



UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA
NAVAL ROTC
FALL
2009



CO's Corner *By Captain Jeffrey Whiting*



It is hard to believe that my first semester as Commanding Officer is coming to an end. I'd like to share the single greatest impression I have from this semester: PRIDE. I am tremendously proud of my staff and battalion. The high standard to which everyone performs on a daily basis is a reflection of their utmost professionalism.

Now, I know that we have had some rough spots, too. But one of the critical lessons that we have tried to teach the midshipmen and reinforce with each other is that everyone may stumble on the way to their goal; what is important is how each person recovers from the stumble! We have high expectations for the midshipmen and always imply a "zero tolerance" for failure -- and there are instances where that level of enforcement is required (e.g. use of drugs). However, everyone should realize that we are developing the midshipmen not only to benefit themselves, but so that they can learn how to be leaders who are able to foster the development of their own subordinates. As such no one is expected to perform as if they have mastered all the skills needed without making mistakes.

When we couple our expectations for professional naval conduct with the demands of completing a college degree we have made the burden placed on our midshipmen heavier than that of their truly "civilian" counterparts. It can be a very difficult balancing act for the staff and midshipmen. That balance is achieved in part because staff and midshipmen are readily available to as-

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sist and mentor as needed to help each individual excel. (Our prior enlisted Officer Candidates and MECEPs play crucial roles as mentors to the Battalion.) We have high standards and require accountability to them, but everyone has shown full understanding of our dual goals to support earning a degree and to develop the finest future officers of the naval service. You all can be justifiably proud of what you have accomplished this semester.

XO's Corner

By Commander Kevin Wesley



While deployed in Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I was often motivated and excited about my follow-on orders to the University of Nebraska NROTC Unit. I particularly looked forward to participating in the development of midshipmen and witnessing the transition from high school civilians to future Naval Officers—I was not disappointed. Well...I was a *little* disappointed because I arrived in June and there were *no midshipmen*—the Battalion had commenced its summer training requirements. However, the third week of August finally arrived and ushered in the new freshman class. It was a thrill to meet the exceptionally large freshman class, as well as the seasoned NROTC Staff that greeted them during Orientation Week.

Orientation Week provided exposure not only to the execution of the NROTC mission, but also, and more importantly, to the character and personalities of the Staff and midshipmen that comprise our unit. Orientation Week was an impressive success. The First Class midshipmen that participated in “O-Week” training performed superbly and provided a warm “welcome” to the newest members of our unit. August also provided me the opportunity to wear many of the formal uniforms that I had not worn in... years. (Sometimes the fabric shrinks if the uniform is not worn for an extended period of time...strange, but true.) From a summer commissioning ceremony, to the formal welcoming of the freshman class, to the commencement of a new academic year, August proved to be a busy, and productive month—with “Husker Football” not too far behind! These events marked the beginning of a very successful semester for the unit, as well as individual achievement. Well done to all of you!

Special thanks to the Fall Semester Battalion Staff for their dedicated efforts to move the Battalion forward, attaining higher levels of achievement, maintaining and strengthening the high standards of performance and behavior expected of midshipmen, and for committing their personal time to the betterment of their fellow midshipmen and

the NROTC Unit. The fall semester Battalion Staff has “set the bar” very high, and I am confident that the spring semester Battalion Staff is capable of carrying on, and exceeding this level of excellence.

I will close with just a little “motherhood,” I hope that you find it beneficial. The following principles are often heard in “military circles”; I have found them to be true, and so I offer them for your consideration:

Work Hard, Play Hard: Know your job, and dedicate yourself to excellence. (As a midshipman, your mission is academic excellence.) When the mission is complete, and it is time to relax with your shipmates, apply the same amount of effort and enthusiasm to having *fun* as you do to the professional part of your life.

Leave It Better than You Found It: In every capacity that we serve—we all need to continually ask ourselves, “What have ‘I’ done to improve the quality of, and my relationship with my Nation, State, University, NROTC Unit, Battalion, buddy, and self?” We all have an obligation to improve the environment in which we live—an obligation that is often lost on our civilian counterparts, but it is one that is proudly embraced by those of us who have chosen to serve.

It’s the People: It doesn’t matter what “job” you perform in the military, you will undoubtedly discover the secret to mission success and self-fulfillment—the *people* that you serve with. An investment in forging strong relationships is invaluable and will continue to pay enormous personal dividends for the rest of your life. The opportunity that the military provides to form everlasting relationships with people from all walks of life is simply unmatched by any fraternity or sorority.

I appreciate and admire all of you for your decision to not only serve your country, but to serve during a time of war; it is truly a remarkable and noble commitment—one that inspires a grateful Nation.

As always, please take care of yourselves and your shipmates/devil dogs.

Ooh-Rah!

Go Navy!

BNCO's Corner

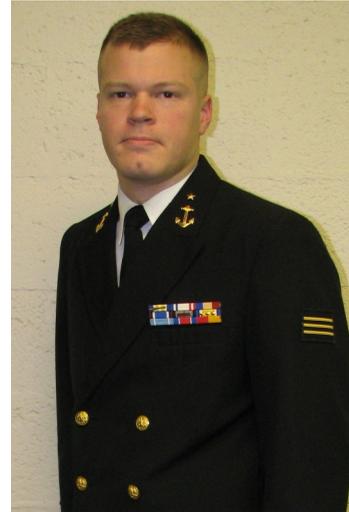
By MIDN Jared Dawson

This semester has been a great time for the UNL NROTC Battalion. As has been the case for previous Midshipmen Battalion Commanders, this fall term seems to have gone by faster than normal. I have said before of how impressed I am with the quality of midshipmen here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the results of this semester confirm my belief.

Stepping into the position of Midshipman Battalion Commander, I thought I had a reasonably good idea of what to expect. I had a long list of lessons learned from previous commanders. Now that the semester is over, I have an even longer list from myself. It has been a good experience, one of successes and failures. The midshipmen throughout the battalion with whom I have worked this semester have been of tremendous support. It is their hard work that has led to a great fall term. I am very pleased with the amount of dedication and teamwork exhibited by my staff. I have come to appreciate more those who serve in high positions of authority, and especially the staffs and individuals who make things happen.

Each fall there are several events that are highlights for the Battalion. It has been great to watch and help as midshipmen take on the challenges of planning, coordinating, and leading these Battalion activities. One such event was the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball, which was again a great success thanks to Midshipman Skiles and his staff. Another was the Joint Field Meet where, once again, the midshipmen made an impressive showing to win the Commander's Cup for the 10th consecutive year. Fortunately the Army and Air Force still join us in competition.

Each semester is unique in its challenges, and it has been exciting to see the development of individual midshipmen, specifically freshmen. There are always new people to work with, and new goals to meet. Midshipmen have risen to this challenge of adapting to change, and I am thrilled with the outcome of the semester. Go Huskers!



Battalion Activities



Color Guard. MIDN Schiavone, Skiles, Hunt and Essay proudly display the colors during the Oklahoma game, in recognition of Veterans Day. This is just one example of the many color guards students provide at sporting events and various other university related ceremonies.

POW Ceremony. The NROTC shows their respect at the annual POW Ceremony along with the Air Force Cadets.



Drill Competition. MIDN Lee leads the freshmen the annual drill competition between underclassmen and upperclassmen. This year after stiff competition the upperclassmen remain victorious.



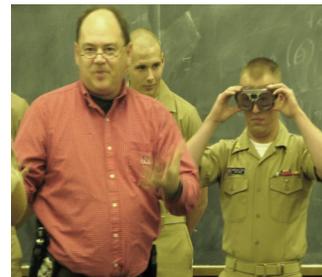
Navy / Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Unit's BNCO MIDN Dawson enters with his date through the sword arch at the beginning of the ceremony celebrating the Navy and Marine Corps' 234th birthday, which included special guest speaker RADM James Partington.



Sailing. The Battalion Sailing Commadore, MIDN Holdcroft maneuvers his sail boat at one of the outings the unit embarked upon this semester, to hone their nautical skills.



Naval Science Lab. An important part of learning to become commissioned Naval Officers, is NAVS 100 lab. The midshipmen are instructed on proper self defense techniques and professional responsibility.



CORTRAMID

By MIDN Stephen Glendenning

The summer after Midshipmen complete their freshmen year, they participate in a training exercise known as CORTRAMID. CORTRAMID (Core Training for Midshipmen) is a four week introduction into each of the different career paths available in the Naval Services. These different career paths include Surface Warfare, Submarine Warfare, Naval Aviation, and the Marine Corps. Each week of the exercise is devoted to one of these individual areas.

Surface week consists of a seven day exposure to the many aspects of Surface Warfare. During surface week, midshipmen are given to opportunity to go underway on one of the many different classes of surface ships in the U.S. Navy. While aboard, Midshipmen interact with the crew, are given to option to conn the ship, and may even have the chance to fire weapons. Midshipmen are afforded the opportunity to witness the firing of several weapons commonly used in surface fleet. In addition, midshipmen also receive exposure to the special warfare community during surface week.

During submarine week, Midshipmen participate in many activities associated with Sub-surface Warfare. One of the activities is the damage control wet trainer, which simulates a flooding submarine and allows Midshipmen to practice damage control techniques. Midshipmen also get the opportunity to go underway on a submarine, in order to experience and learn many things associated with this specific type of naval warfare.

Aviation week is arguably one of the most exciting weeks. During this seven day period, Midshipmen are exposed to various types of fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Midshipmen spend time in simulators for many different aircraft and even get a dynamic flight in a T-34 Turbo Trainer. Midshipmen are also afforded time to solicit questions relating to aviation from the officers and enlisted personnel in the aviation community.

Marine week is one of the more intense weeks of this evolution. It is a week filled with early mornings, late nights, and a plethora of combat related activities. During Marine Week, Midshipmen experience the wide variety of career paths the Marine Corps has to offer; these include aviation, artillery, infantry armor, and various others. Midshipmen also participate in a number of activities associated with this branch of the Naval Service. Some of these include: a day at the range with copious amounts of ammunition during familiarization and firing a variety of weapons, a Marine style "hump" (hike), and a day spent with MCMAP (Marine Corps Martial Arts Program) instructors enjoying such things as the O-course (Obstacle Course) and pugil sticks.

The training and experience midshipmen receive at CORTRAMID is an invaluable resource to help students determine a future career path in the Naval Service.



MIDN Davis mans a turret mounted M240G, atop a HMMWV.

MIDN Whitted inquires about Marine Aviation, while visiting an F/A-18D Hornet static display.



MIDN Essay operates a M240G a machine gun on a flex mount tripod, while at Marine Week Training located at Camp Pendleton, CA.

Orientation Week

By MIDN Sydney Stone



On 17 August 2009, students from all over the country reported for duty at the Military and Naval Science building, aspiring to become midshipmen at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln NROTC Battalion. These Students were anxious, excited and somewhat nervous to face new challenges during the week that would help introduce them to military life.

The students began the week on day one at 0800, by attending health and safety briefs, completing administrative requirements, and received a brief overview of the week ahead given by Captain Grey, Lieutenant Flanagan and Mr. Pate. Following the briefs, students were sent to the pool to complete swim qualifications for Swimmer 3rd class. Upon completion of the qualifications, the students were issued new uniforms and gear. A quick change into new uniforms readied the students for their trip to Camp Ashland, National Guard Facility, to learn the basics of military lifestyle. The remainder of the day was spent getting acquainted with the staff and assimilating to barracks life at the 'barracks,' including how to properly make racks (beds). Students also got their first taste of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and performed sentry duty, where each student learned how to take responsibility for their peers.

Physical training (PT) jumpstarted day two at 0530, as the students got to experience Organized PT as a group for the first time. After an hour and a half of various cardiovascular and strength conditioning exercises, it was time to quickly shower and begin the day with yet another breakfast MRE. Next on the agenda was the first lesson in Close Order Drill (COD) and basic marching movements. COD and GMT's (General Military Training) in areas such as Customs and Courtesies, Uniform, Rank Structure, and Sailing alternated throughout the course of the day leading up to dinner and another evening of sentry watches.

Day three began bright and early with PT in the pouring rain. After an exhausting cardio circuit consisting of a run and strength exercises, the students quickly showered and changed out of their wet PT uniforms and into their dry uniforms. Breakfast was next on the agenda, followed by a thorough cleaning of the barracks. After the general clean-up was complete, it was time to head back to the UNL campus. Students were soon released to lunch at the City Campus Union. Upon return, Students reported

to the M&N classroom for GMT's and instruction on proper preparation and wear of their midshipmen uniforms. After this midshipmen were released to their dorms to sleep in their own warm beds.

The Students returned to the M&N building early the next morning to begin yet another busy day. They were bussed to Branched Oak Lake to get their first introduction to sailing given by Lieutenant Lee, the Sailing Instructor. They also participated in a COD competition which was graded by the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI), Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar. The morning began with the first squad of Students learning to assemble their sailboats and attempting to get the boats out on the lake. Unfortunately, due to extreme wind conditions, the sailing was discontinued, which gave the students the opportunity to learn to disassemble their sailboats properly. While the first squad was learning to sail, the students in second squad were being graded in the drill competition. This evolution consisted of basic facing and marching movements. As soon as the competition was completed, students in second squad were required to take a test of basic military information, also known as the "Keel Test." Following testing and chow, the squads traded places. The first squad was sent to the drill competition and keel test while the second squad learned to assemble the sailboats. At the end of the day, it was time to pack up the sailboats and other gear and head back to campus. Once the students and staff returned to campus, all gear was put away properly and the vans were given a thorough vacuuming and cleaning. After a careful inspection of the vans, the students were dismissed for the day.

To the extreme relief of the students, the much anticipated final day had arrived and everyone's sights were set on the swearing-in ceremony. Each student had been pushed to meet or exceed their physical and mental limits, and were finally about to be rewarded for their hard work and dedication. The class of freshman Students stood in front of friends and family, and were officially welcomed as a part of the NROTC Midshipmen Battalion at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Students were sworn in by the Commanding Officer, Captain Whiting. After the ceremony, midshipmen were released to spend time with friends and family before classes began for the semester. The final event of the week was a picnic at Oak Lake. This event provided new midshipmen the opportunity to meet the upper-classmen within the Battalion, and Unit Staff in a social setting. The midshipmen were able to share their experiences and stories with the peers, that they will learn and develop alongside for the next several years.

Orientation week has, for many years, been a longstanding part of Naval ROTC tradition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As in years past, another class of incoming freshman students successfully embarked on their journey into military life, after successfully meeting and overcoming the many challenges during Orientation Week.

Orientation Week Pictures



The AMOI, Gunnery Sargeant Aguilar, provides expectations and provides a safety brief prior to activities during O-week.

A few midshipmen prepare to set sail for their first sailing experience, as instructors supervise their progress.



Midshipmen stand at attention, as they respond to commands from student instructors.

Midshipmen Gamero, Stewart, and Moura work together to prepare their sailboat.





Midshipmen fine-tuning their marching skills prior to the final drill competition at Branched Oak Lake.

MIDN Walter instructs marching movements to a squad of midshipmen at Camp Ashland.



Midshipmen repeating their oath of office at the end of O-week, in a formal ceremony in front of friends and family.

Various midshipmen within the battalion get together for the picnic and a friendly game of touch football.



First Class Cruise

By MIDN Jared Dawson



Each year I have looked forward to summer training, getting underway and becoming a part of a ship's crew for a month. My first class cruise in NROTC was conducted aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau, LHA 4. Weekends were spent in port in the great city of Norfolk, Virginia, while the majority of the week was spent underway conducting drills and flight operations. Despite maneuvering aimlessly off the coast of Virginia, my experience aboard the Nassau was great. It was a surface warfare cruise that had an aviation spin on it, seeing as how many of the officers on board were helo pilots.

The first thing I noticed upon reporting, was the massive size of the ship. The one constant negative variable throughout my first weekend on board was that I was lost most of the time. Simply exploring passageways, trying to find my way around, proved to be a risky business. Upon opening one door, I found myself almost clinging to the side of the ship nearly 50 feet above the water.

The size and complexity of the ship provided a great learning opportunity and view into amphibious operations. My running mate pushed for my involvement in both unique and daily activities on board the ship, providing guidance as to the duties of a junior officer. I stood night watches as Junior Officer of the Deck and was assigned to a damage repair locker during general quarters. Midshipmen on board participated regularly in damage control, medical training, flight operations, weapon shoots, painting, line handling, supply, man overboard drills, as well as watch standing.

I saw, first-hand how leadership and teamwork are at the forefront of every operation and exercise. It is obvious just how critical these aspects are for a crew during flight operations when CH-53s and Harriers are conducting flight operations, or if there should be a fire in the hanger bay. I also experienced what leadership and teamwork looked like at the division level, with routine daily duties.

The training period was a great experience, and one that excites me, as I close in on joining the fleet myself. There is always something to learn, and I was reminded that asking questions, receiving constructive criticism, and committing to excellence are essential for junior officers to succeed. Fortunately, these are hallmarks for new officers joining the fleet.

Officer Candidate School

By MIDN Matthew Zach



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln sent seven candidates to Quantico, Virginia this last summer. While there, we took part in Officer Candidate School (OCS), the most demanding and thorough leadership training program in the nation. I attended the second increment with Midshipmen Broman and Boyer. Just two days prior to our report date, Staff Sergeant Kwiatkowski, MIDN Walter, Lacy, and Russell graduated from first increment. The training environment that OCS provides is a sharp contrast to college and civilian life. However, having successfully completed the program it is my belief that the UNL NROTC Unit is among the most successful schools in preparing midshipman for that task.

The purpose of Marine Corps OCS is “to train, screen, and evaluate officer candidates, to ensure that they possess the moral, intellectual, and physical qualities for service as company grade officers in the operating forces.” This standard remains in effect from the moment candidates report, to the final seconds of graduation. It also provided substance to everything that we were put through along the way.

Candidates are expected to show confidence, character and mastery of the material taught throughout the course. They are given the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities to meet these demands through a number of graded events. The leadership evaluation graded events include: the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), field exercises, and Small Unit Leadership Exercise (SULE). We were all given the opportunities to lead a group of our peers toward accomplishing a mission, and to hold billets and to be held accountable for those under our leadership. The physical evaluation graded events include: the Physical Fitness Test (PFT), Combat Readiness Test (CRT), Functional Fitness Evaluations, the Muscular Endurance Course, the Obstacle Course, and the Endurance Course. Physical appearance, stamina, and strength are imperative to not only our mission readiness, but they also play a critical role in our ability to inspire and lead on the battlefield. Academics is the third area in which candidates are evaluated. The academic graded events include: land navigation, drill with the M16 A4 service rifle, tactics, Marine Corps history, general military subjects, and weapons.



Most people do not find what we were able to accomplish this last summer too appealing. Some ask us why we would sacrifice our summer and undertake such a daunting task. People are drawn to OCS for many reasons, but for those of us who successfully complete its curriculum, we realize it is an honor and a privilege to be given that opportunity to become Marines and lead. While we have yet to earn our official place as Commissioned Marine Officers, we have renewed our enthusiasm and commitment toward that ultimate goal. After graduation we returned home to the UNL NROTC to acquire the last prerequisite for commissioning, our undergraduate degrees, and also to help prepare next year's OCS class.

I would like to end with a quote from my Company Commander, Maj Heart USMC, Company G: "They call us Sir, but we serve them."



Joint Field Meet

By MIDN William Walter



The Joint Field Meet (JFM) is the NROTC Battalion's annual inter-service competition. The Army, Air Force, and Naval ROTC units draw on all of their cadets, MECEPS, Officer Candidates, and Midshipmen to compete in various events such as the rope climb, log sit-ups, pull-ups, push-ups, a one mile run, and tug-o-war. Every year the competition has been known to end with very close results among the three services. The Naval ROTC unit has won the Joint Field Meet the last nine years running, giving us the honor of holding the Commander's Trophy. The 2009 Commander's Trophy was earned with a solid performance in all events by the Midshipmen, MECEPS, and Officer Candidates. A good portion of the NROTC unit's success in the JFM is owed to the intense physical training throughout the semester. Without the physical advantage in most events, we may not possess the Commander's Trophy for a 10th straight year.

As future officers in the Navy and Marine Corps, it is essential to understand the importance of inter-service relationships, and develop a sense of camaraderie with our counterparts. The JFM presents the chance for Midshipmen to work with the Army and Air Force cadet staff to plan and organize the event. This year, Midshipman Chad Lewis was responsible for planning the JFM. Midshipman Lewis spent several weeks preparing every detail, down to what should be served at the barbeque following the competition. With the assistance of other Midshipmen, several members of the battalion got a chance to develop their organizational skills, planning efficiency, and leadership experience.

The barbeque that takes place immediately following the Joint Field Meet provides an opportunity for all ROTC members to socialize, disregarding the recent competition among the services that just took place. Everyone aspires to win this competition, each giving no less than 100%. However, when the event is over, we must realize that the military really is a team effort. There are no hard feelings if you lose, we all know that one day we will answer our Nation's call together, and in most cases in a joint setting.



The NROTC's seven man team work together to win the push up contest.

Midshipmen give it their all against the Army in tug-o-war, but come up short, with rope burns and a hurt pride.



Midshipmen Dawson receives the Commanders Cup for the Joint Field Meet from Captain Jeffrey Whiting, claiming the title for the 10th year in a row.

Commissioning: 2ndLt Kiersten Madsen

Second Lieutenant Kiersten Madsen was commissioned on 15 August, 2009, concluding four years of training with the NROTC unit at UNL. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and minors in both Spanish and History. 2ndLt. Madsen was sworn in by her father, CAPT Daven Madsen, USN (Ret.), she will report to The Basic School located in Quantico, VA, in Late March. She would like to thank the NROTC staff for their guidance over the past four years, and the Midshipmen for their constant support.



2ndLt. Madsen being sworn in by her father CAPT Daven Madsen.

NROTC Staff, Naval Officers, and a few current NROTC Midshipmen join 2ndLt. Madsen in a photo-op following the ceremony.



Awards

MIDN Adam Flannery
MIDN Adam Flannery
MIDN Ryan Reeder
Sgt Andrew Johnson
Mrs. Kimberly Pappas
LT Sean Flanagan
LT Michael Lee
Capt Mitch Grey
GySgt Ruben Aguilar
GySgt Ruben Aguilar

Marine Option Side Load Scholarship
USS Little Rock Association
Advanced Standing
Curtis LeMay Society Award
Nominated for the UNOPA Award
Navy & M C Achievement Medal
USAA Assistant Marine Officer
Instructor of the Year South-central Region

UNL NROTC Battalion





TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Amy Holdcroft
Tide and Current Advisor: Captain Mitch Grey

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

Congratulations Top 6, Spring 2010

Battalion Commander:	MIDN Eric Russell
Battalion Executive Officer:	MIDN Daniel Walkemeyer
Operations Officer:	MIDN Christopher Lewis
Administration Officer:	MIDN Parker Lacy
A Company Commander:	MIDN Jeffrey Skiles
B Company Commander:	MIDN Samuel Lee

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University of Nebraska

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.

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CDR Kevin Wesley

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