TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

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Tide and Current Advisor: Captain Mitch Grey

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

Congratulations Top 6, Spring 2008

Battalion Commander:	MIDN Jonathan Patras
Battalion Executive Officer:	OC Aaron Martin
Operations Officer:	MIDN Ryan Hurt
Administration Officer:	MIDN Martin Fox
A Company Commander:	MIDN Michael Feay
B Company Commander:	OC Patrick Hynes

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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.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NAVAL ROTC FALL 2007

CO's Corner *By Colonel Eric Litaker*

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This has been a busy semester, with many things happening here on the campus of UNL. Once again we have an outstanding Freshman class joining the Battalion and beginning to make their mark along with rest of the students in the unit. The Battalion has been involved in a number of activities, to include a visit from the Commander, Seventh Fleet; weekly Naval Science Lab sessions; providing security, and cleaning up afterward, for Husker football games; once again winning the Joint Field Meet; and numerous color guard performances. The Midshipmen Battalion can be justifiably proud of its achievements this semester.

We have also learned this semester that the Campus Recreation Center is planning to expand, and that apparently the preferred option for that expansion includes the demolition of the Military and Naval Science building. While the University administration has given verbal assurances that our program will not be compromised, there are no details yet as to what will happen if we lose our current facilities. This is a subject of much concern, and I and the staff will be working hard to ensure the continued viability of the NROTC program here at UNL.

With all of these activities, it is easy to become distracted and lose sight of what is most important. We are here to ensure our students complete their degrees and the requirements for obtaining a commission

(Continued on page 2)

in the United States Naval Services; to ensure that our students are successful in making the transition from civilian life to military life; and to ensure that we maintain appropriate standards, which are the foundation of the leadership our students will need to exhibit as commissioned officers. In order to ensure our students are prepared to lead this nation's Sailors and Marines, we must all strive to ensure these goals are met.

XO's Corner

By Lieutenant John Hodges

It's time to bid farewell to another challenging and highly successful semester at the University of Nebraska NROTC unit. We've seen a number of changes throughout the unit, including new staff members, a new class of budding future Naval officers, and of course a wealth of new opportunities to excel.

Freshman Orientation Week started the semester with a brief, but rewarding introduction to the military and NROTC. As always, the active duty and midshipman staff conducted the event with the utmost professionalism and pride. I'm sure each of our freshmen, still with us, can attest to the dedication displayed during the week's training. The Navy and Marine Corps birthdays were celebrated with another superb Birthday Ball in addition to a couple of very moving ceremonies during lab periods.

In addition to the unit's accomplishments, several individual events have earned some well-deserved recognition. I'd like to commend Midshipman William Walter for his selection as a NROTC scholarship recipient. Midshipman Kiersten Madsen and Midshipman Brett Mitchell both deserve congratulations for their selections as the Curtis E. LeMay Flight Scholarship recipients. And, of course each of our graduating seniors, Midshipman Robert Ross, and SSgt Ryan Paulsen, should be congratulated for their accomplishments. I wish each of you the best as you start what I'm sure will be a brilliant career as a Naval officer. Each of these individual accolades represent the highest quality standards throughout the NROTC program here at the University of Nebraska.

I would like to commend the Battalion Staff for your dedication to making this unit so successful this semester, and for setting the tone for many future successful semesters ahead. Know that each of you demonstrate the very best in military professionalism as you *lead from the front* for all Battalion midshipmen to follow.

Throughout his tour at UNL, Lieutenant Hodges has been a valuable member of the topside staff. He provided valuable knowledge and experience, guiding several midshipman through the difficult process of applying to the submarine warfare community. In addition to developing midshipman professionally, Lieutenant Hodges also saw to it that the midshipman conducted themselves in a professional and intelligent manner while not in uniform. His door was always open for help if there were any problems. This drive to get things done right will be missed here in the battalion.

UNL NROTC Battalion

Staff Sergeant Jeffery W. Bryant enlisted in the Marine Corps on August 28th, 1996. Upon completion of recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, California, Private First Class Bryant was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA, Marine Combat Training, Hotel Company. In 1997 he was transferred to attend Schools Battalion MCCES MCAGCC Twenty-Nine Palms, CA to become a Field Radio Operator. After graduating, he was assigned recruiters assistance in Chicago, IL. In May 1997, he was transferred to 7th Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group (FSSG), Camp Pendleton, CA. During this time he participated in "Operation Colonel Blitz." Next he was assigned to 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 1st FSSG for duty as a Radio Operator. During this time he participated in Fleet Week in San Francisco, rebuilding and painting old schools and playgrounds. He completed two Western Pacific deployments with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable toward the Persian Gulf, for "Operation Southern Watch." Ending his second deployment, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In Feb. 2000 he was transferred to the 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st FSSG in Camp Pendleton for duty as a Radio Supervisor. In June of 2000, he was transferred to MCRD Sand Diego to attend Drill Instructor School. After graduating he was assigned to 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, Kilo Company. While with Kilo Company he visited Recruiting Stations Las Vegas, and Chicago to educate recruiters and to speak with parents on the daily activities of Marine Corps recruits. He also attended the Green Belt Instructor course and Senior Drill Instructor course. In November of 2003 he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. After completing eight training cycles he ended his Drill Instructor tour, two of which serving as a Senior Drill Instructor. In April of 2004 he was assigned to Marine Corps Security Force Company in Rota, Spain for duty as the Communications Chief. In 2007 Staff Sergeant Bryant was assigned as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In May 2007 he served as a Sergeant Instructor for Golf Company and PLC Juniors at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. Staff Sergeant Bryant's personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Finally, I'd like to close this semester with best wishes to each of you in your future endeavors. While there are thousands of people in the Naval service, it's sometimes amazing to realize just how small our community really is. I look forward to seeing each of you sometime down the road. Take care.

BNCO's Corner

By MIDN Mitchell

Another semester has come and gone. Once again I'm left in amazement of the achievements our battalion has made in such a short period of time. However, this time for me it's different in the way I view the progress each of our midshipmen has made. Prior to holding a staff billet I was more task-oriented. I believe the greatest opportunity I've been given this past semester was the opportunity to take a step back and view the 'big picture. It is clear how far everyone has come in their development towards becoming naval officers. I am truly privileged to witness each midshipman's progress and play a small part in it.

Once again our battalion performed well in our annual athletic competitions. Our flag football team had an excellent season, finishing their intramural season on a high note by winning seven straight games including the 'Class C' championship game.

Our battalion also had many other noteworthy events. We were fortunate to have CAPT Daseler, NROTC Nuclear Propulsion Program Director and Vice Admiral Crowder, Commander 7th Fleet, speak to our battalion. The Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball was once again extremely successful, and I would like to thank MIDN Feay and his staff for the work they put into it.

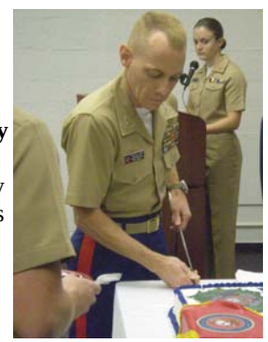
This past fall semester was also different because it was my last. Many times I caught myself thinking how it was the last time I'd do some of these things. This realization led me to fully appreciate what this battalion has done for me. Finally, I would like to give a message to the current and future midshipmen of our battalion. 'Look for the big picture.' The road to becoming a commissioned naval officer is not short, nor easy. When you feel overwhelmed with daily tasks, remember the dream you had when you joined the program. It's worth it.

Battalion Activities

Color Guard. Here the Navy is represented during the all-service color guard performed at the K-state game.

Confidence Course. During lab battalion members learn teamwork and trust while belaying each other on the structure (below left).

Marine Corps Birthday Ceremony. Colonel Litaker cuts the birthday cake honoring 232 years of heritage. Semper Fi!



Hails and Farewells

Captain Grey was born in Goldthwaite, Texas and graduated from Evant High School in 1994. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, participating in recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego, California from August to November of 1994. After recruit training he attended Marine Combat Training (MCT) at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was assigned the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Landing Support Specialist. He served as a Longshoreman as part of 3rd Force Service Support Group (FSSG), 3rd Landing Support Battalion (LSB) and at 1st FSSG, 1st LSB, Beach and Terminal Operations Company. At 1st LSB, he was afforded the opportunity to attend Army Airborne School and subsequently served as an Air Deliveryman. During his time working at the para-loft he amassed 72 Aircraft Jumps. In 1999 he was accepted to the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). Upon acceptance to the program he attended the MECEP Preparatory course at MCRD San Diego, California, and upon graduation he was assigned to the University of Colorado, Boulder to start work on his undergraduate degree. In May 2003, he graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelors of Arts degree in History and in Secondary Education. He also received his teaching credentials for the state of Colorado. Upon commissioning he attended The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia, where he was assigned the MOS 6602, Aviation Supply Officer. Upon completion of TBS he reported to the Basic Aviation Logistics course in Athens, Georgia for technical training. His first tour in the operating forces as a commissioned officer was with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 (MALS-12) located in Iwakuni, Japan. There he served as a Consumables Management and Supply Response Division Officer. He was later assigned as the MALS-12 S-3 shop, where he assumed the duties as the Squadron Operations, Logistics and Training officer. In July 2007, he reported to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln NROTC unit to serve as the Marine Officer Instructor. Captain Grey has been Married 13 years to the former Beverlee Kay Stephens. He and his wife have two children; Merrick (8), and Makenzie (3).

Congratulations Seniors!

Ensign Robert L. Ross

MAJOR:

Communication Studies

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School
Quantico, VA

MAJOR:

Mechanical Engineering

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG-29)
Mayport, FL

2nd Lt Ryan P. Paulsen

Navy / Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The ball this year was a great success. MIDN Zach, Bromen, Kline, and Holdcroft were the members of the cake detail for the ceremony.

Football Security. One of the battalion's extra jobs is to help keep the stadium safe during football games. Here MIDN Walkemeyer keeps a watchful eye out for trouble along with Lil' Red.

Intramural Flag Football. This year's Semper Fi team won their division in the league. Here they are shown playing at Memorial Stadium defeating the Army

CORTRAMID

By MIDN Russell

The first Summer Cruise Midshipmen go on is known as CORTRAMID. CORTRAMID is designed to give Midshipmen a brief introduction into all of the different communities the Navy and Marine Corps have to offer. CORTRAMID is a four week long training evolution, each week being committed to a different community. Marine week, Submarine week, Surface week, and Aviation week are all comprised of very different training events, schedules, staff, and material to allow Midshipmen the opportunity to get a better understanding of the community they may or may not be interested in.

MIDN Boyer and MIDN Bromen prepare for take-off on a refueling mission

Marine week consists of a compilation of different Marine Corps affiliated training facilities. During this week you learn how to properly make a rack, eat an MRE, field day, and sound off. As well as experience; Marine Corps aviation, LAVs, AAVs, the O-Course, weapons training, and receive extensive time to ask questions about where the Marine Corps is going in regards to technology and recent changes in regards to the current war.

Submarine week allows Midshipmen to understand what life is like on a submarine. This week included an engine room repair simulator, a submarine CONN simulator, spending a night underway on an actual submarine, extensive knowledge of the specifications of the vessel and much more. Surface week encompasses life as a surface officer. Midshipmen spend at least one night underway, being trained in fire fighting, the duties of an officer on board a ship, and being allowed primarily free reign over the entire vessel.

The events were push-ups, sit-ups, and a rope climb. The Army won the sit-ups, but Navy countered strongly with a win in the rope climb and push-ups to secure their victory and ultimately claim the coveted “Commanders Cup.” After the competition was over, all the spectators and participants partook of the annual joint field meet barbecue.

MIDN Lembrick, Erickson, and Zach, the three tie-breakers.

MIDN Fults cranks out situps during the two minute event.

The team getting ready to do situps with the log.

MIDN Walter celebrates the win with the trophy, MIDN Zach with food from the barbecue.

Joint Field Meet

By MIDN Kline

The annual joint-services field meet took place Thursday, October 12. It is an annual event that brings together the Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC units to compete against each other in various athletic events. This year's joint field meet was full of fierce competition and excitement. The excitement began shortly before the event was supposed to start, as previous days of rain forced the event officials to move the meet indoors to the Military and Naval Science building. Since the facilities could not adequately support the original events, alternatives had to be used: the stretcher relay race was switched to a dip competition, the dizzy-izzy relay was changed to a jump-rope relay, and ultimate frisbee changed to a dodgeball tournament.

MIDN Lacy reaches for the top of the rope climb.

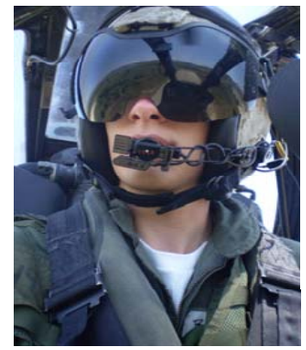
In spite of the sudden changes in venue and competition, the midshipmen and cadet participants all competed admirably in an effort to win the "Commander's Cup," the trophy given to the winner of the meet. All three branches had success at different events. The Air Force won the dodgeball tournament handily while Navy dominated the pull-ups, and the Army won the jump-rope relay at the end of the meet which seemed to secure their victory at the time .

However, after the judges convened it was determined that there had been a scoring error and that Navy and Army were actually tied. So a three event tie-breaker took place, where three participants from both Army and Navy would each participate in one event.

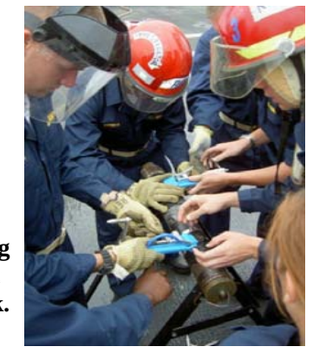
MIDN Russell and MIDN Dawson view the inside of an LAV.

Aviation week introduces Midshipmen to a great deal of the basic information necessary to be a naval aviator. During this week Midshipmen must pass a flight swim qualification, as well as complete G-force training, and high altitude breathing introductory courses. Midshipmen are also provided the opportunity to fly in a FA-18 Hornet, a G-6 propelled plane, a AH-1 Super Cobra, UH-1 Huey, and a CH-53 Helicopter. In some cases Midshipmen were given the opportunity to operate some of these the aircraft.

Overall, CORTRAMID is an amazing experience and an incredible way to further your knowledge and interest in the learning community you desire. Is also provides some outstanding guidance towards the community you may be interested in the future.



MIDN Boyer operating an AH-1 Super Cobra.



Midshipmen learning to patch a pipe leak during surface week.

MIDN Zach experiences the joy of firing a .50 cal.

Orientation Week

By MIDN Vanourney

On 24 August, 2007, 16 midshipmen stood before Colonel Litaker, the Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit at Nebraska, and were sworn into the United States Navy and Marine Corps. As each midshipmen stood there, I'm sure they were all thinking the same thing: how relieved and proud they were to have made it to that moment. Each midshipman standing there had, during the previous four days, been pushed to their physical and mental limits. But they persevered and kept going, each determined to make it to the end of the week and the beginning of their careers in the United States military.

The candidates reported for Orientation Week at 0800, on August 20th. The morning started with a welcoming from the Commanding Officer and various briefs on health, safety, and what the candidates would experience over the upcoming four days. With the conclusion of the briefs, the candidates switched out of their civilian clothing and into their new uniforms, thus accomplishing the first step of the transformation to a military lifestyle. After a swim qualification test and a trip to the College of Hair Design, the candidates were taken to Camp Ashland where they were introduced and "handed over" to the O-Week Staff; the remainder of the night was spent getting "acclimated" to the barracks and the staff.

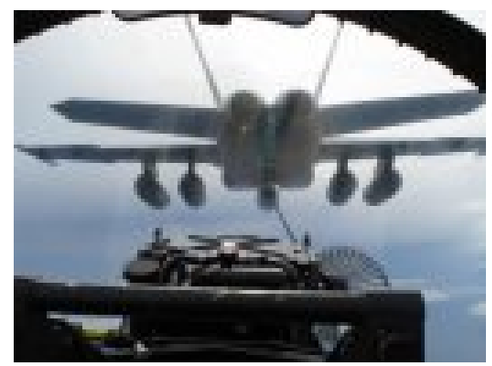
Tuesday morning began bright and early with a PRT (Physical Readiness Test) at 0515; followed later on by close-order drill, where the candidates got their first taste for basic marching movements. They also got their first taste of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), at mealtime. During the course of the day, the candidates also received GMTs (General Military Training) that discussed topics such as fraternization, chain of

ready room. However, it wasn't all fun and games. I was also tasked certain 'midshipman duties' by the JO's. These included the extremely laborious tasks of popping popcorn and purchasing a nightly assortment of junk food from the ship's store.

While those experiences are memorable, I wouldn't categorize any of them as unforgettable. My first unforgettable experience really isn't even that surprising given my career ambitions and the fact that I was on an aviation cruise. After flying in an SH-60, F/A-18F and C-2A , it was my flight in EA-6B Prowler that stands out. Even though it is not the most glamorous aircraft in the Navy's inventory, I soon learned that the Prowler is an excellent airplane. The catapult shot, arrested landing and many aerobatic maneuvers were all amazing first time experiences.

MIDN Mitchell taking a ride in an SH-60 Seahawk.

My second unforgettable experience is not nearly as exciting in the traditional sense. It happened unexpectedly and caught me off guard. One night, I discovered that I couldn't fall asleep, so I headed to the gym for a late night workout. After a 30 minute treadmill routine I found myself walking back to my stateroom through the hanger bay. I was sweaty, exhausted, and completely speechless. I was surrounded by over 100 enlisted men and women, many of whom were my age or younger, working extremely hard, at 0200! It was amazing. I realized that the next morning it would appear to the pilots as if their aircraft were magically maintained, refueled, repaired and rearmed, and that was just fine with every person there. These people weren't there for recognition or to make a lot of money, they were there because they had a job to do and a country to serve. I can only hope that this realization isn't lost in time. Now, more than ever before, I see that there is much more to being a naval officer than what is shown on TV or in the movies, most of it about leading the everyday sailor who is just trying to do the best they can. I can't wait to be commissioned in May.



While riding in the back of a Super Hornet MIDN Mitchell is refueled by another F-18.

First Class Cruise

By MIDN MItchell

Someday, long into the future, when I look back upon my Navy career I have no doubt that my midshipman first-class aviation cruise will stand out as one of the highlights. For just over two weeks I ate with, lived with, and ultimately became friends with some of the best pilots in the world. The officers of VFA-27 "The Royal Maces" have a right to this distinction as they are the Navy's only forward deployed, single seat, Super Hornet squadron. Let's just say you don't get here by performing a little above average in flight school.

MIDN Mitchell during a Super Hornet flight.

As if being assigned to this squadron on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk for two weeks wasn't enough of a treat, I also got to visit Australia and Guam. Although I soon found myself halfway around the world without any luggage my experience in Brisbane, Australia was amazing. It provided me an excellent opportunity to get to know the squadron's officers in a social environment. However, the time spent there was short lived. After two days, a few hundred dollars, and one killer case of jet lag, myself along with 5,000+ other sailors aboard the Kitty Hawk pulled out of Brisbane harbor.

Luckily, losing my uniforms wasn't a big issue as I wore a flight suit around the ship most of the time. Over the next 14 days I spent a majority of my time finding my way around the ship, standing on the LSO (Landing Signal Officer) platform and hanging out in the

The flight deck of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk during sunset.

command, and customs and courtesies. After intense physical activity, followed by intense hydration, it was finally time for Taps; here the candidates were assigned watch times where they learned and executed proper fire watch procedures. Wednesday's schedule was similar to Tuesday's with the exception of in the afternoon, when the candidates were moved to a site for Leadership Reaction Courses(LRC). The LRCs consisted of tasks that help develop and improve the leadership skills needed in various military tasks. LRCs were both challenging and fun to the candidates. That night the candidates had individual presentations with Captain Grey, which allowed them to relax and get to know their shipmates.

The much anticipated Thursday (last day at Camp Ashland) had finally arrived to the extreme relief of the candidates. After PT and close-order drill they spent the remainder of the morning with a field day of the barracks. Upon returning to the M&N Building, the candidates had a khaki uniform inspection and were dismissed for the day. The "Swearing-In Ceremony" for the freshmen was held Friday afternoon, which officially made them Midshipmen in the NROTC Unit. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony, all new personnel and their families were invited to a reception at the Starlight Lounge. The final event of O-Week was a picnic at Branched Oak Lake where the midshipmen and their families enjoyed an afternoon of BBQ and unit sporting events; here, the freshmen were given an opportunity to meet and get to know the upperclassmen.

Orientation Week provided the freshmen midshipmen with an introduction to military lifestyle. Along with the training and instruction, the midshipmen gained experiences that they are likely never to forget. These experiences helped to give the freshmen class a common bond and provided them with plenty of stories to share with their families and friends, as well as with each other.

Orientation Week Pictures

Candidates stand ready to get in the pool for swim qualification.

MIDN Feay keeps a close eye on two candidates during swim quals.

While packing seabags, candidates show the stress already placed on them.

Candidates wait patiently for the vans to arrive to take them to Camp Ashland.

Candidates standing on line at Camp Ashland.

Even MIDN Zach looks confused as to how to complete this LRC.

Candidate Skiles tries not to drop the ball during an LRC.

The candidates who made in through O-week, preparing for their first ever whites inspection.

Colonel Litaker congratulates the newly sworn-in Midshipman.