

Gold Company

Gazette Fall 2021



**The University of Memphis Naval
Reserve Officers Training Corps**

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Professor of Naval Science



Happy New Year Memphis NROTC and to our family, friends, and supporters. I'm excited to see the Gold Company Gazette back in circulation. This is a perfect medium to showcase our accomplishments and involvement in our school and community. I took command of this unit in December of 2020 and have been impressed with the quality and professionalism of our staff and of the young officers we are commissioning into Naval service. I can assure you that Memphis is producing the highest caliber of leaders that will serve in our Navy, Marine Corps, and communities for years to come. As way of introduction, this Command

posting will close out thirty years of service. I can think of no finer way to cap off a military career. I have been fortunate to hold command twice previously and the Navy has sent me around the world and afforded me experiences and opportunities that I never thought I would have. I'm a career Naval Flight Officer from the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community – flying P-3Cs and P-8As on numerous missions globally. While the mission always proved exciting, it was the people that I worked with that kept me serving for three decades. The passion, commitment, and resiliency I witnessed in our Sailors was always an energizing experience. Therefore, I am committed to ensuring that our NROTC unit continues to produce the quality of leaders that our Sailors and Marines deserve. From what I've seen in the past three semesters, we are meeting that mark. This unit boasts an average GPA of 3.41 and steadily increases physical fitness scores

through the academic year. Our Midshipmen have volunteered 300 hours in unit activities and another 150 hours outside the unit. We've dedicated nearly 600 hours working at university events. This high level of academic success and community involvement has been a major component of our significant growth by increasing on-campus interest in our program as well as recruitment into our NROTC Preparatory Program (NPP). These efforts have led to unit growth of 83% over the past two years and there is more to come. This is an exciting time to be a Memphis Tiger Midshipman and I'm proud to be a part.

Dave Whitehead
Captain, USN
Professor of Naval Science

Executive Officer's Corner



Greetings to the University of Memphis NROTC, our families, friends, university hosts, donors, supporters, and enthusiasts. I am humbled to serve as the unit's Executive Officer and ecstatic to see this publication's re-birth. We look forward to sharing our most important asset with you over the following pages...the amazing men and women who make up this unit and serve in roles ranging from the Commanding Officer to the youngest Midshipman and all those in between

consisting of our active duty and civilian staff. Without every piece of this puzzle working coherently together, coupled with the amazing external support we receive, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our primary mission which is to train, develop, and breed our next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers! As a brief introduction of myself, I took over the XO role in the summer of 2020. I am in my 20th year of active-duty service and have spent most of those years in the cockpit of an S-3B Viking or an F/A-18F Super Hornet. I earned my MBA at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and most recently served as the Air Operations Officer onboard the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). Memphis NROTC is a great place to be, you are about to read all

about it. We continue to grow every year. I don't have to tell you how unprecedented these last few years have been, but here at Memphis we continue to press on to fulfill our promise to our country. Every Navy and Marine Corps Officer has a story, especially the story of how it all began. I am honored and excited to be a small part of each of our students' stories. Thank you again for all of your support and commitment to our unit!

Warmest regards,
CDR Phil Brown
XO, NROTC Memphis



Marine Officer Instructor



This was a great semester for the company and the unit, and I am happy of what we accomplished during our first semester back in-person. Although the semester went well, we must never rest on our laurels based on past performance. In light of our mission and our commitment to our services and our country, I would like to share the essential characteristics that I believe will help us to succeed in any situation:

1. We exist to win and to maintain a winning mindset at all times.
2. We are strong-willed men and women.
3. We take pride in our work.
4. We take care of our personnel.

If we focus on these characteristics, we will continue to be a successful unit of future leaders in the Department of the Navy. Now that the Fall semester of 2021 has come to an end, what was your experience like?

If you were a 4/C Midshipman, you may have had to adjust to a more difficult academic environment, or you may have found how strange it is to live on your own and be fully responsible for your actions. If you were a 3/C or higher, you might have had your first demanding billet, been accountable for others, or faced more difficult core courses that now seem to need actual class attendance. You almost certainly committed a mistake or two during this process. The truth is that we all make mistakes from time to time, but it is what we do with our mistakes that makes us better people. You can become a better leader, which others will want to emulate, by learning from past mistakes and working to avoid

making them again. Being out there and making decisions, and then learning from them, is just what you are supposed to be doing during your mental, moral, and physical development here. Spring 2022 will not be without errors, but will it be better than Fall 2021? I am looking forward to this semester as we prepare to commission several of you along with sending members of the Marine Platoon to Officer Candidate's School this upcoming summer.

Keep the motivation high this semester!

Semper Fidelis.
Paul E. Evans
Captain, USMC
Marine Officer Instructor

1/C and 2/C Advisor



Hello everyone, I'd like to start by quickly introducing myself. This Fall was my first semester stationed at the University of Memphis NROTC unit. I graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2016 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer - Nuke. I first served as a Gunnery Officer on the USS Hue City out of Mayport, Florida where I completed a 7-month deployment. I most recently served as the Reactor Controls Officer on the PCU John F. Kennedy. The unit had a lot to celebrate this semester, starting with

service selection. Each of our 1/C Midshipmen were selected into their desired community. This spring, MIDN Gibbons will commission as a Navy Pilot, MIDN Jones will commission as a Naval Flight Officer, MIDN Stagoski will commission as a Surface Warfare Officer, and MIDN Bouchoc and MIDN Moorer will commission as Submariner Officers. Each of these midshipmen have worked extremely hard to get to get to this point and that's worth congratulating! This fall, MIDN Bouchoc, Company CO, and MIDN Jones, Company XO, led Gold company through a challenging semester. They successfully navigated the new challenges COVID-19 brought and placed each midshipman in a position to succeed. After a successful Fall semester, they'll be turning over with MIDN Gibbons and

MIDN Moorer respectively and have set the bar high. I look forward to seeing where these two will lead our company next semester.

Nicholai Sarpy
Lieutenant, USN
1/C and 2/C Advisor

3/C and 4/C Advisor



Fall 2021 was a highly successful semester for each of our midshipmen and our unit a whole. This semester was critical to the professional development of our freshmen and sophomores, as this was the first in-person semester of their collegiate careers due to the ongoing pandemic. Our underclassmen were led by a contingent of upperclassmen who each spent a portion of their summer training in the Fleet. Summer training assignments included assignments to Submarines and Surface vessels in both the

Pacific and Atlantic Fleets, as well as Marine Month and COTRAMID. The training of our upper-class midshipmen proved to be paramount as we welcomed in our largest group of 4th class midshipmen in quite some time. Since beginning the NROTC Preparatory Program in Fall 2019, our unit has increased by 83% and we welcomed in a 2025 commissioning class of 30 midshipmen this semester. Our midshipmen have been highly successful within the NROTC Preparatory Program and I look forward to their continued success in Spring 2022. The 2nd semester of the academic year is vital to midshipmen in the NROTC Preparatory Program, as this is their last opportunity to establish themselves physically and academically before the convening of the national

scholarship selection board. Additionally, former NROTC Preparatory Program midshipmen and College Programmers will use the Spring term to prepare for their first Summer Training assignments. This marks my last full semester as an Advisor. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to assist in the growth and development of Gold Company's future Officers.

GO TIGERS GO!

Kevyn T. Evans
Lieutenant, USN
3/C and 4/C Advisor

Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



Greetings, warriors! I'm excited to start the spring 2022 semester off here in Memphis. In reflection, our unit experienced a great fall semester. I would like to congratulate Midshipman Maske on his much-anticipated graduation. Congratulations, and we wish you fair winds and following seas. I would also like to congratulate Staff Sergeant Berg and his family on the well-deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a mantle of honor that is passed down by warriors for generations. Looking forward, we must strive to become -and remain-vigilant and disciplined. Your education, not just the

completion of requirements, will set you up for a lifetime of personal and professional success. Attack each lesson, each class, with the heart of a warrior scholar; it is your main priority. Concurrently, preparing for the future military service is no simple or clear endeavor. Your civilian peers are generally sleeping in, staying out late, and generally living a life of ease and comfort. You are made different, and are entering into a warrior class of people that has and will continue to exist as long as bad people do. Our vigilance and discipline enables our families and friends to live their lives how they choose in a free society. As you travel in your career you will quickly learn that we live in a special place that is worthy of our efforts. Do the right thing, especially when no one is looking, and fear no man. We exist to fight our nation's battles and we need you to win. More often than not, a warfighter's life is not like the movies. It is plain-old daily unmitigated

discipline that ensures success. While we remain vigilant and disciplined, have fun! This is truly the best job in the world. As you walk around your hometown and on campus, you will look America in the eye; this is who we are fighting for. Finally, innovate. Be creative. Think outside the box. Do something this semester that has never been done before. The number one thing that will help you do this successfully is a knowledge of history. Study. Learn. You will see the way clearly when you study with true critical thinking. It is an honor to serve with you and look forward to our continued success! Semper Fidelis.

Justin E. Stearns
GySgt, USMC
Assistant Marine Officer
Instructor

MIDN Company Staff

Company Commander



The Fall 2021 Company Commanding Officer, MIDN 1/C Bouchoc, has held many billets with the University of Memphis NROTC unit. He said, "this has been a rewarding experience of being able to see the positive changes in the amount of MIDN that have joined." His main hope is to prevent any loss of personality as the company continues to grow and continue to encourage the increasing diversity of ideas and opinions within the unit. He states "The most rewarding time as a MIDN was while working at the lower end of the chain of command, having the opportunity to get a first-hand point of view in the changes of each individual as they grow in their

leadership capabilities and attributes." MIDN 1/C Bouchoc intends to graduate from the University of Memphis with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and commission into the submarine community. His goal is to work on Fast Attack Submarines, specifically the Virginia Class. He says he would enjoy being stationed in Hawaii or Japan in the future. He offers advice to 4/C Midshipmen, encouraging them to always seek help when needed. He would be interested in instructing and advising in an NROTC unit in the future.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 3/C Fant

Company Executive Commander



MIDN 1/C Jones has had many leadership opportunities with the University of Memphis NROTC Unit saying that with those, she has no regrets. Her personal mission is to commission but, her main goal as the Company XO is to show others that they can grow from their mistakes. She harps on the fact that this unit is made so that people can grow and make mistakes then learn from that. Everyday MIDN Jones strives to be a good example and be approachable, emphasizing that the key to balancing NROTC and school is to be flexible and have times designated for school and time to relax and have fun.

Holding billets in the unit has boosted her confidence, communication, and social skills. MIDN Jones reflects on the knowledge that she has retained has set a good foundation to build her up to the fleet. She highlighted the fact that the little things matter, emphasizing that it is better to make your mistakes now to prevent them later in the fleet. Her plan after commissioning is to get married and making her way down to Pensacola for her Aviation Training and get her “Ensign mobile”.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Mikos

Company Operations Officer



Staff Sergeant Perez is a MECEP and the Company Operations Officer here at the University of Memphis. As the Operations Officer, his mission is to ensure

coordination between personnel, logistics, timelines, and all other miscellaneous factors for events that occur. Staff Sergeant Perez finds balancing his college/NROTC life against his family life somewhat challenging. He says “It is challenging, though, I view my NROTC and college responsibilities as one. They are both required and important in my pursuit of becoming an officer.” He emphasizes how family is technically optional but is always his number 1 priority. Having years of active-duty experience, he agrees that the lessons learned here are valuable for the fleet. He finds that the officer specific lessons help him build officer-ship that he could build nowhere else. Through all these lessons however, he finds that the most beneficial element of the program is the interaction with aspiring officers as both peers and mentors, as well as the officer mentorship he has been given by the active-duty staff in the unit. He stated that the “dive-into-it” mindset has really helped him shed off his NCO/SNCO mindset. Upon gaining his commission, Staff Sergeant will celebrate by enjoying the most

expensive steak that Tennessee can put on a plate.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Warnock

Company Logistics/Personnel Officer



Logistics/Personnel Officer, MIDN 2/C Conroy has many responsibilities under his belt with the University of Memphis NROTC Unit. He expresses that his mission is to make sure the unit has the equipment needed to carry out all operations and personnel administration is in order. “Balancing college and NROTC is about time management. You make decisions about where to spend time and it makes you think about what your priorities are in life.” To him, leadership opportunities have been the most beneficial because they

aren't something many people get outside of the unit. He claims that you can find everything else on your own, but you need the NROTC to practice some of your leadership skills. MIDN Conroy says that he learned a lot from his own experiences and from all the Senior Officers that came to talk to them. It's always valuable to hear from our seniors so we don't repeat the same mistakes they did. MIDN Conroy plans to graduate from Rhodes College with a degree in Chemistry. He will then go to TBS and head off to his MOS school. He has enjoyed holding the Company Personnel Officer and Company Logistics Officer billets as they have helped him become a better leader. Holding these positions in the unit helped him improve his management and delegation skills.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Mikos

Company Gunnery Sergeant



Midshipman 2/C Mitchell is the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Gold Company. As Company Gunnery Sergeant, he is responsible for maintaining the company's physical fitness and providing a foundation of physical health to exceed the unit's PT expectations and standards. Being a junior, he says that balancing NROTC and college life is mildly challenging and extremely time consuming while pursuing a degree, computer science. "As long as you remember what you're here for and what motivates you to do better, you'll succeed". MIDN Mitchell finds that having MECEPS and active-duty staff who have been prior enlisted to be the most beneficial to the program. They can make things easier to learn and understand in accordance to planning out and

executing events. Commissioning within the next couple years, MIDN Mitchell believes that the lessons he's learned here are helpful for the fleet. Through prior experiences, he's learned lessons that can be used in future units as he says that this will not only prevent problems from a lack of knowledge but will improve his self personally and his capabilities. Within the military, he would like to serve as a Cyberspace officer, carrying that skill with him to retirement, where he plans to continue working in the cyber security field.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Warnock

New Student Indoctrination (NSI)

New Student Indoctrination (NSI) is a 4-week training program held at Naval Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes Illinois. This program serves as a gateway into the NROTC program and is designed to test a candidate in ways that can't be expressed on an application. Candidates will learn the basics of drill, Navy and Marine Corps customs and courtesies, and Naval knowledge. They participate in training evolutions such as damage control, line handling, firearms training, and swim qualifications.

MIDN who attended this past summer spoke about their experiences during NSI. One MIDN thought it would be like boot camp and didn't know what they were doing as far as what training they would receive. Another thought it was going to be a school environment with some PT. MIDN stated that during NSI, they felt optimistic. The days were long, but the weeks were short. It was hard, challenging, and stressful as they tried to

focus on getting through each day, one day at a time. NSI presents students fresh out of high school with many high stress challenges. It serves as a true indoctrination into the military lifestyle and rhythm. NSI challenges Midshipman candidates mentally and physically, as well as test their grit and their drive to be a part of the NROTC program. It is a hard transition and one that causes many to drop on request. Another midshipman said that during NSI it was hard, and the lesson is the day-to-day mentality. Many midshipmen made lifelong connections with each other which helped them get through training. NSI is a centralized training, meaning all NROTC Candidates will attend. One Midshipman was starting to think their life would be that busy 24/7. Also, female MIDN were happy to see the number of other female MIDN and to know there would be a strong female community behind them, being forever bonded with

the people there because of what we went through. Post NSI, some midshipmen were in shock of what they went through but believed everyone in NROTC needs to go through NSI and experience it. The midshipmen got to go through many training evolutions, and each evolution taught them valuable skills. They also went through a variety of briefs and participated in drill. Everything they went through provided them with their present knowledge and the way they carry themselves right now. Some midshipmen pointed out that NSI taught them discipline and how to keep a military bearing. For example, drill requires complete focus along with discipline and bearing because in drill you move as one; every movement must be clean and quick. Most midshipmen said that swim qualification was their favorite part. Though it was the first training they received, it was also their first glance of physically challenging training. They

also added that it gave them a new sense of confidence and they were excited for the rest of the training. All in all, each midshipman was equipped with new skills and knowledge after each evolution, and they all found the training and briefs to be beneficial for their success in NROTC and overall, the fleet.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Mikos
MIDN 4/C Vieux



CORTRAMID

Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen, (CORTRAMID) is a four weeklong training evolution that exposes rising 3/C or 2/C Midshipmen to career opportunities in both the Navy and Marine Corps. Its purpose is to familiarize Midshipmen with tasks, courtesies, discipline, and basic leadership within all the communities.

CORTRAMID takes place in two regions: West and East. CORTRAMID West is located in San Diego, California, and CORTRAMID East is located in Norfolk, Virginia. Both sides provide a career-oriented learning experience in the aviation community, surface warfare community, submarine warfare community, and the Marine Corps. When completing the summer training, Midshipmen will obtain skills in leadership and develop a general

idea of what to expect from each unrestricted community. Midshipman 2/C Karash described his CORTRAMID experience as “enlightening”. With some advice to Midshipmen prior to entering this summer training evolution he states, “Be prepared to experience every community. Don’t just tunnel vision into the one you think you wanted”. An interesting, cool, stressful, and frightening situation he talked about was, “Flying a T-34 down the coast.” “I knew that there was a pilot that would save the plane if I messed up but being directly in control was amazing!” Even in a stressful situation, midshipmen have a unique opportunity at CORTRAMID. When asked what his favorite memory was, he said “The most memorable experience was feeling the rush of gasses when I

manually fired an air slug out of the torpedo tube of the USS West Virginia.” This summer training evolution is an extremely memorable experience. Midshipmen will get to meet other midshipmen from across the country and be in places/things that not every person will get to be in their lifetime. It’s literally a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Klement



Marine Month



This summer, rising 2/C and 3/C Marine Options from across the country had the opportunity to attend "Marine Month" for the first time. Previously, Marine Options attended CORTAMID which exposed them to three weeks of Navy communities and one week of Marine Corps orientation. Instead, Marine Month was established to provide a more in-depth Marine Corps familiarization and preparation for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and The Basic School (TBS). Marine Month was held at Camp Pendleton California. According to MIDN 2/C Floyd, "the

most challenging aspect from Marine month was learning how to communicate, work with, and compromise with midshipmen from other units and different backgrounds. While this was difficult at times, it was extremely beneficial as we will have to do the same thing in the fleet." A similar key aspect of the training was exposure to and interactions with a variety of officer and enlisted Marines who had different jobs. MIDN had firsthand experience with infantry, combat engineer, artillery, amphibious assault, and aviation communities. MIDN went through the highly realistic Infantry Immersion Trainer, where they utilized simulation rounds in force-on-force scenarios in urban terrain designed to emulate a Middle Eastern City. Familiarization and practical applications of land navigation,



operations orders, the obstacle-course, service rifles, machine guns, pistols, hiking with weight, room clearing, and more filled the four-week evolution. Under the leadership of University of Arizona's Colonel Kevin A. Norton, the midshipmen gained essential skills for their future careers as Marine Officers. Along with growing their network, developing relationships with those who they will work with again at future trainings, schools, into the fleet together, and beyond.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/Synacek

Officer Candidate School (OCS)

The United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS) is based in Quantico, Virginia. Where candidates go to get trained and evaluated to become Marine Corps Officers. The evaluation is categorized in academics, physical fitness, and leadership. The emphasis is on leadership and whether you show potential to continue growing as a leader. Midshipmen from Naval ROTC units go to OCS for 6 weeks in the summer of their junior year of college. The first phase is "In-Processing" where gear and uniforms are issued and training platoons are assigned. The second phase is the



"Transition phase" where combat conditioning, close order drill, and leadership indoctrination are introduced. The third phase is the "Adaptation phase" which is skipped for the 6-week program. Then, the fourth phase is the "Decision Making and Execution phase". The fifth phase is "Mentorship and Out-Processing" which is when the orientation of future duties begins. At Graduation they receive the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. Then they have successfully earned the title Marine. OCS is challenging but very rewarding. MIDN Maske from The University of Memphis NROTC went to OCS this past summer. MIDN Maske explains his favorite experience during OCS, saying that it was "receiving my Eagle Globe and Anchor. It marked the beginning of a lifelong commitment to



something bigger than myself. It was when I finally accomplished my dream of becoming a US Marine. It's something I'll never forget." Also, MIDN Maske met people from all over the country and now he has friends from Alaska, Hawaii, and all the way to Maine.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Schwab



1st Class Cruise

First class cruises are vital for commissioning, and the big summer cruise that all midshipmen look forward to doing. What sets these cruises apart from the prior cruises is that this one is specific towards the midshipmen's intended service assignment.

Although this past year had its own set of challenges to overcome with the pandemic our unit's midshipmen made the most of the situation and completed another successful round of cruises. The goal of the first-class cruises is to complete the midshipman to officer evolution. MIDN 1/C Stagoski, Lin, Bregenzer, and Jones all participated in a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) summer cruise, and MIDN 1/C Moorer and Bouchoc did a submarine cruise. The surface warfare community is very diverse, and as such, none of our midshipmen had the same SWO experience. MIDN 1/C Stagoski spent most of his 10 days off the coast of San Diego's St. Clemente Island aboard an LCS 4

Coronado. On this vessel, most of what they dealt with on the day-to-day was flight operations (for this instance, it was getting junior helicopter pilots qualified for landing on ships at night and day) and submarine protection (where the ship and sub would meet to load and offload midshipmen). "It is ironic that we were providing protection because our ship had no weapons other than crew-served weapons on our hands. We were mainly just a decoy/distraction for a threat to allow the sub to get back underwater," comments MIDN 1/C Stagoski. MIDN 1/C Lin, on the other hand, spent part of his summer on a Cruiser, CG-53 Mobile Bay, based in San Diego. They did anti-submarine warfare (Where they were trying to locate submarine decoys) and Underway Replenishment(UNREP). "For UNREP, we were able to watch as we pulled up close with another vessel and refuel. In addition, there was another destroyer on

the other side of the supply ship. The UNREP is really cool. Just imagine going through an evolution that only the US Navy is capable of. Then to leave, the CO decides to go full flank port and blast some rock music in the 1-MC. As you peel off from the supply ship, a pod of dolphins pops up off the starboard side." MIDN 1/C Bregenzer also had his cruise in San Diego on a Ticonderoga Class Guided-Missile Cruiser. MIDN Bregenzer also got to experience anti-sub training and UNREPS, but he also got to take part in other trainings such as man-overboard drills. "The SWO experience was very unique and filled with activity. There were numerous jobs I was able to do on the ship, and many more I can do once I commission." MIDN 1/C Jones, dedicated part of her summer on an LHA, LHA-7 USS Tripoli, also in San Diego. She shadowed an ensign from the engineering department and took part in all the daily activities with them. In addition, she took part in

drills and training exercises, including practice for a ship inspection. "One of the most memorable things that happened on my cruise was the drills," Said MIDN Jones, "There were drills for man overboard scenarios, fires and smoke, enemies in the water, and testing all the equipment on board. As a 1/C, I was expected to react as an officer, therefore they had the 1/C MIDN onboard muster with their officers and react in accordance with what the officer was supposed to do." Despite being on a SWO cruise, MIDN Jones still got to experience some NFO activities as well, "Because of the mission set of an LHA, there were pilots and NFOs on board, both Navy and Marine Corps, and I did get the opportunity to speak with them and learn from them. It was very interesting to see how intertwined the aviation and SWO community was, so I think it solidified my overall reason for following this career path." MIDN 1/C Moorer had a memorable submarine cruise on USS Missouri Virginia Class at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the sub, she got to drive the vessel, worked as Officer of the Deck, and sat in with the sonar team. When the

sub was preparing their operations meeting for mission, MIDN Moorer got to listen in. She also participated in several drills, like large angles, where turn the ship by a large margin (about 20 degrees) while it dives. "I stayed up all day to wait for the ship to surface in the middle of the night and I got to watch the sunrise in the middle of the ocean from the top of the sail," Said MIDN Moorer, "My cruise was SO cool that I can't even talk about the specifics, so I recommend going on a sub cruise to see what I mean." This is just a glimpse into a few of the many different experiences that all our Navy 1/C MIDN got to partake in this summer. They gave us something to look forward to when our time comes to complete ours.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Spiker



Hail and Farewell

Hail and Farewell is a semesterly event for our unit. The purpose of Hail and Farewell is to recognize the incoming midshipmen and bid the departing staff goodbye. Hail and Farewell is modeled after the active military service in which, following a change of command, the new command is welcomed, and the old command is recognized with a proper send off. It represents the turning over into new leadership and a new start. Hail and Farewell is a valued and respected tradition that continues to build morale within our unit. We hosted its Fall 2021 Hail and Farewell ceremony at Lost Pizza Company. During this event, MIDN

and active-duty staff met at the restaurant and enjoyed beverages and pizza. MIDN socialized until the hailing of the incoming midshipmen began. The twenty-nine incoming members introduced themselves, where they are from, and the service selection they desire. MIDN 1/C Maske, commissioning midshipman gave his farewell speech to the whole company. Following the event, the unit's morale was boosted, and it was prevalent everyone bonded. The relationships one builds in NROTC, and the military is a crucial aspect of the career. Serving side by side in extreme conditions makes it important to ensure that



you can rely on your counterparts. It is important to not only support each other in the workplace, but to also support each other outside of the work environment.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 3/C Dedmon



Wine Under Wings

This past October the 28th the University of Memphis NROTC Unit had the distinct privilege to participate in the Wine Under Wings fundraiser. This event is one of the largest events in the Mid-South celebrating the men and women of the armed forces as well as Naval Aviation. Held near the Memphis International Airport, it showcased an extensive variety of Naval Aviation Assets and the experiences of their aviators. This event hosted Memphis City and Shelby County Schools students and gave them a front-line view of a wide variety of Naval Aircraft. This exceptional opportunity for students to meet aircrew and their aircraft was free for all who attended. Later that evening citizens, business leaders, and members of the armed forces gathered to help raise money for the

Memphis Navy League Scholarship Fund. Eight Midshipmen for the unit served in a sword arch to give the distinguished guests a formal entrance. The Millington Sea Cadet Unit presented the colors as Memphis Knights band played the Star-Spangled Banner. This classy event was completed with wine and hors d'oeuvre pairings, and a high-quality silent auction. Many of the Memphis Midshipmen were able to attend the air orientation, and many more were able to enjoy the evening event. I was a participant of the sword arch. I absolutely enjoyed Wine Under Wings and was very proud to be able to be part of the sword arch for the event. It was great to volunteer for an organization like the Navy League that has done so much for our unit. I thought the food was great, and all the visiting aviators were



more than happy to start up conversations with the Midshipmen.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 2/C Murphy

Memphis vs. Navy Football Game

The Memphis Tigers Football team faced off against the Naval Academy on October 14th, 2021, at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. Historically, this is not much of a rivalry. The teams had only played six times coming into this game, with the first meeting being in 2015. The programs were tied at a 3-3 record. Memphis has also won its last 2 games against Navy, with last year's game being a measly 10-7 win. Setting the scene, the Tigers were wearing their silver helmets with Tiger blue Jerseys and the Naval Academy were wearing their gold, white, and navy-blue mix jerseys. During the game there were two main groups of Midshipmen at the game. Whenever the flex cam came on, we already knew what was coming: half of the Midshipmen I was with started flexing trying to get on the

jumbotron. MIDN Croiset, Devine, and Vieux represented our unit repping out push-ups on the night of the game. MIDN Croiset had time to speak with us regarding his experience. Although it was not his first night on the push-up squad, the night was unique for him competing against fellow midshipmen and working alongside the Cadets from the Army ROTC unit. To him, every touchdown meant an even bigger, prouder win. against our fellow Midshipmen at The Naval Academy, making that night's work especially fun. With a final score of 35-17, the push-up squad stayed busy hammering out push-ups after Memphis continually racked up the points. Overall, the experience of a Memphis Tigers Football Game is like no other. The fans are unique to Memphis, and the atmosphere is

always lively. However, there's just something much more exciting about a Memphis-Navy game. Maybe it's because it's an important conference matchup, or it could just mean more to us as Midshipmen and future Naval Officers. One thing is for certain though, Memphis fans were given a treat this year in their big, dominating win over Navy.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Norton



Sea Service Ball



The Sea Service Ball is a Navy and Marine Corps Tradition celebrating the birthdays of the two branches. This year, the branches both celebrated their 246th birthdays. The opening ceremony included a Sword Arch, Color Guard, and Cake Cutting. The USMC and USN birthday messages were viewed, and the ceremony ended with the Guest of Honor, RADM Dennis Velez, and CO, Captain Dave Whitehead, addressing the group. Once the ceremony ended, all personnel indulged in a fantastic meal and were able to mingle with their shipmates and dates. At the conclusion of the meal, the real fun began. All in attendance were

invited out on to the dance floor to partake in the festivities of the evening. Midshipmen and Officers alike danced with their dates and their friends and were able to talk with whomever they pleased. The festivities



continued into the evening with songs, dances, and memories being made. Midshipmen all showed camaraderie across all classes and enjoyed the company of others. While the event was plenty of fun and a morale boost for most, it was also somewhat somber and bittersweet for the 1/C Midshipmen due to this being their last Sea Service Ball. Because of this, these

Midshipmen reflected and reminisced on their time in the unit.



When asked about their experience, the Midshipmen were all in agreeance on how the Ball went, one even saying, "It was Great. It was Awesome. Hooyah!"

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 1/C, Bregenzer

Sea Cadets



Representing over 9,000 cadets from ages 10 to 18 over 47 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico, the Sea Cadets' mission is to build leaders of character by imbuing them with the highest ideals of honor, respect, commitment, and service, task that has stood true since its establishment by the Navy League in 1962. The Sea Cadets is an extracurricular organization that runs hundreds of units that meet at least once a month and do various other community activities throughout the year. During the summer and winter breaks, Sea Cadets have the option to attend training where they can test different career fields like medical,

master-at-arms, or even work with the Coast Guard or Navy. It is a truly unique opportunity for people of young ages to find what they love to do, like joining the Naval ROTC program in college.



As midshipmen, we volunteer with the Tennessee BB-43 Division over in Millington, TN. We assist with conducting drills, running PT, and teaching classes. However, our primary job is to expose those young leaders to the NROTC program and help us develop our leadership character as midshipmen. The Sea Cadets program allows midshipmen to lead a group of cadets at a low level towards a common goal. It also shows the

cadets how NROTC is a promising career path after graduating from high school. It is an excellent team between the Sea Cadets and Memphis NROTC that benefits both sides greatly.



"I like to think that Sea Cadets is a positive experience for not only my own leadership ability but for the cadets as well in their own leadership positions."

-MIDN 4/C Manuel Capiendo

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Maldonado



Volunteering

After 3 semesters of quarantining, our unit was thrilled to be able to get involved with the community through civic engagement. The unit participated in a multitude of volunteer events, totaling to 463 service hours this semester.



As a unit, we have volunteered with V&E Greenline, Habitat ReStore, Memphis Rox, Germantown Parks, and Memphis Beautiful. Activities included helping during a fundraiser for local artists to help support park funds, cleaning and picking up trash around



the greater Memphis area, participating in a Halloween fundraiser and helping kids have a good time while raising money for Germantown Parks, stocking for Habitat ReStore which helps low-income families afford stuff for their home, and more. This semester the unit has been finding new ways to get involved with both the campus and the community. The unit started utilizing Volunteer Odyssey, provided by the University, for each individual midshipman to be able to have more accessibility to volunteering opportunities in the Memphis area. donating to the Tiger Food Pantry by having a donation box



Another great new thing the unit started doing was set up in the unit. The volunteer events were all special and gave midshipman the opportunity to bond with one another, they also got a chance to bond with their community and campus.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Morris

Halfway Night

Halfway night was an event held in the middle of the semester as a celebration for making it halfway through the semester. There was food grilled and brought, fun activities, auctions and ultimate frisbee that some of the active-duty staff joined in on. This event was run by MIDN 2/C Devine who orchestrated fundraising for the unit. She held an auction for Company Staff billets, pies to pie each other in the face and a hot food challenge. There was also a partner egg throwing contest and a boat competition where each squad would construct their own boat, and their ability to float was put to the test. 2nd platoon, 1st squad, full of Marine Options and MECEPs took home the win. Their boat was able to hold the most weight without sinking. Besides having fun, the unit was able to raise \$922.50 at this event.

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Mikos



Veterans Day Color Guard

For Veterans' Day, Gold company organized two color guard events. The first event was a parade in Covington, and the other event was held at Bailey Station elementary school in Collierville. Captain Evans our MOI put these events together. At the first event (shown below), the Midshipmen in the event were MIDN Warnock for left rifle, MIDN Croiset for Navy flag, MIDN Floyd for USMC flag, MIDN Suarez for USA flag, and MIDN Lombardi for right rifle. As they waited to form up, they all had the opportunity to talk to a few veterans, each with

very different backstories. They told many stories from when they were still in the service and gave advice to the MIDN for their future military careers. The MIDN were able to show the skills they polished and effort that they put into practicing for these events. MIDN Lombardi, said "it was an enjoyable and cool experience. The best part was talking with the veterans there and hearing their experiences from the navy in the past". The MIDN then had more opportunities to talk with more veterans after the event finished. The MIDN on the



color guard team in the picture above are from the Veterans Day parade in Collierville. The MIDN are from left to right, MIDN Maldonado, MIDN Haas, MIDN Schwab, MIDN Fant, and MIDN Hanscom going from left to right. Very similar to the first event, this event went smoothly. In the audience there were many veterans from every branch, and we were proud to perform the color guard.



Very Respectfully,
MIDN 4/C Schwab
MIDN 4/C Warnock

Midshipman of the Semester



Midshipman of the semester is awarded to a member of Gold Company who has shown outstanding all-around performance in the areas of academics, volunteering, physical fitness, aptitude, and work ethic. Three midshipmen are nominated based on recommendations from squad leaders, platoon staff, and company staff. At the end of the semester, each nominee is required to present themselves in front of a board of company staff members, and answer an ethical decision question. This question is based on a provided scenario that a Naval Officer may find themselves in. They must also explain why they feel they deserve to be

named MIDN of the semester, discuss their academic performance, and what they have done to earn their high grades. For the Fall 2021 semester, our nominees were MIDN 4/C Sawyer, MIDN 3/C Travis, and MIDN 3/C Rausch. We would like to extend our congratulations to our winner: MIDN 3/C Lilly Travis! MIDN Travis earned this award because of her impressive performance in and outside of the NROTC program. She was the Sea Cadets OIC and received a challenge coin from the Executive Officer over the program for her work and dedication. She was also part of the unit book club, drill team, color guard, and endurance team, as well as a participant in multiple university extracurriculars including the Criminal Justice Club, Deaf and hearing club, and Stonewall Tigers.

With more than 20 hours of volunteering at local animal shelters and libraries, she has given back to the university and community in a meaningful way. Her near-perfect GPA, commendatory comments, and recommendations to the honors program by multiple professors, reflect her positive attitude and capabilities in the classroom. She also sets the example on the PT field, earning outstanding medium scores on every physical readiness test this semester. Bravo Zulu MIDN Travis and keep up the great work!

Very Respectfully,
MIDN 2/C Devine

