to after I commission, and helped me to feel confident with my decision to work towards becoming a Navy nurse. I don’t think I can rave enough about my time aboard the USS Nassau...but I can say that I won’t miss the food!
Cadre Perspective
MIDN 3/C Ballance, USNR

While the focus of Freshman Orientation is the training of the new 4/C Midshipmen and their acclimation to a military environment, this week of indoctrination is also important training for those who return as Midshipmen staff. Referred to as the “cadre”, they serve as troop handlers as well as teachers, enforcing strict discipline among the new 4/C from the moment the day begins until it ends in the barracks. The cadre also teaches classes to them on every aspect of Naval ROTC, including military customs, physical fitness and leadership. The cadre consists of some of the best Midshipmen from the North Carolina Piedmont Region Consortium, consisting of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, and North Carolina State University.

During my time as a part of the cadre, I learned as much as I did at my freshman orientation. I was responsible for moving the 4/C from place to place, enforcing military discipline, and giving them a working knowledge about life as a Midshipman. My fellow cadre and I taught classes on various topics, ranging from traditional military knowledge to balancing NROTC with university life. As NROTC Midshipmen, we are afforded the opportunity to move between the civilian and military lifestyles. While a great deal of growth can come from such a life, the newfound freedom of a civilian university combined with the responsibilities placed on Midshipmen can be quite daunting. The lessons we teach at orientation are the initial exposure freshmen have to the built-in support structure here at Carolina.

MIDN 2/C William Tessmann, MIDN 3/C Kaitlyn Williams, and I represented Carolina at this consortium event. Together, we spent several days creating artificial stress. This stress put the new 4/C in challenging positions, requiring them to move, speak, eat, and do everything else at a level of intensity few had been exposed to before. While this is understandably strenuous on the incoming freshman, it was also challenging for us. We were actively engaged in training the freshmen from the moment they woke up until they went to bed, constantly moving, correcting, and challenging them on knowledge they were required to know. The job required that we outperform the freshmen; we had to be flawless. We had to be louder, faster, and always a step ahead in our planning. It is not an easy job but one that is necessary to the initial development to future leaders in the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps.

4/C Perspective
MIDN 4/C Olson, USMCR

Orientation week isn’t supposed to be fun. In that respect, it lived up to its goal of shocking seven rising freshmen into memorizing and learning various military knowledge a full week before we were mentally prepared. My fellow midshipmen and I can now recite various pages of information that we will know for the rest of our careers.

It began innocently enough. We filed in, met the active duty officers, signed papers and chatted, cheerfully oblivious to our upcoming fate. At exactly 0900, we raised our right hands and swore (or professed) that we would support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Within five minutes, we were herded into a blue van, staring at new knowledge packets and ordered to assume the now second-nature “thousand yard stare.” Sitting rigidly in place, every single 4/C Midshipman wondered what they had gotten themselves into.

After those first few minutes, events get hazy. Long rides and nerve-wracking quizzes melded seamlessly in our minds just as the beautiful scenery of Virginia passed in an obscure blur. We focused on our knowledge packet in the vain hope of not being called upon to answer questions. In Norfolk, a scared huddle of 4/C replaced the over-confident high school graduates that arrived in Chapel Hill.

Several days of “delicious” NAS Oceana food, numerous head calls (eight canteens of water is a lot) and constant stress later, the situation changed. There were now seven Midshipmen who could: stand at attention, shine shoes, stand fire watch and name the various ranks of the Navy and Marine Corps. Each of the 4/C had a new found appreciation for the various naval warfare communities. Events during orientation included tours of Hornets, surface ships, submarines and an obstacle course, as well as gut-wrenching gobble-gobble fights and liberty in Virginia Beach.

Overall, this Midshipman may be speaking for himself, but orientation was a good time. The 4/C learned a lot, and MIDN 2/C Tessmann, MIDN 3/C Ballance, and MIDN 3/C Williams had the privilege of scaring the be-jeebers out of us.
Meet the 4/C

Fresh New Faces of Fall 2008

MIDN 4/C Karmann Deburkarte

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC for the opportunities and to serve my country.

What is your intended service selection?
Surface Warfare

What is your intended major?
Public Policy

What do you expect this semester?
I expect to be very busy this semester, but I also expect Carolina to begin to feel like home.

Personal Haiku:
The beach is pretty
Summer is my favorite
I like to get tan

MIDN 4/C Matt James

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC to prepare myself while in college for a career in the military and I joined NROTC specifically because I am interested in the career options the Navy offers.

What is your intended service selection?
Submarine Warfare

What is your intended major?
Political Science

What do you expect this semester?
I expect to develop and improve myself mentally, morally and physically; especially physically.

Personal Haiku:
Portholes on my face
Southport (below Wilmington)
Rank structure limbo

MIDN 4/C Tyler Marva

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC because I saw it as a way to serve my country and be commissioned as an officer.

What is your intended service selection?
Nurse Corps

What is your intended major?
Nursing

What do you expect this semester?
I expect this semester to be filled with new people and lots of hard work.

Personal Haiku:
Activeness is fun
Ultimate, Wrestling, Running
Are sports I like
MIDN 4/C Scott Miller

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC to attain a college education and become a leader of men and women.

What is your intended service selection?
Undecided

What is your intended major?
Asian Studies: Arabic Culture

What do you expect this semester?
I expect this semester to be outstanding, taking classes I'm actually interested in, going to football games and hanging out with my fellow Midshipmen.

Personal Poem:
I come from the small town of Verona,
Where I once had the hots for a girl from Arizona,
I grew up playing hide and seek, and drinking sweet tea,
Climbing those tall pines and catching honey bees,
I like to wrestle and play basketball, most anything except watching the boring 500 of Daytona.

MIDN 4/C Grant Morine

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC because I wanted to serve my country.

What is your intended service selection?
Surface Warfare

What is your intended major?
Political Science

What do you expect this semester?
I expect that this first semester will be challenging, but that the rewards will be far greater than any current trials (like sea trials).

Personal Poem:
I am doing so many things now that I'm here at UNC-Chapel Hill
NROTC, Drill Team, making new friends, classes, oh what a thrill, Carolina Fever, Born and Bred, don't forget about study hall,
We would all hate for any of our grades to fall,
So stay on top of it all, here take some Tylenol.

MIDN 4/C Ryan Morris

Why did you join NROTC?
I want to serve my country as a naval officer and gain valuable career experience.

What is your intended service selection?
Undecided

What is your intended major?
International Studies

What are your expectations of this semester?
To become acclimated at UNC-Chapel Hill and in NROTC while meeting new people and experiencing new things.

Personal Haiku:
Where has my beard gone
It has left my face barren
Now my face is cold
MIDN 4/C Matt Nemetz

Why did you join NROTC?

I lived in the New York area at the time of 9/11 and could see the towers burning from the highway on my way to school, I knew many people who lost loved ones in the attacks, and saw the need for the United States to step up and fight global terrorism. These reasons, along with a long rooted desire to be in the military, have inspired me to serve my country and prevent such an event from ever happening again.

What is your intended service selection?
Surface Warfare or Naval Aviation

What is your intended major?
Business

What do you expect this semester?

I expect that as a 4/C and being the lowest ranking in the battalion that it's going to be a tough semester becoming acclimated with and learning about Navy life.

Personal Haiku:
Always quick to joke
I'm never without a smile
I love rock and roll.

MIDN 4/C Kyle Olson

Why did you join NROTC?

I joined NROTC because I want to be a Marine Officer and NROTC is a good path to that goal.

What is your intended service selection?
Marine Corps

What is your intended major?
Environmental Science

What do you expect this semester?

This semester I expect to be challenged mentally in transitioning to college academic expectations and ROTC expectations.

Personal Haiku:
Study, Workout Hard-
Life in NROTC can be fun
Just don't fall behind
MIDN 4/C Andrew Votipka

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC because my father is a Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force and my brother is in Air Force ROTC, and I wanted to do something that wasn’t Air Force related.

What is your intended service selection?
Undecided

What is your intended major?
Business or Economics

What do you expect this semester?
I expect to learn a good deal of information about the Navy’s structure, purpose, and tactics as well as how to become a better leader and person.

Personal Haiku:
I like John Wayne films
I am a skilled musician
I rule at ping pong

MIDN 4/C Jeff Zeberlein

Why did you join NROTC?
I joined NROTC mainly because of the influence of my grandfather, a Navy Captain, and my high school calculus teacher, a Navy helicopter pilot. I decided that it could be an incredible opportunity to gain some life experiences that few people ever encounter.

What is your intended service selection?
Naval Aviation

What is your intended major?
Finance or International Business

What do you expect this semester?
I expect this semester to be the most challenging and demanding period of my life thus far. Between my course load for school, NROTC, and other extracurricular activities, I’m sure my time here will be eventful.

Personal Haiku:
War Zone or Wall Street?
The decision of my life
Either way, I win
The Unit Out and About

MIDN of the Month, 1/C DeMore

Marine Options and MECEPS during the Initial PFT

1/C Fearon and 1/C Hayes manage a smile during the torrential downpour at the first stadium cleanup

4/C Morine and 4/C Olson studying diligently in the Armory
3/C Perez and 3/C Keilman posing for the camera after the first PT lab

4/C "get some" during the initial PRT

4/C Miller and 4/C Deburkarte giving thumbs up before PT

MIDN practice their drill skills during lab
Anchors Aweigh

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps
101 Naval Armory
Campus Box 3325
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3325

Mailing Address

Address

Goes

Here

Anchors Aweigh Staff

Advisor: LT Gerring, USN

Co-Editors:
3/C Maykovich
3/C Hayes

Photographer:
3/C Perez

Contributors:
1/C Driver
1/C Hodgin
1/C Johnson
1/C Powell
1/C Spitler
2/C Martin
3/C Ballance
3/C Keilman
3/C Stratton
4/C Olson