

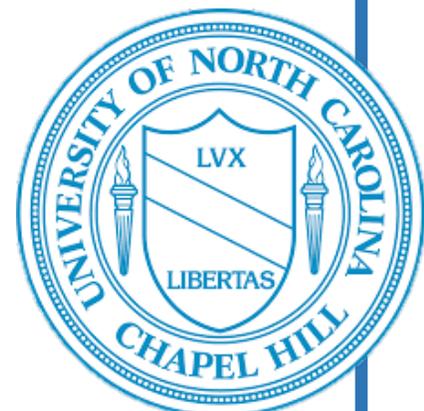


ANCHORS AWEIGH



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MIDN of the Month

These midshipmen have gone above and beyond and demonstrated outstanding work ethic and dedication. As such, they were awarded with the title of MIDN of the Month. Congratulations!



In the month of January, MIDN Rivers went above and beyond as a 4/C midshipman. He routinely volunteered to help improve the battalion by organizing the battalion documents as well as the battalion office. He also took on the task of making a video blog. When others outside his department needed help organizing the attic, he again volunteered to help. Having demonstrated the most outstanding personal and professional performance, MIDN Rivers was awarded Midshipman of the Month for January 2017.

January

MIDN Perez excelled in the month of February. MIDN Perez was always prepared for Marine Platoon events, reading through the necessary publications and studying the material in his personal time. He showed up every day with a positive attitude and willingness to learn. At PT, he continued to push himself and his fellow midshipmen as he strives for a Side Load scholarship. MIDN Perez volunteered his time as MIDN Cataldo's mentor, ensuring that he felt welcome in the battalion, had a proper understanding of PQS, knew how to properly wear the uniform, and had a smooth transition into life as an NROTC midshipman. His accomplishments were in the highest keeping with Naval ROTC's mission of mental, moral, and physical development and set the example for the UNC battalion.



February



In the month of March, MIDN Cataldo showed a strong work ethic and sense of commitment. He continually showed up to naval lab prepared with questions and actively participated. MIDN Cataldo took part in extra PT sessions with his mentor throughout the week as well as on weekends. In his spare time, he participated in Carolina Mock Trial in addition to extra ROTC obligations such as recruiting events. MIDN Cataldo demonstrated a constant desire to learn not only in the classroom but also individually by taking the time to study Marine Corps publications, doctrine, and general knowledge required for the successful completion of OCS. This hard work and dedication paid off, as he completed PQS with a high score of 95.

March



SUBEX

MIDN 3/C Head's Experience

Over the weekend of March 3rd, multiple students traveled down to Jacksonville, FL to attend additional naval training and exposure to the different communities within the Navy. The students that attended included: OC Howard, SSgt Hughes, MIDN 2/C Simpson, MIDN 2/C Smith, MIDN 3/C Antolini, and MIDN 3/C Head. The supervising officer was LT McKenna, who organized and attended the trip. On the first day, the group went to VP-30 to tour a P-3C Orion and a P-8A Poseidon. Both aircraft are used primarily for anti-submarine warfare. VP-30 is a Fleet Replenishment Squadron tasked with training new Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers. That afternoon, the group visited HSM-70, a squadron of MH-60R helicopters. This was the former squadron of UNC's newest Active Duty member, LT Heider.

The following day the group traveled to Naval Station Mayport to tour two different surface ships. First was USS *The Sullivans* (DDG-68). The tour included seeing all the different aspects of the ship, from the crew's mess to the engine room and all the way up to the bridge. Afterwards, the group went to the USS *Milwaukee* (LCS-5). Onboard the *Milwaukee*, the group got their first look at the LCS program and how the modular design works.



Throughout the tour, the crew expressed how uncertain the future of the LCS program is and where their mission set will lie in the future.

For the final day of the trip, the group went to Naval Submarine Base King's Bay in Georgia to see both the Trident training facility and a submarine. While at the Trident facility, the group got to see multiple simulators, including the Damage Control Wet Trainer. Next, the group toured the USS *Tennessee* (SSBN-734) while it was in dry dock. This is a very rare opportunity for those who are not members of the submarine community. Overall, the trip gave each member insights into the massive variety of opportunities and career paths within the Navy.



Lessons in Leadership

MIDN 3/C Nezat's Experience During the LTI Lab

This semester, the battalion had the opportunity to learn from the Leadership Training Institute (LTI), a premiere program for leadership development. We began the training with an online personality test that revolved around the OCEAN model (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism). After taking the test, we received booklets containing our scores that showed how much or how little we each exemplified a certain trait. Our first lab with LTI focused primarily on this test. We started off with a brief introduction to the concept and then we did a little hands-on exercise. As a battalion, we had to work together to all stand on a small number of wooden platforms that were clearly not big enough for all of us in a certain amount of time. While we struggled in the beginning, we were successful once we finally made a plan and worked together to accomplish the mission. What most stood out to me was the simplicity of it all. There was no trick to this exercise. All we did was stand on some boxes. However, the exercise still required us to come up with a plan and work as a team.



After this, we moved onto the drill deck for a visual exercise. Numbers ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five were placed around the room. The LTI representative would describe a specific personality trait and we moved to whichever number matched with our respective score on the personality test. This was especially interesting as it showed how the average personalities of the battalion as a whole compared to the nation. Some traits were pretty split while others showed clear favor toward one side, such as extraversion vs introversion (obviously we were more extroverted).

The next week we ran as a battalion to the Outdoor Education Center to participate in the second part of our lab. For the first exercise, a ball had to be passed around the entire battalion in the shortest amount of time possible. While our first attempt took about two minutes, we eventually created a strategy that only took ten seconds. This showed the power of collaboration. We then split into groups and participated in more demonstrations that tested our ability to cooperate, communicate, and succeed as a group. Overall, these exercises and discussions really opened our minds by teaching us about ourselves as well as learn how to be a good leader.



Women in Naval Service Symposium

Female MIDN travel to Michigan

MIDN 3/C O'Connor

During the weekend of March 23rd, eight of our female midshipmen had the opportunity to travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attend the Women in Naval Service Symposium hosted by the University of Michigan's NROTC battalion. Upon arrival Friday evening, we checked into the symposium and attended a social where we were able to eat and interact with other (mostly) female midshipmen from across the country. It was extremely interesting to meet new people and hear about their experiences from females in different units. For example, I spoke with a female midshipman from Indiana and learned that the training in her unit is completely divided between Navy Options and Marine Options – each side of the house has their own triad and midshipmen staff who only coordinate when necessary. Overall, it was refreshing to break out of the UNC "bubble" and get new perspectives on the NROTC program.

On Saturday morning, we began the symposium with the "Enlisted Perspectives" panel led by CDMCS Samira Carney and SSgt Carly O'Shanick who discussed the qualities and behaviors that enlisted Sailors and Marines expect to see from their leadership. They believed that humility and mentorship were the two most important things that a junior officer should have, and they emphasized that male officers in particular needed to show equal justice to their female and male subordinates when holding them accountable to the Navy and Marine Corps standards. We also heard from RADM Sara Joyner, a Naval Academy graduate from the class of 1989 and the first woman to command both a VFA squadron and a carrier air wing. Her Skype conference, titled "And Not Or," discussed the feasibility of balancing a family life and successful career, while also being very clear about the struggle she and her family faced in doing so. The next panel was entitled "Decision Points," in which all the female guest speakers at the conference took turns explaining why they chose to join the armed forces, stay in the Navy or the Marine Corps, or change paths and join the reserves or the civilian world. Specifically, they talked about "growing where you're planted": stay positive, be tenacious, and make the best of the worst situation. Looking back, you may find that an unhappy situation was the best decision for you all along. After breaking for lunch, we transitioned into "warfare stations."



There were three rounds of twenty-minute stations that provided a smaller setting for us to interact with the presenters and talk about their experiences in the fleet. Of the six stations offered, I chose to attend the aviation, submarine, and surface stations. This was my favorite part of the day because I was able to ask specific questions about the communities I am interested in and more personally interact with some of the guest speakers. Our final panel of the day was titled "JO Perspective" and led by LT Jasmine Lee, LT Megan Miller, and CAPT Suzanna Mulet. These women primarily talked about their transitions into the fleet, how to find a work/life balance, and advice they wished they had received before they commissioned. Though it was a long day, all of the guest speakers were extremely informative and I thoroughly enjoyed learning from them.

The final evolution of the day featured dinner and guest speaker Dr. Shawne Duperon. She spoke about leadership through effective communication and directed an exercise to help us understand how our personalities influence our leadership. During dinner, we were all seated with one of the guest speakers at the conference, which gave us another opportunity to talk with them in a more relaxed setting and get to know them better. The symposium concluded that evening after the banquet, and I was genuinely sad to see it end. This was a phenomenal occasion to meet successful female officers and gain insight to their experiences both in life and in the fleet. I loved listening to and learning from these women, and I'm extremely grateful we were able to take advantage of this rare opportunity. I highly encourage our other midshipmen, males especially, to consider attending next year!



Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon

MIDN 3/C Guerrero Takes on the Bataan Death March

On March 23rd, eight of the battalion's midshipmen and three of the battalion's staff flew to White Sands, New Mexico in anticipation of the Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon. Navy ROTC was joined by large groups from the Army and Airforce ROTCs in which all cadets, midshipmen, and staff enjoyed a night on the floor in a large gymnasium on base. After a not-so-gentle 0400 wakeup call, we picked up our packs and headed to the opening ceremony.

The UNC participants all signed up for military-heavy, characterized by carrying a minimum of 35 pounds, or military-light which required no weight. The weight for most groups, ours included, was made up of food to donate to charity at the finish line. Other groups at the marathon were civilian-heavy, civilian-light, and Wounded Warriors. The ceremony included speeches from the commanding officer of the base, the presenting of the colors, and a fly over by two FA-18s. The atmosphere was full of excitement as members of the military from across the country mingled in a large field. Members from other countries were also in attendance and we had the privilege to meet service members from Canada, Italy, and Japan. The mood became somber when a roll call was held for survivors of the Bataan Death March to honor those who had passed away in the last year. With the sound of a canon, the ceremony concluded and the marchers began with a sense of commitment to those who had gone before.

The marathon began on asphalt, and some participants took off at a fast run. Our unit attempted to hold a three mile per hour pace, recognizing the challenge ahead of us. The ground quickly changed to a soft sand and it would remain that way for the majority of the time. The first half of the marathon was mostly uphill at a low incline, which took its toll on a couple of our battalion members. With the sun beating down on us, our battalion met up at mile 13 to eat lunch. A faster group and slower group formed at this point due to injuries to some members and the march continued. With rolling hills and more soft sand, the marathon continued to challenge every individual and forced the groups to work as a team.



The first group finished just past nine hours and the second group finished just under eleven hours. Many of the marchers were left hobbling by the end, with blisters on their feet, bruises on their hips, and sore muscles. Almost all of our packs weighed in around 45-50 pounds, which was far above the minimum. We quickly found food and rest, while preparing to return home.

This was an outstanding experience that tested all of us. It will forever be an event that I personally look back at when I am encountering a significant challenge in my life. After I crossed the finish line, I looked at my peers and thought to myself, "What can't we do?" The military has already given us so many opportunities to test ourselves and travel, but I am especially thankful for the chance to do this event. When we are out there in the fleet in adverse conditions, standing long watches, or rucking again, I know that we all will look back at Bataan and think to ourselves, "If I can do that, I can do this." The weight we carried was a small trade-off compared to the self-confidence we gained from Bataan.



Field and Drill Meet

By MIDN 3/C Skoczek

As the sun slowly set over Chapel Hill, the sounds of rifles clicking and heels striking the deck resounded through the parking lot behind the armory. The fourth class were running through the drill card again and again. Since January, they had been learning more and more of the armed drill manual in preparation for the Spring Field and Drill Meet. They had already learned unarmed drill; now was the time to master it and add rifles in to the mix. We practiced twice a week to prepare for the Field and Drill Meet.

“AT CLOSE ARM INTERVAL, FALL IN!” Immediately the formation snapped to attention, bringing their rifles up to port arms as they stepped off. Commands came as usual and the formation went through the card just as they had practiced over and over again but this time the stakes were real. Every small error by would cost the unit points. But they had trained and practiced for months.

The execution was excellent. No one faced the wrong way or did the wrong movement.



Nerves were high, but the fourth class midshipmen managed them superbly and channeled the energy into snapping their rifles and heels through the movements. In the end, the UNC Spring 2018 Drill Team may not have won overall, but they put on an excellent display of mastery against a tough competition.

Following the drill competition, the battalion competed in other events against Duke and NC State. This included a pull-up competition, a running relay, a combat relay, tug-of-war, and sports. UNC dominated the running relay, with one of our teams coming in first place and the other coming in third. Our pull-up team came in first. We did not win overall, but it was a good experience and an amazing opportunity for some friendly competition.



Dining In

While the Fall semester at Chapel Hill is filled with events for the entire battalion, the spring semester Dining In event offers a unique opportunity for upperclassmen. Students and active duty staff come together for a formal night of military tradition, good food, and lots of laughs.

This year's event took place at Carolina Brewery on Franklin Street. During the cocktail hour, attendees showed off their "added" uniform items – including American flag bowties, flower crowns, and camouflage-sleeved dress shirts. After the entrance of the head table and grace by MIDN Buhr, Mr. Vice and MIDN Patel prepared the grog for the evening. A combination of items representing Chapel Hill and the NROTC experience were dramatically added to the delicious "grog of national champions."

During dinner, all in attendance had the distinct pleasure of hearing a few words from the guest of honor LT James Barfoot, a previous Submarine Warfare Instructor and class advisor at UNC. His message about the "chemistry" between coworkers in the Navy being the most important chemistry onboard any vessel will certainly stick with the upperclassmen as they head off to the fleet.

During formal toasting, MIDN Gill gave a toast to our Prisoners of War. There was not a single dry eye in the house as he eloquently explained the significance behind each POW table item on display. Following formal toasts, the floor was opened to informal charges.



For two hours, comical charges were brought forth by both midshipmen and active duty, leading to many of the night's most memorable moments. For the sake of those attendees, the charges will stay within the walls of Carolina Brewery.

The formal night ended with a toast to the United States Navy, followed by a period for pictures and conversation. This was a great time for the midshipmen to catch up with guests CAPT Gillespie and LT Barfoot, who were back in town to attend the event. All in all, the night was a huge hit and certainly a memory everyone will carry with them throughout their careers!



Born into a Military Family

MIDN1/C Moreno Describes Her Experience as a Military Child



How has being a military brat influenced me? I know way too many acronyms that are only useful in a military setting so I decided to join ROTC! However, on a serious note, being a military brat is an integral part of who I am today. My mother drove 7-ton cargo trucks for the Marine Corps and is no longer in, but my dad is still serving as a United States Marine. He served for 10 years as an enlisted mortarman before getting his degree and commissioning as an officer through the ROTC program in 2004. He is now a major stationed at Okinawa, Japan as the Deputy G1 for the 1st Marine Air Wing. My parents were and still are a huge inspiration to me, especially as I am about to commission as an Ensign in May.

Other than a desire to serve my country like my parents have, I also fell in love with the lifestyle. I've lived on both coasts and in a different country and UNC is my tenth school since kindergarten. Although I have loved my four years in Chapel Hill, I am itching to move again. It has been rough now and then to pick up and move every couple years, sometimes months, but in general I think getting to travel and see the world is an exciting way to live. I have been exposed to so many types of people, cultures and places and I believe I am a better person for it. Some people may think the term "military brat" is rude or insensitive, but I wholeheartedly embrace the nickname. Only other so-called military brats can truly appreciate and understand what my life has been like up to this point, never having one place to really call home. Making new friends used to be stressful, but as I got older and more experienced with moving around I learned how to better connect and build relationships wherever I went. Military brats are generally stronger, well-rounded, multicultural people than those who spend their entire lives in one area. Many of my fellow midshipmen, as well as many current service members, are military brats and as such bring a variety of different experiences to the table. I've met brats born in Japan, Germany, the UK, South America and right down the road in Raleigh. The military isn't for everyone, but it certainly is for me and I can't wait to get out into the world again.



Looking Back at the Semester



"My favorite thing about NROTC is the people. This semester, I've really come to see my fellow shipmates as family." -MIDN 3/C Gross



"This Spring semester has been fantastic! We had several snow days early in the semester and not one, but TWO wins over Duke. There have been many changes, including the battalion structure, the end of PQS, and some great MWR events by Chief Gross. I am so glad to be here and look forward to classing up at the end of the semester!" -MIDN 4/C Strong



"My favorite part of this semester was being the Battalion Photographer. Being able to capture the experience of being here was a privilege that I am very thankful for." -MIDN 4/C Hornback



Once a Tar Heel, Always a Tar Heel



We welcome all alumni to reach out and share anything that is relevant to our battalion! Please contact MIDN 3/C Patrick, the new Anchors Aweigh Editor and Archives Officer, to stay connected with our battalion.

Feel free to contact MIDN 3/C Patrick with any questions, comments or suggestions!

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

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Special thanks to those who contributed to this issue of Anchors Aweigh!

- MIDN 4/C Hornback
- MIDN 4/C Rivers
- MIDN 4/C Strong
- MIDN 3/C Gross
- MIDN 3/C Guerrera
- MIDN 3/C Head
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