

NROTC TIGER CRUISE FALL 2009



University of Memphis

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PROFESSOR OF NAVAL SCIENCE

As a new guy coming from a challenging budget related job in the Pentagon and being assigned as the commanding officer of this NROTC unit, I cannot understate how superb my first impressions have been. After arriving in August, my first event was a commissioning ceremony for two OUTSTANDING new Second Lieutenants into the Marine Corps. What I soon came to appreciate is that everything the University of Memphis NROTC unit is involved in is a CLASS ACT!

In welcoming our new freshman class of 2013, I witnessed leadership that was enthusiastic and professional. The qualities clearly were observed and appreciated by our 27 new students. Other events, like our support for the "Wine Under Wings" evening, the Navy and Marine Corps Ball and dinners were outstanding social events, and at all we maintained appropriate decorum as well as expertly executed the many traditions of the naval services. This unit has also been extremely generous in supporting philanthropic events like: local home building efforts, holiday donations and the St. Jude marathon. I like your teamwork, your commitment and the leadership of our senior midshipmen.

As my feet are getting more firmly implanted I am greatly looking forward to the semester and year ahead. I expect us to show well at several drill meets (including the one we are hosting). I also look forward to an evening of unit camaraderie at our Dining-In. There is a great deal of talent in this unit and the synergy you create working together is impressive.

This is the quality of persons I would want in my junior officers in the fleet. As we move into a new year please remember my priorities: Be safe—make the grade—grow professionally—and have fun!

Performance Counts,
John J. Sorce
Captain / USN
Commanding Officer
NROTC, Mid-South Consortium



LEADERSHIP DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN

It is hard to believe fall semester is already coming to a close! Seems like just yesterday we were in the middle of Freshmen Orientation and I was watching about 30 new midshipmen stumble around trying to learn how to function as a team! Watching that same group of freshmen compete in the Super Squad competition made me realize how far you all had come...impressive. I realize, and I hope you realize too, that this did not "just happen", it was the result of some awesome leadership on

the part of the student company.

At the end of the last school year, I challenged the returning midshipmen to "look in the mirror" if they wondered who would fill the leadership void created by last year's large commissioning class. Who would take the reins and mold our incoming class of nearly 30? I can say without hesitation that the returning midshipmen stepped up and met that challenge! The orientation team was a well oiled machine. From drill to uniform issue/wear to swim qualifications, orientation went off without a hitch. Temporary housing, movements and meals for the whole group were not easy tasks, however they were accomplished because the team was made up of a lot of leaders from the top down...to include spouses! Well done.

The Unit's leaders' continued development was evident in how smoothly the Sea Services Ball went, even if it was pointed out that I was the oldest member of the NROTC unit! It was a remarkable evening and one my wife, daughter and guests will not soon forget. The Navy and Marine Corps birthday dinners were also planned and executed flawlessly. It was a pleasure to socialize with each group of future officers and watch how the younger midshipmen emulated the upperclassmen. Leadership by example is a cornerstone of our training and it was evident throughout both evenings' events! The Super Squad competition and the teamwork displayed during the University of Memphis Army-Navy game highlighted the leadership that has moved the NROTC Unit forward. I can hardly wait for the Commander's Cup competition in the spring!

The leadership that got us where we are today did not just happen. You all worked very hard, listened to your mentors, upperclassmen and advisors and applied what you had learned. Some leadership opportunities were well planned with plenty of notice and some were trial by fire, requiring you to step up on the spot and lead when leadership opportunities presented themselves. Either way, you all succeeded in taking the next step on your journeys toward commissions in the Navy and Marine Corps...congratulations.

Enjoy a well deserved Winter Break! Come back ready to tackle a busy spring semester and be ready to step into your leadership role regardless if it is Company Commanding Officer or Company Geedunk Officer.

Happy Holidays, see you in 2010!

Performance Counts,
Curtis R. Dunn
Commander / USN
Executive Officer
NROTC, Mid-South Consortium



THE WAY AHEAD

Since my arrival here at the University of Memphis this past summer, I have been amazed at the high caliber and level of professionalism of each one of the students and staff. Although most of the staff is new this year, the student leadership has helped to maintain the reputation of the unit and those that have come before. Trust me when I tell you that this unit has a very good reputation, and many other units around the country strive to emulate your example.

Having the opportunity to become a Marine Officer Instructor at a NROTC unit has been a goal of mine since I was a MECEP student. Knowing that this position greatly affects the future leadership of both the Navy and Marine Corps is something that I take very seriously, and I will do my best to set a good example for everyone to emulate. Leading from the front, taking responsibility for your actions and those around you, and mentoring those that you lead are all virtues that mean a lot to me. If you take those to heart and you learn how to apply them while you are here, I have no doubt that you will succeed when you hit the fleet.

Over the course of this semester I have laid out my philosophy of what I believe leadership is, and I have also told you what my priorities are for you and this unit. Obviously, first and foremost you must focus on your school work (1a). Without the grades you will not receive your commission. On top of this, you must strive to exceed the standards. Your grades will follow you not only through your military careers, but your civilian ones as well. Secondly, you have to perform physically (1b). Staying in shape must become a way of life. If you have not figured this out by now, you need to take it to heart and live by it. Not only must you be capable of leading from the front during PT, you must continually push yourself to the utmost of your ability. If you do not, your sailors and Marines will see this and they will try and take advantage of you. Finally, you are here to learn what being a professional leader in our country's Naval services means. Understanding the great responsibility that comes along with being an Ensign or Second Lieutenant is paramount to your development. By the time you receive your commission, you should have a greater understanding of how to lead and what leadership principles and traits are most important to you.

As I have said many times, this unit is only as good as you make it. This unit can be great, but only if you put the time and effort into making it great. If you have ideas on how to make this unit better, share them. If you see drill meets, endurance races, or events that you would like to do, then suggest them to your student leadership. The possibilities are endless; you just have to take the time and put forth a little energy.

I am very excited to be here! I look forward to working with and for you over the next two and a half years.

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



FALL 2009 REFLECTIONS

As this semester draws to a conclusion I can't help but reflect on the remarkable accomplishments of the students and admire the progress that has been made over these past few months. We started with a strong, diverse group of individuals committed to improving themselves, improving each other, and improving their community. Now, we have an even stronger group that has accomplished all of these goals through their teamwork, commitment, and selfless acts of service to those around them. Although you should all be proud of your accomplishments, I implore you not to become complacent or content with what you have achieved thus far. You have all commenced climbing the ladder to your goals, and although much progress has been made, there are still rungs yet to be climbed. Continue your efforts with the same zeal that you have demonstrated thus far and you will continue to be successful. Also, remember to extend a hand to those below you that they may continue to progress as well.

To the graduating seniors I would like to pass on some wise words from the great college football coach, Lou Holtz. "Those above you can give you a title, but only those below you can make you a leader." Although you have been appointed an Ensign in the Navy or an Officer of Marines that alone does not make you a leader. It is your actions from this point forward that will make or break you as a leader. Remember all that you have learned up to this point and I have confidence that you will be a good leader. But, if you remember that being a leader is a continuous learning process and you constantly seek self-improvement then I have complete confidence that you will each be outstanding leaders. This is the first day of the rest of your life and the best time to start making your mark not just on those around you, but on the world as a whole.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the entire student body for all of the memorable experiences and life lessons that you have provided me with this semester. I feel that I am not just a better officer, but a better person for having learned to communicate with snakes in the Colorado wilderness (MIDN Allen) as well as navigating the complex public transportation system of Washington D.C. (Marines). Just as you have grown, I too have grown. This has been a tremendously rewarding job and I am anxiously awaiting the challenges that await us next semester as well as the lessons to be learned from overcoming those challenges. Bravo Zulu!

Very Respectfully,
Derek E. Hopp
Lieutenant / USN
1/c & 2/c Advisor
NROTC, The University of Memphis



3/C & 4/C ADVISOR INTRODUCTION

I just finished a deployment off the West Coast of Africa with the USS NASHVILLE in support of Africa Partnership Station. While I was there we were involved in numerous humanitarian efforts. I learned that we not only have to be war fighters and answer the call to service but we also need to have the skills to extend a helping hand when called upon.

Since checking aboard the University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit I've been impressed with the motivation of the student body as well as their ability to take charge and lead the way. As an advisor I've worked closely with the freshman and sophomores. It has been interesting to watch their continuous improvement week after week. Our midshipmen are also very active in the local community. They've completed a house for the Habitat for Humanity which will provide a home for a struggling family that has fallen on hard times. They've also competed in various fundraisers that support the community such as the LCpl Timothy Kreager 5K run raising money for a scholarship in his name. Their dedication to the NROTC unit, each other, and the community gives me confidence that the future of our country as a whole will be in good hands. I am also confident that these midshipmen will surpass the high expectations that the fleet will demand of them in the future.

The chain of command and the staff have been very welcoming of my family and we are enjoying our tour and all that Memphis, TN has to offer.

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 midshipman and provide them with insight, guidance, and wisdom to be successful in the fleet.

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

To the graduating midshipman I will say "Farewell and Following Seas" and look forward to meeting you again out in the fleet. Remember all you've learned here, train like you fight, and you will be rewarded.

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



THE MISSION

This year has been a transition for all with the changing of Assistant Marine Officer Instructors here at the University of Memphis NROTC. Your future occupation as a Navy or Marine Corps Officer is dependant on the ability to adapt to changes and I can tell you that leadership remained constant throughout with the student staff stepping up the effort. First Sergeant Osburn was instrumental in ensuring the success, with that being said, “Semper Fidelis” to his family as they begin their new tour, both stateside and future deployments.

My decision was made to support the training effort by making United States Marines at Parris Island in 2003 as a Drill Instructor. Upon completion of a successful tour as a Senior Drill Instructor, I returned to MCAS New River where I deployed with the 24th MEU in support of operations in Afghanistan. Deployments are always a challenging time were we focus on the main effort or “Mission” to facilitate our growth as leaders. While deployed I applied for the position of Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI) in order to provide a challenge for future officers and return to the training community. During the following summer at Officers Candidate School, as a Sergeant Instructor, we developed 52 of the 68 Officer Candidates into future Marine Officer’s. I can tell you that the challenge is a tough one, both mentally and physically. Your desire to accomplish your personal “Mission” to become an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps has to be aggressive!

With the fall semester behind us we look for the new challenges of the year. Drill Competition will undoubtedly start the year with unit cohesion. There you will face the challenge of remaining competitive with the past years success. This desire to be the best should precede you through your future career and develop teamwork. With regards to those individuals attending OCS in the summer, NOW is the time to prepare for success. Take the initiative to prepare yourself over the holiday so you can set the example as we enjoy the intensity of the OCS Prep PT. Always prepare yourself physically for the challenges to come, find your weakness and overcome it.

I look forward to challenging all those who accept the challenge in the upcoming year to accomplish the “Mission”. Always ask yourself the reason for your existence and what your MILITARY goals are before others ask for proof! Remember there are challenges on every journey in life with those who aspire to be leaders.

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



STUDENT COMPANY COMMANDER

The fall 2009 semester has proven to be another successful one for the students and staff of the University of Memphis NROTC. I have been honored to serve as the Company Commander. We began the semester with a very successful freshmen orientation and have not slowed down welcoming the large new class of Midshipmen, OC's, and MECEP's. The new students have adapted extremely well and have stepped immediately into many leadership roles. I have been particularly proud to watch as this unit has excelled in community service, fundraising, color guards, and a myriad of other activities outside of the standard NROTC events. This speaks to the high level of dedication and professionalism of our students. This is not an easy route to the fleet and this unit has developed into a demanding and rigorous process of training future officers. The product which emerges on the other side is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the students and staff. In a short time, I will be that end product and as I prepare to head to Coronado and the rigors of Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL Training, I would like to leave you with some thoughts on what I learned in my time here. Many of you have heard these time and time again, while for others these might be new rhetoric.

The fleet is come as you are. No one will be there to motivate you or hold your hand. You will be expected to lead from the front from day one. Put in the hard work and arrive prepared. Never settle. You are never as good as you should be. Always continue to improve, grow, and learn. Leadership hurts. Sacrifice yourself in order to serve those under your charge. You don't have the luxury of sick days and light duty. Lead by Example.

Thank you to all of the students. Your hard work and dedication has allowed this unit to continue to grow and succeed and I have learned much in my last semester here. The successes of the semester should be celebrated and remembered but do not forget to continue your work over the break. Have a wonderful break and come back ready to charge forward.

Very Respectfully,

J. A. Shaffer

Ensign/USN

Student Company Commander

NROTC, The University of Memphis

VOLUNTEERISM

The goal of volunteerism is to bring dedicated, like-minded individuals together to accomplish tasks for the greater good of a community or cause. With that in mind, the spirit of volunteerism was prevalent throughout the Naval ROTC unit this semester. Several of our midshipmen dedicated 9 or more hours of their free time to a local Habitat for Humanity project. Habitat for Humanity is a humanitarian organization that has been around for over 30 years; it has constructed homes for impoverished people throughout the world. In upholding Habitat for Humanity's traditions, the efforts of our midshipmen throughout the fall semester helped to ensure that two families would have a new place to call home. As anyone in the unit who worked on this project can attest to, volunteering leads to a sense of



well-being. The end result of the hard labor and sweat put into the project led to a feeling of accomplishment, and amazement, at how a group of volunteers from all walks of life, many of them strangers to one another, could come together so readily to accomplish a selfless task. At the end of each day every person went home knowing that they were making a difference in someone else's life. By volunteering everyone benefits, including the individual. A person can learn a great deal about himself/herself by helping others. One of the most

important lessons people can learn is that their positive actions leave a lasting impact on those around them. Whether contributing in large or small ways, the volunteer efforts an individual puts forth can have an exponential effect on a community or cause. I believe the NROTC students feel a deeper sense of pride in their community now that they've become a closer part of it, and their efforts have inspired others to do the same. Volunteering as a group has few limits, there is very little a team of people working together solely for a common cause cannot accomplish. As such, volunteerism builds upon basic teamwork concepts and promotes an individual's growth in followership and leadership skills. Oftentimes on the project an NROTC volunteer would be instructed on a building method, or was already experienced in a construction technique, and in turn would lead

others by demonstrating the method. The knowledge and skills gained by interacting with other volunteers was the pinnacle experience of the project. The Fall Semester is coming to a close and I believe the Spring Semester will have volunteer opportunities in more abundance. It's never too late to start volunteering, and one should never doubt the significance of their contribution, no matter how large or small.

Very Respectfully,
Ryan L. Seeba
Officer Candidate / USN
Volunteer Coordinator
NROTC, The University of Memphis





DRILL TEAM

Since taking over the day to day operation of the Memphis Drill Team, I have seen the team go through ups and downs. I watched last year's team struggle find itself, then blossom into something truly special.

As a new crop of freshman came to our unit, the leadership of the Drill Team was tasked with teaching the largest freshman class in over 15 years to conduct of drill. With a new staff, a lot of talk of actually dropping the drill team was brought about. Time was something that was scarce last year and with the newly implemented mandatory study hours that are now required to be completed, time was even more of a precious thing that seemed to always slip away. After many complaints and discussions, it was decided that the drill team would live on and even compete this Fall 2009 semester at the First Annual Savannah State Drill Meet in November.

The time for Savannah State crept closer and before we knew it, we were scrambling to make sure we were competition ready. Beautifying our M1's, teaching and perfecting the marching manual, and adjusting the logistical area for our trip all became a quick rapid motion in order to prepare us to depart for Georgia. All this hard work and 7 practices a week became somewhat worthless when 11 days prior to the competition, Savannah State informed us that due to lack of participation, they were cancelling their drill meet.

While as a breath of fresh air for some, it became a new motivation to begin preparations for the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester, when we go defend our 1st Place ranking at Auburn and then head south for Mardi Gras at Tulane!

Very Respectively,
Jonathan H. Day
Midshipman 2/c
Drill Team Commander
NROTC, The University of Memphis

OFFICER CANDIDATE LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Being an Officer Candidate at an NROTC requires applying and being accepted into the Seaman to Admiral-21 program and graduating from the Naval Science Institute in Newport, Rhode Island. Officer Candidates are treated much like a Midshipman and move through the normal leadership billets. The main difference between a Midshipman and an Officer Candidate is that Officer Candidates have prior enlistment time. That means we bring experience from the fleet of actual sailors that the future Officer will be leading. We can use this experience to help NROTC staff mentor all future Officers.

Having prior enlisted sailors in the program helps add diversity to the program in many different ways. The main reason the Officer Candidate brings diversity is they have experience from the Surface, Aviation, and even sub-surface Navy. Most Officer Candidates have actual sea-deployment experience. Many Midshipmen may have questions about deployment life due to the fact that all Navy and Marine Corps Officers will experience some sort of deployment in their near future.

The typical Officer Candidate day does not look much different than a day in the fleet. The main difference is our primary duty is to get good grades in class, and to ultimately earn our undergraduate degree. We wake up early and participate in organized physical training, go to “work”, and then go home to our families. We are still required to complete General Military Training and keep with all military standards. However, it is easy to stay motivated because we still receive all pay and benefits.

The overall experience as an Officer Candidate is exciting and enjoyable. It has its challenges, but without challenges life would be boring! When comparing college life to being out in the fleet, then college should seem easy. There are many experiences that we can have in college that will make us better Naval Officers. After all, just because an Officer Candidate has experience leading sailors doesn't mean they are ready to be a commissioned officer.

Very Respectfully,
Lance A. Fitzwater
Officer Candidate / USN
NROTC, The University of Memphis