

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
NAVAL ROTC  
SPRING 2011  
TIDE  
&  
CURRENT**



## Help Wanted: Recruiting Assistance

*By Captain Jeffrey Whiting*

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As we come to a close of my second year at UNL, I have to reflect on how lucky I am to only be half way through my tour. Working with our midshipmen is an extremely rewarding experience for me, both personally and professionally. I can say with pride and certainty that we prepare midshipmen to be successful junior officers, and I

could not be more excited to have two more years here.

I am surprised however, at how few national scholarship applicants desire to come to UNL. While there has been some negative impact on the total size of the NROTC program because of budgetary considerations, students applying to UNL seem to be unaware or uninterested in NROTC. Or perhaps those interested in NROTC do not perceive UNL to be a premier location to start a naval career. To contradict that point of view, I must highlight that there are currently five UNL graduates serving on active duty in the rank of admiral: RADM Douglas J. McAneny, RADM Robin M.

Watters, RDML Michael T. Franken, RDML Sean R. Filipowski, and RDML Davis H. Lewis. Congratulations to these alumni for their stellar accomplishments! (You can see their biographies on our webpage at <http://www.unl.edu/nrotc/alum.shtml>.)

This upcoming school year we are expecting a very small incoming class of

*(Continued on page 2)*

approximately 10 national scholarship students. We will increase that number through local recruiting of College Program students. However, there is a high level of competition to convert from college program to scholarship, and even competition for conversion to advanced standing in the college program has become a reality. Unfortunately, we have had competitive future officers who were not able to continue NROTC past their sophomore year because of this. They will have to pursue other paths to fulfill their dreams of becoming commissioned officers.

The point of my letter is to ask all who receive it to help spread the word about NROTC at UNL. We need more students that want to be a part of this outstanding battalion in Nebraska (and other states) to apply for national scholarships. My staff and I are always available to provide information or tours to parents and students or to come to you and give presentations on NROTC and UNL. Feel free to call, 402-472-2475, to make arrangements with us. With your help, I would like to see the battalion growing in the next few years. Thank you for your continued support and your future recruiting efforts.

## Go Navy!

*By Commander Kevin Wesley*



It's "Commissioning Time" again! This is a very exciting time in the Battalion, particularly for the Seniors. Following commissioning, our graduates will report to the Submarine, Aviation, and Marine Corps communities—the University of Nebraska NROTC will be well represented!

Nearly as exciting as commissioning, are summer cruises and various other Fleet training opportunities that await the rest of the Battalion. Summer training events with the "real" Navy are invaluable, so maximizing every opportunity to learn about every aspect of the Navy/Marine Corps team that all of you will join shortly is paramount—and **fun**! While engaged in summer training, and throughout your Naval experience, please keep the remarks made by Master Chief Morgan in mind when reporting for summer training—live the Navy *Core Values*, conduct personal ORM, and take care of your *Buddy*—did I mention have **fun**!

Please remember, living by the Navy's *Core Values* is a lifestyle—it doesn't change when you are on Summer Break, in a leave status, in a foreign port, or any other locale or disposition. All of you are representatives of the Navy's finest ROTC Unit, the University of Nebraska and ambassadors of the United States Navy and our Nation. Be proud, professional, engaged, and train hard!

Ooh-Rah!  
Go NAVY!

## The Battalion Pulse

*By Midshipman I/C Jeffrey Skiles*

When I received word that I was selected for the position of Battalion Commander (BNCO) last semester, I was excited and nervous. Looking back on those feelings now, I can say that they were justified. Excitement created by the challenge of new responsibility, challenges, and possibilities; nervousness following in the ambiguous future and how to deal with the coming difficulties and responsibilities. This though was completely natural and a common experience for anyone who chooses to join NROTC at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I commend the freshman for their acceptance and perseverance through this new challenge, as well as the other members of the Battalion who have made it through another semester. Doing so is not an easy feat and few even accept the challenge.

The Battalion had, what I would say is, one of the best semesters since my arrival in 2007. Numerous guest speakers, from the top of officer and enlisted ranks, came to share their knowledge and advice to help prepare us for the future that lies ahead. Our Drill Team competed in the Mardi Gras Drill Competition, held at Tulane University, where they placed 13th out of 38 schools from across the country. At the Chancellor's Review, 22 members of our Battalion were honored with awards that recognized their development as leaders and their academic excellence. The Midshipmen were also involved in many community service events, such as volunteering at the Lincoln City Mission and "The Big Event," geared towards aiding the members and environment of our local community. As the semester has drawn to a close, it is hard to believe that we were involved and accomplished so much in a semester that seems to have started only days ago.

We have begun a period of growth and evolution that is continuous throughout our careers. This necessary growth is monitored and aided by our advisors and the Battalion staff, to whom I send my thanks. Without these people, our goals could not be reached and we could not accomplish so much. The staff are not the only crucial part of this growth; I give my thanks to the parents, alumni, and supporters of our Battalion. Your support enables us to learn, develop, and lead. Lastly, best wishes to my fellow graduating seniors and good luck to the rest of the Battalion. Remember that you come from a strong tradition of excellence and that you represent those who you lead and those who have made you the leader that you will be.



Go Big Red!

## Battalion Activities



### Marine Corps Operations

Midshipman Blanke (right) learns day land navigation skills from Midshipman Lee (left) during Marine Corps operations training.

### Mess Night

Midshipman Schiavone (left) and Midshipman Koch (right) enjoy mess night,



### Self Defense Training

Midshipman Larson disarms Midshipman Kromberg during self defense lab.

### **Mardi Gras Drill Meet**

The drill team prepares to execute platoon close order drill while competing in the Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.



### **Exercise Red Thunder**

Midshipman Grimes directs a fire team towards an objective during Exercise Red Thunder.

### **University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference**

Several Midshipmen enjoy liberty while attending the University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference. In South Bend, Indiana.



## Big Red Roadshow and Military Leadership Day



*By Midshipmen Sara  
Prewett and Evelyn Boland*



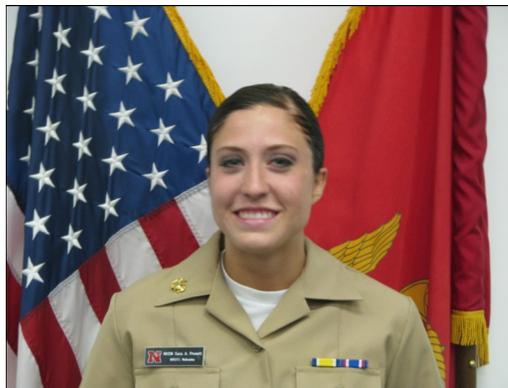
The battalion's first recruiting event of the semester was the Big Red Road Show, sponsored by University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Big Red Road Show was held at the Quest Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The event was coordinated to provide high school students a place to see all the different opportunities, communities, and areas of study available to them at UNL. Each individual college was represented along with many student organizations including each ROTC community.

The Naval ROTC booth contained information on all of the different programs offered in the unit including Navy, Marines, Nurse Options, Officer Candidates, (OC) and Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). NROTC Midshipman volunteers were available to answer any questions and provide additional information about collegiate life as an NROTC student. As thousands of high school students passed by, many were informed for the first time of what the program has to offer. The booth displayed typical recruiting propaganda along with many informational flyers, highlighting the different areas one can go into once they commission into the Navy or the Marine Corps, for students to take home and consider.

This recruiting event proved to be a success for the battalion. It enabled Midshipmen to actively recruit potential new members, acquire contact information on interest sheets, and demonstrate positive campus involvement. This year, a record number of interest sheets were collected and have been converted into an online database so that they can be more easily utilized for the new NROTC recruiting email system. It also helped raise ROTC interest and will possibly lead to a rise in battalion's numbers. The Big Red Roadshow was and will continue to be a great recruiting event for the UNL NROTC battalion. It is a great occasion for the battalion to show our support and pride of the military and to actively recruit for the Navy.

Military Leadership Day was another recruiting event that we were invited to this semester. The event was hosted by Nebraska Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and Senator Mike Johans. It was coordinated to provide Nebraska students an opportunity to learn more about the Military academy selection and application process, more specifically the nomination procedure from the Congressman and Senator. Alumni representatives from West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force, Coast Guard, and Maritime Academies were all in attendance at meetings all over Nebraska, most notably in Omaha and Lincoln. The ROTC communities were also represented as an alternative to the academy. Although NROTC was not the primary focus of the event, UNL Midshipmen utilized the time and opportunity to reach out and inform high school students about the perks and scholarship options ROTC offers.

Midshipman Evelyn Boland was the Recruiting officer for this semester and she helped to organize the unit's involvement in both the Big Red Roadshow and Military Leadership Day.



Midshipman Sara Prewett attended the Big Red Roadshow and helped facilitate the success of the unit during the event.

# Exercise Red Thunder

*By Midshipman Adam Flannery*

All Marine Option Midshipmen know the year is coming to an end when we embark on our spring field exercise. This spring's exercise was cleverly nicknamed "Exercise Red Thunder" and all the underclassmen knew they were in for an outstanding experience like no other. With the help of Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduate seniors and Major Ramthun leading the way, we were able to increase our training by adding an extra day to the event and employing rotary-wing assault aircraft. A total of three days and two nights were spent in the field at Camp Ashland, NE. The field exercises was highlighted by the execution of an helicopter-borne assault using UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. This was the first time such event in Naval ROTC history; no other universities had attempted to be so bold.

Following the helicopter assault, the Marine Option Midshipmen were put through an intense curriculum to better prepare them for OCS. Field review classes included shelter half construction, day and night land navigation, field hygiene, and fire team & squad tactics. As the exercise progressed, the Midshipmen were able to apply classroom-style knowledge in a field environment. The training challenged the midshipmen both mentally and physically. With the seniors and GySgt Aguilar encouraging the Midshipmen to move with speed and intensity; they were able to simulate the environment that may be experienced in the operating forces.

During the second day out in the field, we demonstrated our knowledge of land navigation by locating four points. We had to tactically move over a kilometer through dense foliage to reach some of the points. After every team successfully plotted and found every point we moved on to fire team and squad tactics. Each student executed the duties of fire team leader; the junior class took turns leading squads, demonstrating leadership and tactics to capture an objective. As night fell on the second day, we prepared for night land navigation. This proved more difficult than expected since many of us were already thinking ahead on what faced us the next morning.

An early reveille the next day was sounded and we quickly began a 15 mile hike . We hiked through the morning, exhausted from the previous two days. Morale was high; everyone knew the hike signaled a point close to the end of training. The hike was completed as the sun was rising on Sunday morning. After completing the hike the Corpsman checked over our feet; we executed our final squad attacks and ended the exercises with a detailed debrief prior to returning to campus.

Overall, the training was a success. The intense physical requirement proved that we could overcome any obstacle put before us. With an improved knowledge of how to conduct operations in the field, we were all better prepared for the challenges that may soon face us as future Marine Corps Officers.

Marine Option Midshipmen conduct on/off training drills aboard UH-60 Blackhawks at Lincoln International Airport in preparation for their helicopter-borne assault.



The lead helicopter takes off and begins its flight route to the objective area at Camp Ashland, Nebraska.

Midshipmen Mar (far right) directs his fire team to change tactical formations prior to assaulting an objective.

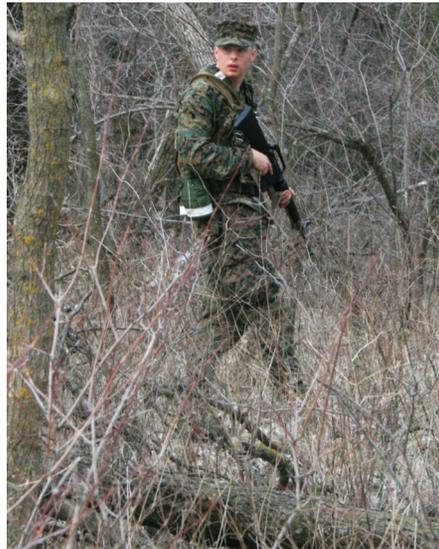


Midshipmen experience a variety of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) during field chow time.



Midshipman Mar eagerly awaits to board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for transit to Camp Ashland, NE.

Midshipman Whitted copies down his squad's 5-paragraph order prior to an attack.



Midshipman Evans checks his 6-o'clock position in order to prevent a rear ambush from enemy forces.

Sgt. Muller and Midshipman Flannery execute day land navigation.



## Returning to Our Marine Corps Roots



*By Major A. J.  
"Meatloaf" Ramthun*



Returning from duty in July 2010 with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines in Marjeh, Afghanistan, my primary goal as the new Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) was to transform UNL NROTC's Marine Option midshipmen into versatile leaders. The Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI), Gunnery Sergeant Aguilar, and I reviewed previous training policies and implemented significant changes to the Marine Corps training program in order to meet our ultimate objective: commission outstanding Marine Corps officers. First, we internally increased our physical fitness standards. This included introducing monthly hikes (varying from 3-15 miles in length), bi-annual field exercises at Camp Ashland, NE, and forming a long distance running club. Second, we instituted new classroom training designed to better prepare the midshipmen not just for Officer Candidate School (OCS), but for the challenges juniors officers face while serving in the operating forces. Third, we initiated multi-dimensional field training, to include a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter assault on a defended, pillbox objective. Fourth, we invited Marine Lieutenants and Captains with recent combat experience in both Iraq and Afghanistan to UNL in order present a true vision of Marine Corps officer life while serving on the front lines of the War on Terrorism. Finally, we expanded the scope of the student's own fraternity-like organization: Semper Fidelis Society. Charity work, visits with Marine Corps veterans, paintball tournaments, professional military education, and other social events represent the organizations new vision.

The AMOI and I are pleased to report the changes have stimulated Marine Corps interest and motivated more individuals to seek a commission as a leader of Marines. As a collective group, physical fitness scores and academic grades have steadily increased, setting a new bar for future midshipmen to reach. After executing the first helicopter borne assault training event in Naval ROTC history, our students have a greater appreciation for the exciting challenges awaiting them in the future. We are very proud of the accomplishments and transformation of the Marine Corps students at UNL NROTC. If you would like to participate in future UNL NROTC Marine Corps events, please contact me at [aramthun2@unl.edu](mailto:aramthun2@unl.edu). We would welcome any support from local alumni looking to make a difference in lives of future officers.

# Tulane Drill Competition

*By Midshipman Miles Essay*

The UNL NROTC drill teams competed at the Mardi Gras Drill Meet from 03-06 March 2011 at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Breaking past precedent of driving to the event, the drill team enjoyed C-9 military air transportation to/from the events. On 4 MAR 11, the drill team executed several graded events, to include platoon inspection, platoon drill, squad drill, and color guard drill. Out of 38 schools competing, UNL NROTC placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall, beating out schools such as Virginia Military Institute and The Citadel. After the competition, everyone prepared for liberty and a team dinner at the House of Blues, just off Bourbon Street. Post-dinner, we executed liberty in the French Quarter, taking part in the Mardi Gras festivities. On the 5 MAR 11, we took a tour of the D-Day museum in downtown New Orleans. This museum showcases weapons, equipment, methods, and first-hand accounts from the people who were there. A very historically rewarding experience, the drill team enjoyed what they saw and learned a bit about World War II history. An interesting connection to the D-Day landings, the Higgins boat was invented by Nebraskan native Andrew Higgins, from Columbus, NE. His invention singlehandedly enabled Allied forces to successfully conduct multiple amphibious landings during World War II. Later that night, the Drill Team enjoyed their final night of liberty before returning to UNL. Prior to the return flight, a debriefing was held to discuss changes to the drill team operations for the next year of competition to stimulate future top finishes. The drill team looks forward to competing again in New Orleans and possibly at other competitions such as the Colorado and Wisconsin Invitationals. A special congratulations goes out to Midshipman 2/C Flannery, who was recently named the drill team commander for the fall 2011-spring 2012 season.

MIDN Syers calls cadence for the color guard during the competition in New Orleans, LA.



## Notre Dame Leadership Conference

*By Midshipman Jared Mar*

Five Midshipmen from the UNL NROTC Battalion had the special opportunity to attend the University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference in South Bend, Indiana. For sixteen consecutive years, the Notre Dame NROTC program has invited Midshipmen from across the country to participate in a three day event to receive lectures on leadership and military ethics from officers and academic professors and to discuss those issues with their peers. It was a wonderful environment open conversations about critical issues and challenges we will be facing as future Naval and Marines Corps officers. This year's theme was "Dynamic Leadership from Positional Perspectives." The guest speakers shared the challenges and rewards of leadership from two different perspectives: size of command and command climate unique to our major warfare communities. There was a wide range of distinguished leaders within the Marine Corps and Naval communities that spoke to us. They included: CAPT Matthew Dolan, USN, Navy SEAL and current Staff Judge advocate at the U.S. Naval Academy, RDML Brian LaRoche, USN, Deputy Commander of Military Sealift Command, Dr. Paul Whitesell, former Marine and current Superintendent of the Indiana State Police, CDR Mark Prokopius, USN, Deputy for Readiness, Submarine Squadron 6, Col Julian Alford, USMC, Commanding Officer of The Basic School, and finally as a special guest speaker, VADM William McRaven, USN, Navy SEAL and current commander of the Joint Special Operations Command. We received great instruction from officers who are serving in many different areas within the military. We also had multiple opportunities to meet Midshipmen from across the country and discuss different aspects of our battalions. For example, I had dinner with a Midshipman from California who informed me that this was the first year their NROTC battalion has worn their uniforms on campus and exercised as a battalion. The battalion here at UNL is very fortunate to be on a wonderful campus where those who wear the uniform are shown respect.

Several Midshipmen enjoy their time at the University of Notre Dame from above the football field.



# Congratulations Seniors!



**Ensign Gregory Syers**

**Major: History**

**Post-Grad Plans:  
Flight School**



**Ensign Janice Vanourney**

**Major: Political Science**

**Post-Grad Plans:  
Flight School**



**Ensign Jeffrey Skiles**

**Major: Bio-chemistry**

**Post-Grad Plans:  
Nuclear Power School**





**Second Lieutenant  
Samuel Lee**

**Major: Sociology**

**Post-Grad Plans:  
The Basic School**



## UNL NROTC Battalion



## Future UNL NROTC Events



- 15-19 Aug 2011 = Freshmen Orientation Week @ Camp Ashland, NE & UNL
- 22 Aug 2011: First day of fall 2011 classes @ UNL
- 30 Sep 2011: Semper Fidelis Society Kangaroo Court in Lincoln, NE
- 07-08 Oct 2011: Exercise Red Lightning USMC Field Training @ Camp Ashland, NE
- 21 Oct 2011 = USN/USMC Ball @ the Train Station in Lincoln, NE
- 10 Dec 2011 = Last day of fall 2011 classes
- 12-16 Dec 2011 = Finals week
- 17 Dec 2011 = Undergraduate commencement & commissioning ceremonies @ UNL

## Congratulations! Top 6 Leaders Fall 2011

Battalion Commander:

MIDN Whitted

Battalion Executive Officer:

MIDN Essay

Operations Officer:

MIDN Flannery

Administration Officer:

MIDN Schiavone

Alpha Company Commander:

MIDN Davidson

Bravo Company Commander:

MIDN Stone



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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

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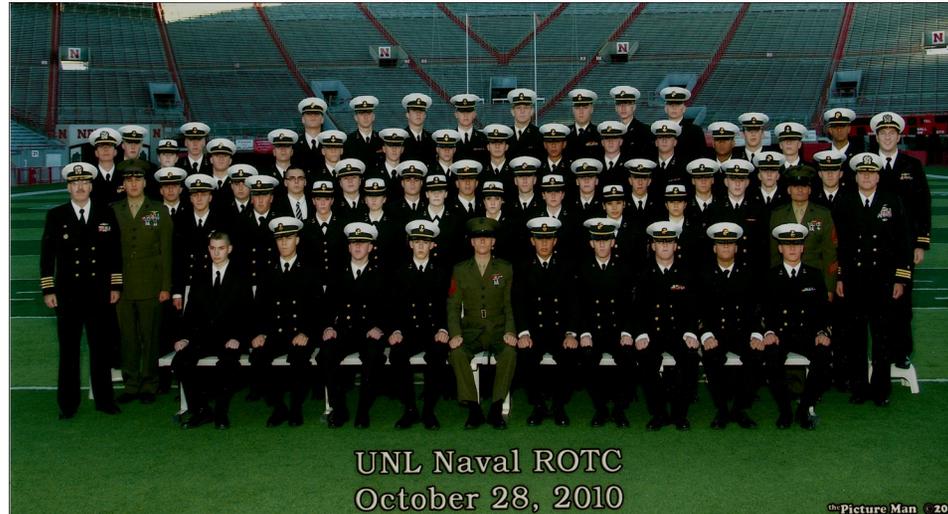


## TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

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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

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.

Visit us on the web at [www.unl.edu/nrotc](http://www.unl.edu/nrotc)

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103 M&N Building  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0139**

