

TIDE AND CURRENT



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NAVAL ROTC FALL 2006



CO's Corner *By Colonel Eric Litaker*



Having just arrived here this summer, my assumption of command of the NROTC Unit, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been a great experience, and a welcome change after returning from deployment. I have been very favorably impressed with what I have seen here at the NROTC Unit, and with the performance of the Midshipman Battalion. The quality of our Midshipmen is outstanding, and the members of the Freshman class are poised to continue that fine tradition.

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This fall has seemed to pass very quickly, starting with Orientation Week, a variety of activities for weekly Naval Science Lab, Husker football games, winning the Joint Field Meet, conducting a field exercise for the Battalion, and numerous color guard performances. In particular, the color guard performance at the Veteran's Day ceremony was especially impressive, and I have heard many positive reports from those who attended the ceremony.

In the midst of all these activities, combined with the academic work, it is important to remember what is most important. We are here to ensure our students complete their degrees and the requirements for obtaining a commission in the United States Naval Services. The challenge in assisting our students in making the transition from civilian life to military life is signifi-

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cant. The standards that we maintain here are the foundation of the leadership our students must exhibit when they receive their commissions. In order to ensure our students are prepared to lead this nation's Sailors and Marines, we must all strive to ensure these goals are met.

XO's Corner

By Commander John Long



It's hard to believe, the fall semester is nearly over. It seems not that long ago that I observed my first orientation week which turned into an orientation for myself as well as our new freshmen. Being new to unit and the NROTC program in general, I was unsure what to expect. What I saw was a thoroughly professional display by the staff and more importantly, by the midshipmen serving as instructors during the week. The pride and effort that went into planning and execution of O-week activities were obvious to me, and I'm sure will be the foundation on which the new midshipmen will continue to build.

This semester has presented the Battalion with many challenges, but your hard work and perseverance have once again produced outstanding results. Congratulations are certainly in order for yet *another* Joint Field Meet victory. The Navy-Marine Birthday Ball was a resounding success, and earned compliments from many of your civilian and retired guests. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the win in the Army-Navy game. You can all take pride in these accomplishments.

On a more individual level, I would like to personally congratulate MIDN Mitchell for once again being selected to receive the LeMay Flight, Order of Daedalians Scholarship, quite an achievement. Congratulations are also in order for MIDN Fox on his selection to advanced standing; MIDN Hallahan's award of a three year scholarship; MIDN Hurt and Erickson's selection for Marine Corps scholarships; and MIDN Anderson's selection as Midshipman of the Year and recognition by the Cornhusker Council of the Navy League. The performance of these individuals is a reflection of the quality that pervades the Battalion as a whole. Lastly I would like to congratulate our December graduates, OC Brant Schmall and SGT Sarah Ray.

I would like to express my thanks to outgoing Battalion Staff, whose dedication and hard work have created the conditions necessary for success and helped make my job easier. I would also like to welcome the new staff officers. I challenge each of you to challenge yourselves and make the most of your leadership opportunity.

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As you all depart for winter break, you have my best wishes for a happy holiday season and joyous time spent with family and friends. Please be safe as you travel the roads. I look forward to your return in January and resumption of your winning ways.

BNCO's Corner

By MIDN Adam



With fall semester coming to a close I am reminded of the achievements our battalion has accomplished this semester. This semester is the first that this unit has ever completed a field training exercise with the whole battalion. Getting everyone in the outdoors together served as a great opportunity to build camaraderie among the midshipmen, learn navigation, and even have some fun. The last Navy/Marine Corps Birthday ball that I attended as a midshipman was a great success. It is always a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the birth of the Navy/Marine Corps with the Marines and Sailors who have served before us. These men and women are one of my biggest motivations to become a service member for our country.

The highlight of the semester for me was to see the strength and determination of the freshmen class of midshipmen. I have had the opportunity to see them on the first day of Orientation Week (O-week) and watch them as they have progressed throughout the semester.

Not only have they done well at assimilating into the military lifestyle, but they have also excelled as members of the battalion. They have also participated in key roles in color guards, drill team, in helping this battalion maintain ownership of the Joint Field Meet Trophy, and excelling in physical fitness. I extend my praise to those that stay the course and continue in NROTC with the goal of one day leading Sailors and Marines. Time will start to fly by as you progress throughout the program and see each new class of freshmen enter the program.

I am thankful for the privilege of having the opportunity to serve as BNCO. I have learned many valuable lessons throughout my time as BNCO from my peers and also from the active duty staff. These lessons will help me as an officer in the Marine Corps.

Battalion Pictures



POW/MIA Ceremony.



Field Exercise.



Stadium Security .

Army Navy Football Game.



Veteran's Day Color Guard

Change of Command



Officer Candidate School

By MIDN Soneson



The hundreds of hours spent preparing over two years could not prepare me for the rigors of Marine Corps Officer Candidates School. I knew fully what I was getting myself into, but no amount of training can simulate the experience of OCS. This summer MIDN Adam, MIDN Kerr, and I left the friendly confines of Nebraska for the hot, wet swampland of Quantico, Virginia. The anticipation and nervousness during the drive to Virginia and during in-processing was almost the worst part of training. We all knew what was about to occur.

The first sound of “Ears” and “Eyeballs” was not surprising, but I will never forget the six weeks that followed for the rest of my life. The stories passed down from each class about the bridge, the Quigley, and the essays are all true. While some of the training was frustrating and seemed pointless at the time, the experience has changed me for the better for the rest of my life. I know I can speak for MIDN Adam and MIDN Kerr in saying the same.

The candidates of Golf Company, 4th Platoon will be able to share stories for the rest of our careers. The ill-timed joke about a Marine and a sailor, GySgt White’s rifle manual demonstration, and our supply Sergeant’s bicycle will be just some of the memories I’ll carry for life. My advice for future OCS candidates is to take your training at Nebraska serious. In my opinion our midshipmen and active duty staff do a better job training candidates for OCS than anywhere in the country. Semper Fi!!!



Second Class Cruise

By MIDN Mitchell



The moment I left for my second class cruise I knew that I would be in for one of the most memorable experiences of my life, but it didn't seem like I knew a whole lot else. Thanks to the Navy's spirit of thriftiness my trip from Lincoln to Jacksonville included layovers first in Denver, and then in Dallas-Ft. Worth. I arrived in Jacksonville with my sea bag intact and was immediately transported to Naval Station Mayport by two MECEPs from the Jacksonville University NROTC Battalion.

I spent most of the drive to the ship reviewing the boarding procedures in my Bluejacket's Manual. Upon arriving at the pier I executed the task perfectly, which caused the OOD to slightly grin at the sight of the procedure being done "by the book." I stashed my sea bag three floors down in the overflow berthing and raced behind Chief Wilson as he gave me a five minute tour of the entire ship. It was if by magic that we reappeared at the hatch to my berthing, as I had been disoriented for the previous four minutes and forty seconds. As the night wore on I stowed my gear in my rack and met my midshipmen colleagues as they flowed in from various universities around the country including Duke, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Marquette, and Old Dominion.

The next morning we mustered in the wardroom to meet the captain and a few of the junior officers. While there we were presented with command ball caps, assigned our running mates, and informed that the ship would only be underway for two of the twenty-one days which we were aboard. This final piece of information came as a surprise to us since we had been previously informed that the ship would be underway for a couple of weeks. We were initially disappointed by the fact that we would be in port for such a substantial portion of the time, but we gradually discovered that there were many advantages to our situation.

Prior to leaving for cruise I had been told over and over that, "you get out of it, what you put into it." I found that this cliché was very applicable, especially since we were in port. Through a proactive mentality, the other midshipmen and I were able take advantage of many opportunities which Naval Station Mayport had to offer. We scored high enough to get qualified on the 9mm in the Fire Arms Training Simulator (FATS), attempted to pilot a SH-60 Seahawk in a multimillion dollar flight simulator, and re-

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laxed on the beach. We were also given tours of three amazing ships which were in port. These included the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, the Navy's newest destroyer USS Farragut, and the Seawolf class attack submarine USS Connecticut.

I also had many rewarding experiences working with my running mate Gunner's Mate First Class (GM1) Harder in the Cruise Missile (CM) division. While I spent many hours doing physical work such as removing rust from the Vertical Launch System (VLS) or sweeping the passageways, I also got the chance to participate in more technical aspects of his job such as orchestrating a simulated tomahawk missile launch. For the brief period of time which we were underway I was extremely busy as I tried to take part in as many activities as I could. I was fortunate to work on the bridge, watch a live fire exercise of the CIWS and 50-Caliber weapon systems, participate in a burial at sea ceremony and stand just feet from a SH-60 as it landed on our aft flight deck.

While all of these experiences were memorable, it was the relationships I built with the other midshipmen which are truly unforgettable. I enjoyed my time aboard USS The Sullivans, and feel like I should take this opportunity to reemphasize the fact that you truly do "get out of your cruise what you put into it." I know that I benefited from all of my hard work and hope that all future midshipmen who embark on their second class cruise approach it with this same mentality.

Joint Field Meet Pictures



Stretcher Relay

Pull-Ups



Joint Field Meet

By MIDN Fox



There was a minute left on the clock with the score still tied zero to zero. With the Air Force in third place, the final event was an Ultimate Frisbee game between the Army, with 60 total points, and the Navy, with 61. A loss by the Navy would have meant that the total scores would have been 67 to 66 and the Army would have taken the Commander's Cup. Win would make it 68 to 65, returning the Commander's Cup to its rightful spot in the hands of the Naval ROTC.

The game raged on, down one side of the field and back the other. By this time, all of the other cadets and midshipmen were lined up on the sideline. We had dominated the competition early on, taking first in the PFA events and our favorite, the stretcher relay, which we have won over three years in a row. Now it came down to one game of Ultimate Frisbee. This was the event that would decide the Meet.

The Frisbee was in possession by the Army as they charged down the field, when not even ten yards from their goal, the Frisbee was blocked. There were 30 seconds left in the game and Navy had the Frisbee. The team made their way down the field with a series of short passes ended up with OC Martinez with the Frisbee about five yards from the goal line. He looked for an open man, seeing nothing but a cluster of cadets and midshipmen. Then, with 15 seconds remaining, he threw the Frisbee. Out from nowhere, MIDN Feay grabbed it, mere inches from the hands of an Army cadet, looking down to see that he was about a foot inside the goal line. The Navy did it! They scored the game winning goal, giving the Joint Field Meet to the Naval ROTC with an epic victory.

As the OIC for the Joint Field Meet, I put a lot of time and effort into the event. With help from MIDN Hallahan, I made sure that every single detail was in order leading up to and during the Meet, and for all of the work I put into it, it was great to see the rest of the battalion carry on the tradition of excellence, once again returning the Commander's cup to the Naval ROTC.

Freshman Orientation

By : *MIDN Dawson*



O-week is probably one of the best introductions to NROTC. Going into that week I was sure that it would have some challenges and possibly even some lessons. However, just what exactly those were I didn't know. One week is not that much time to spend in training, but nonetheless that one week was packed with training exercises that helped bring the freshman class together as a team.

Entering into that first week I was completely confident that those first few days would go by without any trouble. Besides, it was just a couple of days of orientation. Upon arriving at Camp Ashland, however, I quickly saw that it would be harder than I originally thought. I saw instantly that the NROTC staff is serious about preparing future officers and making sure that those men and women are ready to join the fleet after commissioning.

Doubts of success can often run through a person's mind when they are faced with something difficult or challenging. I learned that what a person does with these doubts is one of the biggest things that will determine his or her success with the task at hand with life. Throughout O-week I knew what I wanted to do, and I knew that one week of uncomfortable living would not keep me from that.

Getting up at 0430 and running around all day definitely was not the ideal ending to a summer vacation, and it was easy to think that the week would never end. Nonetheless, it was probably the best first week of college I could have asked for. In hindsight it's much easier to see how much that week helped me transition into NROTC. I learned the basics of drill, customs and courtesies, and leadership principles but especially how to work as a team with people I have never seen before in my life.

I learned that a person could easily get through something like O-week by just pushing their way through. Instead, it helps to get past the fact that something is uncomfortable and try to see what exactly can be learned. O-week was definitely worthwhile, and every bit of effort that was put into making that week happen is very much appreciated.



Chow Time

Leadership Reaction Course



Blind Navigation



Morning PT

School Circle



Inspection

Swearing In



Nature Hike

Swim Qualification





Color Guard



Cake Cutting



The Sword Arch

Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball

By MIDN Zach



The 2006 Navy/Marine Corps Ball was a great way of getting together and celebrating the Navy and Marine Corps birthdays. The highlight of the ball and of the month leading up to the ball was the freshman sword arch and the color guard, both of which moved like a well oiled machine. Everyone worked extremely hard and many hours were put into the planning and practicing for this annual celebration so that the ceremony ran like clock work.

Being a member of sword arch, personally, I have trouble recalling the earlier happenings of the ceremony other than the expression on the person's face who stood across from me on the sword arch and the little clips of information that I picked up from the speakers. The night was a huge success; nothing major went wrong and everyone enjoyed themselves. The guest speaker, Col Freitas, gave an amusing and motivational speech. He has inspired many of the midshipmen and offered some insight to his personal and professional life as an officer.

It is nice to be able to see the upper class midshipmen speak to an assembly and organize an event like this, knowing that someday my fellow midshipmen and I will be filling their shoes. It was also an honor to be a part, not only of the night's festivities, but of the sword arch in particular. It is sort of the freshmen's way of saying goodbye and thank you to the seniors for building up the battalion to what it is today. Now that the party has past, the amazing food all gone and the music no longer playing in our ears all we have left is to revisit the night in our memories and look forward to next year's celebration.

Welcome Aboard!



Colonel Eric T. Litaker was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in May 1979. Upon completion of The Basic School and both the Field Artillery Officers' Basic Course and the Field Artillery Cannon Battery Officers' Course, he reported to Battery N, 4th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, where he served as the Fire Direction Officer. In September 1981, he was reassigned to 2d Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company where he was assigned duties as a platoon commander and as the Parachute Operations Officer.

In June 1984, Colonel Litaker entered the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program, attending the Russian Basic Course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, and the United States Army Russian Institute in Garmisch, Germany. Upon completion of FAO training in 1986, he was transferred to the National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.

In August 1989, Colonel Litaker was reassigned to 2d Radio Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served as a company commander and as the battalion operations officer. In June 1992, he reported to the Naval Postgraduate School for participation in the Special Education Program. Upon graduation in December 1994, he received orders to Requirements Division, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia.

Colonel Litaker assumed command of 2d Radio Battalion in June 1997 and relinquished command in June 1999. Upon completion of his command tour, he was reassigned as a student at the National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, DC. He graduated in June 2000 and was transferred to the Joint Forces Intelligence Command (JFIC), where he was assigned duties as the Director, Plans and Programs Directorate. In June 2001,

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Colonel Litaker was reassigned as the JFIC Director of Intelligence Operations, and in July 2001 he oversaw the formation of, and became the Director of, the Intelligence Directorate within JFIC.

In August 2002, Colonel Litaker assumed command of the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, and he relinquished command in July 2004. Upon completion of this command tour, he was transferred to the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, where he was assigned duties as the Operations Officer. He assumed command of the NROTC Unit, UNL, in July 2006.

Colonel Litaker's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star, the Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon with two gold stars.



A graduate of Rutgers University, Commander John P. Long entered Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, Florida, in November 1982. He was commissioned an Ensign in March 1983. Upon completion of Naval Aviator training, he received his wings in August 1984. Following type training in the P-3 aircraft, he reported to Patrol Squadron 26 (VP-26) in January 1985 serving as Weapons Officer, Nuclear Safety Officer, and Avionics and Armament Division Officer. In November 1988, he was ordered to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 1 (VX-1) where he served as the Tactics Officer until July 1991.

In August 1991, Commander Long reported to USS George Washington (CVN-73) where he served as Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer. In June 1993, he reported to the United States Army Command and General Staff College. Upon graduation, he received orders to Patrol Squadron 8 (VP-8) where he served as Tactics Officer and Training Officer until December 1996.

Following completion of Armed Forces Staff College in April 1997, Commander Long reported to United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for duty as Chief, Aircraft Planning Section. Detaching in February 2000, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. In May, 2001 he reported to the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) where he served as the Weapons Officer and Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer until August 2003. In September 2003, he returned to Strategic Command as Chief, War Plans Analysis Branch.

During his career, Commander Long has accumulated over 2700 flight hours. He holds masters degrees in Military Art and Science, National Security and Strategic Studies, and Economics. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Congratulations Seniors!



Brant Schmall

MAJOR:
Mechanical Systems
Engineering
POST-GRAD PLANS:
Flight School
Pensacola, FL





TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Timothy Schenck
Tide and Current Advisor: LT John Hodges

Special Thanks to all the writers and editors for their contributions!

Congratulations Top 6, Fall 2007

Battalion Commander:	MIDN Jon-Andrew Anderson
Battalion Executive Officer	OC Ross Woltjer
Operations Officer:	MIDN Daniel Kerr
Administration Officer:	MIDN Francisco Martinez
A Company Commander:	SSGT Ryan Paulsen
B Company Commander:	OC Aaron Martin

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Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps



Mission

To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically, and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission graduates as officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.