

THE TIDE & CURRENT

UNL NROTC

FALL 2013



The Blackshirts of National Defense

TIDE & CURRENT

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

The Spartan Race MIDN 4/C Daniel Quan

On the morning of 12 Oct 2013, four midshipmen of the NROTC battalion at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln participated in the world renowned Spartan Race as part of the Endurance Team. This is the first of this type of event for the Endurance Team, MIDN Lane, MIDN Spiegel, MIDN Magee, and MIDN Brake were the first to represent the battalion at a race like this.

The Spartan Race is an obstacle course race that is designed to test your resilience, strength, stamina, quick decision-making skills, and your ability to laugh in the face of adversity. For this version, the Spartan Sprint is a little over three miles and there are 15+ obstacles; however there are several other Spartan races that range into the marathon distances. For each obstacle that isn't correctly completed or failed, the participant must complete 30 burpees and then continue on with the course.



*Left: MIDN 3/C
Marshall Lane hurtling
one of the fiery obstacles.
Right: MIDN 3/C
Marshall Lane and
MIDN 4/C Adam Brake*





The Spartan Race



The morning of, the weather was around 45 degrees and there was mud and water all throughout the course but the midshipmen of the UNL battalion drove on and took the pools of muddy water head on. These midshipmen were chosen based on the best PST, a Physical Screening Test for the Navy SEALs, and the endurance team had reasonable assumptions that they would perform well but they had not expected the outcome.

Our four midshipmen ended up placing first for their age group and they all placed within the top 1% out of almost 2000 participants. With an event filled with good memories and an outcome like that, the Endurance Team hopes to participate and represent the UNL NROTC Battalion in more events like this in the near future.

*Left to Right:
MIDN 4/C Forrest Magee,
MIDN 3/C Marshall Lane,
MIDN 3/C Connor Spiegel,
MIDN 4/C Adam Brake*





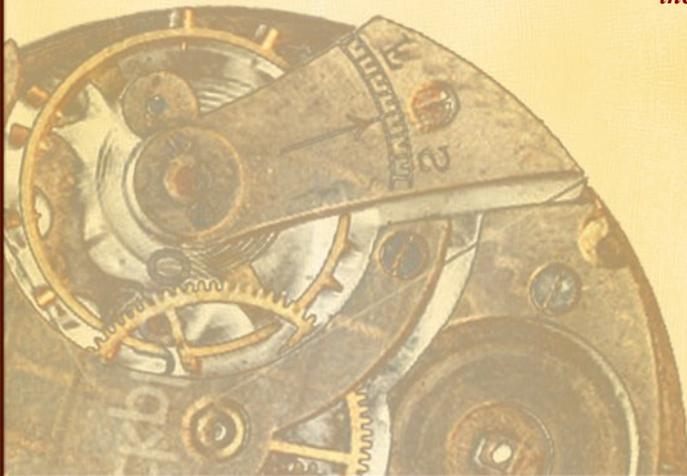
MIDN 3/C Matthew Sunderman competes in the Izzy Dizzy.



MIDN 1/C Sydney Stone, MIDN 2/C VonDerOhe, and MIDN 3/C Washa do as many pushups as they can.

JOINT FIELD MEET MIDN 3/C Marshall Lane

The 2013 Joint Service Field Meet again proved exciting for midshipman and cadets alike from the Navy and Marine Corps side, as well as the Army and Air Force ROTC units. On Thursday, October 17th the midshipman and cadets competed in several events, a pull-up and pushup contest, log sit-ups, tug-of-war, the fabled Izzy Dizzy relay and a stretcher relay. It was no surprise that the Army pulled away with the tug-of-war victory, but the Army cadets did surpass the Navy and Marine Corps team in log sit-ups, which came as a surprise to many. On the endurance heavy portion of the meet, the mostly Marine Option team for the Navy ROTC unit dominated the stretcher relay. They pulled ahead early despite lacking the technique demonstrated by the over coached, less in shape Army team. The final victory did go to the Army however, with the Navy and Marine Corps team only one point behind them. MIDN Spiegel commented, "I thought it was an





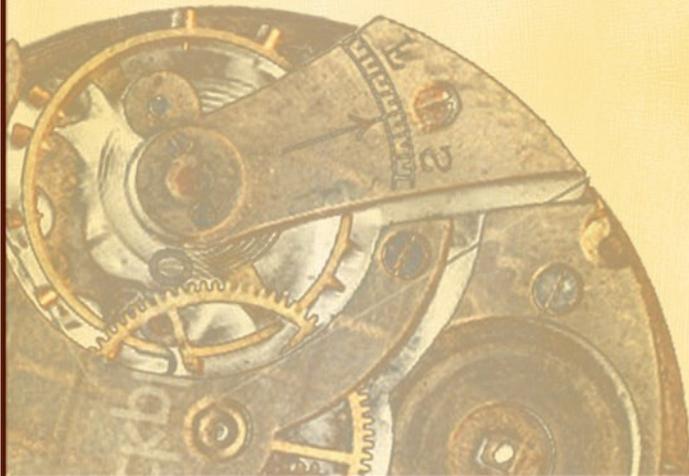
The Setup for the stretcher relay.



The MIDN compete in the log sit-ups.

JOINT FIELD MEET MIDN 3/C Marshall Lane

excellent opportunity for the services to get out and compete. I was disappointed with the results but we will be gunning for them next year!" The Commanders Cup stays with the Army another year, but it leaves a sour taste for the midshipmen and they are sure to be ready for next year.



LIFE AS A FRESHMAN MIDN 4/C TUCKER BONOW

“Good luck! Remember that the rest of your life starts right now.” The last words my high school principle said to my graduating class still ring through my ears even now that I am 1100 miles away. That was at graduation, months ago, now fast forward to the Friday before school starts and I find myself sitting at a table in Selleck Dining Hall with six other freshman midshipmen barely knowing the names of these people. We tell parts of our stories, each of us trying to make these strange people new friends. I think in the back of all our minds was the thought of what life will be like bright and early on Monday morning when meet the rest of the battalion. All of us wondering if we would be accepted, and be able to keep up and not mess up too badly. Being from Houston, Texas, I knew no one and was very eager to meet new people and I believed ROTC was definitely going to help with that. As the weeks go by, we go to PT, go to class, go to study hours and go to drill, but still try and live the life of a normal



MIDN perform the PRT upon arriving at the school.



MIDN 4/C Getting briefed for the first time.



LIFE AS A FRESHMAN

MIDN 4/C TUCKER BONOW

college kid. Sure it can be difficult and tiring at times, but we all want to be here otherwise we would have walked away and given up. The freshmen learn on the fly about Battalion rules and regulations, so we do not look like fools in front of everyone but sometimes we do and sometimes we do not. We are bound to make mistakes, like everyone does, but it is not the mistakes we make but rather how we as future Naval Officers prevent making the mistakes again. All though we do mess up, it helps build camaraderie, makes new friendships and forges new memories. All the while we adjust to living out on our own in college. It is going to be hard for the class of 2017 midshipmen for many reasons, the obvious one of course is not



Cover...align



Learning how to properly wear a uniform



LIFE AS A FRESHMAN

MIDN 4/C TUCKER BONOW

having a full “O-Week”. It may be hard for us to be accepted by the Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors but hopefully through hard work and slowly proving ourselves to the other classes, we as 4/C MIDN will be accepted fully into the battalion.

Speaking from my experience so far, I see the Upperclassmen and they are very good at whatever they do in NROTC, whether it be PT or academics, but I believe I can be like them. It is going to be a lot of work to catch up. We are far behind as compared to previous years but if we can come together as a group, there is nothing that our class can not do. Being focused and understanding the goal we have ahead of us definitely helps to be prepared for what the next four years has in store. Many of the tools we learn in ROTC such as good study habits and the use of the tutors for those in Physics and Calculus classes gives us an advantage over other freshman coming into the first year at college. This battalion also acts as a network of people to go to if someone is feeling

alone, scared, or just need someone to talk to.

That is really helpful to someone who is new in college or far from home. This unit thrives on unit cohesion and hopefully the new crop of midshipmen will only add to the legacy at UNL.



MIDN 1/C Brown conducts an inspection of 4/C MIDN



POW/MIA CEREMONY MIDN 3/C Dalton McMullen

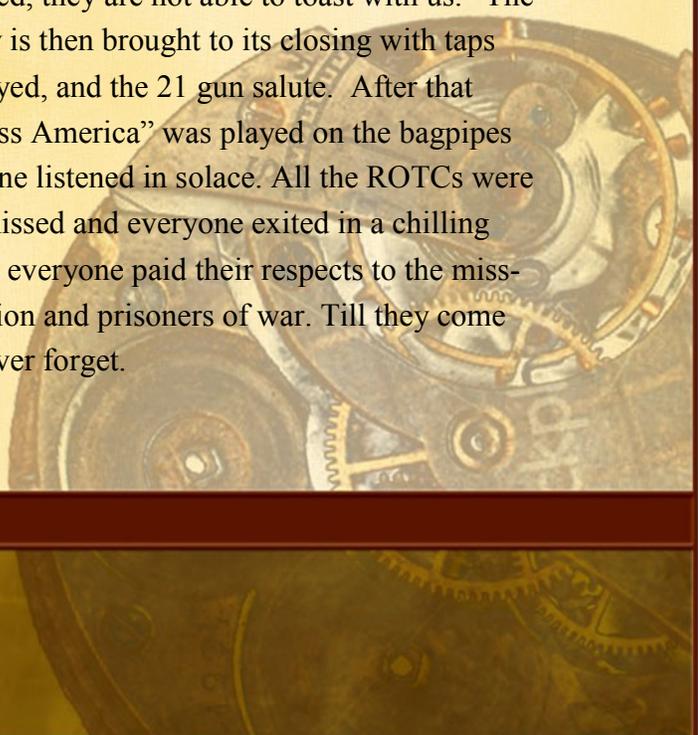


Prisoner of War. Missing in Action. Those six words are something a family never wants to hear, but it is a reality in our world. It's a shame to know that we are still missing many military members dating all the way back to World War I, but it is a cold and hard fact. Every year the midshipmen from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln battalion attend this ceremony along with all the Army and Air Force. It is a solemn and somber ceremony filled with chilling realizations that people are still subject to becoming a prisoner of war or are able to be deemed missing in action.



The ceremony starts with the Star Spangled Banner, giving respect to this great country in which we live. It then goes on to a guest speaker. Our speaker this year shared some statistics about how many soldiers are missing in action and/or are prisoners of war. His main point was “Until they come home,” symbolizing the efforts that the military has done to get it's soldiers back home.

The Missing Man Table was then presented. It symbolizes so much about the missing soldiers that we have, stating, “The wine glasses are inverted, they are not able to toast with us.” The ceremony is then brought to its closing with taps being played, and the 21 gun salute. After that “God Bless America” was played on the bagpipes as everyone listened in solace. All the ROTCs were then dismissed and everyone exited in a chilling silence as everyone paid their respects to the missing in action and prisoners of war. Till they come home; never forget.



A REWARDING SEMESTER

MIDN 1/C Jonathan Larson

The midshipman battalion at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has seen many changes this fall semester. A new commanding officer, a new battalion advisor, and a new crop of fourth-class midshipmen have kept things interesting for everyone on the battalion staff. It's not all smooth sailing leading forty some-odd college students as they train to join the officer ranks of the Navy and Marine Corps, but it is intensely rewarding. My job as this semester's battalion commander gave me a fantastic opportunity not only to lead my peers but also, more importantly, to learn from them as the battalion worked through its daily, weekly, and monthly functions.

I am very proud of the battalion's accomplishments this fall. As in past years, the midshipmen were very busy, putting on a successful Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball and a competitive joint field meet with the Army and Air Force ROTC units to name only a few things. Despite providing security for Nebraska football home games, the members of the battalion took time to volunteer in the community, as well, coordinating a canned food drive for the food pantry and participating in several other activities. The midshipmen put forth their best effort this semester, and everyone from seniors to freshmen had an important part to play in making this semester a success.

Throughout the fall, I was supported by an outstanding staff, led by battalion executive officer, Midshipman Daniel Wilcox. The sustained efforts of everyone in a leadership position allowed the battalion to settle into a steady rhythm early on in the semester. Not even a government shutdown could throw us off! I saw progress in a number of areas. This semester, the quality of



communication increased between members of the battalion staff and between the active duty staff and the midshipmen. The battalion's efficiency increased as midshipmen learned to support one another and work as a team. I hope that the lessons learned throughout this semester will not only be passed on to the next staff but will follow the graduates of this program into the fleet. When I entered the NROTC program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 2010, I didn't quite know what I was getting myself into. If someone would have told me then that in three years I would be the battalion commander, I probably would have laughed.

In those early days, I was out of my depth, and I often questioned whether I would remain in the program past my first semester. There was so much to learn; I thought that I'd never get the hang of it all. I did stick with it that first year, however, thanks in no small part to the incredible support I received from my military advisors and classmates. Over my time here, I have learned quite a bit, and I am grateful for the opportunities this program has given me. My future in the Navy will be built on the lessons I learned in here in Lincoln. This rewarding fall semester further proves to me that the members of this battalion are well-placed to join the ranks of the world's finest Navy and Marine Corps.

From Classroom to Wardroom

LT Jeff Scheidt and LT Scott Pastell USN

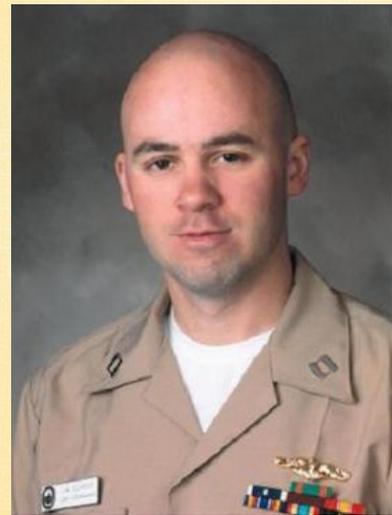
This winter we have the privilege of seeing four of our students earn their degrees and receive commissions as officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps. This spring, we expect to see eight more. These students will very quickly be trading in their textbooks for qualification cards and their classrooms for wardrooms, platoons, and Navy medical teams. Are they ready to meet the challenge?

The truth is, it's impossible to be fully prepared to walk onboard a US Navy warship and take charge of a division of technical and tactical warriors. Taking charge of your first division is an intimidating task. Your sailors will be highly trained and experienced. Many will be as old or older than you are. Many will have college degrees. Your direct subordinate will be a Navy Chief who likely has 10 to 20 years of service under his web belt. Yet, you are expected to take charge and lead.

Luckily, the NROTC unit does a lot to prepare our students for that auspicious moment. Each Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant that leaves here has a solid, well rounded naval education, covering seamanship, navigation, engineering, amphibious warfare, and more. Each student has an opportunity to lead his or her fellow Midshipman, as a Squad Leader, Company Commander, or even the Battalion Commander. Each student is assigned organizational responsibilities, such as creating a training plan or coordinating a Navy-Marine Corps Ball, and each student learns time management by doing all of this while at the same time earning their 4-year degree.

So, before we sing "Anchors Aweigh" for this year's graduates, take a moment to appreciate all the hard work they've done so far, and the

challenges that lay in the path before them. One thing is for sure: each of our graduates is setting off on the adventure of a lifetime!



Honor, Courage, Commitment

MSgt Adam Criswell USMC

Motivation is a key attribute of every successful military unit. Without it, it is impossible to successfully respond to our nation's call when the time comes. Motivation can look like many things to different individuals, but what it must accomplish is the same. It must inspire and kindle a desire to press on and fight the good fight when circumstances seem impossible, when hope is lost. It is that last little bit of intangible something, down deep inside oneself that will enable tides to turn, lost courage to be found, and battles to be won.

Motivation is easy to maintain when things are going smoothly; however the mark of a truly great leader is to not only remain motivated themselves but to inspire motivation in those around them. When times are hard, when the situation is bleak, when you are tempted to give in or quit, that is when you are faced with a choice; be an inspiration, or be a hindrance to those who look to you, and a disappointment to those who are looking at you. As a leader of Marines and sailors, you will hold an incredible amount of influence in the palm of your hand. That is a power that cannot be overlooked. Your motivation or lack thereof will have a powerful impact on those around you and, in turn, directly affect your military readiness.

Do not lose sight of the reason you were inspired to begin this journey in the first place. As a leader of Marines or Sailors, you will seek to motivate those individuals under your command. Those individuals as different as they may be, will be inexplicably and eternally linked by the title they will earn. That title will earn them the honor of being a part of one of the world's fiercest fighting forces ever known.

I would encourage you, stay motivated.

When physical training is too early and too hard, when classes are challenging and schedules are full, stay motivated. When it seems you can't do anything right, stay motivated. Semper Fi, our motto, we don't shed it when the battlefield gets deadly, when the going gets tough, or when we hang up our uniform for the last time. Stay motivated. The legacy and honor of our corps depends upon it.

- Honor, Courage and Commitment -



Unique Opportunities

Capt Adam Trout USMC

Being back at my alma mater as the MOI has been a privilege for me as well as a unique challenge. Although it is far removed from the world of flying attack helicopters in support of Marines on the deck it is none the less a crucial mission for the Marine Corps and Naval services.

I had the distinct honor of having a local World War II veteran come and speak to my “Amphibious Warfare” class. LtCol Vineyard USAF (Ret.) was a Marine 37mm anti-tank gunner for landings at the Marshall islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He spent an hour and a half imparting his wisdom and experiences on us. His experiences were truly amazing and his retelling of the events of some of the most famous battles in Marine Corps history demonstrated the calm confidence and steadfast sense of duty that seems to be such a pervasive trait amongst the “greatest generation”

In describing the intense fighting on the rugged terrain of Saipan Mr. Vineyard said they would move the gun forward a few feet by hand and load the rounds and then proceed to fire successive volleys into the jungle with overlapping effects to destroy or drive back the Japanese defenders. When they came to some of the larger ridge lines Mr. Vineyard said his nine man team broke the gun down into small pieces and carried it up onto the ridges by hand, then reassembled it to continue fighting.

Of the logistical support in the rugged terrain Mr. Vineyard said, “I don’t know, I can’t really tell you how the rounds got up there. I never saw anyone carrying them up, but every time I turned around to grab another shell to load there was one there.” He said that throughout the four

islands he fought on he never had to wait for ammo, an amazing testament to the logistical support of the Navy/Marine team.

Both Mr. Vineyard and his brother fought on Iwo Jima. He told a story of one night having another Marine jump into his fighting hole and to his surprise it was his brother. His brother had been passing word up and down the lines to see if anyone knew where his brother was eventually he got word and decided to go link up. Mr. Vineyard says his brother hopped down in his hole, they exchanged a few words and off his brother went. That was on one of the first nights of fighting and he never heard or saw from his brother for the rest of the battle. He had no idea if his brother had survived until he found him in Hawaii after the battle for Iwo Jima was over.

One of the Midshipmen in the class told me after the meeting with Mr. Vineyard that it was probably one of the events he would tell his grandkids about and I tend to agree. I am enthusiastic to seek out more brave men and women like Mr. Vineyard in the local community to help the Midshipmen and staff grow in their careers.



GO BIG RED

CMDR Mark Stearns USN

Another semester has come and gone. Congratulations to our graduating seniors as they go off to represent our unit in fine, BIG RED fashion in the surface and aviation communities! For the remainder of the unit, the holiday break offers the promise of some down time and an opportunity to recharge our batteries as we prepare for what is sure to be an active spring semester.

This fall has been particularly busy with not only football games, stadium clean-ups and academics, but also with the added challenges of getting the new freshman class up to speed. The abbreviated New Student Orientation this fall left our new freshman class visibly behind when compared to previous classes. However, I am proud to say they have been making great strides as a result of the additional leadership and mentorship from throughout the entire unit. Your efforts to develop your new peers and fill in the gaps left by the condensed orientation have not gone without notice. Any command is only as strong as its weakest member. By holding each other to a high standard and working to mentor and develop those junior to us we can ensure our unit remains effective and vibrant.

Remember, serving in our Nation's military is a lifestyle – it doesn't change over the weekend, when you are on Winter Break, in a leave status, or enjoying a foreign port. We are all representatives of the United States Navy and our Nation every single day, no exceptions. Be proud, be professional and stay engaged!



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

CAPT Richard E. Thomas USN

As the Fall semester comes to a close, I want to commend our Battalion for all of their accomplishments. The Battalion has participated in a wide range of events on campus and around Lincoln. This has included numerous color guard appearances, volunteer opportunities, and other campus activities. The Battalion has worked hard to achieve and maintain the high academic standards required to succeed in today's high tech Navy and Marines Corps. Well done!

As we look forward to the Spring semester, I encourage each of you to begin to draft your New Year's resolutions. They should include achieving your personal best in academics, physical readiness and personal readiness. The Staff and I are here to support you and assist you in achieving your resolutions.

Congratulations to our newest Ensigns. Ensigns Gamero, Lewis, Stone and Tomlinson! I wish you all the best as you embark on what will undoubtedly be great and fulfilling careers in the Navy. Fair Winds and Following Seas to each of you.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holidays and all the Best for Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2014! Enjoy your winter break, recharge your batteries, and come back ready to excel in January.





GRADUATING SENIORS
Fall 2013



MIDN Elizabeth Gamero



MIDN Chase Lewis

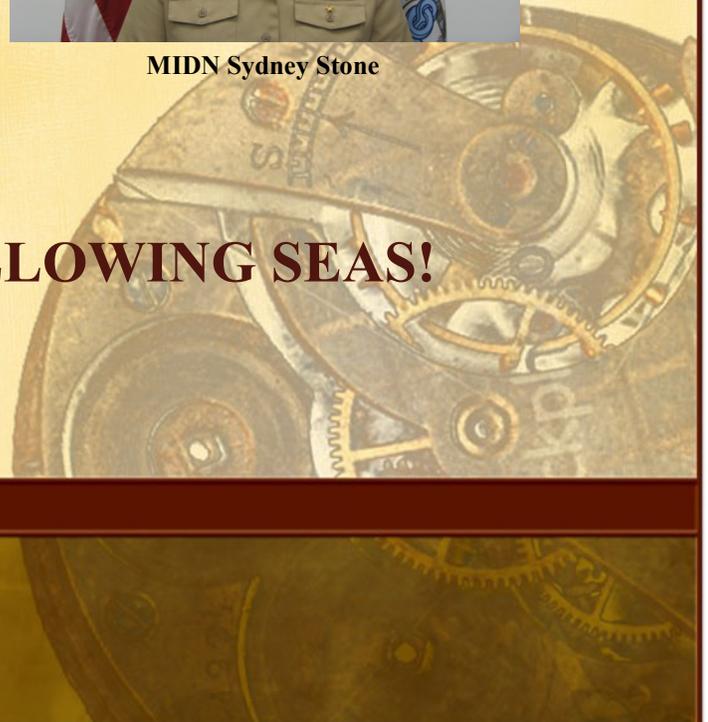


MIDN Christopher Tomlinson



MIDN Sydney Stone

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS!





OUR DONORS
Fall 2013



A special thank you goes out to all our donors for the Fall 2013 semester. Your donations are greatly appreciated and go towards a better future for many.

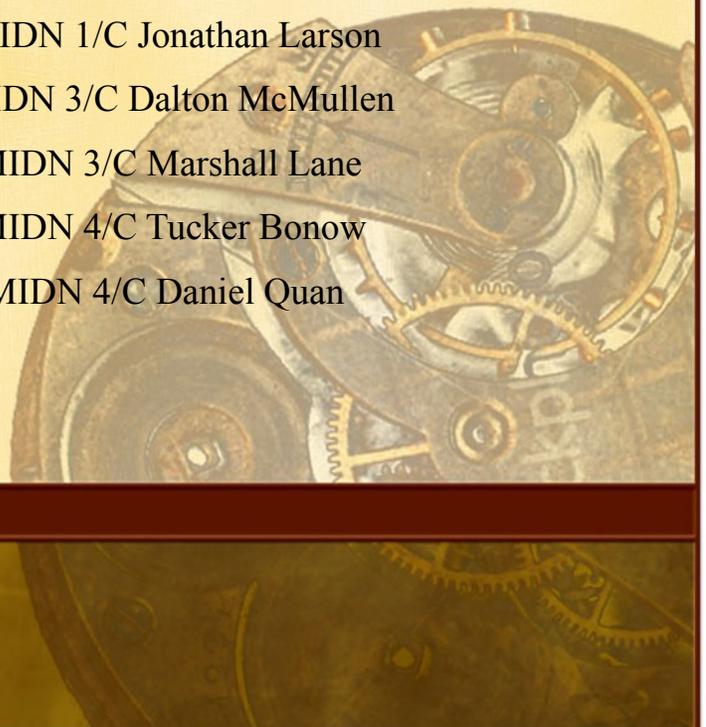
CDR Annette Wichert (Ret)
Dale and Linda Stoehr

Tide & Current Staff

The Tide & Current staff would like to thank the writers for their contributions to another successful issue of the Tide & Current.

Captain Richard R. Thomas
Commander Mark Stearns
Captain Adam Trout
Lieutenant Jonathan Pastell
Lieutenant Jeff Scheidt
Master Sergeant Adam Criswell

MIDN 1/C Jonathan Larson
MIDN 3/C Dalton McMullen
MIDN 3/C Marshall Lane
MIDN 4/C Tucker Bonow
MIDN 4/C Daniel Quan



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