

TIDE AND CURRENT



UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA
NAVAL ROTC
FALL 2005



CO's Corner *By Colonel David Walter*



The fall is the best time of year. Though it marks the annual “beginning of the end” for Mother Nature, it marks the “beginning of the beginning” for those of us at the University of Nebraska. Our freshmen class begins their naval careers in our NROTC unit and the senior class begins the final stretch to commissioning and service in the Fleet. For all of us, it is a time to start fresh, assess our performance and plot a corrective course that will make us more effective and better leaders.

In this regard, all of us need to remember what is important. This is not particularly difficult – first and foremost, it is the Marines and Sailors we will lead. They hold a unique position within our list of priorities, and deservedly so. Today, our Marines and Sailors are serving in some of the toughest environments in the world in the presence of constant threat to their lives. They will not hesitate to do as you ask of them. They will follow you no matter the hardship. In short, they are the undefeatable and selfless individuals that serve the country first. We will do no less. We will ensure we are ready to lead them, to take care of them and bring them home safely to their families and loved ones.

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XO's Corner

By: Commander Nicholas Freeman



As we wrap up another successful semester I would like to congratulate the Battalion on its many accomplishments. Once again the Battalion was victorious in the Joint Field Meet, performed admirably in many Color Guard evolutions, and hosted a professional and memorable Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball. You have done well and have a lot to be proud about.

As I've discussed before being given the opportunity to serve our country as commissioned officers is a great privilege that should not be taken lightly. Serving as an officer is not a right it is something that must be earned. Every day we see examples of leaders in other sectors of society who show a lack of moral courage and integrity. Often times they appear to receive no punishment for their actions, they make some small, half hearted apology and then move on often keeping their leadership position. In the military any

lack of moral behavior or integrity in a leader normally results in removal from positions of authority and often ends a career. Why the difference? Is it right? All members of society and leaders in particular should uphold high moral standards and act with integrity; however, in the military the stakes are higher. We are not just dealing with dollars, we are dealing with lives. If you aspire to be an officer then you must fully dedicate yourself to upholding the standards of the organization, always, not just while in uniform or during Battalion activities. If you don't believe in the values the Navy/Marine Corps stands for or don't want to live up to the standards required of a military officer then you should consider doing something else with your life. It is not fair to the young men and women you will lead in the future, or their families, to accept a commission unless you are willing to fully accept the responsibility.

As I asked in my last XO's corner, I request each of you to reflect on the Navy Core Values, the Sailors Creed, and on your personal reasons for choosing this profession. I also ask that you be loyal to your service, your unit and your peers. Once again remember true loyalty is stopping a shipmate from deviating from the correct path, helping them and giving them a chance to succeed. It is never loyal to look the other way, in the long run it hurts both the offender and you. The offender doesn't have the opportunity to correct his/her performance and you lose credibility. Determining what the right thing to do is rarely hard but actually doing it can be difficult, it takes courage. There are two types of courage: physical courage and moral courage. Moral courage is often the harder type to exhibit. Looking your peer or subordinate in the eye, and telling them they are wrong and holding them accountable takes moral courage. This ability is expected and required of an officer. Reflecting on the core values and your personal reasons for choosing this profession may make hard decisions more palatable. I am extremely proud of the Battalion and look forward to continuing watching you improve and excel during the rest of the year. God Bless.

BNCO's Corner

MIDN Gelenter



The fall semester is always busy for the Battalion, having to do stadium securities, colorguards, stadium cleanups, GySgt's "short runs" and getting used to our classes is hard on all of us. Only the strongest can survive such a demand on time and energy and still succeed in everything that we have set forth to accomplish.

When I found out last spring that I was going to be the Battalion Commanding Officer this semester I had mixed reactions. First, I couldn't believe that I was going to be following in the footsteps of previous BNCO's such as 2ndLt. Haessler, ENS Weddington, and 2ndLt Jirovsky. I

knew that I was going to have to step up to the plate and do my very best. I knew that in order to be successful and stand in front of the Battalion as its Commander that I would need to put all that I had into the job.

The Battalion has had many accomplishments this semester. We won another joint field meet, thanks to MIDN Mitchell and the stretcher relay team in particular. The Navy ball was spectacular as always because of the amazing effort and time put into it by MIDN Adam and MIDN Lembrick. The drill team started practices to be the best next semester when we have the opportunity to go to competitions. Semper-Fi football played great and brought another opportunity for togetherness for its members. We have endured a new and strenuous PT program running at least five miles every time and throwing in all the stairs in memorial stadium every once and a while. Once again we have been a part of the best stadium security at college football games in the nation. We have also continued to cleanup the stadium at an astonishing pace, finishing long before the time it takes the other services. We have taken on a lot this semester as a battalion, and even though we have a limited number of people, succeeded in all that we have attempted. This is what makes the University of Nebraska NROTC one of the best in the nation, the people and the program all come together to produce great officers and greater men and women for the country.

I never would have made it through the semester without the excellent guidance and advice from the BNCO, OC Bastemeyer or the amazing effort and dedication from the Operations Officer, MIDN Linn as well as the rest of the Battalion Staff this semester. The guidance from the topside staff was also greatly appreciated as they continued to teach all of us lessons which will help us become better Navy and Marine Corp Officers.

Have an awesome, and of course, safe winter break! Recharge yourselves for another exciting and suc-



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Go ahead... be the one...



Summer Training

Orientation Week

MIDN Hallahan

The two keys to making it through O-week are listening and teamwork. Hearing this, sitting in B5, I thought, "how hard can this be? This is ROTC after all. They won't try to kill us."

A few hours later, I got quite an eye opener. Running back and forth, packing and repacking our gear, the question "what have I got myself into?" ran through my head. As the week progressed, it became less and less stressful, unless you didn't listen. I now understand the purpose behind O-week. In my eyes, it is a way for new midshipmen to learn the basics of how the military works by exposing us to such things as close order drill, general military training (GMT), and physical fitness tests (PFT) without the distraction of school. By going to Ashland, I was able to forget about the worries of the outside world and focus on the task at hand. Also, the Marines could see if they have what it takes to succeed in Officer Candidate School (OCS). If they couldn't handle O-week, then OCS would be like running a marathon with no legs.

Despite all the physically and mentally stressful situations, I didn't think that O-week was all that bad. Sure you think to yourself that if you quit you can go home and sleep in your nice, warm bed, but what will quitting accomplish? What will you have really learned? That would teach you that whenever you're challenged, you just give up. That's something that you just can't do that as an officer in the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

So there is more to O-week than just getting yelled at and sitting through classes. Now, looking back at O-week, I am really glad to have gone through it. It makes college and ROTC seem that much more worth it. It gave me a real sense of accomplishment. O-week was definitely a good chapter in my life, and I would like to thank all of the O-week staff for making it such a great and memorable experience.



Summer Training

Cortramid

MIDN Patras



This summer, five MIDN from UNL traveled to San Diego, CA for 4 weeks of summer training. CORTRAMID 2005 was divided into four 1-week sessions spent with different communities within the Navy and Marine Corps. These short excursions were designed to expose us to the lifestyle and culture of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The first and most enjoyable week of the trip was Marine week. Marine week was spent at Camp Pendleton experiencing different aspects of the Marine Corps. MIDN had the chance to explore the different communities within the Marine corps and spend time becoming familiar with many of their weapons.

Our week with the naval surface community was spent on land learning about the surface ships in the fleet and about life as a Surface Warfare Officer. Surface week culminated in two days aboard a ship while underway. MIDN from UNL were able to spend time on the USS Ogden and the USS Rushmore.

The third week was spent with the naval submarine community learning about the different submarines in the fleet and in a two day trip aboard the USS Alabama. Our time ashore was spent touring the submarine base and participating in simulators.

During the fourth and final week of CORTRAMID, we were able to spend time flying at both San Diego and Miramar, learning about Marine and Naval aviation. This brief glance into the air community provided us with valuable insight into these tight knit communities, and also with the opportunity for some much coveted stick time.

Summer Training

2nd Class Cruise

MIDN Ross



On Saturday, August 8, I left for my Second Class Cruise. After nearly missing two flights and 15 hours of flying, I finally arrived in Guam on Sunday, August 9. We boarded the USS Olympia, a fast attack submarine. After spending the night on the submarine, the midshipman coordinator took us to the Hilton Hotel on the beach. We spent the first four days of my cruise on the beach. On that Friday, we boarded the Olympia and left Guam.

After we left port, the six midshipmen onboard went to the bridge to take the conn of the submarine and practice man overboard drills. After we finished this, the submarine dove and we went as fast as we could. The Olympia had been at sea for eight months, so the crew was very anxious to see their families. Even though they had been away from home for so long, the crew was happy to explain how the submarine worked and how they did their jobs.

I spent most of my time in sonar and back in engineering. I learned many things about how sonar worked and how the sonar technicians find targets. We went to battle stations twice and learned some tactics for hunting other submarines and strike missions with cruise missiles.

The crew treated us extremely well. The enlisted men taught us many things about their jobs and how the submarine worked. They were happy to explain things to us as we were walking around the ship. The enlisted men were very happy to see the midshipmen helping and talking with them. On the day before we arrived in Pearl Harbor, we had a field day and the crew was very surprised to see us getting our hands dirty. They also were happy to tell us how to become a good officer and what enlisted people expect from an officer. The officers treated us well also. We took turns eating in the Wardroom and learning about being an officer. Every night we watched movies with the Commanding Officer and the Engineering Officer of the Watch.

We arrived in Pearl Harbor eight days after we left Guam. The officers put the midshipmen in military housing for three days. We spent three days in Honolulu seeing the sights. Over all summer cruise was an awesome experience. I learned many things about becoming an officer and submarines. I was also able to see several places that I had never been to.



Summer Training

Mountain Warfare

MIDN Kerr



There is only the smell of sage and the taste of dust lingering in the back of your throat as muster is taken before the all too familiar march over to the chow hall. Off in the distance you can see the sun just peaking over the snow covered mountains. Your spirit drops because you know, after chow has settled in your stomach, you will be hiking up one of those giant masses, all the way up. These are my memories of The Mountain Warfare Training Center located deep within the California Sierra Nevada's.

As a 2nd Class Midshipmen and a Marine Option, I, along with MIDN Adam, had the pleasure to attend this school for three weeks of our sophomore-junior summer. While friends were mowing lawns, flipping hamburgers, sleeping the day away, roasting on amphibs in the middle of the Persian Gulf, or navigating submarines in the Pacific Ocean, our time was spent learning how to tie knots, hike up to 14,500 feet of pure mountain, create one-rope bridges, climb up cliff sides and repel back down them. We spent days at a time out in the field taking classes on kinds of plants to eat, how to catch fish with your bare hands, how to create suitable survival shelters, and how to properly slaughter a goat in the event that it was necessary. Each platoon executed a 20 hour movement, navigating themselves up and down the mountain-side.

Most people have to pay for the chance to do this kind of stuff for their vacation. If you were to ask anyone who went, you would be hard up to find someone who would call our time there a vacation. Along with all the fun training and skills came a lot of thrashing, yelling, and early morning "games." All this was a chance for us to get a tiny taste of what to expect at Officer Candidate School, next summer. I would say that most people took it all to heart, learning how to better prepare themselves for the real test ahead.

Overall I would have to say that my time at MWTC was very valuable. It gave me a chance to meet my peers and rate myself against them in preparation for OCS. It also gave me a better picture of the Marine Corps and the path I want to choose. Looking back, I can tell you that I wouldn't have wanted to spend my summer any other way.



Summer Training

1st Class Cruise

MIDN Gillick

Midshipman summer cruises are all about creating a fun environment where midshipmen get a glimpse of the “real” Navy. The first class cruise is the last glimpse we midshipman will get before we become an actual part of that real Navy after commissioning. It is also a great opportunity to make sure the career path the midshipman chooses is the one he or she actually wants.

Because I chose the aviation cruise, the Navy felt I needed some additional education. So during spring break last year, I spent three days training in California. Training centered on ejecting from a jet and surviving in the ocean. This was achieved through pool time, presentations and demonstrations.

When it was finally time for me to start my cruise, I boarded a plane for Norfolk, VA. I was attached to VFA-106 EF. This is the FRS for the F-18 Super Hornet. My running mate, JTITA, fitted me for my first flight suit and informed me that I was going to be the only midshipman accompanying them to El Centro, CA the following week. One day before we left ‘Marvin’ approached me in the ready room and asked if I would like a ride. I fought a loosing battle to contain my excitement as I donned the many pieces of flight gear including a ‘G’ suit. The mission was bombing in nature so we dove at the target, dropped bombs and pulled up in a series of six G climbs. It felt like a rollercoaster on steroids.

We finally made it to the dessert base at El Centro. I was promised more rides in the T-34 as well as the F-18, but I was also assigned a job of buying burritos for the pilots at lunch time. My next ride in the F-18 was a “Midshipman Mission” meaning the pilot had no other goal than to put the jet through its paces and show me what it can do. At one point during the flight we were flying 100 feet off the deck. At another time we were flying at .92 mach. We followed curvy roads at break neck speeds. We flew inverted several times and also completed several aerobatic maneuvers.

My favorite flight however had to be the last one. We were on a training mission designed to test the air-to-air fighting capabilities of the student pilot. The plan was to spend half the time with the student trying to chase the instructor and I through the mountains and the other half the two pilots would switch roles. The instructor wanted to show me his favorite aerobatics which included a tight down turn at just over seven Gs.



Summer Training

Officer Candidate School

MIDN Linn



Marine Corps OCS is hard to describe to someone who has never been through it. Then again, sometimes it's hard to explain to someone who has gone through it. Looking back on the experience, it didn't seem that bad and was a lot of fun, but I know it wasn't that way while I was going through it.

MIDN Trizila and I drove down a few days early to tour Washington D.C. and buy gear, since it was cheaper on base. Being that close to the hell you know that you are going to have to go through is a disturbing feeling. The first few days before pick-up were torture. We stood and waited for hours to get gear or to be medically screened, and the whole time you knew that tomorrow it would all start. Pick-up was just like I had always imagined. The CO comes in front of the class, introduces himself and the staff, with all the Gunnery Sergeants looking pissed off and mean as hell, and then gives the order to carry out the plan of the day...

After that, chairs, tables, gear and candidates were flying everywhere. For the first three weeks, everything is a mess. The massive amount of uncertainty and stress seems to play games with everyone's heads. It seemed like everyone was on the brink of failure, and one wrong move could get you thrown across the railroad tracks.

Passing the halfway point and getting a liberty call, things started smoothing out. You began getting into the routine of getting up at 0400 to prep your gear and put your cammies on, and then laying in your rack, counting down the seconds until the lights come on and the Sergeant Instructors bust through the hatch yelling commands. You understood what your role was in the company and the jobs you had to do. Schedules started being distributed and the exercises we were doing started to be comprehensive tests of what you had been learning in classes the last three weeks. I can't say that OCS went by fast, but it wasn't slow by any means. Everything was intense. I can honestly say that graduating OCS is the biggest accomplishment of my life so far.



MIDN Dan Kerr and MIDN Levi Adam enjoying the scenery of the Sierra Nevada's at the Mountain Warfare Training Center.

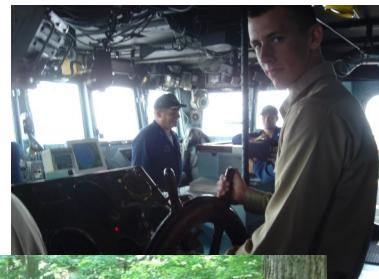
MIDN Trizila thrusting a Pugil stick into the face of his opponent at Officer Candidate School.



MIDN Jonathan Patras Steering the USS Ogden



Above is the USS Olympia, the fast attack submarine that MIDN Rob Ross was aboard on his 2nd Class Cruise.



To the right is Golf Company's Fire Team in the 'O' at OCS

Community Service

MIDN Fox

To any civilian that does not know any better, there is a stereotype that the military doesn't care about human life and that everyone in the military is brainwashed and trained to kill. This is obviously false. As we have seen from the conflict in Iraq, there are a lot of people in the general civilian populous that do not enjoy our company overseas. However, the majority of them do. This is because we actually do care about civilians, both foreign and domestic. As we have seen in pictures from Iraq, our soldiers and sailors feel compassion for the civilians, especially ones that do not have the luxuries that we enjoy here at home.



Here on the home front, the midshipmen and OC's in the NROTC battalion at UNL are doing their part. Toward the beginning of the semester, MIDN Kerr organized colorguard detail for a group of cub scouts. Midshipmen Kerr, Hallahan, Feay and I presented and posted the colors, and afterwards, the three of us who are Navy options improvised a presentation of the parts of a sail boat using our previous knowledge from the quizzes we had to take during or after O-week. Not only did we present the colors, but we were able to make that event an educational experience by volunteering our time and knowledge.

Later this fall, MIDN Linn, the battalion operations officer, organized a Thursday afternoon lab in which the battalion volunteered to help the Habitats for Humanity organization by building part of a house. The time and effort we put into helping build that house will make it possible for someone who is less

fortunate than us to have a roof over their head, just as the troops in foreign countries are doing the same.



Joint Field Meet



**The Commanders Cup
stays with us once again!**



Navy/Marine Corps Ball

MIDN Anderson

This year's Navy/Marine Corps Ball was yet another example of how the entire Battalion can roll up their sleeves and accomplish something great. The ceremony went off without much trouble; you could definitely see the improvements in all the participants. The Colorguard and the Sword Arch worked extremely hard to be able to look as good as they did at the ball, they had many practices and many get togethers after hours to work out the bugs in their portions of the ceremony. Everyone did a great job.

This year's guest speaker, LtCol Strotman, gave the best speech that I have heard in my three years of Navy/Marine Corps Balls at UNL. His speech was short, to the joy of the sword arch and colorguard, and from his heart. Everyone listened intently as he praised and thanked all for what they are doing for freedom and their country.

It is always nice to stand at the podium and look out over the crowd of beautiful dates, nicely dressed escorts, and members of the military both past and present coming together for a night of celebration and demonstration of the pride they feel for their service and country. Everyone was dressed to impress and to have a great time.

The dinner was great, the dessert awesome, but the dancing is what made the entire night worthwhile. Everyone was impressed that, the Tulane Refugee, MIDN Bean cut the rug for almost the entire dance and no one present can deny that LT Scanlan has an interesting sense of rhythm. All the members of the Battalion gave it their all on the dance floor, but gave more in the annual Anchors Aweigh / Marine Hymn competition. Above all, the highlight of the night, besting everything, has to be GySgt Butts finding "That Loving Feeling," with the help of the singing Battalion.

The most anticipated event of the semester has passed, with all the glitter and preparations, now it is time to look forward. This year's Navy/Marine Corps Ball is not going to be soon forgotten, until next year when we do it all over again.



Congratulations!



Devin Bastemeyer

MAJOR: Political Science

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Flight School

LCDR Thomas Blake, a 1994 UNL graduate and S3 NFO at NAS Jacksonville, FL, perished in a mishap on September 21, 2005. A memorial fund has been established for LCDR Blake and his children, Tommy and Lily. Donations can be sent to:

Thomas E. Blake Jr. Memorial Fund
PO Box 8805
Fleming Island, FL 32006-8805

CO's Corner (continued)

So, as we begin anew this fall, we once again renew ourselves to the dedication we place upon service and duty. Our service is to our country. Our duty is to our mission and our people. Take the opportunity during the holiday season to remember the Marine and Sailor that is unable to spend time with family, the Marine and Sailor that receives no respite from the pressure of combat, the Marine and Sailor that knows comfort only in his or her shipmates. These young Americans expect only to be led faithfully and competently. All of us must strive to meet those expectations.



TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Martin Fox
Tide and Current Advisor: LT Brandon Burkett

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

Congratulations Top 6, Spring 2006

Battalion Commander:

MIDN Ferris Linn

Battalion Executive Officer

OC Ely Fletcher

Operations Officer:

MIDN Jared Stimson

Administration Officer:

MIDN Tyra Drake

A Company Commander:

MIDN Richard Gillick

B Company Commander:

MIDN Kathryn Gelenter

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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.