



Tide and Current



There is No Place Like Nebraska

By Captain Jeffrey Whiting

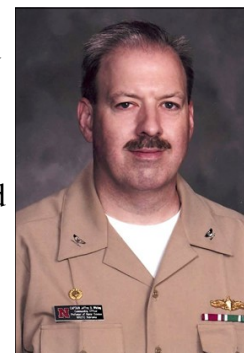


People are frequently surprised to find that there is a Naval ROTC unit in Nebraska. Conventional wisdom would suppose that in a Midwestern, land locked state recruiting for naval officers would be counter productive. Yet not only is the Navy able to find excellent candidates in Nebraska and from other states that want to train in Nebraska, the individuals who are commissioned by the UNL NROTC unit have proven to be excellent career officers. This is demonstrated by the five admirals currently serving on active duty that are alumni of our program. (The Governor and the University recognized them at the Military Appreciation Weekend on 4 and 5 November.)

The admirals emphasized that their success was due to many of the intangibles that they learned as midshipmen: decision making, leadership, loyalty, confidence, and Honor, Courage and Commitment. We continue to teach these intangibles and are still producing Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants who will excel in the fleet. I wonder how many will reach Flag or General officer rank thirty years from now?

We currently have 58 midshipmen in the battalion and have strengthened our recruiting efforts through battalion and staff engagement. As we see budget cuts looming on the horizon, we want to increase the size of the battalion. UNL is an excellent school that is very inexpensive when compared to other schools that are awarded NROTC scholarships. We want to become a school of choice that has an economical advantage as scholarship dollars are awarded; we can graduate and commission more and better officers for a smaller capital investment for the Navy. The priority therefore is to recruit and retain.

As we train midshipmen for commissioning, we prioritize academic success. Navy and Marine Corps advisors maintain close contact with midshipmen to help keep school, battalion, and life in balance. This is particularly important because a small academic problem can quickly snowball into difficulties



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

that significantly impact all three. The key to our successful advising is effective communication fostered in an environment of accountability without fear. Most of the consequences for bad decisions come about naturally; advisors try to make these potential outcomes apparent when they can still be avoided. Our upper class students have taken these messages to heart and are excelling academically. As they

mentor our underclass students, we expect to see rapidly improving performance without so much need to experience natural consequences. We all know that experience is the best teacher. It is my expectation that the experiences the NROTC staff guide the UNL midshipmen through will have prepared them to be outstanding junior officers with potential to succeed just as five other distinguished graduates from 1977 to 1982 have done.



Go **B1G Red**

By Commander Kevin Wesley



It's Husker Football season again! More importantly, the season marks the completion of yet *another* successful semester for the Nation's *finest* NROTC Battalion! Unlike Husker football, we **WON** our Championship—Commander's Cup! (I should stop, before I get reported to "**B1G Red**.")

Many of you have endured my rants regarding the role that "relationships" play in effective leadership. I continue to emphasize "relationships" not only as a critical element in your success as junior officers, but also as the cornerstone of your personal experience throughout your career. RDML Filipowski echoed this sentiment during his visit to our Unit as part of the ROTC Alumni weekend: RDML Filipowski stressed the importance of building enduring "**relationships**," and having "**fun**." Sage remarks from a successful NROTC Nebraska alum.

Speaking of *seasons*: 'tis the traveling season as well. As such, please implement personal ORM plans, take care of yourself and your Shipmate (fellow Marine), and make good decisions over the holiday break (after you *crush* your Final Exams).

As always, it's a pleasure to serve with the finest future officers in the Nation! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Ooh-Rah! Go NAVY!



A Leader of Leaders

By Midshipman I/C Whitted



My time with this battalion has been eventful, to say the least. I remember my time as a freshman, incredibly nervous about the prospect of coming to a new state and unfamiliar university. I admit, orientation week was fairly intimidating, however I formed strong and lasting friendships. It seemed like no time at all that I grew to love the Huskers, this University, and most of all, this battalion and its outstanding people.

The years flew by and I was selected as Battalion Commander, a prospect that was extremely exciting; I could not wait to give back to the battalion that developed me into the person I am today. This past semester has been both nerve-racking and exhilarating. The expectations were high and I knew that I had an enormous task at hand; to lead a battalion full of leaders. Luckily, my staff consisted of some of the brightest men and women in the country.

I have closely observed the growth of these young men and women, and I am immensely impressed. Our midshipmen have participated in many community events, continuing this battalion's strong tradition of community betterment. Parents, be proud of your sons and daughters, they are America's finest and have proven that there truly can be another "greatest generation." Midshipmen, keep up the fine work you are doing. You are the forefront of this great country's military; you are the difference makers in a world filled with complacency. I am proud to have served you, and I know you all will grow to do great things. And finally, to my fellow seniors; stay the course. Continue to work hard in your final semester, you have almost reached the finish line. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments; the Fleet is lucky to have you joining its ranks.





There is No Place Like Nebraska

By Midshipman 2/C Boland



On November 5th, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was honored to have four notable alumni in attendance at the Nebraska v. Northwestern game. Rear Admirals Filipowski, Watters, McAneny, and Lewis served as the game day sentinels. Not in attendance was Rear Admiral Franken, but he was recognized all the same.



Right: RDML Watters throws up the bones in true Husker fashion.



Above: RDML Filipowski was accompanied by his wife and two sons, both of whom went to UNL.



Right: The admirals were recognized before over 80,000 spectators.



Midshipmen in Action

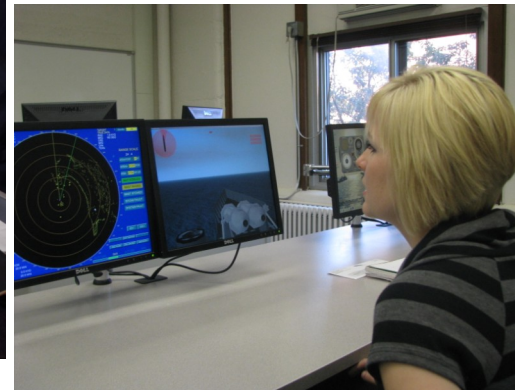
Campus and Community Involvement



Below: Midshipmen Davis and Svoboda, P. are all smiles after they learn about STDs and sexual health.



Below: Midshipman Holdcroft uses the ship simulator in navigation class.



Right: Midshipman Glendenning leads a joint color guard.



Right: The NROTC unit posts the colors at the Nebraska v. Northwestern game.



(Continued on pages 6-7)



(Continued from page 5)

Left: Bravo Company stands at parade rest at the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Ceremony.



Left: Midshipman Tomlinson models a full body wetsuit before sail training.



Right: Midshipman Brown is inspected by Midshipman Whitted.

Right: Midshipman Svoboda, Cleaveland, Walter, and Wolken pose for a picture with midshipmen from Kansas University at the Blue Angels air show in Lincoln, NE.



Right: Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar leads a joint color guard with Midshipmen Brown, Essay, and Mar and also Air Force and Army cadets.



Left: Midshipman Davis works the dance floor at the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Above: Midshipman Chanlynn prepares to clean the rifle range.



Left: Red Lightning is a training evolution exclusive to the Marine Option students, like Midshipman Meharg.



Freshman Orientation Week

By Midshipman 4/C Chanlynn



Whether it was morning physical training (PT), classroom lessons, or drill outside the barracks, freshman orientation week 2011 was an exciting and humbling experience for the incoming freshman class of 2011. Most had their own preconceptions of what it was like to work in a military environment, but everyone would discover what service meant to them in this five-day military orientation; it proved to be a great bonding and learning experience. We were able to meet new people from places all over the country and share the experience of O-week together. The midshipman candidates became qualified third class swimmers, learned the basics of military drilling, experienced physical fitness standards of service, and were introduced to important aspects of military customs. In addition, Navy option midshipmen were given sailing instruction, while Marine option midshipmen learned specifically about the customs, traditions, and

history of the Marine Corps.

It takes years in service to become a knowledgeable military officer, and even after that, a lifetime is spent improving one's leadership skills for the good of the men and women placed under your command. Your responsibility to them is to be as knowledgeable as possible to become capable leaders. Orientation was certainly an eye-opening experience; however, a Naval or Marine Corps officer cannot be made in just five days.

The instructor staff, lead by Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar gave us an introduction to basic military customs and courtesies, but more importantly introduced us to the concept of integrity essential for any officer. Equipped with this basic knowledge, we are able to continue to learn while pursuing our careers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



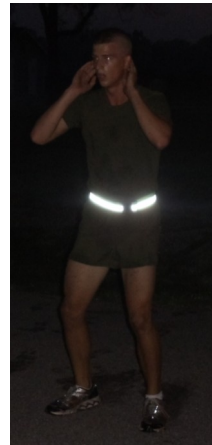
Left: The O-Week participants learned how to properly make their racks, complete with hospital corners.

Below: Captain Whiting delivers the first presentation, a brief overview of NROTC and its mission.

Right: Midshipmen Berg, Chanlynn, and Sheets all sound off during drill practice.



Right: Midshipman Meharg pauses between squat jumps during physical training.



Above: LT Long observes 4/C midshipmen during their 3rd class swim qualifications.



Battalion Rifle/Pistol Team

By Midshipman 3/C Blanke



The Rifle and Pistol team for the battalion has been a huge success this year. After revitalizing the program from years past and rebuilding the team we are pressing forward in the right direction for a great season. We have a lot of depth in the team with a roster of 18 shooters. We have our eyes set on at competitions at universities in Utah and Colorado against several other NROTC units this spring. We hope to make a big splash and show that all our hard work has resulted in high performance.



Above: Midshipman Wolken practices with a pistol.



Above: Midshipman Glendenning takes aim from the sitting position.

Right: Midshipman Brown fires a .22 rifle from the prone position.





Exercise Red Lightning

By Midshipman 3/C Wilcox



From October 7-8, 2011, the Marine Option Midshipmen and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) students of UNL NROTC participated in Exercise Red Lightning 01-11 at Camp Ashland, NE. The primary purpose of the exercise was to test all students in the basic day/night land navigation, fire team in the offense, and field skills required of all Marine Corps officers. For the freshmen class, this was their first experience operating in the field and performing tactical movements. For the sophomore and juniors, this represented an opportunity to lead fire teams in the offensive scenarios. For the Officer Candidates School (OCS) graduates, the exercise enabled them to mentor and instructor others on their lessons learned from previous training.

We began our preparation for the field exercise at the beginning of the year by completing weekly classes introducing us to the techniques and methods that we

would use during the exercise. We studied land navigation and map reading techniques, fire team movement methods, hand and arm signals, cover and concealment methods, first aid applications, equipment accountability lessons, and offensive actions during fire team attacks. Additionally, we prepared for the exercise physically every Tuesday and Friday morning with functional fitness physical training and several conditioning hikes. We were well prepared for the fast pace of the exercise, which began with 500-700 meter point to point day land navigation practical application events and exams. With compass and map in hand, we individually completed a challenge course of 6 points. Following day land navigation, we conducted several hours of rehearsals for the fire team in the offense problems that would face the next morning. The final event of the day was our night land navigation practical application.

With high light from the moon, we

(Continued on pages 12-13)

(Continued from page 11)

skillfully completed a course of 4 points in groups of 2 students. After some well-needed rest and sleep, the final day of the exercise began at 0400 with a 6 mile conditioning hike. Each student carried their standard equipment loadout and rifle, totaling an additional 40 pounds of weight for the hike. After completion of the hike, we moved straight into the main event for the day: fire team in the offense. In 4 different groups of 4 individuals, the students were challenged with 4 different 30 minute problems that included land navigation, tactical movements, and a fire team attack. There the fire team leader was established for the group and they received their mission. By the end of the morning, each student had led their own fire team through a mission, gaining several leadership lessons and being evaluated on their overall performance. When the fire team in the offense events were complete, a mass debrief was held in order to review training objectives and highlight areas of improvement. Overall, the exercise provided us with a great opportunity to test our skills and learning

new methods for application not found in books or manuals. We are more confident in our basic field skills and can't wait to take the next step during Exercise Red Thunder 01-12 during the spring.



Above: Midshipmen 2/C Prewett and Davidson are the next class to go onto Marine Officer Training School (OCS) this upcoming summer.



Above: The exercise instructors, seen above in desert camis, were active duty staff and Midshipmen 1/C OCS graduates.

Below: Midshipman Wilcox practicing buddy rushes.



Below: Midshipmen Kotopka and Von-DerOhe defining sectors of fire.



Below: Midshipman Flannery evaluates Midshipmen Brown and Meharg during fire team practical exams.



Above: The participants of Red Lightning must be Marine Option Midshipmen and also receive additional training in specialized workouts and meeting at least twice for the duration of the year.



Above: Midshipman Brown practices his land navigation skills.



NROTC Sailing Qualifications

Midshipmen I/C Glendenning



As a part of their Officer training, all Navy option midshipmen must become qualified in sailing. Through sail training, the midshipmen build camaraderie, work as a team, and learn the basics of ship handling, navigation rules and water safety.

Sail training begins with swim qualifications, long before any of the midshipmen see a sailboat. Next comes classroom instruction, with an introduction to the parts of a sailboat and the different points of sail. It is also in the classroom that basic knots and the finer points of rigging a sailboat are learned.

After adequate safety and technical training, the midshipmen set sail for the first time. After many hours of sailing and a couple of written tests, the midshipmen are qualified “Skipper B” and have fulfilled the sailing portion of their commissioning requirements.

Along the way, midshipmen learn to work together and foster a sense of teamwork and community. This is, perhaps, the most important facet of the sailing program.

Right: Midshipman Klein hikes out to prevent his boat from capsizing.



Right: The majority of the sailing training happens in the beginning of the fall semester before it becomes too cold.



Left: LT Long is the lead sailing instructor and conducts thorough static displays and practices before midshipmen actually hit the water.

Right: Inexperienced freshmen are sometimes paired with more seasoned upperclassmen, as seen here with Midshipman Berg and Glendenning.





Naval Professional Development Society

By Midshipman 2/C Schiavone



The United States Navy is a service rich in customs and traditions. For the past 236 years it has been the responsibility of each sailor to learn and pass on the knowledge of our illustrious heritage. It was for this reason that two years ago, the Naval Profession Development Society (NPDS) was created at the University of Nebraska NROTC Unit. Since then, its goal has remained to teach and honor the cherished history and traditions of the United States Navy and to foster camaraderie between its members.

Earlier this semester, NPDS hosted the second annual Navy Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony. The cake cutting ceremony is a time-honored tradition in the naval services. It begins with the youngest and oldest sailor present cutting the birthday cake with the ceremonial naval officer's saber. The ceremony continues with the oldest sailor partaking of the cake and symbolically passing it down for the youngest sailor to partake. This ceremony is an important representation of younger generations stepping up to answer the call to serve just as those who went before us have.

NPDS plans to hold several activities in the Spring semester, including community service projects, guest speakers, an outing to a high ropes challenge course, and a formal dining out. Next semester is shaping up to be very exciting for NPDS thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of its members. GO NAVY!





Semper Fidelis Society

By Midshipman 3/C Brown



Semper Fidelis. Always Faithful. This poetic verse and eternal motto is engrained in the heart of every young man and woman that has served in the United States Marine Corps. A group of individuals at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln work to imbue Semper Fidelis as a way of life. It fuels us to work, drive, press onward always, and block out all ideas of quit or surrender. It makes us realize what we truly value as important in our lives and cuts out the rest. And during the times of unrest and hard work we find each other, to our right and to our left, heads down, feet forward, standing with us. As an individual we are strong, but as many we are unconquerable; relying on our brothers and sisters in arms is what we rely on to succeed. Out of the fires of this camaraderie the Semper Fidelis Society was forged.

The Semper Fidelis Society has been a part of the UNL NROTC program for decades. However, this

year the student-led organization has changed directions. We instituted a plan to attain a new level of fellowship, community involvement, and peer mentorship. Already this year we have accomplished several camaraderie and service adventures, to include a group canoe trip down the Niobrara River, a society-only mess night, and supporting Wounded Warriors and Socks for Soldiers charities. After the rousing success of this semester, we are very excited to get underway with even bigger and better events, culminating in a society-only trip this spring to Washington D.C. The future of our organization has never been brighter. We can't wait to see what the spring holds for our society. Semper Fidelis.





The Joint Field Meet

By Midshipman 3/C Harrington



In the Navy ROTC, winning the joint field meet is tradition. For over a decade, NROTC beat Air Force and Army in the field meet. That was until last year. This year we trained hard and practiced to reclaim the commander's cup. The competition is full of physical activities including ultimate frisbee, tug-o-war, pull-ups, log sit ups, push-ups, stretcher relay, dizzy izzy, and a mile and a half run. The stretcher relay team practiced the hardest and their hard work paid off. They finished the race well ahead of the competition. Another huge contributing factor to our win was the ultimate frisbee team. The field meet was all tied up until a sudden death match of frisbee against the Air Force. After a big winning catch, the Navy and Marine Corps took the lead to win the meet. Our winning tradition of the joint field meet represents how important physical fitness is to the Navy and Marine Corps and how we continue to strive to perform at our best.

Below: The midshipmen prepare for the log sit-ups event.



Below: Midshipman Larson gathers his balance before sprinting off to help win the dizzy izzy.



Right: The NROTC team competes in the tug-of-war event and is motivated by their fellow midshipmen.



Above: Midshipman Berg pushes his pace as he rounds the final corner of the 1.5 mile race.



Above: Midshipman Glendenning, Houchin, Chanlynn, Hoffman, Essay, and Blanke rejoice after they took first place in the stretcher relay.



The Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball

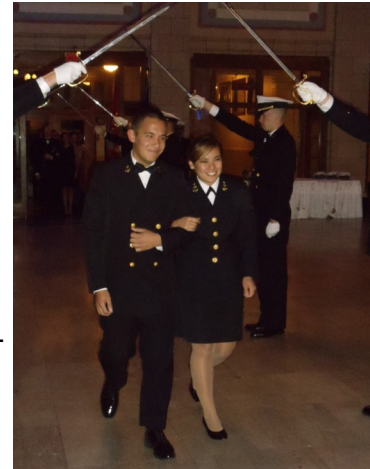
By Midshipman 1/C Kromberg



On October 21, 2011, the NROTC Battalion held the 236th Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Lincoln Station Great Hall. In addition to more than 60 students and their dates, the guest list included active duty personnel, retired military professionals, and veterans of our country's wars. Attending as the Guest of Honor was Colonel Eric T. Litaker (retired). Colonel Litaker commanded the NROTC unit at UNL before retiring from the Marine Corps and joining the university's Physics Department.

The event began with the cocktail hour, giving the guests a chance to mingle with each other. Promptly at 1900, the ceremony began when the guest of honor was escorted to his seat by the Battalion Commander, Midshipman Whitted. Then, the graduating seniors made their entrance through the sword arch. The ceremony continued with the cutting of the 236th Birthday Cake, the battalion commander's remarks, the guest of honor's speech, and the birthday messages from the CNO, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and General Lejeune. Upon conclusion of the ceremony, dinner was served and guests enjoyed beef, chicken, or vegetarian lasagna with garden vegetables. Shortly after the meal, toasts were given and the dance began. The music continued well into the night.

Thanks to the countless midshipmen who dedicated their time and resources, this year's Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball was an incredible success. Guests and midshipmen alike were treated to an enjoyable evening of camaraderie and celebration of the Navy and Marine Corps' proud heritage, a heritage that will pass on for years to follow.



Right: The Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball is a great time for the staff, midshipmen, dates, guests, and parents to all come together and celebrate the traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps. It is the highlight of the fall semester.



Right: Following the ceremony and dinner, midshipmen and guests are encouraged to loosen up on the dance floor. Dancing expertise is not required.



Left: Midshipman Svoboda escorts his date, Midshipman Alt, through the sword arch. It is an honor reserved only for 1/C midshipmen.



Fall Graduates

Congratulations!



Brian Houchens
Indianapolis, IN
Finance
Surface Warfare



Richard Holdcroft
Bellevue, NE
Mechanical Engineering
Aviation



Ryan Reeder
Lincoln, NE
Political Science
The Basic School

Fall 2011 UNL NROTC Battalion



Alpha Company
Company Commander:
Midshipman 2/C Davidson



Bravo Company
Company Commander:
Midshipman 2/C Stone



Future UNL NROTC Events



- 08 Jan 2012: Report no later than date for all UNL NROTC students
- 09 Jan 2012: First day of spring 2012 classes at UNL
- 26 Jan 2012: Strategic Command Officer Visit
- 16-18 Feb 2012: Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA
- 22-26 Feb 2012: Notre Dame NROTC Leadership Conference
- 09 Mar 2012: Battalion Mess Night
- 16-19 Mar 2012: Semper Fidelis Society Washington, D.C. Professional Trip
- 18-25 Mar 2012: Spring Break
- 06-07 Apr 2012: Exercise Red Thunder 01-12 USMC Field Training @ Camp Ashland, NE
- 13-15 Apr 2012: University of Memphis Rifle and Pistol Team Competition
- 19 Apr 2012 = Chancellor's Review 2012
- 28 Apr 2012 = Last day of spring 2012 classes
- 03 Apr-04 May 2012 = Finals week
- 05 May 2012 = Undergraduate commencement & commissioning ceremonies at UNL

Dear NROTC Alumni and extended family,

For the Midshipmen, Sailors, and Marines of the NROTC Unit, University of Nebraska, training continues to develop these future military leaders through a broad range of valuable experiences, such as the Tulane University Drill Competition, the University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference, and Orientation Week (“O-Week”). Unfortunately, Navy funds cannot be spent in the execution of such events. If you are interested in helping our students attend these excellent developmental opportunities, please consider providing a monetary donation (**UNL Foundation #27780**). Your donation will directly support the students’ travel and lodging costs, enabling the further development of future generations of leaders.

Thank you. GO BIG RED!

Very Respectfully,
J. B. Whiting
Captain, United States Navy
Professor of Naval Science

REMINDER: Your financial contributions allow the NROTC Foundation to make students stronger in all areas. Your donations to the NROTC through the UNL Alumni Association are always welcomed and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your generous support!

PLEASE VISIT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS PUBLICATION FOR THE DONATION FORM

Congratulations Top 6 Leaders for Spring 2012

Battalion Commander:
MIDN 1/C Svoboda, R.

Battalion Executive Officer:
MIDN 1/C Glendenning

Operations Officer:
MIDN 2/C Boland

Administration Officer:
MIDN 2/C Stone

Alpha Company Commander:
MIDN 2/C Snow

Bravo Company Commander:
MIDN 2/C Koch



TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Evelyn Boland
Tide and Current Advisor: Major Alex Ramthun

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

The Blackshirts of National Defense



University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Naval Reserve Officers 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.

Visit us on the web at www.unl.edu/nrotc

YES! I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT NROTC!

Enclosed is my check made payable to: UNL Foundation #27780 for \$ _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Note: All personal information is kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with any organization outside NROTC.

PLEASE DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL TO: NROTC at UNL

**Attn: Commanding Officer
103 M&N Building
Lincoln, NE 68588-0139**

