



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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Setting the Standard: A Message from the BNCO

MIDN 1/C Standard

It has truly been an honor to serve as the commander of this battalion, and I could not have asked for a greater group of midshipmen to develop. Last semester set the tone for the school year with the largest incoming class in 10 years, service selection in which everyone got their first choice, and a renewed sense of pride in the battalion. My staff and I continued this trend by helping the active duty recruit the best and brightest Carolina has to offer, developing leadership skills and promoting fitness and academic growth, and furthering unit pride through MWR events, wardroom beautification, and new battalion shirts and swag.

This semester, I have had the privilege of overseeing our dining-in, the field and drill meet, awards day, the end of year exercise (EOYX), and the commissioning of our first class midshipmen. These events not only provide a chance for the members of our battalion to strengthen their relationships with each other and with the consortium, but they provide excellent training for the midshipmen in charge (MICs) who plan them. In addition to these major events, we've welcomed four new midshipmen this semester to grow our already larger-than-average battalion. The first semester in NROTC is arguably the most important, so my number one priority has been to ensure these new midshipmen acclimate into the battalion and gain the necessary knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their future billets.

It will be sad to leave the battalion this May, but I know that I will be leaving it in the able hands of our outstanding UNC midshipmen. Thank you all for an amazing four years, I hope the rest of you can learn, develop, and experience as much as I have in the time you have left. Hooyah, *Never Quit*.



Introducing LT McKenna



The Battalion would like to welcome Lieutenant McKenna as our new Submarine Warfare Officer Instructor. A native of Wilkes-Barre, PA, LT McKenna graduated from Penn State University in 2011 with a degree in Environmental Systems Engineering and commissioned through the NROTC Program.

Upon commissioning, LT McKenna was service assigned to submarines and began his training through the Nuclear Pipeline, beginning with Naval Nuclear Power School. After power school, he continued on to Prototype in Saratoga Springs, NY, where he was given hands-on training in operating a nuclear propulsion plant. Upon completion of Prototype, he was assigned to the Guided Missile Submarine, USS GEORGIA (SSGN-729) Blue Crew out of Kings Bay, GA in June 2013. While attached to the USS GEORGIA, he deployed three times in support of Fifth and Sixth Fleet operations, conducted a 14-month long Major Maintenance Period, and completed a successful certification while conducting Special Forces Operations.

He now lives in Chapel Hill, NC with his wife Deanna and dog, Splinter. Among his many interests, he enjoys working out, driving his Jeep, listening to music, cooking delicious food, and brewing his own beer. The Battalion would like to extend LT McKenna a warm welcome!

Introducing Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar



The Tar Heel battalion would like to extend a warm welcome to its new AMOI, Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar. Born in San Salvador, El Salvador, GySgt Aguilar enlisted in the Marine Corps in September 1999 and completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. Following recruit training and MCT, GySgt Aguilar trained to become an Aviation Structural Mechanic and was assigned to work on F/A-18 jets.

GySgt Aguilar has been assigned to several VMFA squadrons and has deployed in exercises all over the Pacific, including Cobra Gold in Thailand and Commando Sling in Singapore. From 2008 to 2012, GySgt Aguilar served as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. After that, he returned to the fleet for four years, where he deployed aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN75) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, before receiving orders to Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia in 2016, where he was a Sergeant Instructor.

GySgt Aguilar is married to Lizadya Aguilar, they have six children; Kiara, Carlos Jr., Emily, Kayla, Krystal, and Keilani. Since joining the battalion, GySgt Aguilar has gone to great lengths to provide midshipmen with the instruction, advice, and experience they will need to be successful in the fleet. Welcome aboard, Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar!

New Faces in New Places



MIDN 4/C Margarita Ayala
Hometown: Jacksonville, N.C.
Major: Mathematics
Military aspiration: Naval Officer



MIDN 4/C Chase Jarvis
Hometown: Jacksonville N.C.
Major: Biology, Exercise and Sports Science
Military aspiration: Marine Officer



MIDN 4/C Cody Lupo
Hometown: Rosman, N.C.
Major: Biology
Military aspiration: Naval Officer



MIDN 4/C Hugh Nezat
Hometown: Suffolk, V.A.
Major: Mathematical Decision Sciences
Military aspiration: Naval Special Warfare



MIDN 4/C Kim O'Connor
Hometown: New Bern, N.C.
Major: Chemistry
Military aspiration: SWO to Medical



MIDN 4/C Amaduesh Skoczek
Hometown: Charlotte, N.C.
Major: Computer Science
Military aspiration: Naval Aviator

UNC NROTC Gets SWO-tivated

MIDN 1/C Brian Schmid

The surface warfare community handles initial accessions unlike any other community in any branch of service: midshipmen at both the Naval Academy and NROTC are able to personally select their first ship. Surface warfare detailing publishes a comprehensive list of all of the slots available on ships throughout the fleet and ranks the midshipmen nationally, from number 1 to number 257. From 13-15 February midshipmen from across the nation selected their first homeport and duty station in rank order.

Needless to say, this process causes a lot of stress and hand-wringing throughout the selection days as the list fills up. Those who went later spent hours watching the ships fill up and guessing which ships would be open when they selected. In addition, they were able to see where each of their friends at other universities ended up as the days passed.



MIDN 1/C Brian Schmid awaits his chance to select his first ship, he selected 9th out of 257 midshipmen across the country.

One by one, we got the chance to select our ships. Mr. Bowman will join the wardroom of the *USS Chaffee* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Mr. Buskill will report to the *USS Mason* in Norfolk, Virginia; and will be joined by Mr. Standard on board the *USS Jason Dunham*. I will report to the *USS Donald Cook* homeported in Rota, Spain.

Ship selection was a major event this year; all of our selections were attended by large numbers of UNC midshipmen. Every midshipman in the battalion did his or her part to make it feel special for us. I know that we're thrilled with our choices, and we're looking forward to getting to the fleet.



All four 1/C midshipmen selected destroyers for their first ships. Destroyers are multi-mission capable ships that operate independently or in battle groups for a wide variety of missions.

A Blast From the Past

UNC Alumni Return to the Armory

MIDN 4/C Carreiro

Time changes, but legacy never dies. On 23 February 2017, a group of active duty and retired UNC NROTC alumni visited current midshipmen at the Naval armory. Graduation dates among the 20 plus returning guests ranged from the 1950's to 2005.



Left and Below: Midshipmen spoke to alumni with a wide variety of experience, who spanned over five decades of UNC NROTC history.

Many facets of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Program at Chapel Hill have changed over the decades, however, certain characteristics have remained the same. Squads of current midshipmen moved about the armory listening to the alumni. The panel of alumni stressed the importance of always striving to better oneself while demonstrating selfless leadership to those you are privileged to serve. These are principles that have been forged by time and remain ever constant.



These individuals shared a camaraderie that one does not simply leave behind upon entering the civilian world, and many of these alumni are still friends with those they met as midshipmen. These alumni returned to Chapel Hill because we as midshipmen have joined their fraternity. It is something time cannot alter, as it is contained in no one person, but all those who have gone before, and those who will carry on the future.

As midshipmen in a college environment, it is easy to lose sight of why we do what we do. Early mornings and late nights along with numerous other intangible factors threaten to muddle the passion that drove us into our current positions. I have come to see that the sense of pride and intimacy found in Navy and Marine corps officership is passed from one generation to the next. With this understanding, we as midshipmen have a responsibility to carry on the Carolina tradition, the best and brightest are trained here.



Above: Captain Gillespie recognized all alumni who served during the Vietnam War with a pin to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

EOYX

MIDN 1/c Smith

The annual End-of-Year-Exercise (EYOX), is a simulated war game using a Google document platform that our unit plays to integrate all of the military knowledge we've gained over the year. This includes understanding the capabilities and limitations of naval assets.

Being the air group commander for First Platoon, I can attest our wins were due to the outstanding communication that occurred between the subsurface, surface, and aviation communities. Within the aviation community, I assigned each member specific goals to accomplish with the resources available and trusted them to make the correct decision. As the commander, I made sure to understand the big picture of what was going on in the war game.



Above: MIDN 2/C Urquilla served as the strike officer for First Platoon's surface forces.

MIDN 4/C Hefti

Last Saturday, I took part in my first End-of-Year-Exercise as an underclass midshipman. Being my first time, I was not sure what to expect from such an event. MIDN Stephenson served as the commander of Second Platoon and, in the weeks leading up to the exercise, continuously pumped us up for the upcoming battle with our rival.

The event started out slowly as we took a little time to get used to the rules and work out the kinks of the system. By lunch time, both teams were operating full steam ahead, attempting to out-strategize the opponent. For about two hours straight, we gave and received orders with the hope of destroying enemy assets. The time limit on each turn, beginning at ten minutes, dwindled down to a mere two by the end. EOYX was an extremely beneficial exercise not only because I was able to apply what I learned about the various weapons systems from PQS, but also because I experienced first-hand how leadership and teamwork affect the outcome of battles.



Above: Commodore Schmid speaks with the Second Platoon surface commander about strategy for detecting enemy assets.

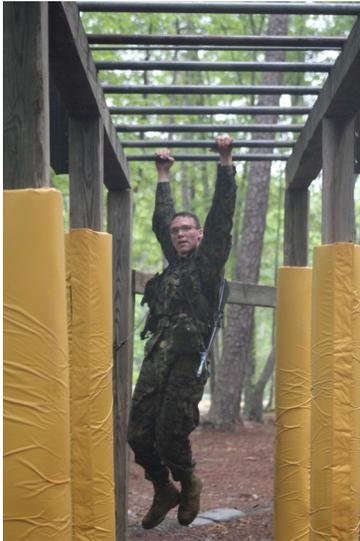
Right: First Platoon Admiral Singley oversaw the cooperation of aviation, surface, and subsurface assets to quickly defeat enemy forces.



FEX

MIDN 4/C Harris

A little rain did not stop the UNC Marine option midshipmen (and several brave Navy options) from attending the annual field exercise at Camp Butner, an Army National Guard post, this past weekend. Midshipmen from UNC, Duke, and NC State worked together to attend a training exercise that would help prepare them for OCS. Led mainly by 2/C midshipmen bound for OCS in the summer, and supervised by the active duty, it was a valuable learning experience for all!



Above: Marine-Options overcame obstacles, both literally and figuratively during the obstacle and endurance courses.



Small-Unit Leadership Exercises (SULE), allow midshipmen preparing for OCS to practice squad and fire team leadership skills.



The six-mile ruck took place on the final day, each midshipman carried 50-60 pounds in their pack.

Project Blueprint

MIDN 3/C Reagan

I woke up in the Pit. That's right; the Pit in the center of campus. and not due to overzealous undergraduate adventures the night before. Our unit supported a Habitat for Humanity project which encompassed building a shack in the pit and using it as a base of operations for a fundraising campaign.

Each day, midshipmen would hold push up or pull up competitions to garner attention and donations from the public. Every day was full and exciting. A variety of organizations came forward to challenge the midshipmen including Army and Air Force ROTC as well as Campus Police. Over the course of the week, the event raised almost \$12,000 to aid in providing affordable housing to one of UNC's own staff. The effort and collaboration showed by the unit here at Carolina gave me yet another reason to be proud of my shipmates and our organization as a whole.



The "shack" had a naval twist to it to help draw attention throughout the week.



The midshipmen offered to do pullups for donations but some people chose to do their own!



MIDN 3/c Reagan led groups of students in the "Bring Sally Up" challenge to help bring in donations.

Awards Day

The UNC battalion celebrated a successful semester at the awards ceremony on April 17th. The midshipmen were recognized for the hard work they put in during the past year. The Battalion would like to extend its thanks to the organizations that came to show their continued support for the unit.

Following the presentation of awards, the midshipmen held their change of command ceremony, officially passing the privilege of leadership to the next Battalion CO, Midshipman Patrick Buhr.



The UNC NROTC Alumni Association presents one senior from each graduating class with a lifelong membership to the association: this year, it was given to MIDN Schmid.



MIDN 1/C Buhr receives the guidon from the previous CO, demonstrating the passing of command from one BNCO to the next.



MIDN Crucian received a sword as part of the George Herbert Leadership Award. This award symbolizes the passing on of the responsibility of our nation's security.

Commissioning Class of 2017

On Saturday, May 13th 2017, the unit held its most important event of the year: the commissioning of our newest ensigns and second lieutenants into the Navy and Marine Corps. We were honored to have Vice Admiral John G. Morgan Jr. join us as our guest speaker.



ENS Carter Bowman
Surface Warfare



ENS Peter Buskill
Surface Warfare



ENS Cordell Corbin
Naval Aviator

Commissioning Class of 2017



ENS Jacob Crucian
Naval Flight Officer



2nd Lt Isaiah Leiva
U.S. Marine Corps



ENS Stuart Lyster
Naval Aviator



ENS Brian Schmid
Surface Warfare



ENS Samuel Smith
Naval Aviator



ENS Sean Standard
Surface Warfare

**“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 a 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 Weinstein, the Anchors Aweigh Editor, to help keep the UNC battalion, past, present, and future, connected.

MIDN 4/C Weinstein

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Upcoming Events

Commissioning 13 May
 Commencement 14 May

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	MIDN 4/C Ayala	MIDN 4/C Harris
	MIDN 4/C Jarvis	MIDN 1/C S. Smith
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	MIDN 4/C Lupo	
	MIDN 4/C O'Connor	
	MIDN 4/C Nezat	