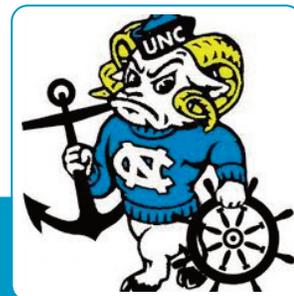




■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■

■ Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps ■

ANCHORS AWEIGH



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STAY TUNED!

Our second issue will come out later in the semester!

As always, we welcome all alumni to reach out and share anything that is going on with ties to our battalion! Please contact MIDN 3/C Muraille, the Anchors Aweigh Editor and Historian to keep our battalion connected!

Have something you'd like to see in the next issue?
Contact MIDN 3/C Muraille to voice your suggestion!
This newsletter is for you, and we want to cater to your interests!

MIDN 3/C Muraille Contact:
muraillea@live.unc.edu

For more info and battalion updates, visit our Facebook page and website!
<https://www.facebook.com/UNC.NROTC>
<https://nrotc.sites.unc.edu/>

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of Anchors Aweigh!

- MIDN 4/C Allison
- MIDN 4/C Berry
- MIDN 4/C Gholson
- MIDN 4/C Hornback
- MIDN 4/C Huffman
- MIDN 4/C Keech
- MIDN 4/C McPhail
- MIDN 4/C Patrick
- MIDN 4/C Perez
- MIDN 4/C Protze
- MIDN 4/C Rivers
- MIDN 4/C Shea
- MIDN 4/C Strong
- MIDN 4/C Taylor
- MIDN 4/C Williams
- MIDN 3/C Verwoerd
- MIDN 2/C Reagan
- MIDN 2/C Gill
- MIDN 1/C Patel
- MIDN 1/C Stephenson
- MIDN 1/C Singley
- MIDN 1/C Buhr
- Sgt McMahon
- SSgt Hughes

Editor: MIDN 3/C Muraille



Welcome from BNCO!



It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been selected to serve as the Battalion Commander for the 2017 fall semester. This semester we also have a new Consortium Commanding Officer, CAPT Stern, and I look forward to working with him to continue to train the Navy and the Marine Corps' best. For the second year in a row, we have a large group of fourth class (4/C) midshipmen, the majority of them college programmers. The biggest focus for my staff and me this semester will be to ensure the 4/Cs receive engaging and challenging training academically, physically and as future leaders of Marines and Sailors.

Additionally, we, as a battalion, have the privilege of hosting the Alumni Cookout, planning for Fall Ball, the Inter-Service Meet, the Veterans' Day Ceremony, and Sea Trials. These events give the battalion the chance to interact with midshipmen from both Duke and NC State and with members of our unit who have served in the fleet. Our midshipmen are presented with the opportunity to build professional relationships and to learn valuable lessons from our alumni. I hope to continue recruiting new midshipmen and to ensure that our college programmers receive the necessary support to receive scholarships as well.

As I enter my final year in ROTC, I would like to use the skills I learned at OCS this summer to help ensure that our midshipmen are ready for the fleet and I hope to continue to learn and develop from the rest of the battalion. By instituting an after-action report system for summer cruises, a battalion reading program, a new PT challenge system, and by revamping our mentorship program, I hope to continue the work of the previous Battalion Commanders and use our external resources to provide a more thorough training program for our midshipmen. I am extremely excited and motivated to tackle the various challenges that will face us this semester! Semper Fi.

INTRODUCING: Captain Marc Stern

Captain Marc Stern, a native of Sunnyvale, California, attended the University of California, Berkeley and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in 1989. Upon commissioning, he attended Naval Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida, Nuclear Prototype Training in Windsor, Connecticut, and the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, Connecticut.

CAPT Stern reported to USS GURNARD (SSN 642) in January, 1991, served in various Division Officer assignments, and completed two Western Pacific deployments. CAPT Stern then served from November, 1993 to November, 1995 as the Staff Submarine Officer for the Commander-in-Chief, Iberian-Peninsula Atlantic in Lisbon, Portugal. He was then assigned as Engineer Officer on USS GATO (SSN 615) from November, 1995 to April, 1996 and then decommissioned USS PUFFER (SSN 652) from April, 1996 to July, 1996 and USS SUNFISH (SSN 649) from July, 1996 to March, 1997.

Following graduation from the Submarine Officer Advanced Course in September, 1997, CAPT Stern reported to USS WYOMING (SSBN 742) (GOLD) for duty as Navigation/Operations Officer, where he completed four strategic deterrent patrols, including one to the Mediterranean. In March, 2002, he went on to serve as the Operations Officer for Submarine Squadron TWENTY, during which time he completed a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Brenau University. Following Prospective Executive Officer training, his next assignment was as Executive Officer on USS HAMPTON (SSN 767) from May, 2002 to March, 2004. During that tour, the ship completed a Mediterranean deployment. CAPT Stern then served as Executive Officer on the COMSUBLANT Tactical Readiness Evaluation Team from March,

Fall 2017



2004 to March, 2005. Following completion of Prospective Commanding Officer training, CAPT Stern served as the Submarine Squadron ELEVEN Deputy for Readiness from September 2005 to March 2007.

CAPT Stern served as Commanding Officer on USS TOPEKA (SSN 754) from April 2007 to April 2010. While there, the ship completed a deployment to SEVENTH Fleet as well as a deployment to FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleets. Under his command, TOPEKA earned three consecutive Battle Efficiency 'E' awards and a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

CAPT Stern returned to Submarine Squadron 11 to serve as the post-command Deputy Commander from March 2010 to March 2011, and then served on the Joint Staff, J8, from June 2011 to May 2013. CAPT Stern then served as Commander, Task Force 69 from July 2013 to July 2015. He then served as the Maritime Operations Director for COMSUBPAC.

CAPT Stern's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (four awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (six awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards) finalist for the Admiral Stockdale leadership award.



INTRODUCING: LT David Heider

A native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, LT Heider graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2011 with a degree in Systems Engineering and commissioned as an Ensign. Upon commissioning, LT Heider entered primary flight training in Pensacola Florida and flew the T-6B with the “Doer Birds” of VT-2. Once he completed primary flight training, he was selected to fly rotary wing aircraft, transferred to HT-18 and began flying the TH-57. In March of 2013, he received his “Wings of Gold” and was selected to fly the MH-60R out of Jacksonville, FL. After winging, he transferred to the Fleet Replacement Squadron, HSM-40. In April of 2014, LT Heider reported aboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) in the Gulf of Oman as the newest member of the HSM-70 “Spartans”. LT Heider completed his first deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve, in November of 2014. LT Heider subsequently deployed a second time aboard the USS Truxtun (DDG 103) from January of 2017 until August 2017, conducting Maritime Security Operations in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. In September of 2017, he transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill NROTC to become an instructor.

He currently lives in Chapel Hill, NC and enjoys working out, kayaking, general aviation, breweries and traveling. He looks forward to getting to know everyone in the battalion and helping them commission as Navy and Marine Officers.



MIDN 4/C Kenya Allison
FROM: Silver Spring, MD
MAJOR: Biology
GOAL: Aviation



MIDN 4/C Elijah Hornback
FROM: Lakenheath Air Force Base,
United Kingdom
MAJOR: Physics
MINOR: Music
GOAL: SWO Nuke



MIDN 4/C Daniel Berry
FROM: San Diego, CA
MAJORS: Biochemistry / Business
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Undecided



MIDN 4/C Matthew Huffman
FROM: Fayetteville, NC
MAJOR: Peace, War, and Defense
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Aviation



MIDN 4/C Maria Gholson
FROM: Richlands, NC
MAJOR: Clinical Laboratory Science
GOAL: SWO



MIDN 4/C Aaron Keech
FROM: Brookfield, WI
MAJOR: Business
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Marine Intelligence

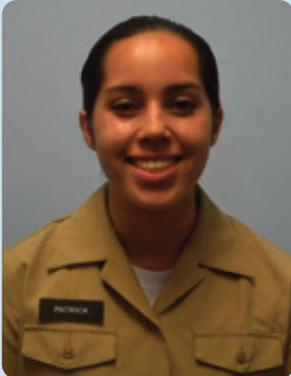


MIDN 4/C Matthew McPhail
FROM: Charlotte, NC
MAJOR: Business
GOAL: Marine Aviation

**WELCOME
NEW 4/C!**



WELCOME NEW 4/C!



MIDN 4/C Mikayla Patrick
FROM: Woodbridge, VA
MAJOR: Peace, War, and Defense
GOAL: Undecided



MIDN 4/C John Shea
FROM: Wall, NJ
MAJOR: American History
GOAL: Navy EOD



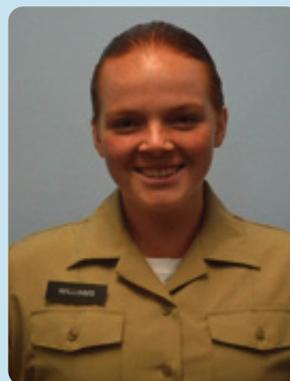
MIDN 4/C Victor Perez
FROM: Jamestown, NC
MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Marine Infantry



MIDN 4/C Katy Strong
FROM: Chapel Hill, NC
MAJOR: Peace, War, and Defense
GOAL: SWO



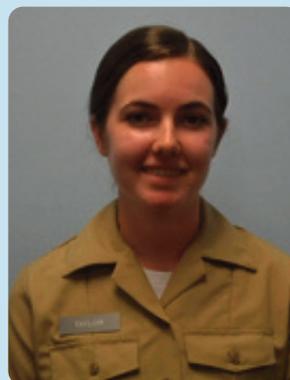
MIDN 4/C Mark Protze
FROM: Charlotte, NC
MAJOR: Computer Science
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Aviation



MIDN 4/C Olivia Williams
FROM: Cary, NC
MAJOR: Environmental Science
MINORS: Marine Science /
Naval Science
GOAL: Submarines



MIDN 4/C Andrew Rivers
FROM: Oxford, NC
MAJORS: Computer Science /
Peace, War, and Defense
MINOR: Naval Science
GOAL: Aviation



MIDN 4/C Sophie Taylor
FROM: Naples, FL
MAJOR: Chemistry
GOAL: Aviation

INTRODUCING NEW MECEP: Sergeant McMahon



Born on 9 February 1992 in Peoria, Illinois, Sergeant McMahon graduated from Washington Community High School and entered the Marine Corps in June 2010. He attended recruit training at MCRD San Diego, CA and graduated in September of 2010. After recruit graduation, he was sent to the Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry aboard Camp Pendleton, CA. Immediately following, he attended the Basic Security Guard School at the Naval Support Activity Northwest Annex, Chesapeake Bay, VA. Sergeant McMahon reported to Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA in March of 2011. In January of 2013, he was promoted to Corporal. During his tenure, he held the billets of Team Leader and Squad Leader.

Sergeant McMahon reported to 1st Battalion 9th Marines in March of 2013 as an infantry platoon team leader. He performed one combat deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan where he was a Team Leader, Squad Leader, and Platoon Sergeant. In September 2014, Sergeant McMahon was assigned to the Division Training Center, 2nd Marine Division on Camp Lejeune, NC. Here, he instructed infantry tactics. Shortly after becoming the Chief Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) Instructor, he was promoted to Sergeant.

Sergeant McMahon then laterally moved to the MOS 0241, Imagery Analyst, in February 2015. He reported to 2nd Marine Division G-2 in direct support of the 2nd Marine Division Commanding General. There, he held the billets of Imagery Chief, Geospatial Intelligence Chief, Production and Analysis Chief, and Platoon Sergeant.

In June 2017, Sergeant McMahon reported to and presently serves at UNC, Chapel Hill.

Sergeant McMahon's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star in lieu of 2nd award.

Sergeant McMahon is married to Franchesca McMahon from Washington, Illinois. They have one daughter, Charlotte (3yrs).



INTRODUCING NEW MECEP: Staff Sergeant Hughes

Staff Sergeant Hughes was born in December 1988 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and graduated from Orange High School. Staff Sergeant Hughes entered the Marine Corps in April 2008. Upon graduation from recruit training, Staff Sergeant Hughes reported to Marine combat training in Camp Lejeune NC. Immediately following this, he reported to Marine Corps Logistics School in Camp Lejeune, NC. Upon graduation from Logistics school, Staff Sergeant Hughes reported to H&S Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island for duty as a maintenance management specialist in October 2008. While at Parris Island, Staff Sergeant Hughes was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal and Corporal. In April 2010, Staff Sergeant Hughes reported to 8th Engineer Support Battalion in Camp Lejeune NC for duty as the Battalion maintenance management chief. In November 2011, he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In March 2012, Staff Sergeant Hughes deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the battalion maintenance chief. Upon returning from Afghanistan, he reported to recruiter's school at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in July 2013. Once completed with recruiter's school, Staff Sergeant Hughes reported to Recruiting station Raleigh for duty. While there, he held the billets of recruiter

and Staff Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of Recruiting sub-stations Greensboro and Durham NC. Staff Sergeant Hughes was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in March 2015. In July 2016, he was selected to participate in the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). Two months later, he reported to Officer Candidates School (OCS), in Quantico VA. Upon graduation from OCS, Staff Sergeant Hughes was admitted to the University of North Carolina to complete his undergraduate education, where he is majoring in political science and geography.

Staff Sergeant Hughes' personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal with 2 bronze stars in lieu of 3rd award.

Staff Sergeant Hughes is married to the former Jessica Dean of Graham, NC. They have 2 children, Taylor (5yrs) and Wesley (1yrs).

SAMPLING THE FLEET One Week at a Time

■ MIDN 3/C Verwoerd's CORTRAMID Experience ■



As a Midshipman, who will be an officer in three years, CORTRAMID was an invaluable learning tool. It was a four-week long orientation of the four main communities in the Navy: Surface Warfare, Aviation, Submarine Warfare, and the Marine Corps. During these four weeks, Marine and Navy options alike were exposed to all the Navy had to offer. We were able to do things we might never experience again, such as clearing buildings using sim-rounds with Marines, flying a T-34 training plane, conducting a live-fire exercise on a Destroyer, and going underway on a submarine for three days.

I greatly appreciate the Navy's effort to familiarize its future officers with the fleet. We listened to many guest speakers, including admirals,

who discussed how to lead our Sailors and Marines in lieu of the world's uncertain future. I had two main takeaways from my CORTRAMID experience. One was that regardless of which community I join, life as a junior officer will be challenging and will force me to grow as a person. I will have a lot to learn and will assume immediate responsibility for the lives, careers, and well-being of dozens of Sailors, and that is something not to be taken lightly. The second is that my relationship with my Chief will be vital to the command climate of my division. As a newcomer and a budding leader, my Chief will be a valuable resource when it comes to helping me make important decisions. In all, staying humble, hard-working, and being unafraid to ask for help were my main takeaways,

I am much better for the training I received this summer. The opportunity to have many of my questions answered and to talk in depth with personnel from each community was a great experience and has made me think harder about what community I would like to join once I commission.





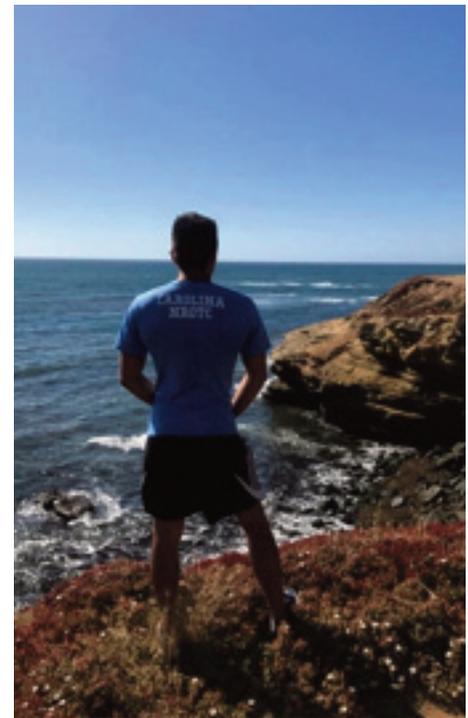
SWO-tally SWOtivated!

■ MIDN 2/C Reagan's Surface Cruise Experience ■



San Diego. It's known as America's finest city. Having seen many of America's cities as an Army dependent, the title is debatable, however, my experience was phenomenal.

I spent two weeks in the Naval Station San Diego area; about half of that was underway on LSD 45, the USS Comstock, an amphibious surface ship. I had many opportunities while on board to participate in or witness flight and well deck operations. We spent numerous hours on the bridge picking the minds of the Navigator and the members of the piloting team. A highlight of the underway time was when Marines came aboard via AAVs. Watching everything that went into coordinating this movement was eye-opening. Navy SEALs/SWCC also came onto the ship at one point to do some tests in the well deck. As an aspiring SEAL officer, I immediately jumped to speak to them about their line of work and seek their advice in training and life.



While in port, midshipmen were able to take leave and explore the San Diego area. As I was so close to Coronado, I was not about to pass up the opportunity to go there! I spent two days at the Coronado 'Amphib' base meeting and working out with Navy SEALs. I also spent time at the Combat Training Tank and toured the Grinder and the rest of the compound. I was invited to a sit down with a Commander who further strengthened my desire to enter the Special Warfare community. The Chiefs that I met were fantastic and everybody wearing the Trident had an intensity that I found inspiring.

My second class summer cruise was a brilliant opportunity for me to understand more about the surface community. The time I took to reach out to the SEALs was time well invested. I've gained a massive respect for the surface component of the Navy. However, the brotherhood of SEALs has my heart. This cruise allowed me to network with other midshipmen from ROTC units as well as the Naval Academy. It opened doors and lines of communication that may be drawn upon in the future. Thank you to the finest city!

UNDER THE SEA

■ MIDN 2/C Gill's Submarine Cruise Experience ■



CLASSIFIED

This summer, I had the opportunity to spend eight days with the crew of the USS Connecticut, one of only three Seawolf-class submarines. This rare chance allowed four other midshipmen and me to talk with, observe, and learn from some of the finest officers the Submarine Navy has to offer. It gave me a deeper understanding of what the submarine community is all about, and the high demand it has for competence from its personnel. It was motivating for me to continue to pursue excellence in all my endeavors, and to strive to be the best future officer that I can be.

There were many lessons that I learned in those eight days, but among them, I have several key takeaways. One, that you need to always put the people under your command first. When on a submarine, it is easy to want to give into your

exhaustion and shift responsibility to other people. But it is up to you to take responsibility for both your job, and for your people. Taking care of your shipmates needs to be your number one priority. The second major lesson was that being a submarine officer means you need to be constantly striving for excellence in all your pursuits. To keep up with the demanding workload, you must maintain competence and continually strive for it too. And finally, being on duty while in port was not a fun experience. However, both Seattle and San Diego have some great city life, so learn to both work hard and play hard to enjoy a successful career!



CRUISIN' ALONG!

■ MIDN 1/C Stephenson's Surface Cruise Experience ■



This summer, I had the opportunity to train aboard the USS Higgins (DDG 76) out of Naval Base San Diego. I spent three weeks underway as the ship's crew underwent a busy cycle of pre-deployment certification exercises. While the opportunity would have been extremely beneficial for any midshipman, it was a unique opportunity for me as it was my first summer cruise ever!

I was paired with an Ensign running mate and was assigned to the ship's watch bill. Every day from 0530-0830 and 1730-2030 I was on the bridge as an assistant to the conning officer. After a few days, they let me take the con. Working directly with the Officer of the Deck, I gave course and speed commands to the helm to safely and efficiently navigate our ship. One of the coolest opportunities I received was the chance to con a replenishment at sea (RAS) alongside an aircraft carrier. I felt privileged to experience that rare moment while a mere midshipman! Because Conning Officer is typically the first watch position

held by junior officers, I feel far more prepared to arrive at my first ship and get to work!

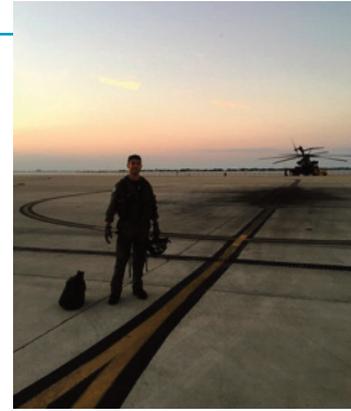
We also performed live-fire exercises with the 5-inch gun, CIWS, 25 mm, and 50 caliber machine gun. I got a firsthand look at the preparation and cooperation that went into safely and effectively firing all of our weapon systems. I also got to be a part of small boat operations, day and night flight operations, replenishments with an oiler, firefighting training, and sub-hunting operations.

My three weeks underway with the Higgins were extremely busy, but the experience I got was invaluable in preparing me for arrival at my first ship. I learned what helps create an efficient watch team, what goes into firing surface weapons platforms, and what resources I have to help me be an effective division officer. This being my first summer cruise, I certainly learned the vital role these trainings play in developing the best junior officers in the US Navy and Marine Corps.

Hooyah, Never Quit!

TAKING FLIGHT

■ MIDN 1/C Patel's Aviation Cruise ■



This summer, I spent 25 days at Naval Station Norfolk on my 1/C Aviation Cruise. I had the great fortune of being one of only five midshipmen placed with the “Blackhawks” of HM-15, and I caught a glimpse of what it is like to be a part of the MH-53E Sea Dragon community. It was interesting to see the various challenges faced by the helicopter squadron, especially in the maintenance department. Though the Sea Dragons have been in the process of phasing out for years, it was apparent that the sailors who work on or around these giant helicopters are incredibly passionate about their craft. Seeing the level of enthusiasm of the pilots, aircrewmen, maintainers, parachute riggers, and all other personnel at the command captivated me. It was not until I stepped out onto the flight line and saw a Sea Dragon preparing for takeoff that I understood exactly why this was. Simply just being in the presence of the aircraft was incredibly awe-inspiring. After my first trip to the flight line, the pilots continually scheduled us for a variety of simulators, flights using night vision goggles, and gun flights, and even gave me the opportunity to take control of the aircraft for a few minutes. All of this was incredibly educational and exposed me to the many capabilities and mission sets of the MH-53E. My 1/C Aviation Cruise strongly reaffirmed my desire to join the naval aviation community and, without a doubt, proved to be the most pivotal professional experience of my career.



THE ROAD TO THE TRIDENT

■ MIDN 1/C Singley's SOAS Experience ■

My name is Thomas Singley. I am the Battalion Executive Officer for the fall 2017 semester and I recently attended and passed Navy SEAL Officer Assessment and Selection (SOAS) for my 1/C Cruise. SOAS is a two to three-week course designed to evaluate a midshipman or Officer Candidate's performance at the Naval Special Warfare Compound in Coronado, California.

SOAS consisted of individual physical events on land, individual physical events in water, team-based activities on land, writing assignments, speeches, debates, psychological interviews, personal interviews, and a general sense of getting to know what life would be like as a Navy SEAL Officer. The first week of SOAS is known as "Assessment Week," where each day consisted of multiple evaluated events. Individual timed events occurred each morning in the form of land and water-based evolutions and team-based events occurred every afternoon. Water-based events occurred each night. Following the water-based events, we would either have a writing assignment or a speech and debate event that we prepared and executed for the SEAL instructors. The culminating event in Assessment Week is known as

"Hell Day." On this day, each SEAL Candidate went 36 hours straight without sleep and performed individual events on land and water, team-based activities on land and water, classroom-based events, ruck marched, and surf "torture" multiple times over the course of the 36 hours.

Once Hell Day was secured, the surviving SEAL Candidates moved on to "Interview Week," during which a psychological interview with the Special Warfare psychologist or a personal meeting with various SEAL Team members occurred every other day.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed SOAS. I did my best, was honest in my interviews, stepped up and was a leader and a team player when I needed to be. I feel I represented UNC's NROTC Unit as best I could. Through it all, I knew how to keep going. Success is leased, and rent is due every day. Go Heels!

Every Prospective SEAL aims to one day earn the famous "Trident" pin



ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

■ MIDN 1/C Buhr's OCS Experience ■



This Summer, I went to Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia to continue progressing towards my dream of becoming a Marine Corps Officer. OCS is the most challenging and

intensive training I have ever done. Candidates are placed in realistic training environments that push them to their limits, physically and mentally, in order to see how they react in a stress-filled environment. This six-week training program is highlighted by 16-23 hour long days, academic tests, rigorous physical training, drill, weapon's maintenance and plenty of "games," as the Sergeant Instructors like to call them. The challenging environment forces candidates to dig deep, rely on one another, and learn about their own leadership style.

OCS is meant to develop leaders, and nobody can lead by themselves. One thing inherent to leadership is that it is a group activity. During my initial struggles, my rack mate constantly told me "teamwork makes the dream work," and helped me depend on others and to allow them to depend on me. By challenging me to think of the mission and the platoon before myself, my rack mate helped me get through the toughest times of OCS because I was no longer thinking of my personal problems.

The training, despite its rigors and the countless hours running to touch random objects



truly does help build camaraderie between all of the candidates. Enduring swimming through some of the smelliest water on earth in the "Quigley" and running or hiking miles with gear on forces you to develop unit cohesion and ensures you develop a common identity as a United States Marine, a title that stays with you for life.

