



TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Janice Vanourney
 Tide and Current Advisor: Captain Mitch Grey

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

Congratulations Top 6, Fall 2009

Battalion Commander: MIDN Jared Dawson
 Battalion Executive Officer: MIDN Joseph Boyer
 Operations Officer: MIDN William Walter
 Administration Officer: MIDN Joseph Broman
 A Company Commander: MIDN Matthew Zach
 B Company Commander: MIDN Daniel Walkemeyer

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

The Blackshirts of National Defense



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.



**UNIVERSITY OF
 NEBRASKA
 NAVAL ROTC
 SPRING
 2009**



CO's Corner *By Colonel Eric Litaker*



As we close out another Spring semester and another academic year, it is appropriate to reflect on the accomplishments of our Unit. Some of the highlights of this semester include the annual Tulane Drill Competition; a local marksmanship competition between the Naval, Army, and Air Force ROTC programs; and a variety of opportunities to interact with Flag Officers, specifically during a visit to USSTRATCOM and in two separate visits by alumni who are now Admirals. As has been the case in the past, our students have acquitted themselves well in these activities, and all of our students can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

CO's Corner	1-2
XO's Corner	2-3
BNCO's Corner	3-4
Battalion Events	5
The Big Red Road Show	6
Peoples' City Mission	7
Mess Night	8
Tulane Drill Meet	9
Battalion Picnic	10
STRATCOM Tour	11
SULE	12-13
Graduating Seniors	14-15

The issue of the Campus Recreation Center's expansion has come up again this semester in the form of a student referendum. This particular referendum addressed limited upgrades to the Recreation Center which appeared to have no impact on the Pershing Military and Naval Science building. The student population voted in favor of the upgrades, but against using student fees to pay for the upgrades. The resolution of the matter remains uncertain.

As we close out this semester we will commission several of our students and prepare to send most of the rest off to summer training. In addition, this summer marks the end of my tour here. It has been my privilege and my honor to serve alongside the staff of the unit, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with our stu-

(Continued on page 2)

dents. When the students return in the fall they will have new leadership to assist them in their efforts to prepare to become officers in the United States Naval Services. I wish them fair winds, following seas, and God Speed.



XO's Corner

By Commander John Long

It's hard to believe, the school year is over. The spring semester has absolutely flown by. The end of another school year means many things. For those of you living out of state, it may mean a return to family. For those residing in Nebraska, it may mean an opportunity to get together with old friends and catch up on each others lives since high school. For all of you however, it will be a chance to advance your professional education through participation in one of the summer training programs; CORTRAMID or a summer cruise.

Summer training is a unique opportunity for the type of hands-on training and job experience that is totally absent in other fields of endeavor. CORTRAMID offers you the opportunity to explore potential career options and gain enough of an appreciation for all warfare communities to be comfortable even should you not get your first choice when service assignment rolls around. For those of you going on cruise this summer, it is a great opportunity to get a head start on your career. There is so much you can learn and take away from the experience that will only help you as a first tour division officer or platoon leader. The key to getting the most from your experience, whether on a ship, in a squadron, or at Mountain Warfare School, is how you approach it.

I have seen Midshipmen arrive in the squadron and onboard ship with the attitude that they will put in the time, because they have to, and hopefully get some good liberty out of the deal. I have seen others who showed up with the intent to really learn. Unlike your first real tour, summer cruise is a no-threat environment in which to ask questions, learn some of the basics, and possibly even apply some of the things you have been exposed to here at the Unit. And it's not just Midshipmen who may approach summer cruise with the wrong attitude. I have seen junior officers whose goal has been to show Midshipmen a good time rather than introduce them to a profession. Clearly, that's not what we or 'Big Navy' have in mind when we send you off. Don't get me wrong; there will be opportunities for liberty and you will likely return home with 'sea stories' that you will retell for many years, but goal is to better prepare you for your first tour.

Congratulations Seniors!



MAJOR:

History

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Taylor
Mayport, FL



Ensign Kline

MAJOR:

Geography

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School
Quantico, VA



2nd Lt Erickson

Congratulations Seniors!



MAJOR:

Construction Management

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Naval Flight School
Pensacola, FL



Ensign Feay



Ensign Hallahan

MAJOR:

History

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Kauffman
Norfolk, VA

Summer training certainly offers the chance to learn damage control measures or get some 'stick time' in an aircraft or simulator but another benefit is exposure to leaders. I don't think we can really teach leadership here in the classroom, but I do believe it can be learned and it can be best learned by observation. Summer cruise is a great laboratory for you to learn leadership by watching leaders, good or bad, in action. This may be the most important experience offered by summer training. Pay attention and ask questions. Make the most of your time and remember, you will be the junior officer hosting Midshipmen in the not too distant future.

Changing gears, I will be departing for a new assignment at USSTRATCOM this summer. During a recent NS 412 session, we talked about military family life and stress, and moving was number two on my list stressors. This upcoming move back to STRATCOM will certainly be stress free at least from the perspective of packing, shipping, and unpacking household goods. I won't have to do any of that. The part of moving which we did not discuss however is the departure from a satisfying billet. My time here has certainly been rewarding and unlike some other postings, I am not anxious to leave. It is not without some sadness that I say good-bye to the university and Battalion but this too is part of the career and lifestyle we have chosen. As I have had many farewells in the past you can look forward to many in your futures but remember that each departure brings with it the prospect of a bright new day. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work over the last three years. Collectively, you have enjoyed many successes. I would especially like to thank the current Battalion staff for their efforts. Congratulations to our graduating seniors and best wishes to all as you continue to work toward your personal and professional goals.

BNCO's Corner

By MIDN Nick Erickson

I have always admired the previous Battalion Commanders (BNCOs) for being motivated, cool-headed, and dedicated to the Battalion. However, after this past semester, I have come to realize that it was not the BNCO, but the Midshipmen, and prior enlisted members of the Battalion, who make the BNCO and the Battalion successful. Nothing we do can be done by one person, it all requires teamwork. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication; we could not have accomplished anything without the midshipmen in this Battalion, and the midshipmen staff.



Spring semester is always busy. We started off the semester traveling south to New Orleans to compete in the Annual Tulane University Mardi Gras Drill competition. We sent teams for platoon drill and inspection, squad drill, and color guard, placing 13th overall. We started an annual inter-service rifle/pistol competition with the Air Force and Army ROTC units here at UNL. Throughout the semester, we had the pleasure of meeting three Admirals and numerous other officers who were able to pass along their lessons learned and advice for our future as junior officers.

If I could leave you with some advice that I have picked up throughout my four years here, I would tell you first and foremost to ask questions and to make mistakes here while at school. Seek advice from your prior enlisted members because they have most likely seen or been in a similar situation. They can give you some great tips and advice for doing it right. All you have to do is ask. Be confident in everything you do. Have motivation to complete tasks to the best of your ability whether you want to do it or not. And finally, do not take anything personally. Learn from your mistakes and move on. That is what is expected.

As Midshipmen Battalion Commander, I am able to see the larger picture of the development of Midshipmen in this program. I am able to look back to my freshman year and to know how much I have been developed as a leader in this organization. Initiative, perseverance, and dedication to this Battalion are unmatched by any other organization within the rest of this university. From unceasing early mornings and late nights of studying for tests and briefs, to self-sacrifice of free time to practice for competitions, these Battalion members are being set up for success. The United States Naval Forces will be more than prepared for the future because of the caliber of leaders we produce here at UNL. I am honored to have been part of this fine organization, and am able to leave this program with the pride and confidence that the University of Nebraska Naval ROTC unit is producing some of the finest leaders for this great nation.



(Above) Midshipmen push forward to reach the objective and accomplish the mission.

UNL NROTC Battalion



SULE

Every spring, the Marine Option midshipmen travel to Camp Ashland to participate in a Small Unit Leadership Exercise (SULE). This is an opportunity for midshipmen heading to Officer Candidates School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia, to conduct field training.



(Above) MIDN Feay simulates a downed pilot. The midshipmen's mission in this problem was to locate and retrieve him.



(Above/ Below) Midshipmen are conducting some of the various SULE problems they were presented.



(Above) In order for the Marine options to complete their tasks, they need aggressors. MIDN Hunt, Walkemeyer, Lewis (Chris), Lewis (Chad), Dawson, and Feay wait to begin the SULE phases.



Battalion Events

(Right) UNL NROTC alum, Rear Admiral McAneny stopped by to briefly address the Battalion. During his visit, the midshipmen also received a brief on the submarine community from LT Hector Marin.



(Left) One lab event this semester was a drill competition between Alpha and Bravo company. Bravo Company was determined the winner over Alpha Company.

(Below) Rear Admiral Watters, UNL NROTC alum, stops by to offer the midshipmen words of advice and encouragement. He also shared some of the knowledge he has gained over his illustrious military career.

(Far Left) Colonel Litaker administers the oath to Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar while promoting him.

(Left) Midshipman Boyer leads several members of the Battalion in a guided discussion



The Big Red Road Show

By *MIDN Justin Davis*



In mid February, the University of Nebraska hosted its annual Big Red Road Show in Omaha, Nebraska. The UNL Naval ROTC Unit set up a recruiting booth and distributed pamphlets, lanyards, T-shirts and other items to people interested in the program. This event provided a great way for midshipmen to explain the life of a NROTC student, and the benefits of being a midshipman. Both Navy and Marines each had their own fair share of interested prospects. All the Midshipmen involved had a great time, and the interaction with prospective students about the NROTC was beneficial to everyone.

(Below) MIDN Flannery gets geared up for The Big Red Roadshow.



(Above) MIDN Wetzel answers questions.



(Left) MIDN Abbott speaks with a mother about UNL's NROTC program. The midshipmen fielded questions concerning the NROTC Unit, and the military in general.

Tour At STRATCOM

By *MIDN Janice Vanourney*



On Thursday February 12, 2009, the UNL NROTC battalion took a trip to Offutt Air Force Base located in Bellevue, Nebraska. The unit was there to tour the United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM). STRATCOM is one of ten US unified commands under the Department of Defense. The Command employs members from all four services who work together to accomplish the Command's operationally-focused global strategic mission.

The midshipmen began their tour with a welcome brief from Vice Admiral Carl Mauney, who is the Deputy Commander at STRATCOM. During his brief, he discussed his role at STRATCOM, and highlighting some of his own personal accomplishments. Following the brief was a tour of Headquarters building. Because a majority of the information throughout this building is classified, the screens of most of the monitors were blacked out. Midshipmen were also restricted to specific areas. This allowed for all the midshipmen (not just those with secret security clearances) to participate in the tour. A portion was led by the former Commanding Officer at the Naval ROTC Unit, Colonel David Walter.

From the Headquarters building, the Battalion moved to a room where the Director of Global Operations, Rear Admiral Doug McClain, gave a brief on "Operation Burnt Frost." The Admiral, a former Blue Angel pilot, explained to the midshipmen how the team of 15 STRATCOM workers successfully shot down a potentially dangerous lame satellite that was reentering the earth's atmosphere. This mission was a key example of the joint forces mission of STRATCOM.

Once the Admiral's brief concluded, the midshipmen made their way to the flight line where they toured an E-6 aircraft. They and were also provided an opportunity to speak with the crew. When this part of the tour concluded, the Battalion made one final stop; the Patriot Club (the base Officer's Club). There, they were afforded the chance to talk with several of the Naval Officers (including Admiral McClain) they had met throughout the day, while enjoying a burger and a soda.

This outing provided a wonderful opportunity for the UNL midshipmen to meet a few highly regarded officers in the nation. The trip was informative and interesting for the students. All the employees of STRATCOM were warm and courteous in their effort to teach the midshipmen about the importance of the mission of US Strategic Command.

Picnic

The end of the year picnic is an opportunity for the midshipmen to wrap-up the semester with a fun event, and identify the new Battalion Staff. (Left) MIDN Hallahan cooking up burgers and hotdogs for the Battalion with MIDN Wetzel assisting him.



(Below) Some of the freshman sit patiently at a nearby table while they wait for the meal to be prepared.



Midshipmen partake in various recreational activities. (Above) MIDN Holdcroft tosses a Frisbee. (Below) Midshipmen sadly look out at a football that was thrown into the lake.



The Peoples' City Mission

(Left) Here, Midshipmen Lewis and Powell clean a window in the lobby of the City Mission. The Midshipmen conducted a thorough cleaning of the Mission. In addition, they assisted in sorting clothing, food, and furniture.



(Right) MIDN Hallahan cleans and stocks a bread shelf. Midshipmen inventoried and removed all expired food items which could no longer be given away, and restocked the bread shelves with fresh items. Such tasks helped out the staff at the City Mission tremendously by allowing them to focus on other tasks around the establishment.



(Left) MIDN Whitted works on his window washing skills. Midshipmen were able to accomplish all assigned tasks and move on to other jobs in a timely manner. The City Mission's staff were very appreciative with all the hard work and efforts of the midshipmen.



Mess Night

By MIDN Nathan Jurgens



Mess Night is easily one of the most anticipated events of the year for the midshipmen. Mess Night is the main event for the Semper Fi Society. (Above-Left) MIDN Erickson levees a fine on a fellow midshipmen. (Above-Right) Guest of Honor, Colonel Wogaman, offers words of advice and encouragement to members of the Battalion. (Bottom-Left) MIDN Zach serenades a bride-to-be outside the Embassy Suites. (Bottom-Right) Here, Sgt Johnson and MIDN Lacy are being fined for their silly antics earlier in the semester.



Tulane Drill Meet

By MIDN Nathan Jurgens



After spending countless hours of preparation, the time had finally come for the UNL NROTC Drill Team to make the annual trip to the Tulane Drill Meet. The Drill meet is hosted by Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. On competition day, each team performed admirably; the platoon placed 20th in inspection and 14th in platoon basic drill. Color guard placed 10th, squad drill placed 8th and overall the team placed 13th. The 13th place finish was especially impressive considering the drill team did not perform in the exhibition event. The following morning, we packed up our gear and headed back to Lincoln. Looking back, this trip was an incredibly rewarding experience. We left Tulane with a sense of pride in what we had accomplished. We are really looking forward to next year and the opportunity to improve on this year's achievements.

