



The University of Memphis

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cover Story—2012 Beale Street Drill Meet	1
Professor of Naval Science	3
Executive Officer	4
3/c & 4/c Advisor	5
1/c & 2/c Advisor	5
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor	6
Marine Officer Instructor	7
Company Commander	8
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	9
Midshipman of the Semester	10
Naval Academy Leadership Conference	11
Notre Dame Leadership Conference	11
Florida Keys Relay	12
Mess Night	13
Commissionees	14
Tri-Service Awards	16
Mardi Gras Drill Meet	17
5k for Freedom	17
Commander's Cup	18

2012 BEALE STREET DRILL MEET



The University of Illinois Color Guard Team performs at the 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet

On 13-14 April 2012, The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Unit hosted its 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet – its largest one yet. Midshipman 2/C Menzel was the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the meet. Because of her hard work and dedication and the work of her dedicated staff of eight other midshipmen, the event was a huge success.

Twenty units and over 400 midshipmen and cadets traveled to Memphis to participate in the drill meet, coming from

schools as far away as the University of California at Berkeley and as close as The University of Memphis' Air Force ROTC. The events included platoon and squad drill; color guard; platoon, squad, two-member, and one-member exhibition drill; an endurance race; sailing regatta; and rifle and pistol matches. All of the events except for exhibition drill were divided into two divisions. The divisions were determined by unit enrollment with Division I including all units with over 70 students while Division II included all units with 70 or fewer students.

Twenty-four teams accepted the challenge of the endurance race that consisted of over a half marathon's worth of running in "boots and utes" with combat gear and a 600 meter swim – almost doubling the length of the endurance race from previous years. Another big change was that instead of being contained completely within Shelby Farms Park as it had been in the past, this year the endurance race began at Shelby Farms Park but finished outside the NROTC Unit on the campus of The University of Memphis. Along the route there were numerous physically demanding challenges, including a 1.7 mile log run, a buddy carry course, a 2.4 mile sandbag run, a pull-up station, an ammo can maneuver course, a rope climb, and a keep-in-memory exercise where each team was challenged to review several articles at the beginning of the race and answer questions about what they had observed at the end of the race. The winner in Division I was Team I from the University of Michigan; the winner for Division II was Team I from the University of Minnesota.

The sailing regatta took place on Patriot Lake at Shelby Farms Park. The day was perfect for sailing as the weather and winds were just right to make for a fast race. Seventeen teams consisting of thirty-four sailors participated in the sailing regatta. Not all teams completed the entire course and some were disqualified. The winner for Division I was Team I from Ohio State University, and the winner for Division II was Team I from the University of Wisconsin. In its first year, the sailing regatta proved to be a very popular addition.

Additional new events at this year's drill meet were the rifle and pistol matches. Although the host unit does not have a competitive rifle or pistol team, that did not deter them from hosting the competition at Rangemaster, a local firing range. The unit received an abundance of

help and support from The University of Memphis' shooting team and coaches. The matches proved to be a very popular event. In fact, the rifle and pistol matches were cited as the main draw to the meet by some visiting NROTC Units. In all, there were eleven, four-member rifle teams and eleven, four-member pistol teams, totaling eighty-eight shooters. The winner of the rifle match for Division I was the University of Oklahoma while the University of Illinois took top honors in Division II. The winner of the pistol match for Division I was the University of Michigan with the University of Kansas taking the top spot in Division II. The meet also recognized the overall top shooter for both rifle and pistol. The individual champion for the rifle match was Midshipman Williams from the University of Oklahoma. For the pistol match it was Midshipman Frickey from the University of Kansas.

The most entertaining and exciting of the drill events was the exhibition category. In exhibition drill, individuals and units impress the judges with their ability to come up with elaborate displays of proficiency and showmanship while tossing M-1 Grande Rifles into the air to one another. In the one-member event individuals had the opportunity to display their own creativity. The winner of this event was Midshipman McArthur from the University of South Carolina. In the two-member event, teammates work together to impress the judges with their cooperation and synchronization. The winners of this event were Midshipman Andy Gomez and Midshipman Jarred Smith from Savannah State University. In the squad and platoon events, teams of 5-20 individuals work together to demonstrate their teamwork through complex and elaborate displays of proficiency. The winner of the squad exhibition was Savannah State University, and the winner of the platoon exhibition was

North Georgia College and State University.

Most ROTC units are often called upon to present colors at numerous events in their local community throughout the year. In the color guard event, units are given a forum to display one of the hallmarks of an ROTC unit. The winner of the color guard event for Division I was the University of South Carolina, and the winner for Division II was the University of California at Berkeley.

In the squad drill competition, small unit leadership was put to the test. Squads consisted of a squad leader and five to seven other members. The winner of the squad drill competition for Division I was the University of South Carolina, and the winner for Division II was the University of Minnesota.

Many consider the main event for any drill meet to be the platoon basic drill competition. In platoon basic drill, a platoon commander must demonstrate expert control over fifteen or more other members. This is a very demanding event and requires much time and practice to perfect. The winner of the platoon basic drill competition for Division I was the University of South Carolina, and the winner for Division II was the University of Memphis team lead by Midshipmen 4/C Wendel.



A participant shoots in our first ever pistol match as part of the 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet.

In order to execute such a large event, The University of Memphis NROTC was fortunate to have the support of five Assistant Marine Officer Instructors (AMOs) from schools not participating in the drill meet serving as evaluators. All AMOs have prior Drill Instructors experience with an extensive background in close order drill. The University of Memphis NROTC also received support from some Chief Petty Officers (CPOs) from Naval Support Activity, Mid-South Region from Millington, Tennessee. Having

CPOs involved in the events added an atypical aspect that distinguished the 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet from many other drill meets. It afforded the visiting midshipmen a chance to interact with senior enlisted Navy leaders – an opportunity not usually available to most NROTC units.

But when the dust settled, only one NROTC unit could stand tall as the overall 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet Champion. That distinction

was earned by University of South Carolina.

The University of Memphis NROTC Unit thanks all for participating and congratulates all who distinguished themselves with excellence. The 6th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet will be held on April 12-13, 2013.

Very Respectfully,
Kelly L. Tyler
Midshipman 4/C, USNR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

As many of you already know, I retired on the 1st of April. Although it is sad to realize that this wonderful adventure has come to an end, I couldn't think of a better way to depart than by providing the Fleet and Fleet Marine Force with 8 motivated and well-prepared new Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants.

I have had the wonderful privilege to oversee the numerous events of the spring 2012 semester in which this unit has participated or organized. These activities include a RAGNAR relay from Key West to Miami, drill meets at Tulane and Colorado, leadership conferences at the Naval Academy and Notre Dame, Mess Night, and our own 5K for Freedom Run and Beale Street Drill Competition. This was a very active semester, and I was continually impressed by what a group of highly motivated young individuals can do.

I take this opportunity to iterate a few points to our future Naval and Marine Corps officers. First, I emphasize the importance of academic excellence and knowledge. The fundamental tenet of an officer is the ability to continually learn and exceed academic standards. Midshipmen and offic-

ers will not succeed very long if they are not willing to put forth the time and effort to improve their fundamental knowledge of technical concepts and leadership. The modern-day Navy is a technological marvel; I cannot stress enough upon future officers that their abilities to lead and be technically competent are going to be the cornerstones of their success.

Secondly, I want to impress upon our future officers the importance of physical fitness. Physical fitness has become an ever increasingly important aspect of our lives as Naval Officers. Physical fitness allows us to perform our jobs at a higher degree of efficiency and precludes the development of many conditions that deter us from our job of defending this nation.

Lastly, I want to remind our midshipmen that they are the future of this Navy-Marine Corps team. They are the ones that will enter the Fleet and replace aging dinosaurs like me. It is imperative that once they get to the Fleet, they "hit the deck running," be eager for responsibility, and have a burning desire to lead our Sailors and Marines. They have the ability to make a real difference in the Fleet



and to positively impact the Navy-Marine Corps team in ways they cannot yet imagine. But first, they must take heed of first two points of academic and physical fitness excellence, lest they squander the opportunity to make their mark on the Fleet.

I bid a fond farewell to the midshipmen, staff, and the Navy, but I know that the future of the Navy and Marine Corps is in good hands. May your careers be as full of adventure as mine!

Ken W. Auten
Captain, USN
Commanding Officer
NROTC, Mid-South Region



Another semester has quickly passed, and what a great semester it was! We achieved success at an impressive number of events that clearly warrant discussion and recognition. But first, I want to reemphasize our commitment to academic excellence – an area that left room for improvement for some of us after the sun set on the fall 2011 semester.

Only secondary to safety, solid academic performance is an officer candidate's and a midshipman's top priority. My staff and I emphasize this on a daily basis and encourage our students to not only meet but also exceed the minimum requirements. We encourage our students to earn at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) each semester. Not only will this enable them to develop into more fully educated and insightful officers overall, but GPA can be an important discriminator in determining if they are selected for the warfare discipline of their choice – whether it be submarines, surface warfare, aviation, or special operations warfare. Additionally, a 3.0 GPA will also promote ample graduate school opportunities for them when it comes time

MAKE SMART DECISIONS!

to pursue a graduate degree. I firmly believe that we can reach our goal of a 3.3 semester GPA for the entire NROTC Unit next semester as long as we remember that academic excellence is a priority and direct appropriate efforts toward that goal.

In addition to taking a steady strain on academics, we had an extremely fun-filled semester involving several extracurricular activities – a relay race from Key West to Miami, several drill meets, leadership conferences at the Naval Academy and Notre Dame, Mess Night (Dining In), and our own 5K for Freedom Run. A first ever event for the unit that I will mention in particular was a field trip by students from the Naval Engineering Class to a civilian nuclear power plant in Russellville, Arkansas. I accompanied LT May and eight midshipmen in applying classroom lessons on power generation to some real-life applications at the plant. What a great experience!

I also wish to stress a couple of key points to consider during the approaching summer. First, I encourage the students to make smart decisions while they are away from the unit. Whether a poor decision involves alcohol or jumping off a roof into a too-shallow pool, legal or medical problems are a quick way to derail the dreams of flying airplanes, driving ships or submarines, or performing clandestine missions as a SEAL. A lapse of judgment can make for a mistake that cannot be undone. Second, maintain (or

improve) physical readiness. Officer candidates and midshipmen are doing themselves a disservice if they allow themselves to regress in fitness or body composition assessment levels.

Finally, I wish the best for every departing senior as each departs on the next leg of life's journey as a commissioned officer. I also wish "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to CAPT Auten as he too departs on the next leg of his life's journey after more than 28 years of commissioned service in the United States Navy. All departing shipmates are welcome to visit the unit anytime, and I hope you do!

Respectfully,
Steven J. Skretkowitz
Commander, USN
Commanding Officer (Acting)
NROTC, Mid-South Region



CDR Skretkowitz hanging out after completing the 3rd Annual 5k for Freedom Race in Arlington, TN.

3/c and 4/c Advisor

The spring 2012 semester has been a roller coaster of activity! The unit has emphasized the necessity of the Chain of Command. The freshmen in SeaPower have glimpsed back at their Navy and Marine Corp history. They have been able to compare and contrast our history with the ongoing problems we face in the very near future. They are eager to learn and willing to add value to the future of tomorrow. Afghanistan and Iraq are seemingly winding down and the NROTC students are witnessing firsthand the transformation the military is undertaking to meet the nation's goals of preserving freedom. Golf Company appears to be running on without error this semester which is a testament to the exceptional work of the top four billets!

The road to a Navy and Marine Corp commission is paved with good intentions and a Gunnery Sergeant! As always, we have lost a few more midshipmen that

did not pass the muster. The strong and determined continue to rise to the top to take over the watch!

Being a Mustang (prior enlisted and now commissioned officer) and University of Memphis alum I'm proud of all the fleet experience that the Marine Corp Enlisted Commissioning Education Programmers (MECEP) and the Seaman to Admiral Officer Candidates (STA-21) bring to the Naval ROTC unit. They act as role models to our young midshipmen and provide them with valuable insight, guidance, and wisdom to be successful in the fleet.

As the recruiting officer I have met with numerous potential students, parents, and guidance counselors interested in the Naval and Marine Corps ROTC program. I've enjoyed their encouraging and supporting comments and look forward to seeing these future students under a Navy or Marine Corps Scholarship or



working diligently towards one in the near future.

To the graduating students I will say "Farewell and Following Seas" and look forward to meeting you again out in the fleet! Take care of your shipmates, you now have the Conn! Remember all you've learned here, train like you fight, and you will be rewarded.

Very Respectfully,
Michael S. Jacobs
Lieutenant, USN
3/c & 4/c Advisor
NROTC, The University of Memphis



1/c and 2/c Advisor

What a great semester this has been! We have done so many great things this semester but what I am most interested in are the submarine and engineering events that have taken place.

In February, the Navy midshipmen had the privilege of having the Commanding Officer of the

Pre-Commissioning Unit MISSISSIPPI (Soon to be USS MISSISSIPPI on June 2nd), fly down from Groton, CT to talk to the students about what submarine life is like and how ship builders construct new submarines. The brief was extremely interesting, even for a current submariner like myself.

In March, I took my Naval engineering class on an all day field trip to a nuclear reactor in Arkansas called Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO). The students got a 2 hour long tour by



LT May presents a basketball that was signed by Coach Pastner to CAPT Auten at his informal retirement ceremony.

various engineers that explained how the reactor operates and creates electricity for the state of Arkansas. The midshipmen were also able to apply the engineering topics that I teach; such as thermodynamics, fluid flow, and electricity generation, to some real life applications.

Finally, 8 of the students accompanied me to the 112th annual submarine birthday ball at the Peabody Hotel in down town Memphis. The students got to experience a lot of submarine tradition such as the cutting of the cake and the Tolling of the Bells. The midshipmen also got to mingle with a lot of submarine leadership in a fun, social atmosphere that allowed them to engage in submarine sea stories.

Although we had a lot of fun this se-

mester, I still stress that grades are the midshipman's number one priority no matter what community they commission into. It is important that the midshipmen put forth 110% effort in their academics to better prepare them mentally for a great career in a Navy.

To my graduating midshipmen; have a great career no matter what you are doing. Always remember to bring your a-game to work every day, but most importantly, NEVER forget to have fun at what you are doing. Stay safe and Godspeed.

Very Respectfully,
Edward J. May
Lieutenant, USN
1/c & 2/c Advisor
NROTC, The University of Memphis



Let me first start by saying it has been a rewarding experience at our unit which has taught me several lessons since arriving here almost three years ago. Most of you will understand when you reach your first duty station that every experience, be it good or bad, adds value to your leadership character. At no time can you ignore these "lessons in life", they are essential. Always push back from the tempo of operations and look at the big picture when it comes to command cli-

mate, especially when it affects the livelihood of your Marines and Sailors.

Find a mentor at every place of duty and if there is not one present, call or email one. Leaders need to be refreshed from time to time. It's similar to getting a balanced diet, good mentoring equals good leadership. The best example I have for this is our SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Barrett. As you have probably heard from me or several of the midshipmen, he spent some time with us to share his leadership success of 32 years. I would place you at a disadvantage if I did not share my notes from a couple of his discussions on leadership. Grade yourself honestly: Do you possess "Enduring Trust Qualities", competence, commitment, dependability, character and cohesion for the team? Considering conduct, are you: moral, ethical,

professional, safe and just? Are you "optimal" for duty with regards to physical fitness, cognitive fitness (mental), morally fit (never a wrong time to do the right thing), knowledgeable of skills to do your duties and family fit (spiritually, social and health). Good advice never gets old, place these in your leadership toolbox and use it always.

Practice now for your success later, don't be afraid to make mistakes, but most importantly always take notes and learn. The day you stop learning as a leader is the day you stop leading! I look forward to serving with you in the future.

Semper Fidelis
Frank B. Kammer
Gunnery Sergeant, USMC
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Parting Shoots

As I come to the end of my three years here at the Naval ROTC at The University of Memphis, I would be remiss not to take a few moments to reflect back on what we have accomplished. I say we, because it really has had little to do with me, but rather what everyone in this unit has accomplished. Here's a short list of things we have done:

- Commissioned 15 Ensigns and 10 Second Lieutenants
- Had 100% successful completion of Officer Candidate School
- Improved upon what has become the largest overall drill meet in the country
- Developed a robust and demanding Freshmen Orientation
- Ran five 170+ mile team relay races
- Ran three Marine Corps Marathons
- Started two 5k Fundraisers



Captain Wickham congratulates Gunnery Sergeant Ward on his promotion.

Again, this is just a short list. I truly honestly couldn't be more proud of each and every one of you as I head back to the fleet.

Finally, I would like to leave you with a few parting thoughts:

1) You are the future of our Naval Services. While you're in the Naval ROTC program, you have to take every opportunity that presents itself to develop and hone your leadership skills. Once you hit the fleet there will be little time for you to play catch up or to "try and figure it out." While you're here, seek out responsibility and demand that others around you do the same. Remember, we are one team, and we need to ensure that everyone around us is of the highest caliber as well.

2) Learn from those around you. Just because someone is in a leadership position does not make them a leader. You can learn as much from a bad leader as you can from a good one. Heck, I'm sure that I've handled some things a certain way that you have thought could have been handled better...learn from that as well. In no way is anyone infallible or perfect. To that degree, you also need to identify some role models that you can emulate and aspire to be like. These can be fellow midshipmen, someone on the staff, someone in the chain of command, or just someone you know.

3) Take care of your Marines and



Sailors. As future Naval officers, this should be your number one priority. If you ever find yourself in a position asking yourself "what's in it for me?", you are wrong. Put those you lead ahead of your own needs, and you won't go wrong.

4) Lead from the front. It doesn't matter what branch you are going into, or what MOS you'll have, it is your job to lead. Always stay motivated and demand the most from your subordinates. Leading others is one of the hardest things you'll ever have to do, but it will also be one of the most rewarding.

It is hard to believe that my three years here are up, but I feel confident in saying that I believe that we have produced some of the highest quality officers in the fleet. I look forward to serving with each and every one of you someday in the fleet.

Semper Fidelis
Robert W. Wickham
Captain, USMC
Marine Officer Instructor
NROTC, The University of Memphis



Over the past spring, we have had one of the most successful semesters to date. With several events this semester the following semesters will have a lot to surpass. The company has done well to attain the goals of the last semester, acknowledge this, push further and raise the bar even higher to challenge itself. With many outstanding volunteer opportunities, challenging endurance events, and numerous color guards, Golf Company did well to make the student staff and instructor staff extremely proud. The most important thing that the company has done is come together to staff such events as the 5k for Freedom and the 5th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet and Endurance Challenge. Having hosted

Student Company Commander

the largest drill meet in the nation, the University of Memphis NROTC definitely put its name out there as a force to be reckoned with. However, nothing stops here! With the summer quickly approaching along with many summer training opportunities, the University of Memphis will do well at all of them and make the esprit de corps of the unit that much higher and represent the unit in true Tiger Style! Although there are several students being commissioned this spring, there are several students incoming to such a great unit. With these new students, remember that you are leading them and setting the example so exemplify the type of student it takes to be a midshipman and guide them to accomplishment.

In the semesters to come, I have no doubt that Golf Company will grow to do improved things due to the showing from this semester! Some things to remember are that at PT that pain is temporary, glory is forever, in academics, that nothing is possible without the right grades, and that in leadership your people come first. With this se-

mester, I must say that nothing would have been possible without Golf Company. The students of this company have made mine and the rest of the student staff's jobs that much easier. Congratulations on a semester well executed! Bravo Zulu, Fair Winds and Following Seas, and Semper Fidelis!

Very Respectfully,
Scott A. Miller II
Midshipman 1/C, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis



MIDN 1/c Miller relinquished command of Golf Company to MIDN 2/c Menzel at their Change of Command Ceremony.



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On April 4, 2012, the Marine Platoon of the University of Memphis NROTC program had the rare privilege of shaking hands with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Barrett, while he visited the Marine Reserve Center here in Memphis, Tennessee. A few midshipmen took time out of their busy class schedules so they would not miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime, while others gladly gave up their free time to be there. Less than twenty Marines and midshipmen were present to greet the Sergeant Major, and as a result they had a far more personal experience. As he made an entrance, Sergeant Major Barrett enthusiastically shook hands and made short conversation with every person in the room, immediately establishing his presence as well as a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone then proceeded to the next room and took seats as he went on to speak about his purpose for being there, which was to address the restructuring of the unit, the state of the Marine Corps, and the responsibilities of Marines in dealing with the downsize of the Corps.

Sergeant Major Barrett, despite the small audience, spared no ounce of his passion and enthusiasm when addressing these subjects. To set the tone, he first inspired faith by informing the group that the US Marine Corps is fine, a well-oiled machine charging forward like it has since its birth, and that he and the Commandant, General Amos, are in the faces of Congress and the Senate fighting aggressively for

SgtMaj of the Marine Corps



2nd Platoon traveled the short distance over to the Marine Reserve Center in Memphis, TN to hear the SgtMaj of the Marine Corps speak and impart his wisdom.

their Marines in this time of economic hardship. He addressed the fact that a congressman came to him to say that for the first time in the history of the Marine Corps, the character of the Marine was in question due to negative media attention these past six months, and that he had a lot of work to do in order to fix it. A few Marines had undone more than two centuries of a proud legacy established by amazing sacrifice and blood shed, and it was up to contemporary Marines to uphold that legacy while their leadership fights to reestablish the faith of the politicians and, more importantly, the American people in who the Marines are and what they do. He emphasized the importance of character in everything that Marines do,

that they are the smallest fighting force in the country and yet they are everywhere in the world prepared to respond within hours of a major catastrophe and are the first ones on the scene to figure it out. The Marine Corps conquers tasks with an aggressive drive for efficiency and getting the job done and has a strong track record of accomplishing just that. He proceeded to remind the Marines and future officers in the room of why they do not have to worry about their beloved Corps so long as they uphold the ethos of the US Marine Corps.

Due to a lack of time, only two questions were addressed during the Sergeant Major's visit. The first was an inquiry into whether the Marine Corps

would be cutting contracts to meet the downsizing quota by 2016. His response was a firm "no," and he backed his response by stating passionately that under no circumstances will he and the Commandant destroy the faith of their Marines by forcing them to leave before their contract has reached fruition and that it took twelve months of intense planning to figure how they would achieve that. The second question was whether he could impart any wisdom on what the relationship should

be like between a new Second Lieutenant and the Company First Sergeant. Without hesitation he stated that the first thing a Second Lieutenant needs to do when they reach their first command is knock on the door of their First Sergeant and humbly tell them that you are an open book. His best advice on how to establish an effective relationship as a junior officer is to "demand honesty, and you will receive loyalty." On that note he had to say farewell, but before he departed he once again shook the

hands of everyone in the room, leaving in their palms a coin with his name on it as the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps with a short statement engraved on it that said "do brave deeds and endure." With that he took pictures with everyone in the room and then took his leave, an enthused group of Marines and midshipman in his wake.

Very Respectfully,
Katherine M. Townsend
Midshipman 3/c, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Midshipman of the Semester



Midshipman 4/C Isaac Parrish

Hometown: Maryville, TN

Major : Pre-Nursing

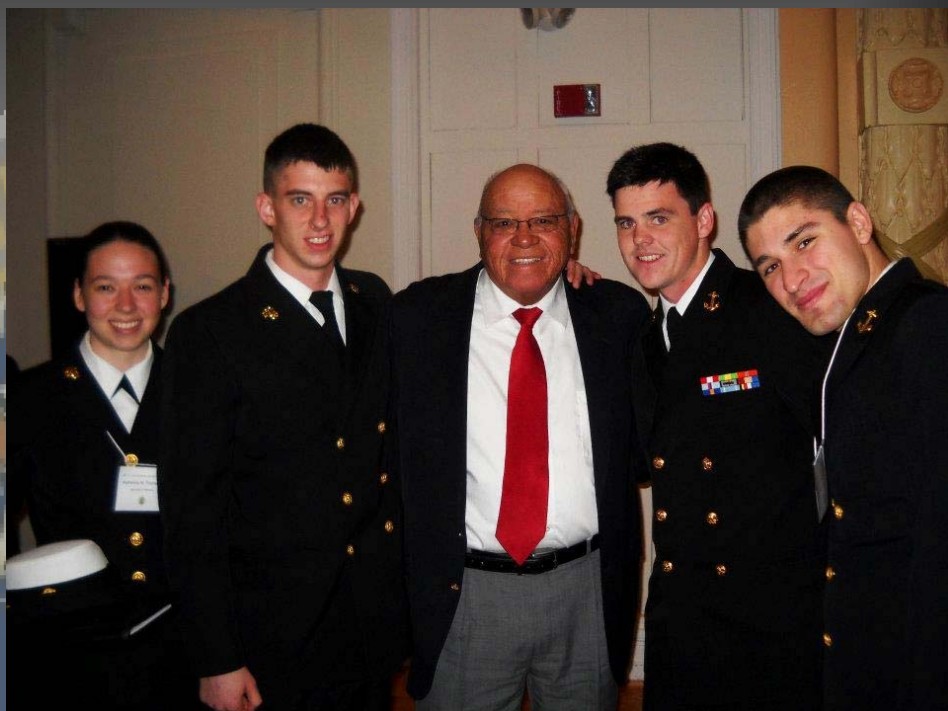
GPA: 4.0

PFA: Excellent

Desired Service Assignment: Nurse

What does it mean to be a visionary leader? Midshipman 1/c Jamison, Midshipman 2/c McAuley, Midshipman 2/c Strawser, and Midshipman 3/c Townsend had the privilege of attending this year's United States Naval Academy's Leadership Conference in Annapolis, Maryland. The central theme of this year's conference was "Visionary Leadership: Navigating Through Uncharted Waters". Throughout the conference we were afforded the opportunity to listen to many outstanding speakers as they shared their knowledge and how they were able to become successful through their own visionary leadership. Some of the keynote speakers included General James N. Mattis, USMC, Commander, United States Central Command; Coach Herman Boone, former head football coach at T. C. Williams High School who was portrayed by Denzel Washington in the movie *Remember the Titans*; Mr. Guy Kawasaki, venture capitalist, best-selling author, and Apple Fellow; Mr. Howard Putnam, former CEO of Southwest Airlines; and Rear Admiral Ray Smith, USN (Ret.), prior Navy SEAL just to name a few. As they shared what visionary leadership meant to them, we were able to gain a mass of

NAVAL ACADEMY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



MIDN 3/C Townsend, MIDN 2/C McAuley, MIDN 1/C Jamison, and MIDN 2/C Strawser meet Coach Herman Boone (*Remember the Titans*) at the Naval Academy.

knowledge that we will certainly be able to apply to our development as leaders in the Naval ROTC program and after we commission. During the conference we were able to take a tour of the beautiful campus, see what everyday life is like for midshipmen at the Naval Academy, and we even got the chance to see the tomb where John Paul Jones is

laid to rest. Overall it was an awesome experience. If you ever get the opportunity to attend the Naval Academy Leadership Conference, take it.

Very Respectfully,
Brandon J. McAuley
Midshipman 2/c, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Notre Dame Leadership Conference

What will a future in the Naval service hold for today's Memphis Naval ROTC students? Undoubtedly it will be leading Sailors and Marines, but there are so many avenues to pursue this as a Navy or Marine Corps

Officer. On February 23rd Midshipman 1/c Miller, Midshipman 1/c Snypes, Midshipman 1/c Allen, and Midshipman 2/c Beazley headed to the University of Notre Dame to participate in Naval Leadership

Weekend. The theme for 2012 being "Naval Careers: The Door to the Future" allowed Midshipmen, Marines, and Sailors to explore the challenging and rewarding leadership opportunities in our Naval service. It was a great experience that really puts an enhanced perspective on what lies ahead for those about to fill the role leading, inspiring, and thinking

as junior officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. The weekend looked at leadership and ethics from the perspectives of notable speakers. Some of the speakers included the Honorable Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Colonel A. E. Renforth, USMC, Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Regiment; and Major General Jerome G. Cooper, USMC (Ret), Former Ambassador to Jamaica. The keynote speaker

for the conference was Admiral John C. Harvey, USN, Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command. Other speakers included military and civilian leaders who presented various aspects of leadership values and professional development that can be used in our future roles as Naval Officers and beyond. The Naval Leadership Weekend also afforded those in attendance the opportunity to interact with other

Midshipmen, Marines, and Sailors from other Naval ROTC units from across the country. It was a valuable experience visiting Notre Dame's Naval Leadership Weekend and everybody gained a lot from the conference.

Very Respectfully,
Preston C. Beazley
Midshipman 2/c, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Florida Keys Ragnar Relay



MIDN 4/c Grace running through the night on his second leg of the 2012 Florida Keys Ragnar Relay.

On the morning of Thursday, 5 January 2012, the University of Memphis Naval ROTC sent a twelve member team to Miami, Florida in two vans to compete in the second annual Ragnar Florida Keys Relay. The Naval ROTC began the race on Friday, 6 January after the seventeen hour drive to Miami and a very short night's respite in a local hotel. The first runner was MIDN 2/C Preston

Beazley. He began the 198.5 mile race as it wound its way out of the city of Miami.

The twelfth runner, Capt Robert Wickham, finished up his first leg by doing a lap around the Homestead Speedway, home of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship. By nightfall, the second set of legs began. Those were finished by midmorning of 7 January. As

the third set of legs began, exhaustion began to grip the runners as they made the final push to finish their legs. Each runner gave his all in the Florida heat, running straight through the day to reach the finish line in Key West, Florida; the southern most point in the continental United States.

The first van finished in the early afternoon and passed the baton off to MIDN 1/C James Bilyard, starting van number two on its final leg. Only six runners left until Key West. The last six runners pushed the last twenty plus miles through the keys, and as the final runner, Capt Wickham, neared the finish line, the remaining eleven runners, no matter how sore or tired, came in alongside him and ran the final stretch through the finish line.

After the race, each runner received a medal. The team then enjoyed dinner and got some much needed and well deserved rest before heading back to Memphis to start the new semester.

Very Respectfully,
Nathan A. Sampson
Midshipman 4/c, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Mess Night

The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Mess Night was held on the 16th of March 2012. The tradition of Mess Nights dates back to when the Vikings honored and celebrated battles by having a celebration. The British Army was the first modern day fighting force to adopt this tradition and it became common throughout all the British regiments. The United States military first started holding Mess Nights during the 18th and 19th centuries. Following the Civil War, the popularity of Mess Nights waned, but was later revived during World War II.

The University of Memphis Naval ROTC Mess Night started off with a cocktail hour which afforded the members of the mess an opportunity to mingle and greet the Guest of Honor. Once the mess started, everyone was provided with a delicious meal and entertainment. The entertainment for the evening consisted of fining and skits. Once the President of the Mess, Midshipman 1/c Miller, initiated the floor to be open to fining, the fun began. Fining is when one member of the Mess charges another member or members of the Mess with committing a heinous act. If the accuser is found guilty of the charge they must either pay a fine, drink from the grog, or do both. But sometimes the tables can turn and the accuser could be found guilty of another heinous act instead. The grog consisted of different edible food items that "represented Navy or Marine Corps traditions". For example, one item that was added was tuna fish, because we come from the sea. After many of the members of the Mess were found guilty, and many members tried to play off their transgressions, the floor was closed for fining.



MIDN 4/C McKnight does an outstanding impersonation of Gunnery Sergeant Kammer during the skit portion of Mess Night.

Next, each platoon was given the order by the President of the Mess to perform their skits that they were ordered to have prepared. Most of the skits that were performed caused laughter to arise throughout the Mess. But by far the best performance throughout the skits was that of Midshipman 4/c McKnight who gave a rousing imitation of our Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, Gunnery Sergeant Kammer.

Following the skits the Guest of Honor, Captain Thomas J. Petrilak, USN, was afforded the opportunity to address the Mess. Captain Petrilak currently serves as the Navy's Medical Department Community Manager. Captain Petrilak gave an outstanding speech that hit on three major points. Take care of those that you lead, don't take the

easy way because the easy way is more than likely the wrong way, and don't put your own career first. He said that if you do all this your career will take care of itself. He constantly emphasized these three major points.

The Mess Night concluded with toasts to all the branches of the military, the President, the Chief Naval of Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corp, and to our fallen comrades who will always be remembered. In all, everyone had a rousing time of camaraderie, laughter, and esprit de corps.

Very Respectfully,
Jon-Ashton Acker-Moorehead
Midshipman 2/C, USNR
NROTC, The University of Memphis



Second Lieutenant
James M. Bilyard

The University of Memphis
B.A. History

First Assignment:
The Basic School
Quantico, Virginia

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."
General Dwight Eisenhower

"Follow those above you, lead those below you, and learn from everyone."

Second Lieutenant
Johnathan R. Bratcher

The University of Memphis
B.A. Finance

First Assignment:
The Basic School
Quantico, Virginia



Ensign
Riccardo S. Hicks

The University of Memphis
B.A. Political Science

First Assignment:
Naval Flight Officer Training
Pensacola, Florida

"College moves by pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."



"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. Remember we are a family and a team; anything is possible. Good luck on your future endeavors in the NROTC program, in the fleet, and in life!"

Ensign
Charles E. Jamison III

The University of Memphis
B.P.S. Organizational Leadership

First Assignment:
Naval Pilot Training
Pensacola, Florida





Ensign
Tewaner L. Johnson

The University of Memphis
B.S. Engineering Technology

First Assignment:
Information Warfare School
Pensacola, Florida

"Remember to take everything learned and earned from NROTC and apply it to yourself. You are training to become an officer in the United States Navy or Marine Corps so the road will not be an easy one but by traveling down this road, you will truly learn the meaning of Ductus Exemplo, Leadership Hurts. Semper Fi."

*"The Navy has both a tradition and a future--and we look with pride and confidence in both directions."
Admiral George Anderson*

Second Lieutenant
Scott A. Miller II

Christian Brothers University
B.A. History

First Assignment:
The Basic School
Quantico, Virginia



Ensign

Harry C. Niewald

The University of Memphis
B.A. Political Science

First Assignment:
USS Russell
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

"Never give up on the things that you want. It may take a little longer than planned, but you will reach all of your goals."



"Never resist the advise of those who have been there before you. They have made the same mistakes and want to prevent you from making them."

Ensign
Ashley N. Snypes

The University of Memphis
B.A. Criminal Justice

First Assignment:
USS Mesa Verde
Norfolk, Virginia



Tri-Service Awards



The Guest of Honor, Memphis' Men's Basketball Coach John Pastner, is presented a gift from MIDN 1/c Miller and the other service's student commanders.

On 3 April 2012, the Tri-Service Awards Ceremony was held in the Rose Theatre. The awards were presented to the midshipmen and cadets of The University of Memphis's Army, Naval, and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units. The official party included the Naval ROTC Commanding Officer, Commander Steven Skretkowicz,

USN; the Army ROTC Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Kimberley Cowen, USA; the Air Force ROTC Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jacqueline Randolph, USAF; and the Dean of the Arts and Science College at The University of Memphis, Dr. Henry Kurtz. The guest of speaker was The University of Memphis men's head basketball

coach, John Pastner, who gave an inspiring speech about leadership. The award ceremony started with the arrival of the official party. Once they arrived the National Anthem was played and the invocation was given by Cadet John Metz of the Army ROTC. Lieutenant Colonel Jacqueline Randolph gave a few welcoming remarks to get the ceremony started. The guest of speaker, Coach Pastner gave an inspired speech on leadership and expressed his deepest respect for the military and the service we are about to enter. Once he wrapped up, the awards were presented. In all, there were over 70 awards handed out to worthy midshipmen and cadets who have displayed unselfish leadership, excellence in academics and physical fitness, and a strong desire to serve their country.

Each organization presented their awards to deserving midshipmen and cadets. Once all awards were handed out the midshipmen and cadets sang their respective service songs: *Into the Wild Blue Yonder*, *Anchors Aweigh*, *Marines' Hymn*, and *The Army Goes Rolling Along*. After all the hymns were over the official party departed and the award ceremony was complete.

Very Respectfully,
Kelsey M. Hansen
Midshipman 4/C, USNR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

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On Friday, the 17th of February 2012, The University of Memphis Naval ROTC Drill Team headed south to Tulane University to compete against 30 other teams in the Mardi Gras Drill Meet. The team left Memphis around 0200 and arrived in New Orleans at 0900 ready to compete, and it was a good thing that we were ready, because the Color Guard went straight into their portion of the competition at 0945. They were led by Midshipman 4/c Nathan Sampson, and performed an excellent drill card. Soon after executing the color guard event, the close order drill platoon formed for inspection. Drill Instructors from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island were the graders for the inspection, and their professionalism, bearing and intensity served as a great motivator for the rest of the day. After a short siesta, we competed in the platoon basic close order drill portion of the drill meet. Midshipman 1/c Scott Miller commanded the platoon with precision and was complemented by the graders for his intensity and use of the "Cover" command. The platoon followed his commands accurately

Mardi Gras Drill Meet



The Drill team preforms at the Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

and stayed focused. The last event was squad basic closer order drill. Midshipman 4/c Matthew Wendel served as the squad leader and did a superior job for his first time serving as the unit leader at a drill event for the University of Memphis' Naval ROTC. The Mardi Gras Drill

Meet was an outstanding competition and an experience that everyone who competed will not forget.

Very Respectfully,
Casey D. Guthrie
Midshipman 4/c, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

5k for Freedom

On March 31, 2012 the University of Memphis NROTC hosted its 3rd annual race, the 5K for Freedom, in Arlington, TN. Organized by MIDN 3/C Townsend and her hard working staff, over ninety runners from ages 10 to 50 and over came out on a beautiful Saturday morning to support the Semper Fi Society and Blue and Gold Association, which provide opportunities for leadership development in future Navy and

Marine Corps officers. The runners were greeted by the electrifying Music Spinners DJ services of Sergeant Shane Kennelly, who pumped everyone up for a nice run in the hot sunshine and kept everyone engaged while standing idle. After the traditional playing of the National Anthem, the runners moved towards the starting line for kick-off that would be led by a HMMWV driven by Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Ward and

Sergeant Jonathan Bratcher, guiding them from the start to the finish line and setting the pace for the lead runner seeking to claim first place. It was a hot day of Arlington sunshine and the first runner, Midshipman 2/C Michael Schmitz, conquered the course with a time of 20 minutes and 41 seconds. The rest of the runners soon followed. Freshly grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, fruit, and ice cold beverages awaited those who finished, providing shade and a place for everyone to cool down. An Easter Egg Hunt was hosted for the children, of which they wasted no time in



Participants line up for the start of the 3rd Annual 5k for Freedom in Arlington, TN

grabbing a bag and racing to gather as many eggs as they could find. For the older participants a pull-up competition was held to

gauge the top three strongest contestants. The overall winner pumped out an impressive 25 pull-ups. Also, a Baked Goods Auction

2011-2012 Commander's Cup

Air Force vs. Navy Basketball Game

It is that time of the year when the midshipmen of The University of Memphis Naval ROTC program square off in the basketball portion of the 2012-2013 Commander's Cup. The midshipmen held numerous practices prior to their first game to help improve their chances of victory. The first game in the round-robin format was against the Air Force ROTC. Air Force made the first points of the game, and Navy responded swiftly with the next. The Air Force strategy was to pound the ball inside, where they had a clear height advantage over the Midshipmen. The Navy's strategy

was to use their shooters such as Midshipmen 2/C Menzel, Midshipmen 2/c Lippert and Sergeant Bratcher to make outside shots since they noticed the Air Force's lack of defense skill. The Midshipmen were able to play strong defense in the first half and made more of an offensive effort in the second half. In the first half the Air Force had more points than the Navy. The Navy started to catch up in the second half, but time was against them. The Midshipmen played hard, but in the end came up short, with the final score 44 to 38. The battle is not over yet, and the war for the Commanders Cup is still raging on. Never quit and never surrender Midshipmen. Hooyah!

formed by the generous donations of families and friends was held, sporting cakes from red velvet to German chocolate. After the awards ceremony concluded and all the winners had been given their spotlight, the runners dispersed with full stomachs, bags of candy, and hopefully smiles on their faces as they left. Overall, due to the commitment and group effort of the unit and 5K staff, the race went smoothly. The hard work and independent leadership of everyone who put their best effort into making this event happen are the ones responsible for its success and have hopefully set the stage for an even more successful 5K for Freedom next year.

Very Respectfully,
Katherine M. Townsend
Midshipman 3/C, USMCR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Very Respectfully,
Ulysses S. Hunt
Midshipman 3/c, USNR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Army vs. Navy Basketball Game

On the 2nd of March the annual Army ROTC vs. Naval ROTC basketball game took place. The game is part of the Annual Commander's Cup, a yearly competition between the three ROTC units at The University of Memphis. Early in the first half Army took an early double digit lead by sharp three-point shooting. However, the midshipmen did not give up and came back fighting. After a timeout called by the coach, Officer Candidate Niewald, the team captain Midshipman 1/C Drader Midshipmen. Hooyah!

peau, came out with a vengeance scoring a couple of buckets and forcing a turnover. The midshipmen, led by our team captain and three-point shooting of Midshipman 2/C Menzel and Midshipmen 2/C Lippert, was able to cut into the lead before the half. Despite the intensity and spirit of the midshipmen, Army was able to maintain their lead all the way to the final buzzer. Despite the loss, the midshipmen, enlisted Marines, and officer candidates of the Naval ROTC showed their willingness to never give up.

Very Respectfully,
Kevyn T. Evans
Midshipman 3/c, USNR
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Field Meet

On 18 April 2012 the annual Commander's Cup Field Meet was held on the Memorial Field between the University of Memphis' Army, Naval, and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) units. The Field meet is one of three portions of the Commander's Cup, which also includes a basketball and football tournament. The morning's activities began promptly at 0600 with formation of the three services followed by the first event, a 4x400 meter relay.

In the baton relay, each team consisted of four members who would each sprint 400 meters and hand off the baton to the next teammate. The Navy team began

with PFC Ryan holding the lead in front of Army and Air Force for the duration of his run. The second runner, Midshipman (MIDN) 4/C McKnight also held the lead for Navy, however Air Force began closing the gap. Navy's final two runners MIDN 4/C Wood and MIDN 2/C Strawser sprinted with all they had, but were still overtaken, granting Air Force its first victory of the field meet. As the baton relay was taking place, the swimming contest had also begun.

The Navy swimming team consisting of MIDN 2/C Menzel, MIDN 1/C Bilyard, and MIDN 2/C Schmitz was to complete a 300-meter timed race (100 meters each) as quickly as possible. The team completed the swimming

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portion in 4 minutes and 11 seconds — just behind the Army swim team. The next event was a push-up contest. The Navy team consisting of MIDN 3/C Williams, MIDN 2/C Lyons, MIDN 4/C Bretschneider and 4/C Coleman was to complete 300 graded push-ups as quickly as possible against the Army and Air Force teams. Although the four Navy team members had kept a steady pace throughout the competition, it was not quick enough to overtake Army, but had claimed another second place position. As the push-up competition was taking place, the sit-up and run teams began preparing for their events.

The run event consisted of one campus loop (approximately 1.6 miles) beginning and ending at the Memorial Field with each team comprising of one female and one male. MIDN 4/C Hansen and MIDN 1/C Allen were able to maintain a quick and steady pace for Navy, but Army again took first place for the event.

The next outdoor event was a sit-up competition between teams of four.

Each team had to complete 500 graded sit-ups in any team order. MIDN 3/C Townsend began her set, followed by Officer Candidate (OC) Yoder, MIDN 3/C Hunt, and MIDN 4/C Stahlhuth, respectively. As the event finished up, Air Force had claimed first place, but there was a discrepancy as to the grading of the sit-up so the event was repeated with the same team members under greater scrutiny. Following the same order as before, Navy had kept a steady pace under the encouragement of fellow midshipmen witnessing the event, yet finished its second set of 500 sit-ups just seconds after Army.

The next event was the dodge ball tournament on the Field House basketball court. Competition was fierce for this event and after the first two matches Army had taken a victory against Navy, and Air Force beat down Army. In the final match, the tie breaking game between Navy and Air Force became so intense even Army cadets began chanting, "Lets go Navy!" The game ended in a win against Air Force leaving the event as a tie between all three services.



For some reason, the Army ROTC's Tiger decided to head up a tree prior to the Commander's Cup Field Meet.

The final event of the morning was the tug of war championship. As the two teams took their places along the rope, midshipmen and cadets gathered around to cheer on the teams. With their ability to get on their feet quickly, Air Force took their first victory against Army. Navy was then able to claim a victory against Army as well. In the final round, Navy got to the rope quicker than Air Force and was able to hold its ground at first, but in the end Air Force had won its second event of the day.

In total Army had won four of seven events, giving them the overall victory of the Commander's Cup Field Meet event. Despite Army's victory in the Field Meet, Air Force had still won first place in both football and basketball giving them the title of Commander's Cup victors.

Despite the intense competitiveness between the services in these events, everyone still realizes they are on all the same team under the United States Military promoting an unrivaled sportsmanship between Midshipmen and Cadets. Although disappointed, Navy will be ready next fall for another two semesters of competition.

Very Respectfully,
Dylan S. Stahlhuth
Midshipman 4/c, USNR
NROTC, University of Memphis



The Navy/Marine Corps team tries to prevail in the tug-of-war portion of the Commander's Cup Field Meet.