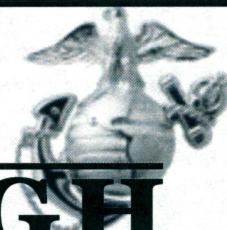




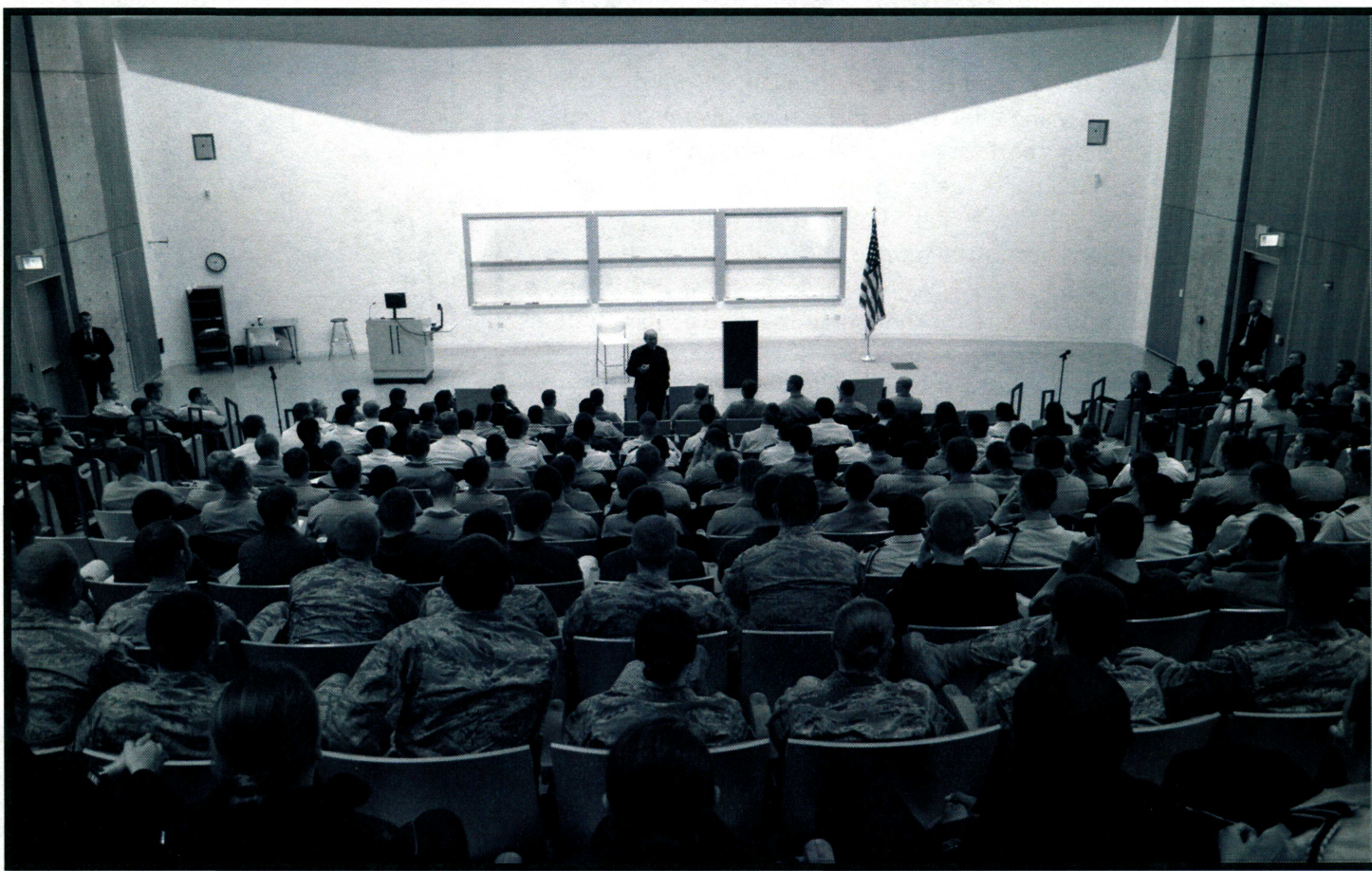
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps



ANCHORS AWEIGH

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The Navy and Marine Corps' best are trained here

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A Message from the Battalion Commander

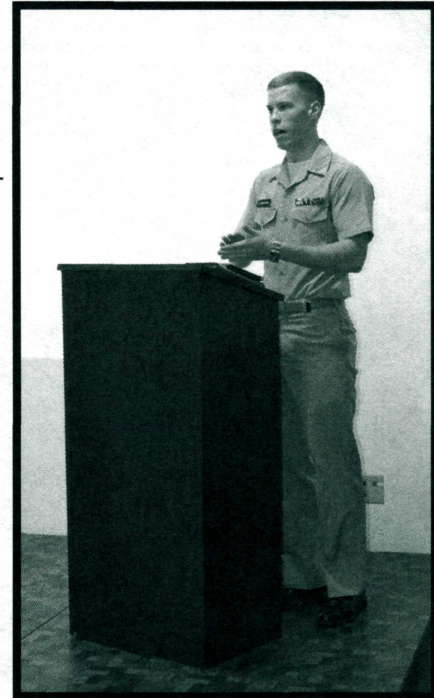
MIDN 1/C Carraway

My responsibilities from previous semesters changed dramatically after being chosen as the Battalion Commanding Officer (BNCO) for this semester. As BNCO, I direct and supervise the overall development of the semester's training plan, ensure that it is executed efficiently and effectively, and assume overall accountability for the Battalion's performance. I have a responsibility to all of the Midshipmen to ensure they receive useful and relevant training at Naval Lab and Battalion PT. In addition to professional development, I am responsible for the morale and welfare of each and every member of the Battalion. My strategic goals this semester are to fight complacency, prepare for summer cruise, and generate more "bottom-up" discussion of leadership.

Historically, the spring semester has presented difficulties for Midshipmen in maintaining focus. Warming weather, spring break, and the prospect of summer, with exciting training opportunities and much-needed time off all provide distraction from academics and professional development. I want everyone to remain engaged in Battalion activities with enthusiasm in order to maintain the momentum gained during the fall semester. This momentum will not only allow us to finish the semester strong, but it will make it much easier for us to prepare for our summer training requirements. Each training opportunity presents different knowledge requirements, and for that reason, the preparation that will best translate to a beneficial cruise experience must come from within ourselves and outside of Naval Lab. The onus is on each and every Midshipman to undertake some sort of preparation on his or her own.

I hope to generate more "bottom-up" discussion of leadership that starts with the youngest Midshipman and is guided by those with more experience. On the lowest level this discussion takes place between peers and within squads. We all must encourage and promote this discussion, but also incorporate our Midshipman on Staff, the Active Duty Staff, and our guest speakers into it.

A common theme can be seen through each of these goals: due diligence. I want to instill the idea of due diligence in everyone here because I honestly believe in it. The time we have as Midshipmen is a period when we have access to many invaluable resources and, more importantly, when we have the time to use them to prepare for future leadership in the Navy and Marine Corps.



Introducing LT Miller



LT Miller (right) speaking to a group of midshipmen

The Battalion would like to welcome Lieutenant Miller as our new Aviation Officer. A native of Wilmington, NC, LT Miller graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2007 with a BS in political science. After commissioning, he attended Boston College and received a MA in political science in 2009.

LT Miller service selected naval aviator, and after flight training was “winged” as a helicopter pilot in January 2011. He was assigned to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fourteen (HM-14), based in Norfolk, VA from August 2011 to December 2014. During his time flying the MH-53E “Sea Dragon” he participated in Fleet Week, RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise) 2012, Hurricane Sandy DSCA (Defense Support of Civil Authorities), and deployed to Bahrain.

He lives in Raleigh with his wife Jamie, daughter Cecilia, and two cats. Among his many interests, he enjoys skiing, running, listening to music and scuba diving, as well as keeping up to date on current affairs. The Battalion would like to extend a warm welcome!

Welcome SSgt Brantley



The Battalion would also like to welcome another new face this semester, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Christopher Raymond Brantley. SSgt Brantley is one of the few Marines accepted into the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), an opportunity given to outstanding enlisted Marines to become Marine Corps Officers.

Born June 30, 1982, SSgt Brantley is from South Bend, IN, fifteen minutes from the University of Notre Dame. After graduating high school in 2000, he went to Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, MI where he received an air-frame and power plant (A&P) license and an Associate of Applied Science degree. Transferring to Western Michigan College in 2002, he was soon employed by Northwest Airlines as a Canadair Regional Jet mechanic based out of South Bend Airport.

On January 11, 2007, SSgt Brantley enlisted in the Marine Corps and began training as a CH-53E Super Stallion Crewchief. He successfully graduated from boot camp and Marine Combat Training, was sent to Pensacola for swim training, and then to SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) school in Brunswick, ME. After completing A school and C school at MCAS New River, he was assigned to helicopter squadron HMM-461 "Ironhorse," then to squadron HMM-366 "Hammerheads." Once he obtained his MOS, 6177 Weapons and Tactics Crew Chief Instructor, he served as senior crew chief in command.

SSgt Brantley has since been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa. He applied for the MECEP program in fall 2013 and was accepted to UNC for the spring semester of 2015. He is now pursuing a degree in Political Science. His goal while here at Chapel Hill in addition to commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the USMC, is to prepare and educate Midshipmen with the knowledge, instruction, and expectations they will need to be successful as a newly commissioned officer in the Navy or Marine Corps.

He married his wife Brittany on May 8, 2010 and their daughter Lillian was born on December 31, 2013. SSgt Brantley and his family now reside in Mebane, NC.



SSgt Brantley's wife Brittany pinning on his new rank during his promotion ceremony

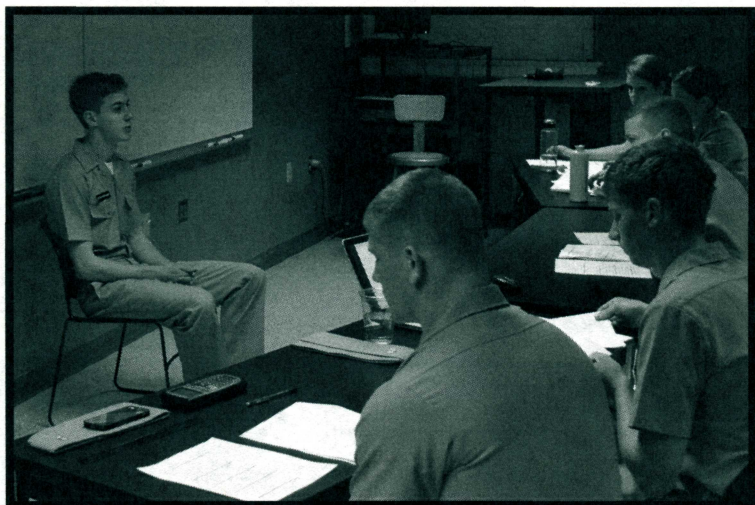
Adjusting to Life as a Midshipman

MIDN 4/C Stephenson

This semester I have the pleasure of being the sole newcomer, through the college program, to the Battalion. I am excited to finally start my journey as a Midshipman. And that journey began immediately: MIDN 3/C Schmid, my soon-to-be squad leader, and MIDN 3/C Buskill and MIDN 4/C Singley welcomed me at the Armory on my first day back from winter break. They were extremely excited to have me join the program and immediately began discussing what was expected of me for the coming semester. The most important expectation was my successful completion of NROTC Personal Qualification Standards (PQS). The PQS workload was daunting, especially without peers to lean on, but MIDN Schmid assured me that he and the Battalion were prepared to help me succeed.

The first few weeks also provided me with the opportunity to get to know the other Midshipman in the Battalion and the active duty staff. Everyone was welcoming and actively sought ways to help my transition. One of the most challenging transitions I experienced was being prepared for 0600 physical training every Wednesday morning. However, I survived my first Physical Readiness Test (PRT) and quickly adjusted to waking up for the early morning training.

As I near the end of my first semester, it is great to look back and see how quickly I was welcomed into, and adjusted, to Battalion life. My squad leader and entire Battalion have helped me complete my PQS with flying colors, preparing me well for my upcoming Oral Boards. I have had an incredible semester filled with many fascinating opportunities, such as listening to General Martin Dempsey address the Battalion, learning about the EOD community from Lieutenant Commander Schulz, and shooting at the Army ROTC cadets with paintball guns. It has been an extremely rewarding semester, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to build relationships with some of the finest men and women at UNC. I cannot wait to see what else NROTC has in store for me during my time at Chapel Hill.



MIDN Stephenson (left) during his PQS Oral Board

Ready for the Fleet

MIDN 1/C Chavez

My four years in the UNC NROTC program have been both fun and challenging. Going to one of the nation's best universities was daunting. I knew I would be allowed the freedom to select a major from a number of interesting math and science fields, but I also knew that I would be challenged with difficult courses and significant demands on my time. As a computer science major, I am confident that my academic studies have prepared me to think critically and to overcome any obstacle I may encounter as a Junior Officer. Also, I am confident that my academic major has given me employable skills outside the navy, for the day, if and when I leave the naval service.

My preparation for a career of naval service occurred not only through academics, but through our specific NROTC unit as well. Our midshipmen are required to complete a PQS program, which is characteristic of only a few NROTC units in the country. This PQS helped me develop a sound body of professional knowledge, which was made evident to me over summer training. During my training exercises each summer, I felt as if I had a better base knowledge than most midshipmen from other schools.

I am both happy and proud that I will graduate from not only one of the top universities in the nation, but one of the top NROTC units as well. I am confident my training, education, and experiences will correlate to success as a Junior Officer.

Becoming a Squad Leader

MIDN 3/C Lyster

MIDN Lyster (right) receiving an award for her excellent performance



The transition from a 4/C midshipman to a squad leader has come with increased responsibility and a different role in the Battalion. Last semester, I was a 4/C midshipman with the freshman class. I was not responsible for any other midshipman, but rather was instructed to focus on developing my professional knowledge. I reported to my squad leader and did what I was told.

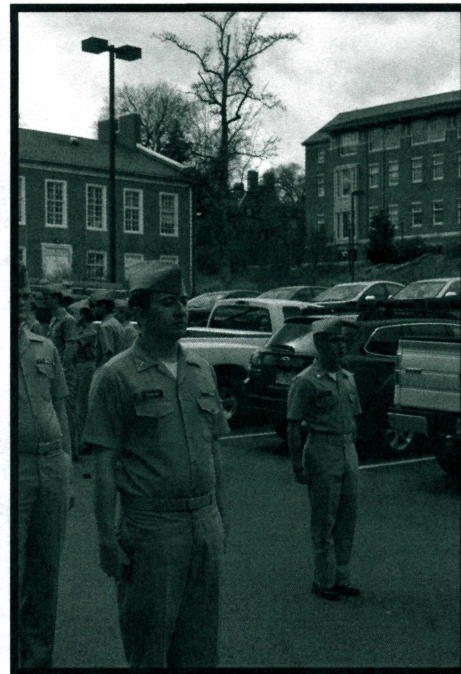
This semester, as a 3/C midshipman and squad leader, I am responsible for others rather than just myself. I must ensure that four other midshipmen are upholding their ROTC duties, succeeding in academics, and living well. I have to be their voice so that the chain of command knows their needs and concerns. Further, I have to pass information from the chain of command down to them. Instead of simply sending or receiving information as needed like in the fall semester, I now am the "middle man" between midshipmen and the midshipman staff. The sense of responsibility for others instead of just for me has changed my outlook on the NROTC experience. I now have a better appreciation for how roles in the fleet actually work and understand that when I commission as an Ensign, I will be that "middle man," between my superiors and my Sailors. The leadership knowledge that has come with being a squad leader has increased my respect for how the Navy operates.

Summer Training: Mountain Warfare

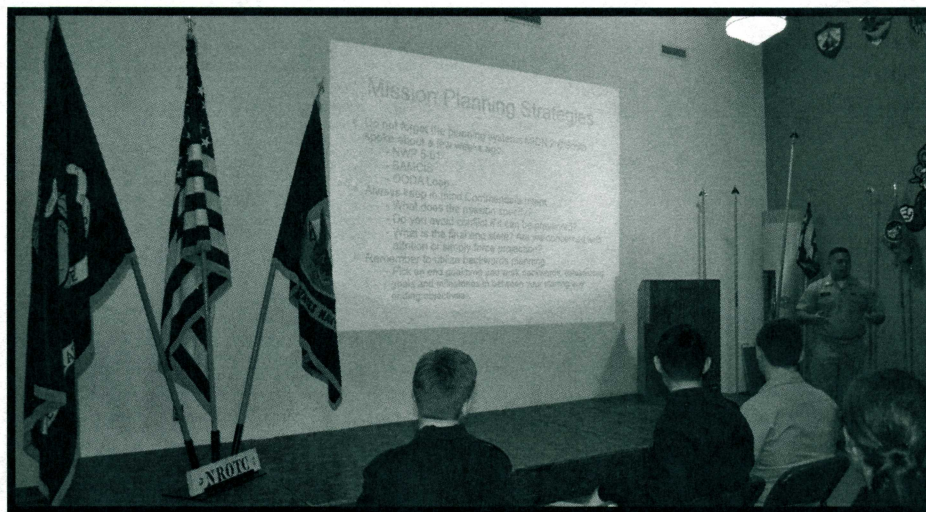
MIDN 3/C Leiva

My father was stationed in Bridgeport, CA when I was in first and second grade. I never would have guessed I would be going back, especially as a midshipman on summer training. I am excited to conduct my summer training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTCT), the premier training site for Marines preparing to serve in mountainous regions. Though my training at MWTCT will only last 10 days, I know it will be an experience of a lifetime. Because this will be my first summer training as a Marine Option Midshipman, it will be the first time I can train with my peers from the consortium and NROTC units across the country. The Mountain Warfare course is conducted at high elevations, where it routinely gets cold despite being in the summer. I'm excited to be tested physically and mentally and to be exposed to state-of-the-art equipment and training.

Even when my body is tired and weak, I will need to tell myself to keep pushing forward. Although this training will be short, I look forward to applying what I have learned, continuing to learn, and facing the many difficulties with my peers. I am excited to share the events of my summer training this coming fall. Stay Motivated!



MIDN Leiva (right) calling commands during drill



MIDN Chavez (right) giving a presentation on mission planning strategies during lab

Visit from General Dempsey

MIDN 1/C Jarrell

On the morning of February 7th our Battalion was honored to have the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, speak to us. The purpose of his address was to pass on his parting words of wisdom prior to his retirement in the coming months. I felt that his advice was invaluable to everyone in attendance, but was even more relevant for me, a senior who will commission this May. General Dempsey covered a variety of topics in his address and I would like to mention some of his key take-aways that really resonated with me. First and foremost, he emphasized that we should be passionate in developing professional expertise for armed forces. He remarked that there is no room for mediocrity as a member of the United States. In order to sustain an advantage over other military powers we must push ourselves to be as knowledgeable as possible at all times. Second, General Dempsey differentiated between two different motivations for developing expertise. The first motivation, which he termed "shallow expertise," refers to a drive to develop expertise in order to progress one's own career. This is the wrong type of motivation. The right type of motivation, which he termed "deep expertise," refers to the drive to develop expertise in order to better serve your country. He made this point in order to emphasize that, as volunteer members in the Armed Forces, we are committed to something greater than ourselves. We must always keep in mind our reasons for doing the things we do and they must be aligned with our good character. The final take-away from General Dempsey's address can be characterized by the saying, "bloom where you're planted." He made this analogy to illustrate the fact that we always have the ability to make the best of our circumstances and succeed, no matter where we eventually end up. We may not get our preferred service selection, and we may not get our preferred billet, but we always have the choice to make a difference. Even more importantly, we have a duty to our country to be the best of the best at our job no matter what that may be. These are timeless lessons for a life of service, whether that be an initial service obligation or a life-long career.



GEN Dempsey speaking to midshipmen and cadets from UNC-CH, Duke, and NC State

EOYE 2015

MIDN 1/C Canny

Each year, our midshipmen participate in a student-led End of Year Exercise (EOYE). The exercise is used to develop the leadership skills and test the professional and tactical knowledge of all participants. The Battalion is divided into two teams and given a list of available military assets and a list of strategic and tactical goals. Each team will then produce a strategy to implement during the scenario's execution that, hopefully, will accomplish all goals. This strategy, however, is subject to change due to the other team's strategy and the "White Cell" overseers, composed of two other midshipmen and one active duty member of the staff. Consequently, each team will rely on its plans and internal chain of command to react to the changing conditions of the EOYE as the situation progresses.

This year's exercise focuses on two fictional countries, Osium and Turus. As hostilities between the two countries grow, the midshipmen on both sides will have to make tactical decisions using their assets while following an established Rules of Engagement. The EOYE is a unique event because the planning is shared between UNC, Duke, and NC State. All three schools coordinate to make sure the exercise runs smoothly and that it is uniform between the different units. This year, we are trying to incorporate a new software program to make the exercise more dynamic and enjoyable. The EOYE is one of the largest and most complex evolutions the Battalion participates in each year. However, it is also one of the biggest learning opportunities, one that prepares midshipmen for situations they will encounter in the Fleet.



Midshipmen prepare for the EOYE during a mock scenario

Giving Back to Our Community

MIDN 4/C Kinsella

The Battalion's community service participation has been strong this semester. Our midshipmen have contributed more than 160 hours of community service to different organizations and events. One of those events is new, and was initiated by MIDN 2/C Smith. She had been volunteering with the UNC Campus YMCA to maintain Hope Garden, and invited other members of the Battalion to join her. The Hope Garden grows food to donate to local organizations like Homestart, a women's shelter. Volunteers at the garden help with composting, planting, harvesting, and constructing garden beds. Helping this organization has been a great bonding experience and teamwork building activity for the midshipmen.

On February 20th, five midshipmen volunteered to host high school students participating in the annual Catalyst Conference. This conference, also sponsored by the Campus YMCA, aims to help high school students grow in leadership and awareness of social issues. The midshipmen learned about the issue of hunger and unequal distribution of wealth in third world countries.

Not only do our Midshipmen volunteer in the community, but they also volunteer within our Armory. On January 31st, four Midshipman served as the "Opposing Force" during the UNC Army ROTC's field exercise. Their participating was essential for the Army cadets' training, and also was an excellent opportunity for to develop their leadership skills in a tactical environment. It also was a lot of fun!

The next major service opportunity will be a blood drive hosted by the Battalion in the Armory on Monday, April 6th. Our midshipman will organize and publicize the event for the Red Cross and provide volunteers to run it. As community service chief, I look forward to leading the Battalion for the rest of the semester in representing our unit by helping our community.



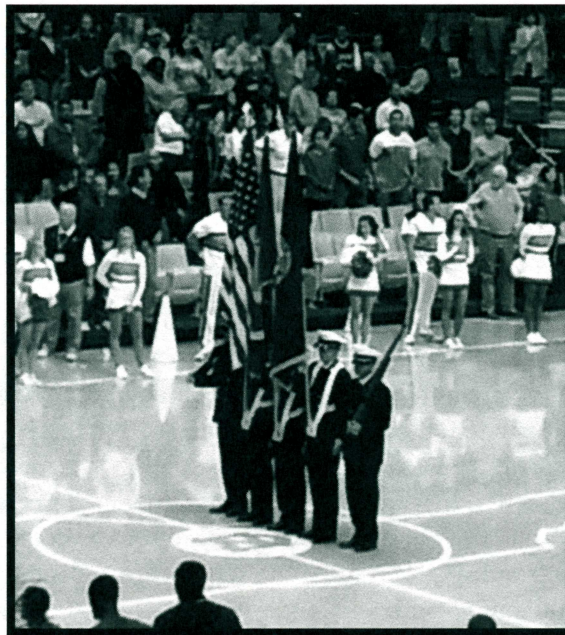
Midshipmen volunteers at HOPE Community Gardens

Drill Team/ Color Guard Commander

MIDN 4/C Urquilla

This semester I hold the position of Battalion Drill Team and Color Guard Commander (DTC/ CGC). One of my primary responsibilities is to coordinate and prepare for the various events to which our Battalion has committed a Color Guard. These events are usually Men's and Women's basketball games, but short-notice events like the Military Appreciation Day baseball game occur. My goal is to get more midshipmen involved in Color Guard, and to shape the Battalion's perception of it as a way to represent the unit, UNC, and the Navy. Not only are Color Guards a fun experience, they come with free tickets to the event, so I believe the entire Battalion should want to be involved!

A second responsibility is to hold drill practice to prepare for the Consortium Drill Competition against Duke and N.C. State. We work on the basic drill manual and will move into, as the semester progresses, armed drill. If I succeed, every midshipman performing a drill move will execute that move at exactly the same time. My goal is to win the event and bring the trophy back to UNC. I am excited to have this new responsibility in the Battalion and I hope my leadership will inspire others to participate, and for our drill team to beat our sister schools.



MIDN Urquilla and the NROTC Color Guard at a basketball game

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