

TIDE AND CURRENT



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NAVAL ROTC FALL 2006



CO's Corner *By Colonel Eric Litaker*



With the end of the Spring semester we close out another academic year. I continue to be impressed with the quality of the midshipmen in the unit and all the activities undertaken by the battalion. There has been a good deal of improvement in many areas for the battalion as a whole, and some of the individual midshipmen have been remarkably successful in their academic endeavors, physical training, and extra-curricular activities. The results of the competitions at Tulane University and Texas A&M this semester are outstanding examples of how well

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the battalion here at the University of Nebraska compares to other units around the Nation. All members of the unit can be justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

One of the challenges we continue to face is that of personnel. In January SKI Gilbert transferred, and in early April SKCS French went on terminal leave as he prepares to retire. In addition, both the MOI, Capt Dansie, and the AMOI, GySgt Butts, will be transferring this summer. The contributions that each of these individuals has made are significant, and each of them will be missed. We wish them all fair winds and following seas as they move on. Moreover, we were notified in mid-April that our Executive Officer, CDR Long, has been assigned to fill an Individual Augmentee (IA) billet, which includes several months of training followed by a year-long deployment to Iraq. We wish him well on his deployment.

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The upcoming summer will be a time of discovery and adventure for those who are being commissioned, and an opportunity for new experiences for those who will be heading off to summer training. Regardless of what our staff and students have planned for the summer, I encourage everyone to take some time to rest and relax. When we return in the fall, we must be ready to continue our efforts to prepare our midshipmen to become officers in the United States Naval Services.

XO's Corner

By Commander John Long



My time is short but I would be remiss if I didn't offer my best wishes to all of you as you work through finals and prepare for the summer. Congratulations to everyone on completion of a successful school year! From the Joint Field Meet, to the Tulane Drill Meet, to the Texas A&M Endurance Competition, to your many academic awards; you have all demonstrated exceptional abilities and strength of character. You have proven once again that the strength of a unit lies not in numbers, but in quality and you are second to none.

I need to thank the departing seniors for their leadership and contributions to the Battalion. I also need to add a personal thanks to the seniors (and others) who sat through NS 413 with me this semester. I found my first attempt at teaching to be a challenge, but a thoroughly enjoyable challenge. I hope that you all learned as much as I did! To our juniors, I regret that I will not have the opportunity share the same "quality time" with all of you next spring.

As commissioning approaches, and orders continue to arrive, I hope that each of commissionees receive the assignments they hope for. I know that several of have been pleased with the location and/or timing of the orders you have received. For those of you who may not have received your first choice, don't lose heart. Things have a way of working out in the long run.

On a more personal note, special congratulations are in order for soon to be ENS Anderson and 2nd Lt Soneson on their impending marriages. I wish all the best to each of you and your your new families.

Finally, to all participating in summer training this year; make the most of your opportunities. Having observed midshipmen assigned to squadrons and ships in the past I will tell that you have ability to make the experience worthwhile or just a check in the block. Enjoy the summer and come back safe in August.

BNCO's Corner

By MIDN Anderson



It is hard to believe that my time in NROTC is drawing to a close. It does not seem that long ago that the seniors were moving into Abel Hall the night before O-Week, not knowing what the future would hold. It seems even more recent that I was listening to Colonel Litaker speaking to the Battalion in B5 telling me that I was going to be the next BNCO, and it was only last week that I announced the next staff at Skeeter Barnes. Four years has come and gone so fast it almost seems like a blur.

The spring semester is the best time to be in the unit; it is the time of year when we cash in on all the hard work of the fall semester and show the world around us what great things a 33 member Battalion can do when faced with competition from units sometimes ten times our size. The drill team performed amazingly at Tulane, the colorguard even brought home the second place trophy. The endurance team ventured to Texas A&M and again came home with their heads held high, placing fourth in a competition which can easily be regarded as one of the hardest in years. The legacy of excellence continues to grow with every trial and endeavor this unit undertakes.

The highlight of the semester can easily be awarded to the freshmen class, who continue to shine brighter and brighter. It has been an honor to watch them grow with every challenge, competition, and obstacle. Their success says great things about the motivation of the youngest members of the battalion, and also reflects positively on the older midshipmen, who have taken the freshmen under their wings and coached them through the rough and daunting task of balancing NROTC and scholastic demands. I believe this unit is ready for next semester and to accept the next crop of bright eyed and motivated freshmen.

It has been an honor for me to serve as the BNCO this semester, to represent such a great group of future officers to the other services, the university, and the community at large. I have nothing but praise and hope for all of you in your futures. Thank you for the life lessons I will take to the fleet and beyond. Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Battalion Activities



Sea Cadets. MIDN Patras and the Drill Team teach local Sea Cadets the precision and discipline of drill.

Drill Practice. MIDN Lembrick commands the platoon at one of many morning drill practices.



SAC Museum Tour. The battalion listens intently to a tour guide at the Strategic Air Command Museum during lab.

CPE Certifications. MIDN Lacy demonstrates proper technique during CPR training. All members of the battalion earned “Adult CPR” qualifications this semester.



UNL Basketball. The award-winning Color Guard Bravo presents the colors during the National Anthem at the Kansas St. game in the Devaney Center.

PRT/PFT. Navy Options attempt to “max out” their pushups during this two-minute timed test in the Cook Pavilion.



Battalion Activities (con't)



“Picnic.” Battalion members socialize at the annual end of the year picnic. Due to inclement weather, this year’s “picnic” was held at Skeeter Barnes, a local restaurant.

Mess Night: Cocktail Hour. Col. Litaker imparts words of wisdom to members of the battalion’s Semper Fi Society before the dining-in.



Mess Night: Guest of Honor. Mr. Ken Korkow, a Vietnam veteran and Navy Cross recipient, graciously agreed to come speak to the battalion as our Guest of Honor at the dining-in.

Pistol/Rifle Competition

By Sgt Ray



The Naval ROTC places high expectations on midshipmen, occupying much of their focus, dedication, and time. Despite the already strenuous schedule of physical training, drill, labs, and fundraising events; six midshipmen rose above the norm to become rifle and pistol marksmen. Every Tuesday morning Midshipmen Bergstrom, Dawson, Erickson, Hallahan, Walkemeyer, and Zach sent hundreds of rounds down range in preparation for the University of Nebraska NROTC Rifle/Pistol Invitational and the chance to earn the highest honor of high shooter for 2007.

The invitational began early on Saturday, 14 April 2007. The first event was the rifle competition. Each shooter fired a total of 30 rounds in three firing positions: prone, kneeling, and standing. Three shooters emerged strong after the first round of firing: Midshipmen Erickson, Bergstrom and Zach. However, the difficulty of the kneeling and standing positions weeded out the competition and Midshipmen Erickson surfaced as the definitive leader and high shooter with a score of 221.

After thoroughly proving themselves as riflemen, the six midshipmen turned their attention to the .22 caliber pistols as they embarked on the second event in this competition. Each midshipman shot a total of 30 rounds in slow fire, timed fire, and rapid fire segments. Despite the obstacles of time constraints and faulty weapons, Midshipman Erickson once again arose above the pack obtaining the high shooter position with a score of 214.

Afterwards all rifle/pistol shooters enjoyed a quick breakfast of donuts and juice before they had to run off (literally) to assist with the Spring Football game. Their hard work and talents were not overlooked, though, as the top three shooters in each division were recognized at the Navy Day Awards lab on 26 April 2007. Medals for second and third were given to Midshipmen Zach and Dawson in the rifle division; and to Midshipmen Dawson and Walkemeyer in the pistol division. The ultimate award, the high shooter trophies for rifle and pistol, was presented to Midshipman Erickson. His scores in rifle and pistol are not only the highest in the last few years in each division, they are also the highest combined rifle and pistol score in over 15 years. Thus, the rifle/pistol team has not only completed another successful year, these remarkable midshipmen show extreme promise as they shoot forward into the 2007-08 school year.

Joint Lab

By MIDN Lacy



The joint lab that was done with the AFROTC cadets was a successful showing of the hard work that this battalion has done in the last semester. The cadets and midshipmen were divided up into two integrated companies, designated “Alpha” and “Bravo.” Each company was then divided into three squads to compete in the events of the day: dodgeball, the “physical challenge,” and the “knowledge challenge.” These events would test the overall aptitude of the midshipmen and cadets.



MIDN Lembrick teaches this cadet the five D's of dodgeball.

I first went upstairs to the basketball courts in “Air Force country,” where the dodgeball competition was to take place. After the teams stretched out, the rules of play were explained and the tournament began. It was soon apparent that our midshipmen, though fewer in number than the cadets, were the first to be targeted by the opposing team because of our renowned physical prowess and aggressive play. I had to move on to record the other events taking place in different areas of the M&N building, but the nerve-wracking conclusion to dodgeball tournament was described to me later. Apparently, regular play ended in a tie, so the teams were

forced to go to a round of sudden death elimination, which Alpha company won.

As the dodgeball tournament was in full-swing upstairs, other teams were competing in the “knowledge challenge” downstairs in classroom B5. Competitors were asked to identify various ships, aircraft, and weapons systems, as well as general knowledge questions about the chain of command, and they were quizzed on current events. We showed that we can participate as effectively in a classroom setting as we can in physical activities as



General knowledge trivia game.

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MIDN Ross's team dominated the competition.

The "physical challenge" was by far the most intense of the three events. Cadets and midshipmen competed in several physical activities in the welldeck, including suicide sprints, squad pushups, and a wall-sit. The wall-sit was the last event of the day, and the last man left sitting determined the winner. One by one, the cadets and midshipmen began to drop out, even as teammates from the dodgeball tournament and knowledge challenge tried desperately to cheer them on. No one from the cheering section worked harder than MIDN Ross, who was willing to resort to doing a one-legged jig to keep teammate OC Hynes's mind off the beat pain. In the end, MIDN Russell gave a great show of heart, but was narrowly by MIDN Boyer.

Alpha Company was the overall winner, having won both dodgeball and the knowledge challenge. I would consider this lab a success because everyone had a good time showing off their military knowledge or physical dexterity, and it was a good way to build camaraderie between the services.



Squad pushups in the welldeck test teamwork and physical fitness.



Relay sprints in the welldeck.



MIDN Boyer sits between MIDN Walter and MIDN Erickson during the wall-sit.

Mardi Gras Drill Meet

By MIDN Boyer



The mantra of, 'adapt and overcome' seemed to be the words that would most adequately describe the preparation and trip down to New Orleans for the Mardi Gras Drill Meet. It was early Thursday morning that we all assembled at the M&N building to do a gear check and load everything up in the two vans to leave. Everyone was excited by this time; we were taking a platoon, squad, and two color guard teams whose hard work was finally to be realized. MIDN Madsen and Erickson had everything to the smallest detail planned out and under control. Then the van wouldn't start.

We tried to get the van to start for an hour or so before realizing that if we were to make it down in time we would just have to leave. Frantically searching for another van to take, someone suggested we ask the Air Force ROTC for one. The Air Force graciously agreed to loan us a van for the trip. What they didn't tell us was that we were going to be advertising for them the whole time. The van they gave us was plastered with decals and stickers, and across the middle was painted, 'AFROTC: Cross Into The Blue.'

That was the first obstacle to overcome. The next day while in Missouri we woke up to find that our other van would not start. We resigned ourselves to wait while the people in charge tried to figure out what to do. It was thanks only to MIDN Russell's membership in AAA that the van got fixed. That drive was long, but we made it to New Orleans just fine.

The competition itself is where we really shined. During all the practices since the beginning of the year, MIDN Lembrick, the platoon drill captain, said that we would not realize how great the drill meet would be until we were actually there. He was right. This was the perfect example of our small battalion adapting and overcoming much larger units from across the country. Our squad and platoon teams performed well, but our color guards did much better. Alpha team took 9th overall while the all-freshman Bravo team captured 2nd place. Overall, it was an amazing meet.

Thanks must be given to MIDN Madsen and Erickson for doing an amazing job planning the whole event. Also the hard work of MIDN Lembrick, the drill captain, and MIDN Patras, the squad drill captain, must be recognized and appreciated. As a freshman, I was very impressed by how everyone conducted themselves, and feel that this battalion is the most professional and well-disciplined unit in the country.

Drill Meet Pictures



The Competition Platoon: Outside McAlister Auditorium on campus at Tulane University.

Awards

Left: Color Guard Bravo
Right: MIDN Lembrick receives the award.





Platoon Inspection. Individuals are graded on appearance, bearing, and knowledge.



Platoon Competition. Drill Commander MIDN Lembrick prepares to give orders.



Squad Drill executes manual of arms.

Color Guard Alpha



Color Guard Bravo



Endurance Competition

By MIDN Feay



The Endurance Competition is an experience I will look forward to next year. It certainly was not easy though. Adding four more organized PT sessions to my week was not convenient, but it was all worth it. To go down to Texas, compete with other units from across the country, and come out right behind the Naval Academy and Texas A&M is a testament to the quality of PT done at UNL NROTC.

After ten weeks of early morning and afternoon PT we left for Texas. Thirteen hours later, we were in Campus Station. Following a good night's sleep, we went to check out the courses we would be running the next day. We drove the path for the 3-mile run and the log run. Then we got out of the van, put on our boots and ran through the O-course. Each individual obstacle seemed relatively simple, but when they were done together, it would be exhausting. After practicing each obstacle two or three times, we moved to the stamina course. This too has simple obstacles, but these are spaced out with 30 to 50 feet between each one. The day to come was looking less and less enjoyable. The rest of that day was spent drinking a lot of water.



MIDN Zach and MIDN Feay prepare their strategies as they overlook the O-course.

We had managed to draw the last time slot for the competition. This meant we would be competing in the early afternoon with the sun beating down on us. On the other hand, we would also be able to sleep in a little bit. So on competition day we woke up, had a small breakfast and drove over to the swimming pool. We had plenty of time to stretch and warm up. The 500-meter swim went well and everyone seemed happy with their times. After a quick change, we drove out to where the rest of the events would take place. The 3-mile run was next. It was a very hot run. I remember my feet feeling as though they were on fire. As I approached the last half mile, I could see MIDN Mitchell struggling to jog. He was trying to run but his body wouldn't let him. When he was on the last twenty feet, he started to stumble, and fell down. MIDN Patras assisted him across the finish line. Ten seconds later, when I finished, Mitchell was lying



MIDN Patras and MIDN Boyer get ready to swim.

on the side of the road with several event staff members huddled around him. His eyes were closed and he was unresponsive, but he had a strong pulse. A minute later, EMTs arrived, and at that point there was nothing more we could do. As we walked to the O-courses, I prayed he would be okay and be able to cheer us on during our next event. He was rushed to the hospital and treated for heat exhaustion. It certainly hurt the team's morale, but we tried to stay focused. The O-course was very tiring as expected. The stamina course was every little boy's dream: getting to crawl through mud,

climb over wood obstacles and nets, slide across rope bridges and swing over a ditch on a rope. The only thing left was the 1.5-mile log run. It was easily the most difficult event of the afternoon, but it was a good end to a long day. Overall, the Endurance Competition was the best experience I have had in NROTC.

Chancellor's Review Pictures



The battalion, commanded by MIDN 1/C Adam with MIDN Kerr as guideon.



Sgt Ray announces the midshipmen and cadets to be awarded.



MIDN Boyer and MIDN Lacy represent the battalion in the Joint Color Guard.

Chancellor's Review

By MIDN Walkemeyer



At the University of Nebraska, the Naval ROTC battalion may not be the biggest unit out of the three ROTC units, but it definitely stands out in more ways than one. At the end of the Spring semester each year, outstanding cadets and midshipmen from all of these units are rewarded at the Chancellors' Review.

This year, approximately two thirds of the NROTC battalion received scholarships and various other awards for their dedication to academic success and the continuation of their military training. The other two units, Air Force and Army, also displayed their excellence in the numerous cadets who received similar awards. Most awards were presented by veterans or retired military members representing various organizations. Being recognized by these groups is quite an honor.

The part of the ceremony that drew the most attention was the "Pass in Review." Cadets and midshipmen marched with their respective ROTC units past the reviewing officer, LTC Cisne (the Army's Commanding Officer), with University of Nebraska Chancellor Harvey Pearlman looking on. This served as a ceremonial representation of the military tradition that characterizes the UNL ROTC programs. The pride and professionalism that is instilled in the individual members of these units was evident as they passed the reviewing stand. It was obvious in the execution of this ceremony that the active duty and student staffs from each unit have accepted nothing but the best in the training of the midshipmen and cadets. By holding their people to the highest standards, the ROTC units have continued to define UNL by commissioning outstanding officers. At the end of the ceremony I couldn't help feeling proud, not only for my fellow midshipmen, but for all of the United States Armed Forces serving around the world. Viewing this ceremony reminded me of the importance of tradition in the military, and that in only a couple years I will be privileged to honor those who served before me by continuing the fine tradition.

Congratulations Seniors!



2nd Lt Levi M. Adam

MAJOR:

Fisheries & Wildlife

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School
Quantico, VA

MAJOR:

International Studies

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School
Quantico, VA



2nd Lt Robert D. Kerr

MAJOR:

Secondary Education

POST-GRAD PLANS:

The Basic School
Quantico, VA



2nd Lt Andrew T. Soneson



MAJOR:

International Studies

POST-GRAD PLANS:

USS Momsen (DDG-92)
Everett, WA



ENS Jon-Andrew D. Anderson

MAJORS:

Mathematics, French

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Nuclear Power School
Charleston, SC



ENS Benjamin H. Kohn

MAJORS:

International Studies, History

POST-GRAD PLANS:

Naval Intelligence Officers' Basic Course (NIOBC)
Dam Neck, VA



ENS Ross E. Woltjer



TIDE AND CURRENT STAFF

Public Affairs Officer: MIDN Kiersten Madsen
Tide and Current Advisor: LT John Hodges

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

Congratulations Top 6, Fall 2007

Battalion Commander:	MIDN Robert Ross
Battalion Executive Officer:	MIDN Paul Lembrick
Operations Officer:	MIDN Martin Fox
Administration Officer:	MIDN Jonathan Patras
A Company Commander:	MIDN Peter Tarassov
B Company Commander:	MIDN Kiersten Madsen

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Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps



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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.