

TIDE AND CURRENT



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NAVAL ROTC SPRING 2006



CO's Corner *By Colonel David Walter*



Once again, the Big Red's Midshipmen Battalion closes an academic year in fine fashion, well-represented by the quality of the Ensigns and Second Lieutenants dispatched to Quantico and the Fleet. Our graduates' hard work and dedication earned them an opportunity to lead Sailors and Marines, truly America's Finest, at a time the Nation needs them most. Likewise, their achievement could not be possible without the love and support of family and friends, which in many cases, is key to overcoming the many challenges our midshipmen face in pursuit of a commission in the Naval Service.

This summer also marks the end of my tour here at the University of Nebraska. It has been a pleasure to work alongside professional and committed officers, senior enlisted, and civilian employees, who ensure our future junior officers meet the expectations of the Fleet. I would be remiss if I did not also extend a personal Bravo Zulu to the Navy League, the Marine Corps League, and other countless individuals for extending support to our program. I want to thank our Army and Air Force counterparts for the cooperative environment they have encouraged by action, not lip service. But most of all, I want to acknowledge all the young men and women passing through the Pershing Military and Naval Science Building and making the decision to serve. You come when the Nation called, knowing the road ahead to be a difficult one.

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You come despite obnoxious political debates, increasingly negative press, and classmates that might question your judgment.

I for one applaud your decision, for military service is not about money, power, or fame. It is about service to something bigger than you, to our country and to our brave young men and women that wear stripes and chevrons on their sleeves. You have heard senior officers say, and will hear the same many times in the future, "I would trade places with you in a heartbeat." I do not hear that comment directed at me anymore, but when I was a junior officer, I really wondered if it true. In this regard, I have finally come to a conclusion: no more accurate a statement could be uttered by a senior officer. You only get to begin a military career once, so grab on and run with it as hard as you can. Have fun, relish the time spent with shipmates, don't lose track of your Navy and Marine Corps buddies, and make a difference in the lives of those you lead. Whether you serve four years or 30, you will never forget or regret your time as a Navy or Marine officer. Go for it Huskers! Oh, did I mention have fun?

XO's Corner

By Commander Nicholas Freeman



We recently finished another successful academic year and I would like to congratulate the Battalion on their spectacular accomplishments; victory in the Joint Field Meet (I've lost count on how many in a row), another impressive showing at the Texas A&M Endurance Competition, and a solid performance at the Colorado Drill Meet to name just a few. By the time you read this you most likely will have completed summer training, visited with family, or continued academic work to get ahead of the power curve. Summer is a good time to reflect on the year and why we choose to serve, and to recharge your batteries for another productive year.

As I've said before, being given the opportunity to serve our country as commissioned officers is a great privilege that should not be taken lightly. While you are college students, you have much greater responsibilities than your civilian peers. You both should work hard to get the best education possible; however, you have the added responsibility to develop strong leadership skills and a sense of personal and moral responsibility that is uncommon in your civilian counterparts at this point in life.

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You will have time to develop the unique professional skills of your chosen designator; however, you will be expected to be a “full up round” with regards to your character. Much is expected from those chosen to serve as officers in the Naval Service.

I will be relieved as Executive Officer before the start of the new academic year. Your new Executive Officer will be CDR John Long, he is an outstanding officer and will bring a wealth of current experience to the unit. It has been a privilege having the opportunity to be a part of the University of Nebraska NROTC unit. The Midshipman Battalion is full of hard charging individuals who are the future of our Navy and Marine Corps. The “Top side staff” is comprised of outstanding officers and enlisted personnel with years of varied experience – use them, you can learn much from their collective leadership experience. Continue your hard work, in the end it will make you better naval officers – and that’s why we’re all here.

BNCO’s Corner

By MIDN Linn



When I began this semester I had high expectations and high hopes. Now looking back I am proud and satisfied with what we accomplished. Once again our midshipmen did a lot of traveling this semester. We added a new trip to our summer plans with the Air Force Academies National Character and Leadership Symposium. This trip gave our midshipmen, OCs, and MECEPs a chance to hear speakers like; Gene Kranz, Mission Control of Apollo 13; Joe Galloway, the author of “We Were Sol-

diers Once... and Young”; Gerda Weissmann Klein, a holocaust survivor; General Fogleman, Dick Vermeil, Dick Couch, Rulon Gardner, Jim Olson, and many other great speakers. The Battalion also sent midshipmen, OCs, and MECEPs to the Notre Dame Leadership Conference. This conference comprised of speakers like Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry D. Scott and Rear Admiral Robert Harward. Additionally, we were given the opportunity to discuss our views on the speakers main points with other midshipmen from around the country. Next some of our midshipmen took a trip to Marine Corps Recruit Depot – San Diego. Here they witnessed virtually every phase of recruit training, from pickup to the crucible and toured Camp Pendleton. Next for the sixth consecutive year we sent a ten man team to the Texas A&M Commando Endurance Competition.

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This competition consists of a 500 meter swim, a 3 mile boots and utes run, the Marine Corps obstacle course, a stamina course and finally a 1.5 mile log run. This year we placed second, which is the highest placing to date for UNL NROTC. The last major trip was to Colorado University. Here we competed in a sailing regatta, rifle/pistol competition, and a drill competition. After competing commendably in all events we placed third overall. When we weren't traveling, the Battalion conducted several new and interesting labs.

This semester we wanted to reinvigorate our lab schedule with new labs that will better prepare us for service in the fleet. With GySgt Butts help we were able to train the Battalion in basic combat conditioning using the Marine Corps MCMAP training. We ordered punching gloves, mouth pieces, and punching pads so we could beat on each other with out getting injuries. With the exception of a few kicked heads,



bruised ribs, and bloody knuckles we were successful. The Battalion invited several Navy and Marine speakers from Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base. These speakers gave us a first hand perspective of what the fleet is really like, how to prepare for the fleet, and what to expect. The next week we invited Professor Coope from the College of Arts & Science. She gave us a very informative lecture on the history of Islam and the Islamic culture. We held a rifle/pistol competition again

and invited the Air Force to join us. This added a new level of competition for us and we were victorious. Additionally, the Battalion joined the Air Force ROTC in Omaha to fire on a live range. We fired the M-16, AK-47, M9, and a 45 cal. hand gun.

To family and friends: You should be very proud of your son or daughter. He/She is taking on a greater challenge than any of their peers here at the University. Your Midshipmen are doing more and being held to a higher standard. Your son or daughter arrives at school earlier and leaves later. We make these sacrifices for opportunity to serve the people of this country. You truly should be proud of what they are doing in this Battalion.

To the Midshipmen, OCs, and MECEPs: To serve this country is a privilege, not a right. This program is not just to prepare you for the fleet but also to see if you have what it takes to be an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps.

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With that in mind, it makes sense that the program is hard and that about 80% of those who show up at O-Week don't make it to graduation. You may not do everything perfect or succeed but you should never quit. Continue to make progress and you will eventually make it to graduation and commissioning. You too will stand at graduation to be recognized, in front of your peers and a full arena, and receive a standing ovation. At that moment your heart will skip a beat and you will realize that all your hard work was for something and that something affords you the respect of those around you.

Battalion Pictures



Spring Pig Roast



Navy/Marine Mural in the Midshipmen Wardroom



Notre Dame Leadership Conference

By MIDN Gillick



The Notre Dame Leadership Weekend was a fun filled trip that brought midshipmen from all across the country together.



Our purpose was to learn and discuss current issues facing new Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants in the fleet as well as a provocative look at leadership in general. Prestigious speakers educated the audience through captivating stories and facts. The stories and lessons were so captivating because they

were not the mundane stories one hears that all so often are relegated to the realm of lost memories. Instead, each speaker filled their time by giving specific facts and stories about current issues that we midshipmen would undoubtedly face in the near future.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry D. Scott discussed what it takes to make your sailors desire to be more effective and how the future of the Navy is changing. Mr. Frank Belatti discussed ethics and leadership on a macro level. Maj. Jason Frei, USMC, Ret. emphasized the importance for commissioned officers to utilize the experience of their non-commissioned officers. He also discussed the importance of trusting people to do their job and only verifying their finished product is correct.

RADM Robert Harward was by far my favorite speaker. This SEAL Admiral discussed many of the new aspects of the current face of war that face junior officers. He regaled us with stories of current battles.

One such situation involved a boat crew that was in contested waters being followed by numerous small armed boats. Inevitably this crew would be confronted by the enemy. When questioned by the Admiral, several midshipmen tried to show their courage by answering that they would follow the advice of their enlisted personnel and attack the enemy if they had been placed in this situation.

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The Admiral admitted that this was an option but not the best because as he put it “This particular situation did not require you to get some of your men killed, when all that needed to be done to avoid an international incident was to think outside the box.” The end result was that instead of possibly starting an open aggression, the ensign backed off and completed his mission by airlifting the boats over the aggressors thereby avoiding bloodshed and possible war.

The speakers were all great and additionally the sights to be seen on Notre Dame’s beautiful campus were amazing. This being said, the part I will remember the most is the friendship and the camaraderie that was born through the interaction of midshipmen who will some day become my peers and confidants in the fleet.

Endurance Competition

By MIDN Anderson

In keeping with the tradition of excellence from the Nebraska NROTC unit, this year’s Texas A&M Seal Platoon Commando Endurance Competition highlights the superior accomplishments possible when our people are put to the test. This year the team took 2nd place in a competition that relied on all of the talents, hard work, and cohesiveness of its members. From the initial 500m swim, to the 3 mile run, both the endurance and obstacle courses, into the final 1.5 mile log run, this year’s competition was intense and demanding. Veterans of the competition, caught a little off guard when several of the courses had changed locations for this year’s competition, saw a noticeable increase in the intensity of the team. The team was forced to work even closer than ever to fight off the competition, taking a strong second in every event, confirming what we all knew in our minds, in Nebraska, we train champions.



The entire day went by very quickly, fully documented by the three cameras in a constant state of recording pictures and video. The team, as a whole, performed above and beyond previous years, bringing down our average times in all events. The zeal the team displayed during all aspects of the competition was accompanied by a strong sense of comradely and confidence in our abilities to triumph at the competition.

This year’s team has set a higher standard for next year, a standard that can easily be met with the dedication and passion that is present in this small unit. Every year we show other, much larger units, what a third of our great unit can do when faced with a task and “feeling into” showing up and competing on a level above the competition.

MIDN Cook
Dredging himself through
the stamina course



2006 Endurance Team
(Left to right beginning from
the back) MIDN Trizila,
Hurt, Lembrick, Patras,
Linn, Adam, Anderson,
Kerr, Stimson, Cook



Endurance team following
the swim portion of the
competition



Colorado Competition

By MIDN Cook

The trip to Boulder, Colorado this year was a very productive and worthwhile one. Not only did UNL NROTC compete well and finish in good standing in all of our respective events but I personally gained an appreciation of the time and work behind planning these trips. The drill team, after many early mornings in Cook Pavilion, with leader MIDN Kerr, practicing and perfecting, suffered an unfortunate Out of Bounds predicament which cost many points.



However, we still performed well and had it not been for the OOB and the untimely “injured reserve” status of MIDN Madsen we’d have gotten second. The Squad Drill team, led by MIDN Adam, ended up taking third place after a superb show of military drill. Both the Rifle and Pistol teams finished in third place thanks to the many practice bullets that went downrange beforehand and their dedication to excellence (MIDN Partras scored very nearly the highest point total of the entire competition). The Color Guard took second place with our brand new colors, a very impressive sight on the drill field. Sailing Team got fourth, beating the returning champions. Overall, UNL NROTC finished in third place, a credit to the unit’s countless hours of practice and abundance of talent. Colorado gives us a chance to test ourselves against some of the other competitive battalions throughout the country, and this year we came back with an abundance of hardware. The trophies we earned were paid for in full with plenty of early mornings for everybody and hours upon endless hours of perfecting our trades.



Everybody deserves a personal commendation for their unprecedented dedication to their respective events. Finally, I would like to extend a personal “thank you” to everybody who participated in Colorado or gave me advice beforehand and helped make the trip go as smoothly as it did, it wouldn’t have been possible without all of your contributions and cooperation.

Color guard competition
(Left to right) MIDN Feay, Fox,
Anderson, Cook, Linn



(Left to right)
MIDN Patras, Adam and Feay
competing in the rifle
competition



Drill competition



National Character and Leadership Symposium

By MIDN Mitchell

As the old Dodge van merged onto I-80 I knew that attending the National Character and Leadership Symposium would be a fulfilling experience, yet I couldn't have guessed how. As we drove through the security checkpoint at the United States Air Force Academy, I entered an environment unlike any I'd ever experienced. Upon arriving, we were greeted at the registration center with information packets, our host cadet and the soon to become familiar sight of cookies and punch. I concluded my long journey that day by following Cadet 1st Class Koether to his room and getting squared away for the evening.



The next morning we began the day by listening to the personal accounts of wartime correspondent Joe Galloway, author of the bestselling book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young," which was made into a critically acclaimed movie starring Mel Gibson. The most memorable moment of his presentation was during the final question and answer session. After hearing numerous accounts of American bravery in the war, a young girl with Vietnamese ancestry stood up and proclaimed in a tearful voice that too often the sacrifices of her are forgotten. It was a scene I will never forget. The audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation and the conference was underway.

As I transitioned between sessions I did my best to blend in with my surroundings (an impossible feat when you're wearing Service Dress Blues at a school of 4,000 cadets in the same light blue uniform). The rest of the morning was filled with excellent speakers until we assembled at Mitchell Hall for chow at 1135. For me, daily lunch was one of the most impressive sights of the trip. Like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, the entire procedure was precisely orchestrated and efficiently executed. It was simply amazing to watch a room of 5,000 people commence and conclude a meal within 25 minutes.

The afternoon and evening were filled with another two speakers and an excellent dinner reception which included prime rib and amazing strawberry cheesecake. This was the pattern we followed for the next two days as the conference, and our life at the United States Air Force Academy continued on.

While I lived in this relatively plush setting, I would catch glimpses into not so fortunate world of the fourth class cadet.

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Occasionally I would hear them yelling their memorization of the day, see them squaring their corners wherever they went, or lounging around the dorm on weekend nights because they weren't permitted to leave campus. It made me rethink the idea that my freshman year was quite an adjustment.

Overall, the speakers were top notch, and usually had some military orientation tied into it. I will never forget the story of Gerda Klein, a holocaust survivor whose entire family was murdered and who barely escaped with her life after a thunderstorm disabled the explosives which were intended to kill her. I will never forget the courageous tales of Jim Olsen, the covert CIA operative who raised his family in Moscow during the Cold War. I will never forget Kyle Maynard, the boy who was born with arms ending at his elbows and legs at his knees, yet was undaunted and became a successful wrestler his senior year of high school in Georgia.

Yet, most of all I will never forget the friendships which I developed with my two roommates and the overwhelming sense that courage can overcome even the most formidable of adversities. I would recommend the National Character and Leadership Symposium to anyone with leadership ambitions and hope that I have the opportunity to attend next year.



Freshman Orientation-Fall 2006



Gunnery Sergeant demonstrating
40 inches to the candidates

Candidates given a couple
minutes to down their MRE's



Classroom instruction

Leadership reaction courses



Much needed practice at drill

0500 Reveille!!



Welcome Aboard!



LT Schaub enlisted in the Navy in 1999 and attended Nuclear Power School as a Nuclear Electricians Mate. Prior to graduation he attended OCS and received a commission in January of 2001. His first tour was onboard the USS Ardent (MCM 12) and served as the Damage Control Assistant. Next he served on the USS Anzio (CG 68) as the Fire Control Officer before reporting to UNL NROTC. Here he will serve as the Surface Warfare Officer.



LT Hodges enlisted in the Navy in 1991 and served onboard the USS Honolulu (SSN 718) as a Nuclear Machinist Mate 2nd Class. In 2001 he attended North Carolina State University where he received his commission and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. Prior to reporting to UNL NROTC he served onboard the USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) which is stationed out of Kingsbay, GA. Here at UNL NROTC he will serve as the Submarine Officer.



YNC Lindamood enlisted in the Navy in November of 1988. YNC has had a colorful career serving on the USS Saratoga (CV 60), USS Philippine Sea (CG 58), and the USS Gettysburg (CG 64). His shore duty assignments include COMNAVBASEJAX, Office of the MCPON, OPNAV, and the Supreme Headquarters-Allied Powers Europe. At UNL NROTC YNC will serve as the Administrative Officer.

Farewells



As the unit's Surface Warfare Officer, LT Burkett provided a wealth of knowledge about his community to the Battalion. His pride, dedication and positive attitude will be carried on to the fleet by those who had the privilege of his mentoring. LT Burkett transferred after fall semester to the USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), which is stationed out of Naval Base San Diego. Best of luck Sir, with all your endeavors!

While serving as the unit's Aviation Officer, LT Scanlan made numerous contributions to the Battalion. His undying dedication was seen by all as he was always deeply involved in all unit functions. His input has been greatly appreciated and will be missed. Good luck Sir with your transition to Civilian life!



Congratulations Seniors!



JONATHON TRIZILA

MAJOR:

Psychology

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School

Quantico, VA

Congratulations Seniors!



FERRIS LINN

MAJOR:

Business Administration

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School

Quantico, VA



JARED STIMSON

MAJOR:

Computer Engineering

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Naval Post-Graduate School

Monterey, CA



TYRA DRAKE

MAJOR:

Political Science

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Anzio

CG 68

Congratulations Seniors!



KATHRYN GELETER

MAJOR:

Advertising

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Pearl Harbor

LSD 52



ELI FLETCHER

MAJOR:

Geography

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Flight School

Pensacola, FL



RICHARD GILLICK

MAJOR:

Business Administration

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Flight School

Pensacola, FL



TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: OC Francisco Martinez
Tide and Current Advisor: LT John Hodges

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

Congratulations Top 6, Fall 2006

Battalion Commander:	MIDN Levi Adam
Battalion Executive Officer:	MIDN Andrew Soneson
Operations Officer:	MIDN Benjamin Kohn
Administration Officer:	MIDN Robert Ross
A Company Commander:	MIDN John Anderson
B Company Commander:	MIDN Brandt Schmall

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University of Nebraska

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps



Mission

To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically, and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to commission graduates as officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.