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The UNL-NROTC 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 science, and have a high potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.
Greetings to all shipmates, alumni, family, and friends,

As the 2017-2018 academic year winds down, we can reflect on a very successful year, and look forward to a very promising summer and 2018-2019 academic year.

We wish Lieutenant Matthew White, USN, and his family fair winds and following seas as they head off to Submarine Officer Department Head School. We also welcome our new Submarine Warfare Officer, Lieutenant Andrew Thompson, USN, to the UNL NROTC team. We also wish Gunnery Sergeant Shane Sink and his family the best of luck as they head to their new duty station in North Carolina this summer. We welcome his relief Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Yeaman and his family to the UNL NROTC family!

We commissioned Second Lieutenant Jacob Garcia in December, and we wish him the best at TBS. This May, Second Lieutenant Schneider, Ensign Hinz, Ensign Tevebaugh, and Ensign Jorgensen will be commissioned. Ensign Tevebaugh will begin Naval Aviation training this summer. Ensign Hinz will report to USS MUSTIN (DDG-86) in May. Ensign Jorgensen will report to USS OAK HILL (LSD-51) this summer. Second Lieutenant Schneider will report to TBS later this summer. We wish all of our newest officers the very best as they start their careers!

I also am proud to report that Ensign Hinz was accepted into the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program this past March after successfully passing her interview. She will commission as a Surface Warfare Officer and complete her topside Division Officer tour before attending Nuclear Power School. Well done!
I hope you all have a very safe and enjoyable summer. We will have some of our midshipmen deployed on ships, submarines, and attending training around the globe. We look forward to hearing their sea stories in August.

This will be my last Tide and Current as I will be retiring in July after 31 years on active duty. This has been a truly remarkable experience leading the Blackshirts of National Defense and one that I will always remember.

Fair Winds and Following Seas! Go Big Red!

R.E.THOMAS

CAPTAIN, USN
A Message from the Executive Officer

The Red Tide

By Commander Lawrence Henke

It is hard to believe; the school year is over. The spring semester has flown by with exciting achievements for many in the battalion. We can all share with pride in the great movement forward for the battalion, in that, this is a team game. As the semester closes we send another well-prepared set of our teammates out to the Fleet following their graduation and commissioning. We have a set of new scholarship winners we can prepare and send to CORTRAMID, and summer training for other team-members in the battalion. Summer training is a unique opportunity for the type of hands-on training and job experience that lifetime memories are made. It is exciting to be able to prepare so many for the opportunity. We will continue to keep the press on to get even more members on the scholarship and advanced standing roll call. The staff will continue the preps through the summer to receive another group of motivated freshmen to refresh the rosters and keep the aging XO motivated.

This has been a full and rewarding semester. The Battalion of Midshipmen can be proud of your accomplishments and showing at the Notre Dame Leadership Conference, your performance at the Colorado Pistol & Rifle Competition, and many other scattered University events and competitions. The hard work and determination has paid off for five newly commissioned officers that will all move on to the next step in their chosen area of interest. Everyone had a hand in that achievement pushing them forwarded when they needed it. It is a good feeling when hard work is rewarded. I congratulate each of the commissionees and wish you the best of luck on what will be a rewarding career. I have said before and it stands that I am proud to be here and would augment the battle team with Huskers. I am confident the Fleet will feel the same when they gain exposure to your desire and preparation. Go out and continue to sew the thread of Husker red in the Navy and Marine Corps.
A Message from the Naval Officer Instructor

Remember The Mission
By Lieutenant Paul Hast

Shipmates, Students and Alumni- My wife Liz and I are grateful for the warm welcome into Lincoln. I will say however, the winter weather has been a less than desirable shift from the December/Januarys of Virginia Beach, VA. My wife and I come to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln after serving four years onboard the USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), homeported at Joint Expeditionary Base-Little Creek in Virginia. I am a proud Gator Surface Warfare Officer and I have witnessed the Blue-Green team do some powerful things during my previous deployments.

During the first two semesters at NROTC Nebraska, I can tell we are small but mighty. We may not host 200 Midshipman in ranks, but our students are in the top 1% on campus. With the mental fortitude of Nebraska Mids we can continue to train and equip the leadership of tomorrow, ultimately responsible for leading the most technologically advanced forces in the world. I am proud to talk about our students with prospects and neighbors, because I am confident our Battalion is the best in the country. If you are in question of this fact, I invite you to come visit and see for yourself.

Direct to the students: Your primary mission is academics, second to nothing. The Battalion will provide the space, tools and lessons to grow your leadership abilities and experience. We will ensure your fitness is within regulations and superior. Our office doors remain open to your concerns, wants, desires, and needs. However, we will not follow you home to make sure you enact your study plans and we certainly will not be present for test day. Your desire to complete this rigorous program and serve your nation will carry you through each year. Academics are the mission!
A Message from the Naval Officer Instructor

4 Years by Memorial Stadium

By Lieutenant Matthew White

It has been my honor to serve here as the Submarine LT for the Nebraska NROTC Battalion for the past two and a half years. This time has flown by and it is hard to believe that in a few short months I will be off to my next duty station in Groton, CT. We had a saying at the Naval Academy that we endured everything for “Four Years by the Severn”, because that was the river landmark that ran next to the grounds and it holds a spot in the lives of each of us as we commissioned and went on to do great things for the nation. Here at Nebraska we may not have the largest NROTC unit out there, but the 4 Years by Memorial Stadium has shaped some of the finest officers to go out into the Navy and Marine Corps. I have seen 19 Ensigns and Second Lieutenants commission into the Navy and Marine Corps and go out across the globe in order to support and defend the nation that they took an oath to, a fact that I will be able to brag about for years to come. I have had the honor and privilege of helping the unit commission three new nuclear power officers into the Submarine and Surface Nuclear communities, which I hope will continue even after I have returned to the fleet.

This unit has grown in every aspect of the mission that the NROTC program has supported since its inception in 1926: moral, mental and physical. I have seen many struggles academically, but I have seen even greater strides and growth academically as a whole within then battalion in just over two years. The academic focus at Nebraska continues to be a focal point that the battalion takes on each year and I know that the battalion will grow beyond expectations. Morally I have never met a group of college-aged adults that have the moral fortitude that this group and those that have come before them have had. They have been instilled with a moral compass as they have grown up and I look forward to working with such strong moral individuals in the fleet. Physically this unit is very strong and forces each other to grow and do better on a daily basis. I know that I can speak for my family when I say that this duty, this city and the staff have left a mark on our family that we will not forget. I can proudly say that I am an Alumni of Nebraska and will continue to support this unit in any way I can moving forward. I hope that I can work with any of you in my wardroom in the future and I hope you never forget your 4 Years by Memorial Stadium.
A Message from the Marine Officer Instructor

Servant Leadership
By Captain Travis Horner

“Why do you want to be a Marine Corps officer?” I cannot count the number of times that I was asked this question during my transition from enlisted to officer. I also cannot count the number of times that I have asked that question to young men and women aspiring to become Marine officers. Overwhelmingly, the response I get is, “Because I want to lead Marines.” This is also the response I gave many times to many inquirers. As I developed personally and professionally, I began to realize that response is somewhat pretentious. Staff Non-Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) are more than capable of leading Marines. Lance Corporals are leaders of Marines. The Marine Corps prides itself on small unit leadership. I contend that it is our jobs as officers to not only lead Marines but also more importantly, to serve them. Our Oath of Office facilities this through the authorities and responsibilities that come with a commission.

I am currently a graduate student in the Leadership Education program. Over the course of my studies, I became familiar with a style of leadership that compliments my philosophy on an officer’s purpose, servant leadership. Servant leadership, a term coined by Robert Greenleaf, focuses on the needs of others, especially team members, before you consider your own. This is the basic principle of why leaders eat last. Greenleaf makes it a point to mention that servant leadership is about your people’s needs not their feelings. Exercising this point works well within the military, which is certainly not a feeling based organization.

If I could add a leadership trait to the Marine Corps’ 13 leadership traits, it would be humility. I have always been a strong proponent of being humble no matter what your situation in life. Humility happens to be a central tenet to servant leadership. I submit that remaining humble allows you to be approachable to your people. Being approachable facilitates relationships, which fosters trust. All of which contribute to the development and subsequent success of the team.

It has been a great year here at the University of Nebraska. I learn from the Midshipmen as much as they learn from me and count my blessings daily for the opportunity to mold and shape the young men and women who will lead our great Nation into the future.

Go Big Red!
Change of Command being conducted between MIDN Tevebaugh to MIDN Macdougall

Marine Options after completing Red Thunder field training
Being Battalion Commander this year was interesting. Our unit has shrunk quite a bit since my freshman year and with the smaller size we became tighter knit than in years past. We decided to make a few changes with Battalion organization and operations. A few of the smaller billets were combined into collateral duties, allowing us to practice the art of delegation towards a few of the younger guys. We also separated companies for PT and held regular competitions between them in an attempt to build a rivalry.

Many of this semester’s events were the same as they have been in previous years, but we have laid the groundwork for more changes next year. We attended the Colorado Drill meet, placed 2nd in color guard, and our Endurance team missed 3rd place by a technicality. We continued our partnership with the boys and girls club in Lincoln and hung out with the middle schoolers for an afternoon earlier this semester. Mess night took place relatively late this semester, but we still had way too much fun. The freshmen and sophomore skits were good, and the fines were all justified and hilarious. With Scott Frost’s return to Nebraska, this year’s spring game broke an attendance record for the University, which made stadium cleanup for Semper Fi society that much more fun. The Chancellor’s review followed by a Hail & Farewell, and culminating with a Commissioning are highlights of things to come.

For me, the most rewarding part of being CO this semester was my opportunity to mentor and watch a few of our Midshipmen mature as leaders. There were a few that struggled in previous semesters, but we gave them another shot to sink or swim, and they impressed us. It was incredible to see their transformation between last year and this year. This semester I tried to provide “extra” opportunities for midshipmen to improve themselves. These opportunities took the form of additional PT’s, hikes, study sessions, etc. (all voluntary) – which inspired some initiative in a few midshipmen and transformed into notable improvements both athletically and academically. Building camaraderie was one of our focuses when we started in January, and I think we did an excellent job of fostering this throughout the semester. We held a few XO’s calls at restaurants downtown, hung out in the wardroom for a few movie nights, and many of us participated in the new gaming sensation “Fortnite”.

Having the opportunity to be BNCO for my last semester here was bittersweet. I’m going to miss all my incredible ROTC instructors (many of whom are also leaving this summer), former classmates, and especially the opportunity to lead the Battalion. Nebraska was not my first choice when I was choosing schools five years ago, but looking back knowing what (and who) I know now, I wouldn’t change a thing. GO BIG RED & FLY NAVY!
Gunnery Sergeant Sink posing with Chancellor Green, CAPT Thomas, and the members of the Lincoln Fire Department after being awarded for saving a life outside the CBA Building.

The NROTC battalion after winning the Annual Army vs Navy football game.
When Gunnery Sergeant Sink told me freshman year that doing color guard was the hook up, I believed him, and I volunteered for every color guard I could get after that. I’m glad I did too, because since I did so many, I was picked to be color guard commander for the Battalion this year. At first, I was a little nervous about the position. I had never commanded a color guard before, and I had absolutely no idea how to. But after a few practice sessions with Gunnery Sergeant Sink, I started to get the hang of calling out the commands in my big-boy voice.

The first time I got to try it out was at the home football games this year. It was my first time commanding a color guard, so of course it had to be in front of 90,000 people. I remember gripping the flag staff a little bit too tightly when it was time to go. But amazingly, the event went off without a hitch, and I quickly realized that life on the color guard was good. No matter how much I liked being out there presenting the colors, the thousands of football fans in the stands seemed to like it ten times more. When the anthem ended, the roars and cheers from the seats grew so loud that I had trouble getting my voice to carry to the other members of the color guard. Once we got off the field, there was a multitude of people congratulating us and shaking our hands. I felt like a celebrity. I looked forward to every color guard after that, no matter how big or small it was.

And I had a lot to look forward to because apart from football games, there were numerous organizations that wanted a color guard to perform at their events. Everyone got in contact with me to try and fit me into whatever they needed a color guard for. I ended up scheduling color guards for church services, monument dedications, conferences, dances, parades, you name it. And those were just the ones that Gunnery Sergeant Sink gave to me. I’m sure for as many as I got he received requests for twice as many. Things started to build up after a while, and at times I almost felt overwhelmed by the number of color guards I had lined up. But I am glad that I did every single one of them, no matter what it was for. Because each time, I was compensated. Whether it was a $25 gift card to Applebee’s, or a conversation with an Admiral, I always got something in return for volunteering for the color guard. Each experience was unique, and I look forward to doing as many as I can in the years to come.
MIDN Pollara proudly holding the NROTC Battalion’s 1st place trophy for the Annual Joint Field Meet.

2ndLt Garcia receives the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal from CAPT Thomas.
The Freshmen Experience
By MIDN 4/C Jakob Moberg

As a new college student, the NROTC Program has positively impacted me. My time in NROTC has led to some of the most rewarding events in my life, whether it is feeling like I’m finally moving towards my goal in life or making friends in college before it even started, NROTC has made my time in college mean something. One of the best things about joining UNL NROTC has been the beneficial social aspect. As freshmen, all starting midshipmen (NROTC members) must attend a 3-day long training session, called New Student Orientation (NSO). This event is 3, 12-hour long days where you are rapidly introduced into the NROTC lifestyle.

The current freshman class started with roughly 20 people hoping to become active members of NROTC, after a lot of people realizing that NROTC wasn’t the fit for them, we ended up with 7 midshipmen in our freshmen class at the start of the 2nd semester. The most positive aspect of such a high drop rate is how tight-knit the freshmen that remain are, and how easy it was to find a group of like-minded people in the new college atmosphere. The 6 other freshmen and I spend a good amount of time together and all share the same goals of one day becoming a military officer. This ability to immediately become a member of such a tight-knit group isn’t something you’ll see in any other organizations.

Another great aspect of NROTC is the feeling that I’m finally doing something that contributes to my goal of becoming an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Throughout my life I had always known that I wanted to become a Marine Corps Aviator like my father before me, but going through grade school and high school I felt as though achieving my lifelong dream was still eons away. But now? I feel as though I’m finally being given the opportunity to do what I want with my life, and actually working towards being the person I hope to become. With all the good that NROTC has brought to my college career and my life, I can look back at this first year with no regrets, and look towards the future with newfound optimism.
GySgt Sink instructs freshmen during New Student Orientation.

Color Guard led by Midshipman Kernes at the Colorado Drill Meet.
Joint Field Meet
By MIDN 3/C Lamar

I was the Midshipman in charge for the Joint Field Meet for 2017. Each year we participate in several events where we compete against the Army and Air Force. These events are designed to build camaraderie and a sense of tradition between all the ROTC programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. By overseeing the event I had several things that had to be done prior to everyone competing. I communicated with the members of the other leads who were in charge of their branch so that they could disseminate the word as needed.

The events that we competed in were the stretcher relay, izzy dizzy relay, log sit-ups, tug-of-war, pushups, and pull-ups. These events take a variety of different skills to be successful. An example of this is that to win in tug-of-war you need your competitors to be as big and strong as possible. Whereas with the izzy dizzy relay it is better to have skinnier and faster members. The stretcher relay needs a variety of all of these as it involves running as well as carrying some heavy water jugs.

Each event has its own equipment that is needed in order for the event to be successful. This is where the coordination between the three branches becomes crucial. In order to keep the cost of the event down it is coordinated between the branches to borrow the equipment necessary so that the responsibility does not fall on one branch.

By competing against the other branches every year, we are able to develop camaraderie and tradition. The traditions of competing and passing a trophy back and forth to the overall winner helps to enable the newest and the oldest midshipmen in the battalion to feel connected with each other. The camaraderie that is built between the branches is good, but where I see it have the greatest effect though is in our own battalion. This competition is a great way for the midshipmen to get to know each other better.

The Joint Field Meet is an important event that takes place every fall semester that I feel should continue every year into the future. There are a number of things that take place during this event to ensure that it runs smoothly as well as making sure that the branches get to know each other better.
Midshipmen after they finished running the Obstacle Course at The University of Kansas.

Midshipman Le getting inspected by Gunnery Sergeant Sink before the Navy Ball.
Battalion Staff

Captain Richard Thomas  
Commander Lawrence Henke  
Lieutenant Paul Hast  
Lieutenant Matthew White  
Captain Travis Horner  
Gunnery Sergeant Shane Sink  

Mr. Chester Marr  
Ms. Kim Pappas  
Ms. Patricia Stoki
Top Six Fall 2017

Battalion Commanding Officer
MIDN Garcia

Battalion Executive Officer
MIDN Carithers

Battalion Administration Officer
MIDN Hinz

Alpha Company Commander
MIDN Tews

Bravo Company Commander
MIDN Bruning

Battalion Operations Officer
MIDN Macdougall
Top Six Spring 2018

Battalion Commanding Officer
MIDN Tevebaugh

Battalion Executive Officer
MIDN Kniowski

Battalion Administration Officer
MIDN Williams

Alpha Company Commander
MIDN Pollara

Bravo Company Commander
MIDN Bareman

Battalion Operations Officer
MIDN Morris
Graduating Seniors

Fall 2017

MIDN Jacob Garica
Hometown: Grand Island, NE
Service Selection: TBS

MIDN Tyler Martin
Hometown: Nebraska City, NE
Service Selection: Submarine

MIDN James Burroughs
Hometown: Bellevue, NE
Service Selection: Submarine
Graduating Seniors
Spring 2018

MIDN Zachary Schneider
Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD
Service Selection: TBS

MIDN Thomas Tevebaugh
Hometown: Papillion, NE
Service Selection: Flight School

MIDN Aaron Jorgensen
Hometown: Livermore, CA
Service Selection: Surface Warfare

MIDN Aya Hinz
Hometown: Lincoln, NE
Service Selection: Surface Warfare Nuclear
The Tide and Current Staff would like to thank all of the writers for their contributions to this article of the Tide and Current.

Captain Richard Thomas

Commander Lawrence Henke

MIDN 1/C Thomas Tevebaugh

Lieutenant Paul Hast

MIDN 3/C Ian Kernes

Lieutenant Matthew White

MIDN 3/C Ramarro Lamar

Captain Travis Horner

MIDN 4/C Jakob Moberg
A special thanks to all of our donors who continue to support the Blackshirts of National Defense. Your donations are greatly appreciated.
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 University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference and Orientation Week ("O-Week"). Unfortunately, Navy funds cannot be spent for these specific events. If you are interested in helping our students attend these excellent developmental opportunities, please consider providing a monetary donation (UNL Foundation #30277). Your donation will directly support the students enabling their further development.

Thank you. GO BIG RED!

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!

Very Respectfully,

R.E. Thomas
Captain, USN
Professor of Naval Science

YES! I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT UNL-NROTC.

Enclosed is my check made payable to: UNL Foundation #30277 for $_______.

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DETACH THIS FORM AND MAIL TO: NROTC at UNL Attn: Commanding Officer 103 M&N Building Lincoln, NE 68588-0139