

NAVAL ★ ROTC

The Tide & Current

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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 service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.



Spring 2013 UNL NROTC Battalion Photograph

My Final Word

By Captain Jeffrey B. Whiting

This is my final Tide and Current article. After completing four academic years at UNL as the Professor of Naval Science, like my graduating seniors I too will be leaving Lincoln. Many former Commanding Officers and Executive Officers have been seduced by Lincoln and the wonderful people of Lincoln and retire right here. I can feel that pull, but will be returning to North Carolina to be near family. Lincoln has been a great place to live, and the UNL NROTC Unit has been an excellent command. As I just told the seniors, "Achieving command should be the goal of every naval officer." I learned that as a midshipman and took it to heart. During my 12 years in the Naval Reserve, I had the pleasure of being the CO or OIC of three detachments: none of which qualified as a command tour. Having the opportunity to finish my Navy career here and achieve the goal of command has been fulfilling in ways that I never imagined.

I know that the NROTC Unit has changed for the midshipmen over the course of my tour. Sometimes I have instigated changes, some changes have been driven from above, and some changes have been initiated by staff with



my full support. This dynamic of continuous change (sometimes it is even improvement) has been a constant. That change has been implemented successfully is the result of intentional communication up and down the chain of command and our focus on leadership. I have always supported the delegation of authority through the staff to the midshipmen. We have struggled with having to allow for a steep learning curve every semester as new midshipmen are appointed to formal leadership positions within the battalion. However, even this is used as a teachable experience, and everyone has grown in ability and teamwork because of it.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, UNL commissioned approximately 10 Navy and Marine Corps officers per year. We continue to graduate and commission a similar number. Those early graduates had extremely successful Navy careers: six were promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Only time will tell if we have prepared our current graduates for the same level of success in their Navy and Marine Corps careers, but we have certainly seen that our recent graduates have become successful junior officers. I

am proud to have been an influence on these young men and women. I would gladly have any of our graduates serve in my wardroom, and I cannot think of any better legacy for my career than their entry into service.

I would like to thank the Navy for entrusting me with this opportunity to command. And thank my excellent staff which over time has included six Navy Lieutenants, two Marine Corps Captains (one promoted to Major during his tour), three Navy Commanders, one Gunnery Sergeant, one Master Sergeant, two civil servants, one university assistant, and MECEP and OC students; without whom nothing successful could have occurred. And thank the midshipmen and the

parents who have supported them; for they are the best and brightest who arrive ready and willing on their quest to serve as naval officers. And thank my family for supporting me in this “best job” that I have ever had; while I tell the midshipmen that every billet you are assigned should become the “best job” that you have ever had, I do not know that anything will be better than what I am now turning over to CAPT Richard Thomas. He will be arriving from San Diego (FLEASWTRACENPAC) in June to assume command in July.

I wish you all “Fair winds and following seas.” Semper Fortis! Semper Fidelis!

A Message from the Executive Officer

A Rewarding Experience

By Commander Mark Stearns

It’s hard to believe, the school year is coming to an end already. The spring semester, with its seemingly unending snow, has absolutely flown by as I have settled into my new job here and gotten to know everyone. Congratulations to our graduating Seniors! They are off to the Fleet in various capacities and will represent our unit in fine, BIG RED fashion! For the



remainder of the unit, the summer offers the promise of some down time.

I encourage all of you to take advantage of the summer and maximize the training opportunities available. You must be a proactive! What you “get out” of your summer will be largely

dependent upon what you “put into” it. Whether participating in one of the sum-

mer training cruises / programs or at home with friends and family. Consciously work to continue your professional development. Take advantage of the down time to read and analyze the leadership examples around you. Leadership lessons abound, even for those just working a summer job. Be observant and critically think about the leadership examples you see around you. If you “put in” maximum effort and professionalism, then I am confident that your summer will result in a

rewarding professional and personal growth experience.

Remember, serving in our Nation’s military is a lifestyle – it doesn’t change over the weekend, when you are on Summer Break, in a leave status, or enjoying a foreign port. We are all representatives of the United States Navy and our Nation every single day, no exceptions. Be proud, be professional, stay engaged and enjoy your summer!

A Message from the Naval Officer Instructors

Focus On Fitness

By Lieutenant Jonathan Pastell and Lieutenant Jeff Scheidt

Over the past few years, the Navy has become increasingly focused on physical fitness. From simply looking sharp in uniform, to being able to lift a shipmate and carry him or her out of danger, fitness has always been important to sailors. However, balancing deployment operations and work schedules with finding a time and a place to “PT” can be challenging. With the implementation of the Navy Operational Fitness and Fueling Series (NOFFS) last year, the Navy is finally giving its sailors the tools they need to stay fit.



NOFFS is a departure from the Navy’s tradition of long distance running and calisthenics. Instead there is a focus on shorter, higher intensity workouts that can be done on a ship, even in a stateroom. This one hour program consists of three components; a ten minute dynamic warm-up, forty-five minutes of physical exercise, and a five minute cool down stretch. The exercise portion incorporates some of the latest techniques being used by personal trainers today, such as sprinting, hopping, jumping, bridges, shuffling, and a variety

of agility drills.

Based on these new techniques, the Command Fitness Leader, LT Pastell has led a revolution in the way we train our midshipmen to become physically fit. There is less long-distance running in favor of high intensity sprints and bear crawls. There is an increased focus on strength training and Physical Readiness Test (PRT) preparation. Most importantly, most of the exercises being taught can be done on a ship or in the field without gym equipment. At UNL, the daily academic and military requirements consume the majority of the students' busy schedules, and this program works as an efficient way to enhance the physical mission for all NROTC midshipmen. Our goal is not just

to improve PT scores, but to foster a culture of fitness that will stay with each midshipman for their entire lives.

Although this program was designed by LT Pastell, it is executed by our Physical Training Officer (PTO), MIDN VonDerOhe. Thanks to his aggressive leadership, and that of last semester's PTO, MIDN Klein, PRT scores have gone up by an average of eight percent since last year. Not everyone is happy with the new PT program, however. Some of the midshipmen have complained that the workouts are simply too hard. To them I say: When you only get one hour of battalion PT, two times a week, you'd better make it count!

A message from the Marine Officer Instructor

Out With the Old, In With the New

By Major Alex J. Ramthun

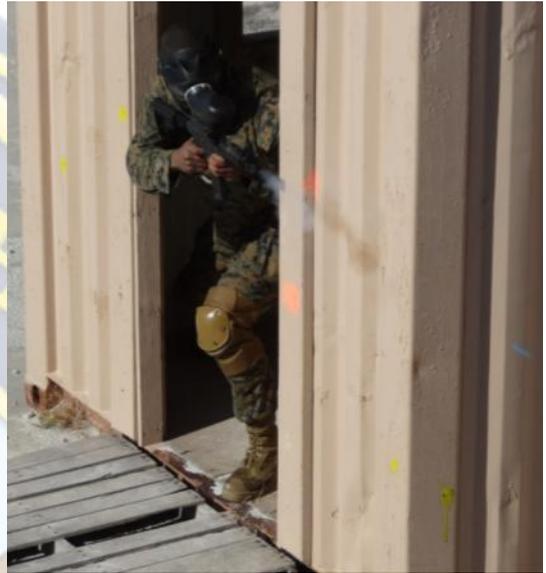
On 15 May 2013, I shall be leaving the UNL NROTC family to return to the Marine Corps operating forces. As I reflect on the last 3 years in Lincoln, NE, I have found my time on campus to be one of great personal growth and reward. First, I had the pleasure of working with highly motivated young people, seeking to do more with their lives than most of their peers. Living in the time of Generation



“Me,” these future Navy and Marine Corps leaders transcend modern cultural and conventional stereotypes. They choose “service” above “self,” an unpopular choice in modern society. Second, as much as I aspired to mold the next generation of military officers, I discovered these men and women of high potential inspired me to give them more than just the basics. Their high thirst for professional

knowledge and strong devotion to seeking new challenges enabled me to do more than simply “spoon feed” information. Rather, their learning curve tended to be so high, that I found it difficult to develop new challenges to stimulate their growth. The result was renewed growth at my end and rapid professional development for the students. Finally, observing students graduate from Officer Candidates School (OCS) and earn officer commissions has transformed into my ultimate reward. Knowing I am sending the best and brightest to lead other young men and women into harm’s way makes me feel proud to be a member of the UNL NROTC family. My replacement is another Marine Corps aviator: Captain Adam “A-Bomb” Trout. A UNL graduate and UH-1N Huey pilot, he shall continue the local tradition of strong character and professional development of our nation’s young people. He is set up for success and has expressed an eagerness to charge forward with our previous activities, such as field exercises Red Lightning (fall) and Red Thunder (spring), helicopter raid familiarization training, drill and marksmanship team trips to New Orleans, Memphis, and Oklahoma, and engag-

ing local Marine Corps veterans in order to transfer their stories and knowledge upon a new generation of future warriors. The future looks bright for our program. I am glad I had the opportunity to contribute to its continued successes. Semper Fidelis. **Go B1G Red!**



The Color Guard competing at the Great Plains Meet

Above: MIDN 2/C James Brown fires a M4A1 paintball gun during training. Below: Major Ramthun debriefs the Marine Option students during Exercise Red Thunder

A Message from the Battalion Commanding Officer

Hard Work, High Performance

By MIDN 1/C Sydney Stone

In my four years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I have never been more proud of the Battalion than this spring semester. The semester was fraught with challenges due to the shrinking number of midshipmen in the battalion, budget constraints, and staff availability; but along with these challenges came opportunities to overcome adversity while allowing each midshipmen to take on additional responsibilities and develop their individual leadership style.

The midshipmen throughout the battalion have worked extremely hard this semester and have demonstrated dedication to self-improvement and advancing their leadership potential. From the seniors who coordinated the battalion events and provided guidance for the underclassmen, to the freshmen who dedicated a large portion of their time and energy to developing themselves as future officers through drill and naval science classes, every midshipmen was fully engaged and committed to the overall success of the spring semester. It is their exemplary performance and outstanding work ethic that has led to a great spring term.

We have made incredible strides this year towards improving our own training and getting the most out of our time at UNL.

With events such as the first annual



Great Plains NROTC Competition, Notre Dame Naval Leadership Weekend and the Oklahoma University Drill and Rifle/Pistol Competition, UNL has been positively represented across the country and has accomplished a tremendous amount, especially considering the size of the battalion.

This semester, the battalion was comprised of only forty five midshipmen, the lowest number of my entire NROTC career, yet more mentoring was performed, more community service hours were recorded, more ceremonial color guards were provided, and more awards were presented to Navy and Marine Option midshipmen at the Chancellor's Review ceremony, than ever before.

I am extremely proud of what the battalion has accomplished this semester due to the high quality of individuals that comprise the UNL NROTC battalion.

I have learned a great amount in the last four years, especially in these last four months, and I hope that all midshipmen are given the opportunity to step up into battalion leadership roles in order to develop a base of professional knowledge that can be carried out into the fleet as we become junior officers. For the underclassmen, it may seem like you have a long road ahead of you, but the next several years present a great opportunity for you to grow in ways you never imagined you

could. You will learn lessons through the incredibly unique experiences in NROTC, experiences that will set you very well ahead of your fellow students. For the graduating seniors, I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to grow with you through the past four years, and wish you the best as you enter the Navy and Marine Corps as Ensigns and Second Lieutenants. It has been an absolute honor to serve as your Battalion Commanding Officer and I look forward to serving with you all in the fleet in the very near future!



MIDN 1/C Gretta Walter discussing opportunities in the NROTC battalion with a family at the Big Event in Omaha

A Message From the Battalion Public Affairs Officer

UNL NROTC The Year in Review

By MIDN 3/C Daniel Breskin

This has been quite a year for the midshipmen of the UNL Naval ROTC Battalion. They have welcomed a committed group of 4/C freshman to their ranks and have commissioned a number of new officers to serve in the fleet. This has been one of the best years in the proud history of the battalion here at UNL.

To start the fall semester, the midshipman helped organize and run the Joint field meet against the Army and Air Force units. After a long day of competitive physical events, the position for first place came down to a tie between the Navy and the Army. Regretfully, the midshipmen took second but the camara-



derie and military spirit between the branches was the biggest reward.

A month into the semester the unit got to relax a bit with the Navy/Marine Corps birthday ball. Here, the pageantry and tradition of the branches was in full display. All midshipman brought beautiful dates and had a great night of toasts, good food, dancing, and of course, plenty of joking around.

The first of many major events during this spring semester was the Great Plains NROTC Competition. This was a military competition hosted by UNL NROTC and welcomed the NROTC units of Iowa State University and the University of Kansas. This

event was entirely organized and run by the midshipman. The competition consisted of a drill meet, endurance challenge, and rifle pistol shoot. After a long day of competing, UNL took first place. This was hopefully the start to a new Naval ROTC tradition between the three schools.

To further advance the leadership knowledge and abilities of the midshipmen, four students were selected to go to the Notre Dame leadership conference. Here, they were joined by twenty other NROTC units from across the country. The students were able to hear stories and lessons presented by military officers and participated in team building activities. To close the semester and as a sort of final hoorah, the battalion hosted their annual Mess Night. This event is only for the midshipman and instructors, no dates are allowed and for good reason. This is where the students can relax and fine each other for atrocities committed during the school year. These atrocities range from showing up to an event in the wrong uniform, being late, inappropri-

ate comments, and other egregious actions.

Overall, it has been a great year. A long year, but a year filled with great knowledge, lessons, and of course fun and camaraderie. The unit is proud of the officers that they have commissioned this year and are excited for the rest of the midshipman preparing for a commission. The future of the Navy is strong, and part of that is due to the strength of the Naval ROTC unit here at UNL.



Above: The AMOI, Master Sergeant Adam Criswell, debriefs MIDN 2/C Daniel Wilcox during Exercise Red Lightning



Left: MIDN 2/C Daniel Wilcox "buddy drags" MIDN 3/C Seth Meharg during Exercise Red Lightning

Naval Operations

Hands On Naval Training

By MIDN 2/C Chase Lewis

This semester's goal in Naval Operations was to make Navy Option students well-prepared and able to meet challenges and demands of being a junior officer. We strived to split time between the mariner skills simulator and other learning objectives. From guest speakers, to physical activity to hands on learning experiences, we tried to make it as diverse as possible.

To begin the semester, we were introduced to our new Executive Officer here at UNL NROTC. CDR Stearns explained his career pipeline and gave the navy options a few tips and pointers of how to be successful in naval aviation.

Included in this semester's naval operations was a brief on midshipmen summer cruises. What to expect during the training, the do's and don'ts, and sea stories from past summer cruises were all given to the underclassmen. For the first time this



semester, a handful of Navy Options participated in a small space physical activity workout with LT Pastell. This workout is designed to utilize the small space living quarters and turn it into a useful space to conduct 30 minutes of physical activity. The Navy Options were exposed to a small community when EDO CDR

Erickson came to visit from STRATCOM. This was an excellent opportunity for our midshipmen to learn about something different and learn about what the Engineering Duty Officer community has to offer.

Along with these training sessions our Navy Options conducted basic first aid training, a geography refresher quiz, naval base and port familiarization, a stationing simulator session based on work with maneuvering boards, and a final seabag inspection. Our motivated midshipmen are ready for summer cruise and cannot wait to show off their skills! Go Navy!

MIDN 1/C Sydney Stone leads a discussion on Naval Officer career paths during Naval Operations training



A New Tradition

By Midshipman 3/C Daniel Breskin

From 1-2 March 2013, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) hosted the first annual 2013 Great Plains NROTC Competition (GPNC) at UNL City Campus in Lincoln, NE. This event represents a new and spirited competition tradition between the students of Midwestern NROTC commands; it is to be held annually in the spring of each academic year. Prior to 2003, UNL NROTC hosted a similar competition annually. However, due to a rifle and pistol shooting range closure to support major facility upgrades, the competition was not held over the past decade. Students from the UNL NROTC program, seeking to compete against students from other B1G Ten and Big XII NROTC commands in drill, shooting, and physical fitness events, led the efforts to reintroduce the competition. During its first annual appearance, the 2013 GPNC's participants included students from Iowa State University (ISU) NROTC, the University of Kansas (KU) NROTC, and UNL NROTC.

Developed, prepared, and organized by the students of UNL NROTC, significant hours of hard work and strong effort were completed in order to provide a competitive, professional, and safe atmosphere. The 2013 GPNC consisted of three main phases, with a total of twelve sub-events, to include a drill,



physical fitness / endurance, and rifle and pistol competitions. Events within each phase were scored for individual and team winners. Schools earned points for their placing in each sub event towards a competition-wide overall score. For each event, winning individuals receive medals and schools received plaques. Additionally, the school scoring the highest number of total points overall competition received a large trophy.

The drill team phase consisted of platoon inspection, platoon drill, squad drill, and color guard events. Volunteer graders and raters from local Marine Corps recruiting stations provided professional support during the drill events. With outstanding performances from each team, ISU NROTC earned the title of overall drill winner, with UNL NROTC placing first for the inspection and KU NROTC taking the first place award for the best color guard.

In the next phase of the competition, the UNL NROTC earned a commanding victory during physical fitness and endurance related events. Consisting of 6 sub-events, UNL NROTC received first place honors in the stretcher relay, tug of war, pull-up, and boots and relay during this phase. ISU NROTC proved themselves to be the best swimmers in the

500-yard relay swim event as well as taking first in the log sit up event. This phase of the competition was by far the best for building camaraderie between the different units. These endurance events motivated all the participants to push themselves in order to prove themselves physically against the other schools, while those not directly participating were cheering and screaming for their shipmates to push ahead. This was especially evident during the 500-yard swim relay, where the echoes of the pool hall only amplified the already loud midshipman. The cheers kept getting louder when the anchors for each team were all within a few seconds of each other near the finish line. Overall, the endurance phase was a great way for the midshipman to get to know one another and compete against one another in a friendly and intense way.

The long day of competition concluded with the rifle/pistol shooting phase. Using an indoor rifle and pistol range on UNL city campus, each NROTC shoot team completed a course of fire that included shoot twelve shots from a rifle and twenty from a pistol, .22 caliber. The firing positions for the rifle portion were four rounds in the prone position, four kneeling, and 4 standing; in contrast, the pistol shooters were able to shoot ten rounds slow fire and 10 rapid fire. The overall team winner for the rifle/pistol shoot was KU NROTC.

Over the period of eight hours, the twelve events of the 2013 GPNC made it a very long day for the competing students. However, they remained focused and

motivated to win. At the awards ceremony, the UNL NROTC student battalion commander and Commanding Officer recognized the individual and team event winners. After a competitive day, UNL NROTC was declared the overall first place finisher in this inaugural competition, with ISU and KU NROTCs finish second and third respectively. However, the opportunity for the midshipmen to compete and meet their future shipmates transcended the awards and placing from the meet. This was a great learning experience for all who participated and the entire UNL NROTC unit is very excited for the 2014 GPNC!



Midshipman 4/C Alyssa Selberg from UNL NROTC executes the flex arm hang portion of the pull up event during the endurance phase of the competition.



UNL NROTC conducts the platoon inspection event during the drill phase of the competition.



UNL NROTC conducts the log sit up event during the endurance phase of the competition.



Two KU NROTC students clear spent cartridges from their weapons during the shooting competition.



A KU NROTC student fires his .22 caliber rifle in the shooting competition.



An ISU NROTC student prepares to fire her pistol during the competition.

True Leadership Development

By MIDN 2/C Alexander Cleveland

Each year, the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps of the University of Notre Dame plays host to a weekend of symposiums aimed at developing the leadership abilities of the future officers of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. As not every midshipman is able to attend the conference, the University of Nebraska sent four midshipmen representatives in order to relay what they learned to their peers upon their return to Lincoln.

On February 21, 2013, we departed Lincoln accompanied by Lieutenant Jeffrey Scheidt and our Executive Officer, Commander Mark Stearns. We were able to get on the road ahead of the impending winter storm which had cancelled school that day and after several hours we arrived safely in South Bend, Indiana. After arrival check in and our first night at the university, the first of six symposiums began with a presentation from Brigadier General James W. Lukeman, USMC, the Commanding General of the Second Marine Division. BGen Lukeman set the precedent for the



remainder of the weekend, and our hosts certainly followed through. Afterwards, midshipmen participated in an Ethical Decision Game, in which midshipmen were briefed on several scenarios which prompted midshipman collaboration to come to an ethically sound decision, typically regarding sensitive subjects. Of the notable and informative speakers, the one that midshipmen said they particularly enjoyed was Fleet Master Chief Scott A. Benning's insightful and enlightening presentation on leadership and its role in the professional relationships formed between officers and enlisted personnel.

Following a panel discussion entitled "Which Wars do We Fight?" we had the opportunity to hear from The Honorable Jay M. Cohen, Rear Admiral (upper half), USN (Ret). RADM Cohen shared several of his experiences from his days as an active duty naval officer and each story had a valuable lesson concerning the role of an officer in today's armed forces. The weekend concluded with the keynote address from Vice Admiral John

P. Currier, the Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Dubbed the "Ancient Albatross," VADM Currier is the longest serving aviator in the Coast Guard. A common theme throughout the weekend was that of leadership by example, and VADM Currier emphasized that becoming a leader means service

above self, putting the needs of your fellow Sailors and Marines ahead of your own. The 2013 Naval Leadership Weekend was an exceptionally coordinated event which imbued our midshipman with valuable knowledge that will serve them well throughout their naval careers.



UNL NROTC Midshipmen (left to right) Taryn Puro, Elizabeth Gamero, Alex Cleaveland, and Cole VonDerOhe standing in the press box at Notre Dame Football Stadium

Confessions of a Freshman UNL NROTC Student

By Midshipman 4/C Taryn Puro

My integration into the UNL NROTC battalion started before the fall 2012 semester even began. When I decided to participate in NROTC earlier that spring, I visited the Military and Naval Science building and had an opportunity to talk to the upperclassmen midshipmen in our battalion. I immediately felt welcome by their encouraging words and advice for how to survive as a freshman midshipman.

Orientation week during the fall was one of the most difficult experiences I've had to overcome this year. While I was excited to be a part of NROTC, I wasn't mentally or physically prepared for this first challenge. But this experience helped me grow closer to the members of my class. We felt proud that we had made it through that experience together which meant if we stuck together we could make it through anything. My first semester of college turned out to be more difficult than I had anticipated. As a nurse option midshipman, it is extremely important for me to maintain a high GPA to be competitive for being accepted into the University of Nebraska—



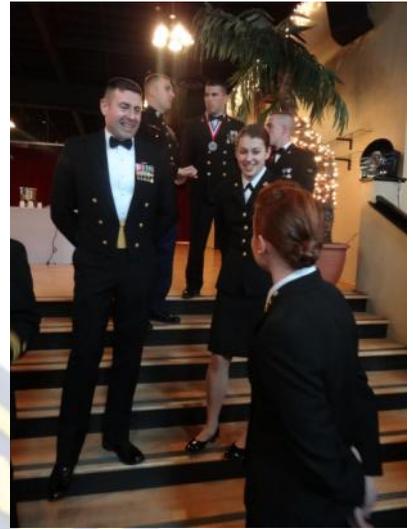
Medical Center my junior year. I was nervous about keeping my grades up while trying to balance the busy ROTC lifestyle. Throughout my struggles, the upperclassmen were always there to offer support and guidance. I could always look to the older nurse options to mentor me and tutor me in classes I needed help in. This is when I truly started feeling integrated into the battalion.

During the second semester, all the female midshipmen would meet to mentor and socialize a few times a month. These gatherings gave me an outlet to release my frustrations with school and gain insight from the upperclassmen females who had been through everything already. I know I have friends and mentors in the battalion to help get me through a tough week or grab a cup of fro-yo.

I look forward to next year when I have the opportunity to welcome the new freshmen into our unit. I hope that I can be as welcoming as the upperclassmen who integrated me into our unit.



*MIDN 1/C Danny Snow practicing CPR during
Naval Science Lab*



*CDR Mark Stearns speaking with MIDN
4/C Mary Marsolek and Alyssa Selberg
during Mess Night*



*A group of UNL NROTC midshipmen enjoying breakfast before
the start of the Great Plains NROTC Competition*



*MIDN 2/C Jared Mar receiving
an award at Chancellors
Review*



*Midshipmen conducting the biannual
Physical Readiness Test*



*MIDN 4/C Brett Brokaw and
MIDN 4/C Taryn Puro prepping
to fire their pistols at the Okla-
homa University Red Dirt Meet*

Riding High With Semper Fi

By MIDN 3/C Cole VonDerOhe

March 6th marked the final basketball game that society members would provide event parking and security services due to the relocation of the University of Nebraska's team to a new arena downtown. In search of new funding opportunities, the society, with the help of the Air Force's own Recognized Student Organization (RSO), picked up trash in Memorial Stadium after the spring Red and White game. It was nothing new for the members, as the battalion has to clean the stadium during the regular season too. The clean-up is not the most glamorous of jobs, but it is necessary in order for the society to continue to hold its frequent activities.

This year, the society has participated in several events which served to build the camaraderie of our members and to develop future leaders of the United States military. The society participated in the Campbell Elementary School Fun Run / Walk-a-thon, in which members inspire elementary aged children to get outside and pursue physical fitness. Later in December and again in January the society held a barbecue dinner at Famous Dave's and went to the movie theater to see the movies *Skyfall* and *Zero Dark Thirty*. In February, the society had a new adventure, traveling to Crescent, Iowa for a ski trip at Mt. Crescent ski slope. The day was unfortunately brief due to the unusually warm weather for



the middle of winter. In April the society held a farewell celebration for the battalion's Marine Officer Instructor who will be leaving this May. The celebration was filled with much food, fun, and games; however, it was a bittersweet occasion knowing we will be losing a cherished and respected instructor.

The Semper Fidelis Society is looking forward to one last event before the close of the semester. Before finals week the society will have an opportunity to release the semester's stresses over many games of paintball to be held at CJ's Paintball Park. This will be the second year that the society has hosted a paintball outing with hopes of continuing it in the future.

This past year has been quite eventful and the Semper Fidelis Society grows stronger with every event and activity. My term as President has flown by along with the year, and there is still so much more I would like to contribute. However, I am excited to see who will take my place and the places of my officers in this year's elections. I am optimistic about the society's future and I anticipate a much-needed growth in membership next year. It has been my pleasure as President to see the cohesion and camaraderie of our society grow over the past year. I know the future is bright for the Semper Fidelis Society.



Three members of UNL Semper Fidelis Society show team spirit playing paintball.

Mess Night

Time To Have Some Fun

By MIDN 4/C Marshall Lane

On the night of 8 March 2013, the students from the NROTC battalion at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln joined together for dinner and a show at the Del Ray ballroom in downtown Lincoln. The Navy and Marine Corps Mess Night is a tradition that has been passed down for decades. The night included a gourmet meal, numerous toasts, several skits roasting fellow students and the topside staff, and lots of fining. The skits reviewed events from Orientation Week to dodge ball; we even had two songs written and performed by the midshipmen. The entire battalion was in attendance, to include the unit's Commanding Officer, Captain Whiting. The guest of honor, Captain Clifford, passed onto the unit valuable



wisdom and posed a few important questions to think about in his brief speech. Master Sergeant Criswell helped make sure the night went perfectly according to plan, and the Marine Corps drill manual. Though the event was mostly filled with laughter, portions also stressed solemn remembrance. The playing of Taps and paying homage to the Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action table made us all proud to be citizens of the United States. The night was closed with a cigar outside the ballroom, a final chance to “smoke and joke” with the seniors before commissioning, and a much needed break from the stressors of school and NROTC, and chance to remember friends and shipmates.

Spring 2013 Marine Corps Field Training

By Major Alex J. Ramthun

Since 2011, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) has conducted a large-scale, multi-day, field training exercise in order to best prepare and educate Marine Corps Option Midshipmen for the potential challenges facing them at Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS) and The Basic School (TBS). From 29-30 March 2013, UNL NROTC executed their third installment of this culminating event: Exercise Red Thunder 01-13. During the 2012-2013 academic year, UNL NROTC Marine Corps students completed 70 hours of static classroom training in the areas of day/night land navigation, M4A1 Carbine weapons familiarization, fire team in the offense tactics, squad in the offense tactics, and general field and combat skills. Additionally, the Marine Corps Option students executed 100 hours of organized physical training, to include 30 ft rope climbing, general combat conditioning, and 54 miles of conditioning hikes. Sergeant Muller, a Marine Corps MV-22 Crew Chief, the exercise's Assistant Officer in Charge (AOIC), and Lead Tactical Instructor (TACI), noted, "We take a 'crawl, walk, run' approach to our training. The static classroom events are the 'crawl,' the local practical application events are the 'walk,' and Red Thunder as a whole is the 'run.'" Exercise Red Thunder 01-13 served



as an opportunity for these students to practically apply their classroom knowledge and conditioned endurance in a challenging field environment. Sergeant Muller explained, "For a Marine Option Midshipman, outside of actually attending OCS, it doesn't get much bigger than this."

To begin the exercise, the students conducted daylight, heliborne raid with two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the Nebraska United States Army National Guard in Lincoln, NE. As the first ever NROTC command to execute helicopter training outside of summer cruises in 2011, UNL NROTC continues to prepare and educate students for a wider range of challenges and solutions to complex problems. Major Ramthun, the exercise's officer in charge (OIC), stated, "The helo training acts as a motivational tool to commence the exercise. Few NROTC students ever attempt what we do here. It is a fun ride with wide ranging lessons learned for all." Nineteen students and instructors flew a 30-minute nap of the earth (NOE) insertion route to a Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) village aboard Camp Ashland's Mead Training Area. The students disembarked the helicopters and assaulted the MOUT village using M4A1 Carbine rifles and 500 rounds of blank ammunition. The village's opposing force (OPFOR), composed of volunteer UNL NROTC Navy

Option students, was overwhelmed by the raid force after a long fought battle to take the complex. Midshipman 2/C Brown, an exercise participant, explained, "It was like a big rush to depart the helos and attack to secure the MOUT town. The OPFOR did not make it easy on us. We had to fight house to house and room to room. There was so much noise from the battle that you could barely hear yourself think!" The heliborne raid introduced the Marine Option students to the detailed planning requirements for successful helicopter operations as well as stimulated their motivation with a small taste of the full spectrum capabilities the United States Military has to offer them in the operating forces.

Following the raid training, the students executed a challenging night land navigation course. Spread out over varying terrain and elevation, the Marine Options braved the night environment to navigate to/ from four different points across 1000 total meters. Due to a thick layer of cloud cover, the students did not have the opportunity to take advantage of the high light moon and bright stars across the sky. Midshipman 4/C Evans, an exercise participant, said, "I felt confident with my classroom training, but the navigation course was much tougher than I expected. I got all the points correctly, but I worked very hard to finish within the time limit." After several hours of sleep and recovery time, the students transitioned into the exercise's final phase with a 12-mile conditioning hike. Carrying a 45 lbs pack of standard field equipment and their M4A1 rifles, the students hiked across difficult

terrain at a pace of 3.5-4 miles per hour. Major Ramthun, a prior OCS Company Commander, stated, "The hike was a challenge for our students, but what they can expect to do as OCS exceeds what we can simulate here. The highlands of the Quantico, Virginia contain deep foliate and rough terrain. Our hike, though the same distance and pace as OCS, did not have these added distractors."

After a short recovery period, the Marine Option Students executed 6 total squad in the offense training problems. Using a 13-person squad and a designated squad leader, the students were challenged to tactically cross terrain in pursuit of the exercise's OPFOR. Each problem incorporated different terrain and tactical requirements, making each of these events a great learning experience for a variety contexts. UNL NROTC's three junior class Marine Option students, slated to attend Marine Corps OCS in May 2013, were designed the main effort and each completed 2 squad in the offense problems. With a steep learning curve, the junior class students proved themselves ready to attend OCS. Midshipman 2/C Mar, an exercise participant, explained, "The missions we faced as squad leaders definitely challenged us beyond our expectations." Additionally, the underclass students, acting as squad members during this phase, were able to "learn by doing" and directly contributed to the juniors' OCS preparation. Overall, Exercise Red Thunder 01-13 met its objectives and paved the way for UNL NROTC to commissioning future Marine Corps officers.

*UNL NROTC
Midshipmen
provide security
after their
UH-60 Black-
hawk helicopter
“dusts off”
from the land-
ing zone*



MIDN 3/C Seth Meharg securing a road in order to let the rest of his squad pass safely



MIDN 4/C Connor Spiegel and others prepping their M4A1 rifles



The Marine Options being briefed on helicopter safety before their flight on a UH-60 Blackhawk supporting Exercise Red thunder



MIDN 2/C James Brown issues a squad attack order during Exercise Red Thunder



Marine Options conducting a 12 mile hike during Exercise Red Thunder

OUTGOING BATTALION TOP SIX

Spring 2013

MIDN Sydney Stone

Battalion Commanding Officer

MIDN James Brown

Battalion Operations Officer

MIDN Chris Tomlinson

Battalion Administration Officer

MIDN Alex Klein

Bravo Company Commander

MIDN Alexander Cleaveland

Alpha Company Commander

INCOMING BATTALION TOP SIX

Fall 2013

MIDN Jonathan Larson

Battalion Commanding Officer

MIDN Daniel Wilcox

Battalion Executive Officer

MIDN Alex Klein

Battalion Administration Officer

MIDN Elizabeth Gamero

Battalion Operations Officer

MIDN Phillip Svoboda

Alpha Company Commander

MIDN James Brown

Bravo Company Commander

GRADUATING SENIORS

Spring 2013



MIDN Michael Schiavone

Surface Warfare

USS Lake Champlain



MIDN Evelyn Boland

Surface Warfare

USS Tortuga



MIDN Christopher Fulk

Student Naval Aviator

Pensacola, FL



MIDN Travis Davidson

**Marine, The Basic
School**

Quantico, VA



MIDN Stacey Alt

Navy Nurse

Camp Pendleton,
CA

UPCOMING UNL NROTC EVENTS

Fall 2013 Academic Term



Freshman NROTC New Student Orientation (NSO) at UNL	22-24 AUG
First Day of Classes for Fall 2013 at UNL	26 AUG
Fall Break (No Classes at UNL)	19-22 OCT
Exercise Red Lightning 01-13 in Mead, NE	25-26 OCT
Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Lincoln, NE	8 NOV
Thanksgiving Break (No Classes at UNL)	27 NOV -1 DEC
Student Battalion Change of Command Ceremony	10 DEC
Last Day of Classes at UNL	14 DEC
Last Day of Finals at UNL	20 DEC
Spring Commencement and Commissioning Ceremonies	21 DEC
Winter Break (No Classes at UNL)	22 DEC-12 JAN

OUR DONORS

Spring 2013

A special thank you goes out to all our donors from the Fall 2012 semester. Your donations are greatly appreciated and go towards a better future for many.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton Holthus

Col John Watters (Ret)

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Mr. and Mrs. George Boland

CAPT Richard Wiese (Ret)

Mr. Dennis Gaqliardi

TIDE AND CURRENT AUTHORS

Spring 2013

The Tide & Current staff would like to thank the writers for their contributions to another successful issue of the Tide & Current.

Captain Jeffrey Whiting

MIDN 1/C Sydney Stone

Major Alex Ramthun

MIDN 1/C Chase Lewis

Lieutenant Jonathan Pastell

MIDN 2/C Alexander Cleaveland

Lieutenant Jeff Scheidt

MIDN 3/C Cole VonDerOhe

CDR Mark Stearns

Spring 2013 Tide & Current Editors

Command PAO: *Major Alex Ramthun*

Battalion PAO: *MIDN 3/C Daniel Breskin*

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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 Tulane University Drill Competition, the University of Notre Dame Leadership Conference, and Orientation Week (“O-Week”). Unfortunately, Navy funds cannot be spent in the execution of such events. If you are interested in helping our students attend these excellent developmental opportunities, please consider providing a monetary donation (**UNL Foundation #30027780**). Your donation will directly support the students’ travel and lodging costs, enabling the further development of future generations of leaders.

Thank you. **GO B1G RED!**

Very Respectfully,
J. B. Whiting
Captain, USN
Professor of Naval Science

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!



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