

A **N** **C** **H** **O** **R** **S**

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Fall 2020

CREDITS AND CONTENTS

Credits

I would like to thank MIDN 4/C Hannah Collett who not only wrote for *Anchors Aweigh*, but proofread and edited every article. Her experience working for the *Daily Tar Heel* was invaluable in helping me and ENS Weinstein improve our writing and fix our mistakes. She did this all while balancing her course work and her Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) professional knowledge that all 4/C are required to memorize. This is notwithstanding her adjustment to living away from her home in Long Island. Her hard work and enthusiasm were invaluable in the writing and editing process and I could not have done this without her.

I would also like to thank ENS Weinstein for her message that she left to the Battalion and for all of her help while she was a member of the active duty staff. She always made herself available to midshipmen and she was very active within the unit, planning pool PT sessions and always making things fun.

Finally, I wanted to say thank you to the Class of 2024 for helping me put their bios together. 4/C bios are an *Anchors Aweigh* tradition, but when everyone got sent home after the university switched to online instruction, I was afraid that might have had to wait until next semester. When I asked them for their bios, I wasn't sure how it would go, since they were all very busy with school and PQS, but I got to know all of the 4/C very well though their bios and we all had a great time putting them together.

On the Cover: Naval Aviator Lt. Alex Vraciu poses next to his F6F Hellcat after a flight in February 1944.

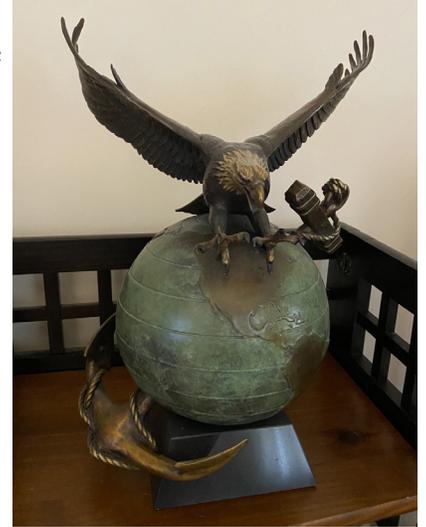
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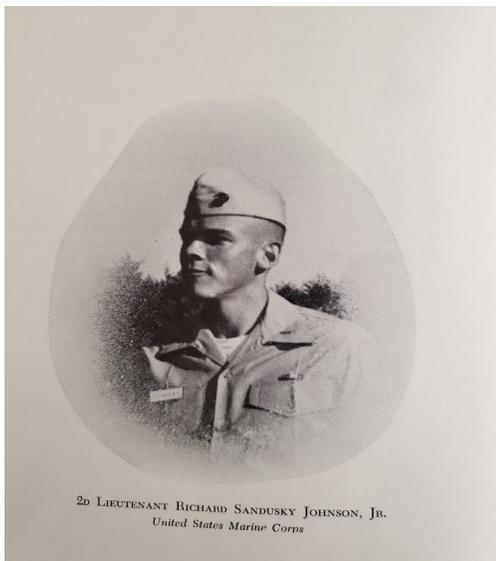
A SPECIAL THANKS...

From the Marine Options to the Mr. Brian Smith

Thanks to UNC NROTC alumni Brian Smith for donating an awesome Eagle, Globe, and Anchor statue to the Dawson Library! It is a great addition and the Battalion is thankful for all of the support from our alumni.



From the Marine Options to Col. James Fullwood and the Alumni Association



The Marine personnel at UNC-NROTC would like to thank Col James Fullwood and the Alumni Association for supporting the reintroduction of the Richard S. Johnson award. The Richard S. Johnson was previously given from 1974-2009 in the form of a Mameluke sword to the top commissioning Marine Corps officer, and we are proud that alumni were generous enough to restore the award for the class of 2020.

2ndLt Richard S. Johnson was commissioned out of UNC-CH's NROTC program in June 1966. He was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California. Shortly after arriving at his unit, 2ndLt Johnson deployed to Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam. In March 1967, he was killed in action by sniper fire while leading a reconnaissance patrol. His father, Col Richard S. Johnson, USMC (ret) began funding and presenting the Richard S. Johnson Jr. award in 1974. Col Johnson passed away in 1993, and is buried in New Bern, NC with 2ndLt Johnson.

This year's recipient was 2ndLt Matthew F. Guerrero, who checked in to The Basic School this October. 2ndLt Guerrero mentioned that it is extremely meaningful to receive this award and he strives to live up to the legacy of 2ndLt Johnson and previous recipients.



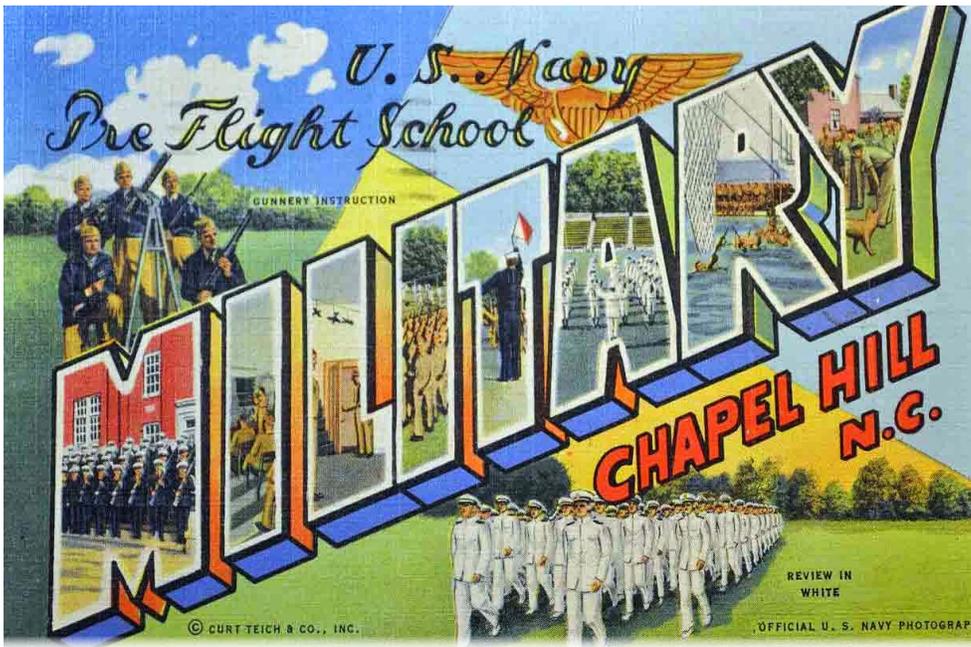
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN:

A Brief History of the University of North Carolina's NROTC Program

By: MIDN I/C Andrew Rivers

In late 1940, the United States Navy recognized the need to produce competent Naval Reserve Officers that could be recalled quickly in the event of a war. With war raging in western Europe, it was only a matter of time before the United States was drawn in. UNC Chancellor Franklin Porter Graham played a vital role in getting a Navy ROTC program on campus. Seeing the difficult financial situation that the University was in at the time, Chancellor Graham knew that investment from the Navy would be pivotal in the institution's battle for survival in post-Great Depression America.

Eventually, the University would also welcome the Navy's pre-flight and V-12 programs. Together midshipmen, pre-flight cadets, and V-12 program participants trained on campus and at the newly constructed Horace Williams airfield. While Chapel Hill was well-suited to accommodate the Navy's various training programs, some changes had to be made in order to make the most out of the Navy's investment. A hospital was built to care for the midshipmen and cadets, and athletic facilities — including Kessing outdoor pool — were constructed in order to physically prepare the new recruits for the rigors of combat. The Navy even paid to have the paths between some of the classroom buildings bricked over in order to preserve the shine on the midshipmen and



cadets' shoes. This change was so popular that the University paid to have paths all throughout campus bricked over.

Housing, feeding, and otherwise sustaining the thousands of service members proved to be difficult. The Navy rented several dorms and fraternity houses to house its midshipman, V-12 trainees, and pre-flight cadets. The Carolina Inn helped feed Navy personnel in addition to Swain dining hall. Despite this, many of the service members complained of dirty silverware, poor quality food, and bad service. Many of the Univer-

sity's departments chipped in to help the Navy complete its mission. The library remained open for an extra 45 minutes every day and the University admitted students six times per year, allowing them to take classes continuously until they earned their degree. University faculty even took leave to go fight in the war.

At first, all ROTC activities were conducted in Woolen Gymnasium, Lenoir Hall, and Navy Hall (now Jackson Hall). Midshipmen shot rifles on rifle ranges, drilled on Emerson Field (where Davis Library and the student union stand today), and practiced operating a naval cannon in the basement of Lenoir Hall. In April of 1943, the Naval Armory was opened, providing more space to the thousands of Navy personnel who worked and studied at the University.

The University of North Carolina boasted many historical achievements during the war. While Black men served on Navy warships before the inception of the B-1 Band, they were not considered to be sailors. With the war raging and manpower being in short supply, the Navy began to racially integrate in Chapel Hill, with Black sailors comprising the newly-formed B-1 Band. The B-1 Band members were all enlisted sailors with the rating of musician, a marking the first time that African-Americans served in an official capacity in the Navy. Additionally, Presidents Gerald R. Ford and George H.W. Bush were both a part of the Navy's pre-flight program, with the former serving as an instructor and the latter as a student. Ted Williams, the famous left-fielder for the Boston Red Sox, also attended the pre-flight program in Chapel Hill.

At the end of the war, the Navy vacated all of the facilities and infrastructure it built, leaving everything to the University. The various programs at the University of North Carolina trained nearly 20,000 U.S. military personnel and several hundred foreign military personnel during their operation. Since then, much of what the Navy built stands today in one way or another. By many accounts, the University would not have survived the mass exodus of students during the War had it not been for all of the students sent there by the Navy.

RAISING THE BAR:

Lessons Learned from ENS Weinstein

As most people could probably guess from the shiny gold bars on my uniforms, I do not have any relevant sea stories or fleet advice to offer at this point. I arrived at the UNC Armory in August of 2016 for NROTC orientation and spent the following four years as a midshipman, and then stashed Ensign after I commissioned in May. I got a few amazing months out in the fleet on my summer cruises, but the only area I am actually qualified to give advice in is being a midshipman. Here are a few lessons learned and mistakes made you can take from me so you don't have to live them yourself:

1. Enjoy your four years at UNC.

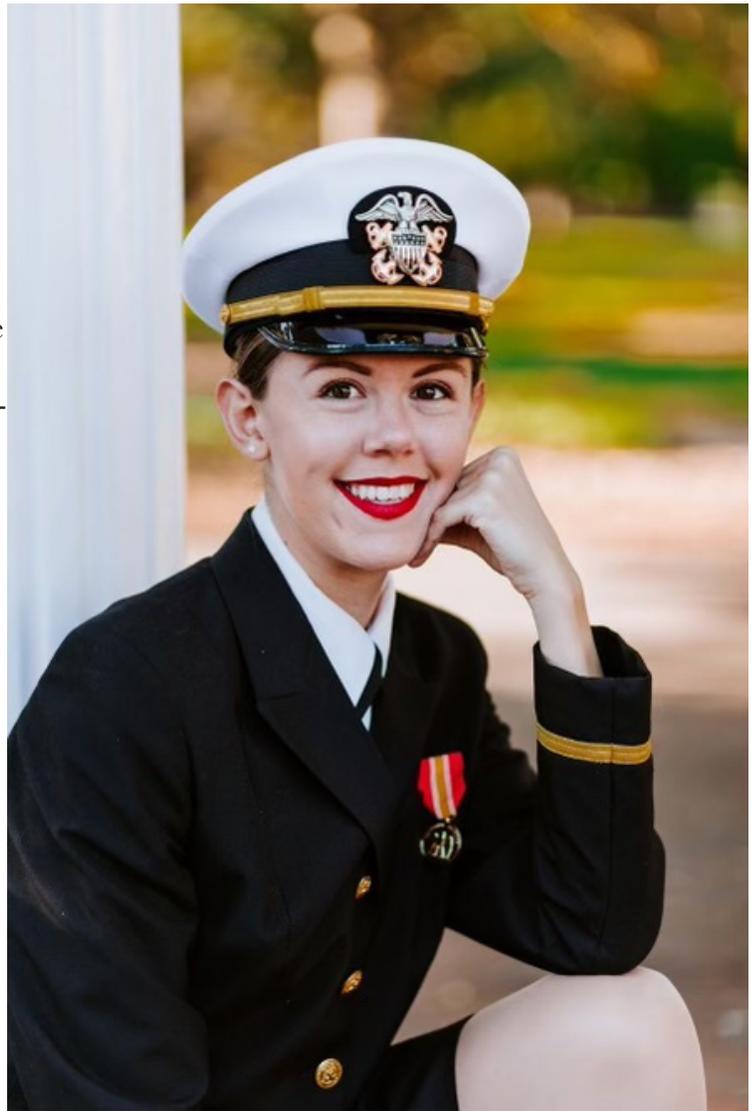
UNC is a world-renowned academic institution, with an amazing set of student organizations and a great social sphere. You should not let four years pass you by without enjoying everything it has to offer. Grades are important; good grades are the bottom line for you to earn your commission, but you shouldn't let them wrap you up so much that you do not spend time enjoying where you are.

During my time at UNC I saw midshipmen work in research, campus recreation, and the Chapel Hill community. We also had varsity, club, and intramural athletes, marching band and symphony musicians, and members of more clubs than you probably realize exist. ROTC might pay the bills, but you should never let it keep you from opportunities you will never have again.

2. "I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying" – Michael Jordan – ENS Sarah Weinstein

Deciding to do something most other people would never contemplate is difficult. Joining the military is often one of those things, so kudos to the current and any incoming midshipmen who see this and have chosen the hard path.

If you are one of the few who want to try for SPECWAR or SPECOPS, you're picking a difficult road. The fact is that most people do not make it into those communities. If it is a lifestyle and community you feel called to, take the hard path and try for it. You will learn about yourself and you will grow and build your own character from attempting something that not everyone has the courage for. Looking at the statistics, it is easy to see failure, but like one of UNC's most famous graduates said, what we can't accept is not trying. Always try for the hard thing.



3. The military is a warfighting organization, but it is also a people business.

One of the great things about the Navy is that I know one day it will let me drive an amazingly advanced and powerful warship. One day, I get to be responsible for that, but I will never drive the ship alone. Getting a cruiser out of San Diego and across an entire ocean to the other side of the world is a team activity. The military has room for individual ambition, but it also needs leaders who care about the people around them. That should start in the armory with your classmates. It begins with getting through PQS and should carry through to the Operations Oral Boards your Surface Warfare Officer lieutenant will have waiting for you at the end of your senior year.

The people I met in ROTC at Carolina are my best friends, and I have found them in every corner of the world. The most important thing you can give people is your time and you have four years of it to spend with your own class and those above and below you. Build those ties and you will never be alone in the world. No one is too good to care about someone else, compassion is an essential leadership trait, and there is a lot to be accomplished when we all work to build one another up.



ON DECK, ONLINE:

How our 4/C are Adjusting to College and Military Life During a Global Pandemic

By: MIDN 4/C Hannah Collett

I think that we can all agree it's been a weird semester.

For the fourth class, this semester is arguably even weirder, adjusting to both college life and our roles as 4/Cs. So far, our experience as MIDN has been characterized by Zoom's "Join with video?" prompt and CAPT Hertel's iconic, "Hey, can you guys hear me?" greeting at the start of every Leadership Lab. There's no denying that it can be difficult to feel connected to the Battalion when you're the new midshipman on the block — especially if everyone on said block had to *move away because of COVID*.

Anyway, it'll take more than a virtual semester to lower 4/C morale.

I won't lie to you: the class of 2024 is *tight*. Despite the fact that I've actually only met about two-thirds of our group in person — and by "meeting", I mean spending three days at NSO together before being relegated to an online semester by UNC — we've all definitely still bonded over the past few months. The main fulcrum for this connection has been our class GroupMe; from questions about PQS and other classes to jokes and memes, we talk in it *constantly*.

We've created a bond out of the little moments that occur every single day by viewing both the highs and lows of this semester through a humorous lens. Like, when MIDN 4/C Garber's computer microphone acts up — making his voice sound like Megatron (according to MIDN 4/C Laursen) — we make sure to endlessly tease him about it. Or, when MIDN 4/C Higgins never fails to alert us when MIDN 4/C Kendrick-Holmes *dares* to wear his Air Force (or, even worse, his Army) gear to their Zoom Mandarin class. Or, how MIDN 4/C Bean sends more submarine-related memes than I even knew existed. All of these small interactions may seem unimportant, but it is through these moments that we became more than just 4/C; we became friends.

The camaraderie and fun aren't only limited to our GroupMe; the fourth class brings it to NAVS 101 and PQS as well. In Naval Science, MIDN 4/C Garber always begins class by asking LT Scott: "Sir, do you know if the PowerPoint for today's class will be available online?" By now, we've all come to expect the question, asked in Garber's well-known monotone, and start laughing before he's even finished speaking. The situation only gets better when LT Scott responds with, "Mr. Garber, I'll be sure to send you a personal email letting you know when I've uploaded it". We ask question after question about submarines when there's time, and keep the conversation going even after class ends.

During PQS study hall, we find some spare time to crack a joke or two while we wait for upper-class midshipmen to become available to give signoffs. We've even gotten MIDN 3/C Hornthal to occasionally join in on our fun (he actually has some really good dad jokes!). Despite only knowing each other for three months, the 4/C banter back and forth so easily, like a group of friends who have known each other their whole lives, like a team.

Beyond being able to find the humor in everything, our class also has each other's backs. During difficult and tiring times (especially Marine week of PQS), we always have each other to turn to for motivation, assistance, or at very least, commiseration. I spend my weekends adding to the ever-growing PQS Quizlet folder that I'm creating for the 4/C to study from. MIDN 4/C Vangelopolous and Bean organized a Zoom study session for our NAVS 101 midterm; MIDN 4/C Laursen and Kendrick-Holmes are always quick to answer whatever questions

we ask in the group chat; MIDN 4/C Higgins sends links to extra study materials, and, in my case, helps me memorize all my visual IDs (which I am notoriously bad at learning); and MIDN 4/C Thorn went through his own personal methods of memorizing visual IDs with me as well — yes, I'm *that* bad at remembering them.

As MIDN 1/C Perez pointed out in an email to the battalion a few weeks ago, “Developing grit is not an individual effort, *it is a team effort.*” Without consciously doing it, I really think that the 4/C is living out that philosophy; every single one of us contributes to our holistic success in any way possible. We take our positions within the Battalion seriously, all the while doing our best to “embrace the suck” and have some fun.

So no, there's no Halloween-themed dodgeball PT or late-night, wardroom study sessions in the 4/C's future this semester. We'll have to wait to pick up our official NROTC PT shirts and celebrate completing PQS (because we *will* pass Oral Boards). Our friendships will have to exist on the virtual plane until it's safe to be together again.

Even with every curveball thrown our way, the class of 2024 is still going strong, and we're showing no signs of stopping. Although our experience as 4/Cs this semester might not be typical, it's *our* semester; we aren't going to let that opportunity pass us by.

I mean, nothing builds camaraderie like a shared hardship, right?

SERVICE ASSIGNMENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

<i>MIDN 1/C Kenya Allison</i>	Naval Aviator
<i>MIDN 1/C Maria Gholson</i>	Surface Warfare Officer
<i>MIDN 1/C Elijah Hornback</i>	Submarine Warfare Officer
<i>MIDN 1/C Mikayla Patrick</i>	Surface Warfare Officer
<i>MIDN 1/C Mark Protze</i>	Naval Aviator
<i>MIDN 1/C Andrew Rivers</i>	Naval Aviator
<i>MIDN 1/C John Shea</i>	Naval Aviator
<i>MIDN 1/C Katy Strong</i>	Naval Aviator
<i>MIDN 1/C Sophie Taylor</i>	Naval Flight Officer



4/C BIOS





MIDN 4/C Jace Bean, USMCR

HOMETOWN: *Surf City, NC*

MAJOR: *Political Science and Peace, War, and Defense*

FUN FACT: *I can play the guitar.*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:
Marine Intelligence Officer

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Alex Behi, USNR

HOMETOWN: Milton, GA

MAJOR: Biology

FUN FACT: I have a twin sister who goes to the University of Georgia and i do Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Navy Special Warfare (SEAL)

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Hannah Collett, USNR

HOMETOWN: Kings Park, NY

MAJOR: English and History

FUN FACT: I failed my driving test four times before I passed (whoops).

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Surface Warfare

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Ryan Garber, USNR

HOMETOWN: High Point, NC

MAJOR: Business Administration

FUN FACT: I have trypophobia (the aversion to the sight of clusters of small holes).

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Navy Special Warfare (SEAL)

⚓ **CLOUD BUSTER** ⚓



MIDN 4/C Spencer Higgins, USMCR

HOMETOWN: *Weddington, NC*

MAJOR: *Biomedical Engineering*

FUN FACT: *I am an EMT and a raft guide at the US National Whitewater Center.*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Marine Ground

⚓ **CLOUD BUSTER** ⚓



MIDN 4/C William Kendrick-Holmes, USNR

HOMETOWN: *Rye, NY*

MAJOR: *Psychology*

FUN FACT: *I am one mountain shy of being a 46'er (someone who summits all 46 mountains surveyed at 4000' or higher in New York State).*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Naval Aviator

⚓ **CLOUD BUSTER** ⚓



MIDN 4/C Riley Laurson USNR

HOMETOWN: *Waynesville, NC*

MAJOR: *Physics*

FUN FACT: *I am on the UNC Rugby team.*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Naval Aviator

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Keith Lystad, USNR

HOMETOWN: *Brea, CA*

MAJOR: *Computer Science*

FUN FACT: *I am the youngest of 5 children.*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Navy Special Operations (EOD)

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Eric Thorn, USNR

HOMETOWN: *Charlotte, NC*

MAJOR: *Economics*

FUN FACT: *I love old cars (especially the 1972 Volkswagen bus and the 1980 Corvette Stingray).*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Surface Warfare

CLOUD BUSTER



MIDN 4/C Alex Vangelopolous, USNR

HOMETOWN: *Charlottesville, VA*

MAJOR: *Political Science*

FUN FACT: *I am an unbelievably good whistler.*

DESIRED COMMUNITY:

Navy Special Operations (EOD)