

# HI-LINE



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# O-WEEK

A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT BY MIDN 4/C ADAMS

The newly arrived Fourth Class Midshipmen warily entered Room 209 in the Armory on the morning of 12 August. We were all very nervous for the week ahead. Our hearts and minds raced from the adrenaline of what would be a very important week to the beginning of our military careers.

When MIDN 1/C Nevins and MIDN 2/C Gregory tore the door open, we felt as though we were "plunged into an ice-water bath, head first," as one new Midshipman later stated. We were hustled out the door with our gear, running as fast as we could move down to the armory basement for gear issue. It did not take long to learn that we must raise our voices considerably when responding to orders or questions. Within a few hours, we loaded the bus and transited to Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island.

After reading our foundations at attention and being quizzed on the content for several hours, we rushed off the bus to eat dinner, an MRE. We dug into our chow with haste, ensuring we had enough time for the patriotic sugar cookies. Next, it was off to King Hall. There we carefully arranged our rooms, frantically made hospital corners and correctly stowed our personal gear so logos faced upwards.

The first night was the hardest. We were tired, sore, and nervous about what the next day had in store. Physical training, it turns out, was how we would begin each and every day during Orientation Week. We would PT and then march off to chow in the dining hall. Eating in the dining hall was suffocating. It felt as though all the eyes of the Unit and MIDN staff were staring at us. We would hurry

through our meal, clear our trays, and proceed to the next part of the day.

Activities we participated in during O-Week included sail training, 3rd class swim qualification, informative presentations on various aspects of military and NROTC life, and most importantly, marching. Four days passed by in a similar manner, but we were all very thankful for the time we had with our squad leaders each evening. During this time, we were permitted to converse with our squad leaders in a less formal setting. After that time, we were grateful to hit our racks for much needed rest.

Each morning, we would be woken up by the sound of our squad leader's fists on our doors. Frantically, we would rush to put on the correct clothes and hustle out of our rooms for formation. Fortunately, the last PT was a motivational run where we yelled cadences

created by each company and some classics as well. We ran in step for nearly 3 miles and surprisingly, we could not think of anything else we would have rather been doing.

Orientation Week forged a bond between all of us. Whether it was the squad leader time or the informal history lesson at the end of each day, we all felt like we had become a part of the unit. After one week, we came home, proud to have earned the right to wear our nation's uniforms.

The day after we returned from Newport, our parents proudly watched their sons and daughters as we marched in the Pass In Review. Additionally, we took the oath of office administered by our Commanding Officer, CAPT Daniel Arensmeyer. At this moment, our bond was the strongest it had been all week. It will only become stronger as we continue our paths to commissioning.



# HOLY CROSS MEC

By: MIDN 4/C LYON

In early September, Midshipmen from NROTCU RPI traveled to Worcester, MA for the annual Holy Cross Military Excellence Competition. NROTC units from around the Northeast region, such Yale and Boston University came to represent their schools. Proudly, RPI dominated in nearly every event.

To start, MIDN 3/C Timothy Snyder led the Drill Team to a convincing victory. His presence and professionalism was remarkable, impressing Midshipmen and evaluators on the drill deck. At the same time the drill team was performing, the swim team was posting a strong time and placing second in their heat.

Alongside swimming, the prowess put on by the basketball team was fantastic. The explosive start to the first round playoff game against Holy Cross had the RPI Midshipmen's spirits high. However, after a back-and-forth game, Holy Cross had clenched the victory. Fortunately, the Color Guard, led by MIDN 2/C William Gregory, brought home first place. His discipline in practice has always made him a great leader and helped earn the Color Guard consecutive victories at the annual competition.

Right beside Color Guard and Drill Team, the Iron Man and

Iron Woman teams kept a strong lead all the way to the finish line. The gentlemen, led by MIDN 3/C Sean Vianale, steamrolled through the push-ups and pull-ups. The female Midshipman, including MIDN 4/C Amanda Gallo, battled through events which included a 2-mile run, tricep dips, push-ups, and sit-ups.

NROTCU RPI's Midshipmen Commanding Officer, MIDN 1/C Nick Huban, was extremely proud of the Midshipmen who participated in the Holy Cross MEC. Before the competition, he had stressed the importance of teamwork. Following his sage advice, the Midshipmen proved triumphant.

MIDN 2/C Atticus Moll commented, "I carried my own, but if it were not for my shipmates, the man on my left and the man on my right, I know for a fact that I could not have stood alone." MIDN 4/C Amanda Gallo said, "We all stuck together. My teammates definitely motivated me which helped us make it to the end."

NROTCU RPI put forth a great performance at the Holy Cross MEC. RPI is known for the quality Midshipmen they mold and develop and the results of the MEC are a direct reflection. The bar has been set for future MECs.



# 1/C CRUISE

BY: MIDN 4/C SCHULTZ

As the future of the Navy, Midshipmen attend officer training programs called summer cruise. Each year, these summer cruises vary greatly. Navy Option Midshipmen entering their senior year can attend cruises in the following communities: Aviation, Surface Warfare, Submarine, Navy SEALs, and EOD.

Midshipman 1/C Steffan Maiwald experienced an eye-opening cruise with the aviation community this past summer. He traveled to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL to train with the HSM-70 Spartans. He spent three weeks in the summer learning from the

pilots of the MH-60Rs, a versatile Navy helicopter.

MIDN Maiwald was able to experience three hours with the crew chief in the back of the helicopter and an hour and a half in the cockpit of the MH-60. Additionally, he experienced nearly one hour of first pilot time where he personally flew the helicopter.

The pilots instructed him on simple maneuvers. Hovering was the most difficult maneuver he attempted. As an added bonus, MIDN Maiwald was able to experience flight time in a P-3 Orion.



Besides the motivational flight experiences, MIDN Maiwald had a lot of downtime for some fun and relaxation. Through the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation office on base, he was able to visit the Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, he was able to enjoy the beautiful beaches of Florida where he spent time fishing and relaxing in the sun.

Reflecting on his experiences, MIDN Maiwald gave some advice to his fellow Midshipmen. "Ensure you talk to as many officers and enlisted men and women as you can. There is no better way to learn than to talk to those who have firsthand experience in the community you want to be a part of. If something is not planned, make sure you utilize your time wisely. Walk around the base, ask questions, and be curious."



# 2/C CRUISE

BY: MIDN 4/C FADDISH

Between the end of sophomore year and the start of junior year, each scholarship Midshipman will attend summer cruise and work alongside enlisted personnel. This experience enables them to appreciate the hard work and dedication that our Navy's enlisted sailors bring to the fight. Midshipmen can request either a surface or submarine cruise.

This past summer Midshipman 2/C Joseph Kane was sent to Norfolk, Virginia for a surface cruise. He arrived in late May and reported to the USS Ross (DDG 71), a component of Destroyer Squadron Twenty Two. For about two weeks, he shadowed STG2 Chapman, a Second Class Petty Officer Sonar Technician. While working with STG2 Chapman, MIDN Kane not only learned all that he could about the sonar system of the USS Ross, but also closely observed and lived

the life of an enlisted sailor.

The following week was spent with FC2 Garell, a Second Class Fire Controlman. While with FC2 Garell, MIDN Kane began asking various enlisted personnel their opinions of the officers on the ship to gain insight as to what he could do to better himself as a future naval officer.

During weekend liberties he was able to leave Naval Station Norfolk and enjoy some activities the city had to offer. He spent some quality time relaxing on the beach in Virginia Beach and met with some NROTCU RPI alumni.

During the last six days of his cruise MIDN Kane was underway on the USS Mahan (DDG 72), also a component of Destroyer Squadron Two. While on the USS Mahan, MIDN

Kane's running mate was GM2 Hart, a Second Class Gunner's Mate. Now that he was on a ship that was out to sea, the pace of work dramatically increased. Each of the 30 Midshipmen on board was given an hour-by-hour schedule of their responsibilities. This schedule included four hours of their day devoted to standing different watches throughout the ship, including engineering watch, bridge watch, and combat information center (CIC) watch.

"The most rewarding part of my cruise was the time I spent working alongside GM2 Hart," said MIDN Kane.

MIDN Kane earned himself a reputation among the crew as a very hard worker due to his efforts while cleaning and maintaining the 5-inch gun with GM2 Hart. Since he performed well, he was the only Midshipman on board that had the privilege of watching the firing of the 5-inch gun from below deck.

Also, as a result of his hard work, GM2 Hart considered MIDN Kane an honorary gunners mate and permitted MIDN Kane to help perform maintenance on the 5-inch gun.

MIDN Kane's hard work and motivation aboard the USS Mahan perfectly exemplified the traditions and core values of NROTCU RPI.

