The Navy and Marine Corps’ best are trained here

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Fall Semester Wrap-up

Alumni, Family, and Friends,

Sorry for the delay in getting this issue to you! As always, the fall semester proved to be busy and hectic. Time simply got away from us. You’ll find in this issue some pictures from our key last semester, an introduction to our new 4/C (the biggest class in years!), and a few stories from summer cruises. Enjoy, and thanks for your continued support!

- AA staff

MIDN 1/C Schmid being awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement by NCPR CO, CAPT Gillespie

Our 4/C midshipmen placed third against NC State and Duke at Sea Trials, the culminating event of Fall semester!

Our 4/C midshipmen completed their Personal Qualification Standards Oral Boards, making them official members of our battalion.
New Faces in New Places

MIDN 4/C Romeo Antolini
Hometown: Huntersville, NC
Major: PWAD
Military Aspiration: SWO

MIDN 4/C Michael Carreiro
Hometown: Pittsboro, NC
Major: PWAD
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Jack Dremann
Hometown: Wilmington, NC
Major: EXSS
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Tegan Gross
Hometown: Raleigh, NC
Major: Physics
Military Aspiration: Naval Aviator

MIDN 4/C Matthew Guerra
Hometown: Silver Spring, MD
Major: PWAD
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Cameron Gumbel
Hometown: Havelock, NC
Major: Public Health
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Madison Hamby
Hometown: Purlear, NC
Major: PWAD, Russian minor
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Chris Harris
Hometown: Holly Springs, NC
Major: PWAD
Military Aspiration: Marine Officer

MIDN 4/C Riley Head
Hometown: Lynchburg, VA
Major: Computer Science
Military Aspiration: Navy SEAL
New Faces in New Places

MIDN 4/C Adam Hefti  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA  
Major: Geophysics  
Military Aspiration: Naval Aviator

MIDN 4/C Lydia Kuehnert  
Hometown: Morganton, NC  
Major: PWAD  
Military Aspiration: SWO

MIDN 4/C Austin Muraille  
Hometown: Brussels, Belgium  
Major: PWAD and Global Studies  
Military Aspiration: SWO

MIDN 4/C Sarah Weinstein  
Hometown: Alexandria, VA  
Major: Biology  
Military Aspiration: Navy Doctor

OC Antonio Howard  
Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA  
Major: Computer Science  
Military Aspiration: Naval Aviator

MIDN 4/C William Verwoerdt  
Hometown: Winston-Salem, NC  
Major: Biology  
Military Aspiration: Naval Aviator
Summer Cruise Memories: MIDN 1/C Leiva at OCS

This summer, I had the pleasure of attending the world’s most fun “camp”, Officer Candidate School. OCS is located in Quantico, VA and for NROTC midshipmen it is a six week long program. PLC poolees and NROTC midshipmen gather from around the country to attend this training and hopefully earn the title ‘United States Marine’.

This was by far the most challenging thing I have gone through in my entire life. The six weeks was comprised of daily physical training, weapons maintenance, hours of drill, leadership tests, and academics. Oh, and I almost forgot to mention the numerous Sergeant Instructors (former Drill Instructors from MCRD Parris Island and San Diego) who enjoy yelling, screaming, and attending to the tiniest of details. I would not want to go through Officer Candidate School again, but I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have gone. Some of my best memories revolve around the Sergeant Instructors. Through the organized chaos, they taught the other candidates and I many of valuable life lessons.
This summer, I went on CORTRAMID (Career Orientation and Training of Midshipmen), a 32-day training where midshipmen are exposed to the four major communities of the Navy and Marine Corps. The first week was Submarine Week held at Kings Bay, GA. We participated in damage control training and toured the submarine museum, but most of the activities were classified. The second week was Aviation Week, in Norfolk, VA. Most of the week was spent in simulators and hangars, though many midshipmen actually get to fly in planes.

The third (and best) week was Marine Week, held out at Camp Geiger. We ran the O-Course, a modified CFT, learned MCMAP, and ran the Confidence Course. The day was topped off with a pugil sticks battle. The rest of the week was filled with AAV rides, Combat Engineer demonstrations, an MH-53 helicopter ride, and a range day in which we got to fire an M240B, M4, and M203. The last week was Surface Week. We got to tour several ships and go underway on a Destroyer. I am so grateful for the opportunities presented by CORTRAMID. I learned a lot from the incredible Officers and Enlisted personnel from each community.
For my 2/C cruise I went underway with the crew of DDG 65, the *USS Benfold*. The ship is part of DESRON 15, deployed in Yokosuka, Japan. As a midshipmen aboard, I was assigned two enlisted running mates while underway, STG1 Fornsel and DC1 Beier. STG1 was a sonar tech and DC1 was a damage controlman. I got to see all the sonar and engineering spaces, as well as stand watch with various watch teams. I stood watch in engineering, in sonar, on the bridge and in the Combat Information Center.

The gunner’s mates gave me the opportunity to fire the 50 caliber machine gun, a shotgun, and an M-9 Berretta off the flight deck. I also had an opportunity to drive the ship during my time on bridge watch. I observed night helo operations, underway replenishments, a low visibility gun shoot, and nighttime carrier operations. I saw various types of ships while underway, including a German cargo ship, an Italian freighter, a Chinese frigate and an intel gathering ship, as well as several cruisers, destroyers and an aircraft carrier. Once we pulled into port in Yokosuka, I was also able to visit Tokyo. My experiences while on board the *USS Benfold* have definitely solidified my decision to try and become a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy. I think the missions are incredible and the community, from what I’ve seen, is great. I am extremely grateful for such a fantastic cruise and I can’t wait to continue working towards a career in the Navy.
From 4 May to 26 May I went to NAS Oceana with VFA-211, the Checkmates, for my first class aviation cruise. Lucky for me, the squadron I was assigned to needed NFOs for the pilots’ flight times, a void I was gladly able to fill. Therefore, I was given with the opportunity of taking several rides in the F/A-18F over the duration of my cruise. In addition to these (awesome) flights, I got to fly the F/A-18 simulator and sit in on many different types of briefs. These briefs included all sorts of different missions the squadron was conducting including BFM (Basic Fighting Maneuvers), low level, red air, and night flights. I also got to tour and explore the hangar, giving me the opportunity to see the enlisted side of the house. I was able to observe and appreciate the hard work that they put in to keep the planes up and running for us to carry out our missions. I gained a stronger insight on how both enlisted and officers in the wing are essential to accomplishing the mission. Overall, I would say that my summer cruise was a lot of fun, but more importantly, it was the lessons learned and valuable experiences that will stay with me.
As a Marine Option Midshipman Second Class, I went to Mountain Warfare Training Command (MWTC) in Bridgeport, California for my summer training. The training lasted 10 days, but was one of the most mentally and physically demanding things I have had the pleasure of doing. MWTC gave me the opportunity to learn numerous practical skills such as hiking, river crossing, rappelling, rock climbing, wilderness survival techniques, casualty evacuation, holding a billet, and numerous other things, but the most important thing I learned was how important it is to rely on your fellow midshipmen.

During the hike to Lost Cannon Peak, we covered around 3,000 feet in elevation change in a hike that was uphill for three hours straight. The elevation over the week and a half at MWTC made any physical activity much harder due to a lack of oxygen. The change from 8,000 feet of elevation to 11,000 feet in elevation was giving all of us difficulties, but my fire team and I realized that we were all depending on each other to stay strong for each other. We knew that if we fell out, that that would give someone else an excuse to fall out and decrease their desire to push through the pain. That hike made me realize how important it is to have a good relationship with your peers because challenges are better tackled as a group rather than as an individual. The military has no room for individuals, and MWTC helped me to realize how important the team dynamic actually is for morale and mission accomplishment.
This summer I had the privilege of joining the mighty destroyer Bainbridge (DDG-96). I arrived in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and spent 3 ½ days there for Fleet Week Port Everglades. After we departed, we transited to the waters near the Bahamas for a joint U.S.-Canada exercise with destroyers and submarines. We tested SONAR systems, worked out communication issues and practiced evasive maneuvers. While following ENS Nathan Crawford, the combat acoustics (CA) division officer, I got a chance to experience first-hand the most important part of our exercises: SONAR.

In addition to the time I spent with the SONAR technicians (STGs) and the CA division officer, I took as many opportunities to stand watch on the bridge as possible. I stood watch as the conning officer and as the junior officer of the deck, including during replenishments at sea (RASs) and while completing torpedo-avoidance maneuvers. After we finished the joint exercises, we met up with more ships off the coast of Norfolk and transited to New York City for Fleet Week New York. We were greeted by a pier-side celebration and, during my 4 days in New York, was able to take part in various morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) events.
"I'm a Tar Heel born I'm a Tar Heel bred
And when I die I'm a Tar Heel dead."

Once a Tar Heel, always a Tar Heel.
As unit, this means we support all members of the Battalion, past and present. We welcome all alumni to reach out and share anything that is going on. Please contact MIDN 4/C Canipe, the Anchors Aweigh Editor, to help keep the UNC family connected.

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Upcoming Events

Field and Drill Meet ........... TBD
Commissioning ................ 13 May
Commencement ................ 14 May

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&
https://nrotc.sites.unc.edu/

Anchors Aweigh Staff

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