



# The University of Memphis

## Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

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## 2011 Freshmen Orientation



MIDN 1/c Miller gives instruction to the new midshipmen of the Class of 2015

This year's Freshman Orientation, led by Officer Candidate Riccardo Hicks, was filled with seven days of introduction to military life. Nineteen incoming Naval ROTC midshipmen completed the training, held primarily at Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) in Arkansas. The evolution began on the morning of Saturday, 13 August 2011 with introduction briefs by OC Hicks and Captain Robert Wickham, followed by the swearing in of the new midshipmen by the Naval ROTC Mid-South Region Commanding Officer, Captain Kenneth Auten. From there the new midshipmen were issued uniforms and filled out administrative paperwork. After lunch, the parents left their students completely in the hands of the orientation staff. The new midshipmen then received their first Navy and Marine Corps regulation

haircuts and were on their way to Little Rock.

Upon arriving at LRAFB the new midshipmen were introduced to their troop handlers, Staff Sergeant Matthew Ward, Midshipman 1/c Scott Miller, and Midshipman 3/c Katherine Townsend. These three motivators carried out their assignments with professionalism and urgency in order to instill military bearing and motivation in the new students, while instructing them in military customs and courtesies, and the conduct of close order drill.

On four of the five mornings in Little Rock, Sergeant Shane Kennelly led the freshmen and staff in physical training (PT) sessions that consisted of stretches, formation runs, and circuit cours-



es. This served as a light introduction to the more rigorous PT sessions conducted during the school year.

During their five days at LRAFB the freshmen were bombarded with a massive amount of knowledge. The classroom instructors, Midshipman 2/c Beazley, Midshipman 2/c McAuley, and Midshipman 2/c

The new midshipmen also spent three mornings undergoing swim instruction and testing at the base pool. Led by the officers and assisted by a handful of students, the students all obtained a 3rd class swim qualification, with many progressing on and earning 2nd class as well.

On Thursday, the last day in Little Rock, the freshmen were instructed on basic marksmanship by the staff at the base Small Arms Range. They then conducted a live fired range with the M16A2 service rifle. A select few midshipmen were given the opportunity to fire the standard issue 9mm Beretta service pistol.

Friday morning SSgt Ward organized and led a Leadership Reaction Course at the University of Memphis. The new midshipmen were organized into three and four person teams and rotated through six stations. At each station a member

of the team took the lead in negotiating challenging and combat related obstacles.

The new midshipmen were then taken to Patriot Lake at Shelby Farms Park and given instruction on and an opportunity to sail in our sailboats. This experience gave them an opportunity to

enjoy one of the many activities the University of Memphis Naval ROTC has to offer.

Saturday morning the new midshipmen completed a Physical Fitness Test (PFT) for the Marine options and a Physical Readiness



Herron taught classes on basic Navy and Marine Corps knowledge ranging from history of each service to uniform regulation and many other topics. Officer Candidate Yoder, Officer Candidate Niewald, Captain Wickham, and Lieutenant Jacobs also taught classes.



Test (PRT) for the Navy options. After the PFT and PRT the new midshipmen had a uniform inspection, close order drill evaluation, and a graduation ceremony followed by the final event: a BBQ.

Overall, the new midshipmen performed wonderfully, giving a positive impression on the upcoming generation of Navy and Marine Corps officers.

Very Respectfully,  
Shane M. Kennelly  
Sgt, USMC  
NROTC, University of Memphis





# Professor of Naval Science

Greetings to The University of Memphis NROTC and your families! I am excited to be your Commanding Officer and can think of no more rewarding tour than to serve here at Naval ROTC Mid-South, The University of Memphis. The unit that Captain John "Buzz" Sorce turned over to me is a well-oiled machine indeed! I look forward to building on past successes and milestones to reach even higher levels of performance and achievement. These are aggressive aspirations, but I have no doubt that our team of midshipmen, active duty students, dedicated NROTC staff, and supportive university officials can and will reach even higher.

This past summer and the current fall semester has been an action-packed one to say the least. I could not be prouder of all of the accomplishments that the students have achieved in these few

months. The midshipmen have tutored local 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in math and science; organized a campus-wide blood drive; competed in drill competition in Madison, Wisconsin; competed in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.; competed in a relay race through the mountains of Colorado; and sponsored the Lance Corporal Creager Memorial 5K Run here on The University of Memphis campus. We are truly active force in student life, in the local community, and far beyond.

Equally important, I am extremely motivated by our new freshman class of midshipmen 4/C who displayed an impressive amount of enthusiasm and drive during their week-long indoctrination program in early August. I could not have been more impressed by these new midshipmen and the midshipmen staff that trained them. They all conducted themselves with an unprecedented level of professionalism, military bearing, and leadership. The accomplishments that these midshipmen have already attained in my six months here



lead me to believe, without a doubt, that these midshipmen truly exemplify Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

The above accomplishments notwithstanding, it is important to remember that academics are our number one priority and will continue to be so. Academics are followed by physical fitness/readiness in importance. A sound mind and sound body are absolute necessities to be successful as Naval and Marine Corps officers. All the rest is the "other half" of the equation that enables the students to become well-rounded, engaged leaders. I look forward to a superb rest of the year and to beginning 2012 at All Ahead Flank!

Hooyah Navy and Oorah Marine Corps!

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





Welcome to an exciting year at the University of Memphis! I begin with a wish of “Fair Winds and Following Seas” to Commander Dunn who turned over the reins of Executive Officer, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), Mid-South Region, The University of Memphis, to me this past August. I reported aboard from the far away and exotic duty station of Millington, Tennessee, – approximately 17 miles almost directly to the north of my desk here on campus – where I had served as the Major Staff Placement Officer. Being the Major Staff Placement Officer meant that I worked to ensure that the right Naval officers were assigned at the right time to three- and four-star admiral staffs around the world. Prior to coming to Tennessee, I served as Executive Officer of the USS MAINE (SSBN 741) (GOLD) which executed strategic deterrent patrols from her homeport in Silverdale, Washington.

Serving as the Executive Officer of a nuclear-powered, ballistic missile submarine had its

## Executive Officer's Corner

fair share of challenges and rewards. One of the rewards was working with and leading some of the best and brightest young people – both officer and enlisted – that our country has to offer. Some of the officers of the MAINE wardroom were products of the NROTC path to their commission; all were top notch individuals! On one occasion for a couple weeks the “best and brightest” also included several midshipmen from various NROTC units from around the country who were participating in their summer cruise. Because I did not earn my own commission via NROTC and because my previous submarine assignments did not provide the opportunity to participate in midshipman summer cruise operations, I had very limited exposure to the NROTC environment. What was clear from my own wardroom and from the visiting midshipmen was that the NROTC program produces officers who are ready, willing, and able to carry out their mission upon commissioning and reporting to their assignment in the Fleet or Fleet Marine Force.

I observed this same “ready-willing-able” characteristic upon settling in at the NROTC unit. Our active duty staff and our civilian staff were immediately impressive. A few days later, I visited Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Arkansas, to observe the progress of our Navy ROTC Indoctrina-

tion Program for the newly arrived freshman. I was delighted in the way that our senior midshipmen staff conducted themselves while serving as drill instructors, motivators, physical training instructors, and, most importantly, leaders. Moreover, I was equally impressed with our incoming freshmen class. Making a comparison of them on the first day of their indoctrination program to the last day, I must say, “What a remarkable difference seven days can make!” That was my first impression of the freshmen class, and they have certainly continued to set the bar very high for themselves in their future and for all future freshmen classes.

While there is insufficient space available to me in this article to expound on all the activities and accomplishments of the unit since August, it will have to suffice for me to convey that the unit has been involved in a myriad of activities that has earned them recognition as a group that makes a positive difference in campus life, the local community, and even in the broader societal sense.

Finally, the initial article in this publication by the new Executive Officer – pursuant to his roles as the lead training officer and disciplinary officer – would be remiss if it failed to mention the three primary obstacles between each unit member and a commission. The first obstacle is academic

performance, i.e., grades. The bottom line is that the Navy cannot and will not commission a unit member who does not earn a 4-yr degree with an acceptable GPA. Fortunately, each student in the program is capable of exceeding that standard -- provided that individual effort is put forth. The second obstacle is the physical readiness standard. Again, each student in the program is more than capable of exceeding the standard. NROTC physical

training sessions ensure the program will get them there -- provided that healthy diet choices are made on an individual basis. The final obstacle is discipline, which really should be no obstacle at all. NROTC members must recognize that rules apply to them and that Naval and Marine Corps Officers (and future ones) are held to the highest of standards -- be they in regards to falsehoods, alcohol, hazing, harassment, etc. If unit mem-

bers find themselves struggling with an obstacle, they know they should tell any staff advisor or me -- and tell us sooner rather than later. Part of our job is to help them succeed and win!

**Make Smart Choices!**  
**Steve J. Skretkowicz**  
 Commander, USN  
 Executive Officer  
 NROTC, Mid-South Region

## 3/c and 4/c Advisor

The fall 2011 semester has been non-stop excitement! We have entered into a fast-paced Battle Rhythm with an NROTC event nearly every weekend. Yet, the student chain of command has not bowed and all proceedings have gone off without fail. The unit is running seamlessly this semester which is a testament to the unresolved leadership of the top four billets!

This is one of the finest freshman classes I've seen yet! They have hit the ground with a positive attitude and an eagerness to learn and grow. I look forward to seeing them hit the fleet!

The midshipman are learning at the speed of light and taking what they learn and quickly teaching the lower class. They are learning the significance of the chain of command and how to effectively utilize it! They are learning the importance of succeeding together as a group!

This has been an inspiring semester; all are learning the meaning of time management!

The road to a commission is paved with good intentions and every semester a few more midshipmen bite the dust and the strong continue to rise through the ranks making the unit stronger and eventually adding a dedicated Sailor or Marine to the fleet.

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



As the recruiting officer I have met with several probable students and their parents interested in the Naval and Marine Corp ROTC program. I've appreciated their heartwarming and supporting remarks and look forward to seeing these prospective students on a Navy or Marine Corp Scholarship.

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





Hello parents, friends, and midshipmen of NROTC University of Memphis. I cannot wait to tell you about all of the exciting things that we have done this semester but first let me quickly introduce myself.

I am from Buffalo, NY and graduated from Virginia Tech via NROTC in 2006. I attended nuclear power school in Charleston, SC and Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (Prototype) in Saratoga Springs, NY. Upon graduating from prototype, I went to a Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT and reported aboard the fast attack submarine, USS MIAMI (SSN 755) in 2008, home ported in Groton. I completed an 8 month Northern Atlantic deployment to the European area of responsibility and conducted port calls in Scotland, Norway, and England. In April of 2011, I reported to the University of Memphis to be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class advisor.

I have been at NROTC MID-SOUTH for approximately 7 months now, and I cannot ex-

## 1/c and 2/c Advisor

press in enough words how excited and proud I am to be here. It has been a very busy 7 months and the midshipmen have already done some fantastic things here at the unit, as well as out in the fleet.

This past summer, a few of our midshipmen got a firsthand look at what life in the fleet was like. Some of these experiences included a submarine cruise out of Pearl Harbor, HI, an aircraft carrier cruise on the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), an amphibious ship cruise in NYC during fleet week, as well as numerous other cruises out of Norfolk, VA, and Mayport, FL. The midshipmen who were able to attend these summer cruise training programs received invaluable fleet experience where they were able to see what it is like to be an enlisted service member, an officer, a nurse, a pilot and/or a submariner.

Although summer cruises are extremely fun and probably a midshipman's favorite part of their time here, it is far from the most important aspect of the program. A midshipman's academic performance is always the highest priority and is the key to successfully open their doors into the Navy. During the Spring 11 semester, my rising seniors (1<sup>st</sup> Class m midshipmen now) had an average GPA of a 3.20! That is an outstanding average! As always though, there is still room for improvement and every time

that a midshipman does a great job, that academic bar gets pushed up a little higher. The better a midshipmen's grades are, the more doors they will have available for them to walk through.

I also have the distinct privilege of being in charge of service assignments for the midshipmen when they become seniors. This is where I submit their paperwork to either become a submarine warfare officer, surface warfare officer, naval aviator or flight officer. I am very pleased to announce that all 5 of this year's graduating seniors received their first choice Navy job. Officer Candidate Hicks will be a Naval Flight Officer, MIDN Jamison will be a Pilot, Officer Candidate Niewald and MIDN Snypes will be surface warfare officers, and Officer Candidate Johnson will be an information warfare officer. Congratulations to the graduating seniors! They earned their designations through hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and most importantly, good grades.

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

# Why Leadership Hurts

As each and everyone of you knows, the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program is a place where midshipmen can start to understand and develop important leadership skills, and where active duty enlisted Sailors and Marines can start to understand the difference between enlisted leadership and officer leadership. From Naval Science classes to the billets that you hold within the student company, everything that you do while you are in the Naval ROTC program is meant to help facilitate your development as future ensigns and second lieutenants. With that in mind, there is only so much that the Naval ROTC program can teach you. At some point you have to start embodying the leadership traits and principles and understanding that leadership is not a nine to five job, but rather one that requires your undivided attention 24/7/365 and that will help you to make the right decisions.

You should be able to look yourself in the mirror and see if you truly embody what it means to be a leader. Can you honestly say that every decision that you have made this semester has lived up to the honor, courage and commitment that are the hallmarks of the naval services? If not, why not? If so, then have you helped others around you to do the same? I hope so.

Leadership is not about sitting at the top and telling everyone else below you what to do. Leadership is about being there for your subordinates, doing what is right by them, and ensuring that they have what they need in order to get the job done. Often times leaders have the misconception that those under their charge are there to make them look good and to do what they are told. This cannot be your reasoning for wanting to become a naval officer. You should always take the stance that you work for your subordinates and that it is your job to do what is right by them. Sometimes this will place you in a position where you will be forced to make hard decisions. Sometimes this will mean that you will have to place your subordinate's needs above those of yourself and your family. These are the tough decisions that you will someday be confronted by, and this is something that is impossible to replicate here at the ROTC. That is why it is so important that you understand that the decisions and choices you make here are easy in comparison with the decisions and choices you will have to make in the fleet.

The ultimate factor that you will someday have to weigh is that you are going to be put in a position where you will have to make life and death decisions not only for yourself, but for those under your command. It is those decisions



that will determine if you are a good leader, or an outstanding one.

I believe that our program here at The University of Memphis is one of the best in the country. We force our students to look internally and identify their weaknesses and flaws, and then demand and motivate them to figure out ways to seek self improvement. Sometimes this requires better time management on your part, while at other times it may require you to make quick and timely decisions based on little information while using your best judgment. By forcing you to tackle tough decisions here, each member of this program will enter the fleet as a better ensign and second lieutenant.

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



One of the most notable efforts of the Memphis NROTC would have to be our ability to volunteer for events. I would agree that it is a difficult challenge to balance both academic and free time, but as a unit we continue to find time to help the community, to include a barrage of color guard events. Being unselfish in these efforts displays an important trait of those who are inspired to be leaders.

I was asked a question from several Midshipmen on No-

## Commitment

vember the 11<sup>th</sup> with regards to the relationship of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. "Why do we celebrate our fallen Hero's on Veterans Day?" Veterans Day honors those who have or are currently serving in the armed forces, it originally applied to the World War I and II. We know it to apply to all battles now. Memorial Day honors those who have died in active military service. However, it is hard to think of Veterans Day without thoughts of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The most rewarding event this semester for me was the Marine Corps Birthday Ball with the Vietnam Veterans of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Division. The Midshipmen had the honors of presenting the Colors and escorting the cake during the ceremony. The praise for ceremony alone would have been

enough to make the trip back, but they invited us to join them and made adjustments for dinner. The evening was met with handshakes, camaraderie and war stories you just can't find in books. Everyone in the detail left with a token of the ceremony. However, the best take away was the fellowship with those who have served faithfully and remained friends for over 40 years. These are the values that make us fight battles and win. When you see a Veteran in your future, as a Marine or a Sailor, take the time to engage in conversation. The values we learn from the Veterans of the past absolutely define our future!

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

## Company Commander

With the Fall 2011 semester coming to a close, I must say, having the opportunity to serve as Company Commanding Officer of The Naval Reserve Offices Training Corps has been one of the most humbling, educational, and worthwhile engagements I have experienced in my military career. With responsibilities spanning from managing

day-to-day task of the entire company to oversight of NROTC hosted events, I have developed a true taste of an officers' responsibility in the fleet.

First and foremost I would like to thank the members of Golf Company. Your hard work and dedication cannot be overstated. You have put



in countless hours of service to this command and without



your perseverance and determination nothing that we accomplished this semester would have been possible. Next, I would like to recognize the company staff: Company Gunnery Sergeant MIDN 1/C Miller, Company Senior Chief MIDN 1/C Jamison, and Company Executive Officer OC Niewald. Each of these individuals has executed their command billet with the upmost diligence and respect. As a commanding officer I was truly fortunate to have such an awesome staff.

As I retire my position to the next company commander, I would like to leave Golf Company with a few parting words of wisdom. First, we are a family. No matter what happens out there in school, in the fleet, and in life remember that we are a family and we take care of our own. Fight for what you believe is right for your people and they will fight for you.

Second, integrity is free so don't abuse it. You are apart of the military 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Having said

that, remember that you are held to a higher standard and your conduct is being watched even when you don't think it is. Therefore, do the right things, for the right reasons, even when no one is watching.

Next, ask the question. If you are not sure why something is the way it is or why a decision was made, ask the question. If you are the one whom the question is being asked and you don't know the answer, find it! When you get out to the fleet you're not expected to know everything, however, you are expected to know how to find it. Once you tell your people you don't know something and don't find out the answer, they will loose respect for you.

Lastly, this is college so have fun. There are a lot of things to do at the University of Memphis and at Christian Brothers University so take the time to get out there and have some fun.

As I finish up my classes this spring and prepare to begin my life as a Commissioned

Naval Officer, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your Company Commander. It has been a great experience, one that I will never forget. Thank you again, Golf Company, for your hard work and dedication.

I will leave you with this "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. And team work is what you have been great at. Good luck on your future endeavors in the NROTC program, in the fleet, and in life! HOOYAH NAVY AND MARINE CORPS!!!!

Very Respectfully,  
Riccardo Hicks  
Officer Candidate / USN  
Company Commander  
NROTC, University of Memphis



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# Summer Cruise Articles

## 1/c Summer Cruise Officer Candidate School

This summer Staff Sergeant Ward, Sergeant Bratcher, Midshipman 1/c Miller, and I had the opportunity to attend the Bulldog Course of Officer Candidates School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia. Staff Sergeant Ward and Midshipman Miller went to the first increment from 26 May to 8 July, while Sergeant Bratcher and I went in to the second increment from 9 July to 20 August. Without giving away any of the secrets of OCS, it started off slow with in-processing but picked up quickly once we were picked up by our training company's. We were soon greeted by what they call the "fire hose effect", dealing with numerous hours of classroom, followed by numerous hours of practical application in the field. On top of that, there was physical training sessions that included numerous formation runs, and the dreaded Obstacle Course and Endurance Course. Each day we learned something new and each day provided numerous learning experiences from both failures and successes; which were mostly failures at first, but as the candidates became more comfortable in being competent leaders success soon followed. The mission of OCS is to train, screen, and evaluate prospective officers in the Marine Corps and does so by inducing stressful situations. Most of the stress comes from the Sergeant Instructors

at first, but as the course progresses, most of the stress is self induced by themselves or the other candidates in their platoon or company. What you learn at the ROTC unit will help prepare you for OCS as long as you pay attention, take good notes, and apply what you learn. Then, you should be successful. Remember that it is not about you, your physical conditioning, or whether your platoon is the best at drill, it is about the Marines that you may one day lead and the more you put out at OCS than the less those Marine's lives will be at risk.

Very Respectfully,  
James M. Bilyard  
Midshipman 1/c / USMCR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

## 1/c Summer Cruise Explosive Ordinance Disposal

This summer I traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to participate in both Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and Surface Warfare summer cruises. Ten midshipmen, five from various Naval ROTC units and five from the Naval Academy, reported to Explosive Ordinance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit Two (EODTEU2) located Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek/Fort Story on 25 June 2011 to begin a very rigorous and demanding screening pro-

cess. The first event was the Physical Screening Test (PST) which consists of a 500 yard swim, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, and a 1.5 mile run. Following the PST we received instruction on snorkeling for the next two hours. During our indoctrination we learned how to clear our mask of water while remaining under the surface, basic hand communication underwater, as well as learning how to dive with the snorkel. The next day we had our first real Physical Training (PT) session that was led by the Command Master Chief of TEUTWO. We started off with a short mile run to the nearest sand dune at which time we then proceeded to complete sprints up the dune. We then continued on our journey for another two miles to a lake where we made a quick stop to do bear crawls, buddy carries, squat jumps, and lunges around the perimeter of the lake. After our quick detour to the lake we found our way to the beach and had some fun in the sun doing some good PT for a little while. After we all received a good tan we made our way back to the unit and it was just the start of the day. Towards the end of the day we had a competition between the ROTC midshipmen and Academy midshipmen. A small obstacle course was setup in the EOD unit for us to run while wearing the bomb suit. The objective: have all five members of the team complete the course in the suit before the other team. The course was short, a small run to pick up a packbot (one of the EOD robots for disarming bombs, weight 30lbs) carry the pack-



bot 30yds, head outside and to the back of the building to complete ten pull-ups, run back in and pick up a 50lb sandbag, run 30yds again, then back to the staging area to change over and send orf the next team member. While with the training unit we also had an opportunity to learn some ground fighting from a Mixed Martial Arts Instructor who trains members of TEUTWO on how to handle aggressive opponents when conventional weapons are not an option. Lastly, our team was assigned various tasks to complete such as creating ten 50lb sandbags. These tasks would be assigned with the only instruction being to have them done by a certain time. Next, we reported to Mobile Unit 2 (MU2) where we had some more fun. The first day started out with a uniform inspection at 0500 followed by an hour of PT, then a PST, then two hours on an obstacle course, then we had the chance to go to the beach again and work on our tans that were starting to wear off from the previous week.

From EOD I reported to the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69). After a week of preparation we pulled out of port and sailed about 200 miles off the coast somewhere east of North Carolina. While at sea the carrier qualified pilots from the student squadron VFA-106 who were learning how to land F/A-18's on a carrier. The pilots performed exceptionally around the clock completing day and night landings. Life on the carrier was very fast paced; there was always something going on. Overall, my first class cruise was very exciting

and a great learning experience. I learned a lot about the Navy as well as a lot about myself.

Very Respectfully,  
Craig R. Allen  
Midshipman 1/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

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### 2/c Summer Cruise Mountain Warfare Training

For this summer's training, Midshipman 2/c Schmitz, Midshipman 2/c Beazley and I traveled to Bridgeport, California for ten days of training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC). There were approximately 253 Second Class Marine option midshipmen present from all over the country. Even our own MOI, Captain Wickham was there as a company commander. We got to experience the effects that thousands of feet of elevation can have on someone who is not use to it. With less oxygen, it was like trying to breathe through a straw when we tried to do anything physical demanding. We got to do a lot of cool things at MWTC including top roping (rock climbing), rappelling, survival training, knot tying, one-rope bridge crossing, land navigation during both the day and night, and eating delicious meals ready to eat (MRE's) for breakfast, lunch and dinner. My favorite part of the whole mountain warfare training was the views of that beautiful country. There were some of the most amazing

sights I had ever seen in my entire life. All in all it was a great training that challenged me both mentally and physically and left me motivated to pursue a commission as a Marine Corps officer.

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

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### 2/c Summer Cruise Submarine Warfare

This summer I attended Second Class Midshipman training in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I spent one week underway aboard the Virginia Class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776). During this week five other midshipmen and I learned about various pieces of equipment, ship safety and maneuvering, wartime procedures, and general life aboard a submarine. During my time underway I was instructed to explore the ship and encouraged to ask the crew questions about the systems on board, their opinions about the submarine, as well as the Navy lifestyle in general. Some of the things that the other midshipmen and I participated in included: taking readings on depth, course, and speed on various computers. We were given the opportunity to both pilot the ship and take the Con where we stood as the OOD, officer of the Deck, and gave orders for ship maneuvering. We were taught about the nuclear reactor on board as well as the propulsion system, given opportunities to

sit in Sonar control and take readings on contacts, and then were sent to Fire Control to get a firing solution on that contact. We participated in several drills with the crew including firefighting drills, severe maneuvering drills, and angles and dangles where the ship is taken to extreme up and down angles, sometimes up to 30 degrees up or down. At the end of the week we were given the rare opportunity to participate in an emergency blow where we were submerged underwater, blew all the water out of the ballast tanks thus making us positively buoyant, and rising to the surface rapidly and flying out of the water when we hit the surface. This cruise past my expectations for the trip and gave me a very in depth look into Navy life and more specifically the life of a Submariner. It was both informative and very fun and was a great experience that I was privileged to have been given the opportunity to enjoy.

Very Respectfully  
Robert Lyons  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

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## 2/c Summer Cruise Surface Warfare

So, it was my first time being to an Asian country and even though I spent it in the airport, it was an exciting experience. I would go back in a heartbeat and probably will at some point during a later part in my life. However, the topic of this writing is to describe my experience and portray a lot of what

I enjoyed while on my Summer 2011 Midshipman Cruise.

First I had to fly to Hong Kong to meet the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in order to take that across the Pacific Ocean to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. It was probably the longest 15 days of my life I have ever experience so far. There were 4600 people total on the carrier the whole way back to Pearl Harbor. We passed through the Philippines and even though we only saw an island that was part of it, it was still good to know that I have been over in that area and it was extremely exciting. We also, along the way, passed the famous Wake Island that was a major deal in WWII, along with Midway Island. However, we passed those two at night so it was not possible to see any part of them.

At the end of the cruise we were pulling into Pearl Harbor and as a tradition, enlisted men and officers line the edge of the ship in their white uniforms in honor of the USS Arizona. Well, we were asked if we would like to do that, and I said yes of course. I got up and put on my whites and went out to the hangar bay and there were hundreds of people in whites. We assembled and went up on one of the carrier's elevators and then spread out. Coming in and saluting the USS Arizona sent goose bumps and shivers all over the body. The sight was amazing even though it was misting a little bit. Needless to say, it was thoroughly an enjoyable and memorable experience.

The cruise is what you make it. You can choose to sit in your bunk all day, or you can choose to go out and explore, especially if you do not have a specific job like I did not. I wandered where I pleased as long as I did not get in the way of any operations. I asked all sorts of questions from numerous people while out wandering. I wandered through the hangar bays and flight deck, up to the bridge and tower, and out to the navigation area. Wherever I wanted to go, I could go. I spent most of my time looking out from the navigation area because it was outside and unbelievable to look at things going on around you.

My favorite place to stand on the ship was either the flight deck or up by the bridge, but outside. You were able to see everything going on, from operations on the deck, to other ships that were around us, and then the obvious ocean and how clear it was in the middle of nowhere. I loved simply standing there, not having a care in the world and just watching whatever was going on. No, seasick is not a part of my makeup, but homesick did happen quite often. And even though I got homesick after a week or so on the ship, there were guys there who had families who had been gone since Thanksgiving. I cannot imagine what that would be like, but I did get a little taste of it.

I met the Admiral and Executive Officer of the carrier. For the XO we just sat down and talked about what he does, and any other questions we had for him. With the Ad-



miral though, we had a very nice dinner with him cooked by his own chefs. The food was the best there was on the ship, and we got to talk to the Admiral like he was an ordinary guy. He was really down to earth and quite honest with us regarding some of the questions other midshipmen had asked. It was a very nice dinner and a very nice evening.

We were in a meeting with pilots from different squadrons and we got to ask them questions about flying, flight school, etc. When it ended, I hung around and talked with the one pilot I thought was the most interesting and who I thought gave the best advice. I got on a first name basis with him and he said we could chill whenever. So one day I asked if he could show me around his Prowler and he said I could. He was pretty chill. So we just walked out to the flight deck one evening and he told me about what the jet does and I asked if I could sit in it. He said yes, so I got up in the pilot's seat, and then moved to the seat that he sits in. Basically, talk to whoever is out there and get a feel for what they do, their opinions, advice, and just make friends. At the end, though long, the cruise was very enjoyable and one experience I will never forget. Next summer I have one more cruise to do, and I think I will take part in a Foreign Cruise, meaning I will be on a different country's vessel. I look forward to what God has in store for me next summer and whenever my career starts going.

Very Respectfully  
Patrick Lippert  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

### 3/c Summer Cruise Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen

Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) is the only summer training opportunity that both Navy and Marine option midshipmen share. Rising sophomores, and sometimes juniors, gain detailed hands-on experience of what the Navy and Marine Corps have to offer. I not only had a great experience, but also gained many lifelong friendships and a true admiration for the Sailors and Marines that I will someday lead. During the summer of 2011 I was afforded a great opportunity to go to CORTRAMID West in San Diego, CA; the furthest place away from home I have traveled so far in my life.

The University of Memphis Naval ROTC midshipmen were amongst the best midshipmen at CORTRAMID West. My first week was spent with the Marines. During this week I was declared the Pugil Sticks champion and was also awarded a Meritorious Mast for being the platoon commander and for representing my unit with professionalism and discipline. The second week was Surface Warfare week, where I went underway for 3 days on the amphibious assault ship, USS Peleliu (LHA-5). The ship

was amazing and the crew was very knowledgeable about their jobs. I saw first hand the strong pride and passion that they have for their jobs, the Navy, and their country. My third week was Submarine week. I went underway for one day and was able to experience angles and dangles, driving the sub, and learning about the ballistic capabilities of a submarine. My final week was Aviation week. Midshipmen were allowed to fly in helicopters; tour the Aircraft Carrier, USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70); run through the Navy Seal O-Course; and fly in a T-34C aircraft, experiencing up to four times the force of gravity.

Overall, CORTRAMID is a great experience. It takes midshipmen away from their NROTC units and shows them what military life is really like. The experience that I had helped show me what I can expect when I receive my commission and gave me a better idea of what I want to do in the Navy.

Very Respectfully,  
Ulysses D. Hunt  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

# Colorado Relay

From August 25 to August 28, twelve students and staff members from the University of Memphis Naval and Army ROTC units participated in Colorado Relay. The race was 195 miles long in the Colorado Mountains, starting at Breckenridge running to Aspen-Snowmass. This was a 24-hour race with no breaks which means the runners continued all through the night and

through any weather conditions. This race was a true test of everyone's endurance and team work.

Only one runner from the team was allowed to run at a time as the rest of the team gave their support. Each runner had three legs to run and was given a map to find their way to the next check point. Even though we were in the mountains it

was still considerably hot during the day, whereas at night it was pretty cool, meaning the runners had to be prepared for any conditions. The elevation was defiantly the biggest challenge with an average elevation

being just above 8000 feet, and the highest elevation being just above 12,000 feet. Even if you are fast runner in Memphis you were still put to the test with the terrain, elevation changes, and very thin air. The best part of the race were the views that runners had while running their legs and truly made this a remarkable race. Even when runners were struggling to keep their legs moving, looking at mountain ranges and landforms that are unexplainable keeps you motivated. While our team ran with mixed students from the Navy and Army, it in a sense was a great way to build camaraderie. It takes a lot a motivation to keep your team going when everyone averages about 20 miles of running. This race is an experience that should be tried by all who enjoy an intense challenge of their physical fitness.

Very Respectfully,  
Anthony J. Freda  
Midshipman 3/c  
NROTC, University of Memphis



Friday November 4th marked the first time students, and two staff members, of the Naval ROTC unit competed in a relay race hosted by Ragnar Relay and also competed in Tennessee. The Race itself was a 196-mile course from Chattanooga, TN to Nashville, TN and mostly followed Highway 41A, a two lane road winding through the Tennessee hills and towns. The team was comprised of twelve motivated individuals whom were then divided into two vans with six runners each:

van 1 was driven by Gunnery Sergeant Kammer and had Midshipmen (MIDN) Shook, Becton, Grace, McAuley, Wood, and Stahlhuth running while van 2 had Officer Candidate Judy driving and Captain Wickham, MIDN Schmitz, Drapeau, Bilyard, Marsh, and Miller running. Since Van 1 was the first to run they had to

leave the Memphis area on Thursday, stay overnight in Chattanooga, and start the race at 0800 EST while Van 2 left the Memphis area at 0530 to start their leg at 1230 CST.

I was not in Van 1 but the mood was high in Van 2 leading up to the race as we looked forward to our legs and also

# Tennessee Ragnar Relay



mentally prepared ourselves. Most of us in the second van had done the Colorado Relay before and were already prepared for the long legs and running multiple times in a 24-hour time span. The runs themselves were not as bad as they were in Colorado, but all twelve of us took our runs seriously and it eventually brought us into first place. The start of the day was very exciting with pre-race tensions and anticipation, but also as there was many interesting and eccentric people at the event. As the day turned into night our team slowly overtook other runners, totaling 21 at one point, and we took the lead throughout most of the race but understood that there were faster teams that started after us and could be coming in at quicker times than we were.

The time between each van changing over runners varied from 5 to 7 hours which left time to sleep, eat, and most importantly relax. The temperature throughout the race was between 35°F at night and

60°F during the day which left the runners warmed up during the run but quickly cooled down afterward. Overall each person's running legs varied in distance, ranging from 1.6 miles to 8.9

miles, but for each runner the distance was fairly consistent from leg to leg.

When the team met up for the last time in Nashville you could feel the excitement and tension in the air, due to other teams being there and expecting their runner to pop around the corner but mostly because we had gained a 10-15 minute lead on the other teams. However, as teams we had passed and teams we had not even seen before crossed the finish line we realized that MIDN Miller, our anchor, had gotten lost in the down town streets of Nashville. He eventually came in 25



-30 minutes past his projected run time but we all crossed the finish line together and finished first in Public Services category and 18th overall.

The Tennessee Ragnar Relay Race was definitely an enjoyable experience and our all-star team made the race flow smoothly in running and coordination, I look forward to the one in Florida and am confident that we will have an even better and faster team.

Very Respectfully,  
James M. Bilyard  
Midshipman 1/c / USMCR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

## Patriot Day Golf

The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit sent volunteers to go and help out with the Patriot Day Golf Tournament held at Galloway Golf Course on 2 September 2011. The Patriot Day Golf Tournament is an annual golf tournament that helps raise money for scholarships for families who have had to endure the harsh reality of losing a family member in combat. There were two shifts, one consisting of five members and the other con-

sisting of four members that worked two hours shifts each. The Naval ROTC volunteers were tasked with driving around in two golf carts and selling beverages to the golfers. Every drink was sold for a dollar a piece and a general request for two dollars a drink was asked so that one half of every purchase would go to the scholarship. The Naval ROTC volunteers remained professional and respectful throughout the tournament,

even demonstrating the proper golf courtesies such as staying out of sight and shutting off the engine when a golfer was teeing off. Just about everything went smoothly and on time. There were lots of sales, and even more donations received that went towards the charity. Overall the entire event was a success and a great way for the Naval ROTC unit to give back to the community and to the families of fallen service members.

Very Respectfully ,  
Darian E. Hughes  
Midshipman 4/c  
NROTC, University of Memphis

# LCpl Tim Creager Memorial 5k

On July 1, 2004 in Anbar Province, Iraq, a man gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Even though he had received a full scholarship to the Citadel, he felt the call to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. While fulfilling his dreams of becoming a Marine, this young man was killed by enemy combatants while conducting combat operations in Iraq at the age of 21. This inspiring man is Lance Corporal Timothy Creager of Millington, Tennessee, and we had the honor of hosting the 6th Annual Lance Corporal Timothy Creager 5k on November 12, 2011. This was the first year that the University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps has hosted the race. The course began on Walker Avenue and weaved through campus and finished on the Alumni Mall where all the festivities were held. The morning started off with registration, where participants picked up their dri-fit shirt and gift bags filled with an assortment of gifts, coupons, and other sort

goodies. While waiting on the race to begin, participants enjoyed the sound of our own in-house disc jockey, DJ Spider – a.k.a Sergeant Shane Kennelly. A breakfast of donuts and fruit were also made available to the runners along with Gatorade and water. Thirty minutes before the race began, an invocation was given by Midshipman 4/c Parrish and the national anthem was sung by Ms. Morgan Reynolds. Following the national anthem, a four plane flyover was executed with an Extra, RV-4, Rocket, and another R-4 over the Alumni Mall area. After the “missing man” flyover was conducted, the runners were ushered to the start line where the ten riders from the Patriot Guard lead the group along the streets of Memphis. Midshipmen lined the course on the interior of the campus while girl scouts handed out water and boy scouts were at the finish line to cheer on all the participants. Memphis Runners Track Club timed and recorded the results for the race. Not only



did we have the pleasure of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Young Republicans who came and supported our race as volunteers; we also had fifty children from Youth Villages, a nonprofit organization to help children with emotional and behavioral problems overcome their challenges and live successfully with their families, come to support and participate the 5k. As each participant crossed the line, he or she was greeted by the music of a live band, the Impeccable Miscreants. As people waited for results, they had the options to compete in the pull-up competition and bid in the silent auction for various items; including a bowling party, free rounds of golf, and a portrait package. As time winded down, we had the honor of meeting two Marines that were in Lance Corporal Creager's unit and having his family there as we paid tribute to him. A moment of silence was held in memory of Lance Corporal Creager before we moved on to announce the winners for each category. After it was all said and done, we had 219 participants register for the race which not only made the day successful, but one that will be remember for a long time to come.

Very Respectfully,  
Megan C. Wilson  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis





This year the University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps was able to celebrate the birthdays of the United States Navy and the Marine Corps at the Woodland Hills Event Center. This ball was different from any ball that I have been to because each fire team had to create their own centerpiece and this was also the second year in a row that female midshipmen were allowed to wear formal dresses to our ball. The centerpieces quickly became the center of

## Sea Service Ball

conversations as people arrived at the venue. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Michael Zingale. He served in the United States Marine Corps during World War Two as a Aerial Recon Photographer. During his time in the Marine Corps he participated in the major campaigns across the Pacific, including Iwo Jima and Guam. Mr. Zingale's speech was the highlight of the evening, since he was telling us stories from the campaigns that he went on. After the speeches was the cake cutting ceremony, as traditionally the youngest and oldest member of the command will have

the first piece of cake. After the ceremonies we had dinner, which was buffet style, and then toasting to give tribute to our chain of command, respective services, and also the other branches as well. After dinner and the toasts finished Sgt Kennelly, also known as DJ Spider, kicked off the music and dancing part of the evening. With DJ Spider at the helm we had an endless supply of music to dance to and ended the evening on a good note. For my last Sea Service Ball with the University of Memphis I would not have had it any other way.

Very Respecttfully,  
Ashley N. Snypes  
Midshipman 1/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis



## Memphis Airshow Fundraiser

On 10 September 2011, 40 midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEPs head up to the Millington Regional Airport to help layout large sheets of plastic that will be used by the Navy Blue Angle Flight Demonstration Team as visual markers during the Memphis Air Show on 17 and 18 September. Upon exiting their vehicles, the students were greeted by a local group of Boy Scouts heading the volunteer effort. The Scoutmaster in charge of the project explained the day's events to everyone, and then the work

began.

The unit tackled the mission by splitting into three teams in order to accomplish the tasks at hand with the most efficiency. The first team headed out to the north end of the air field and unwrapped five large sheets of plastic and anchored them down with sandbags. Meanwhile, the second team drove along the area where the remaining sheets of plastic were going to be laid down and pre-staged sandbags in piles of five sandbags every ten feet. Lastly,

the third team continued to fill up the remaining large sandbags with sand. The plan was well executed and all the tasks were completed in just three hours, well ahead of schedule.

The airshow personnel were gracious for our support and were very impressed with the speed, intensity and professionalism with which we worked. The work done that day, although it was a small piece in the overall plan of the airshow, proved integral to the success of the event.

Very Respecttfully,  
Michael F. Shook  
Midshipman 4/c  
ROTC, University of Memphis

# Commander Dunn's Retirement

Friday, 23 September 2011, marked the end to a vivid and active career for Commander Curtis R. Dunn, who retired after 26 years of active duty service to his country. His final duty was as the Executive Officer at The University of Memphis, Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). The ceremony began with the arrival of the official party followed by the color guard, which was manned by midshipmen from both The University of Memphis and The University of Mississippi Naval ROTC units. After the colors were presented, The National Anthem was performed by Miss Lauren Linton. CDR Dunn then proceeded to introduce his guest speaker, Captain Stephen J. Lepp. CAPT Lepp, a graduate of the University of Memphis and long-time friend of CDR Dunn's, delivered an enlightening and venerable speech highlighting the major achievements throughout CDR Dunn's service.

After his speech and audience applause, CDR Dunn thanked CAPT Lepp for his speech and added a few remarks of his own, the most important of them being that his

career in the service would not have been possible without the continual, loving support of his immediate and extended family. He recalled aloud to the audience how his wife never once added hardship to his deployments, but how she was always asking how she could better help him in his efforts. Following CDR Dunn's speech, he proceeded to formally thank his wife, daughter, and extended family for their support by giving them all individual bouquets of flowers. After CDR Dunn finished handing out flowers to his relatives, Mr. Ferdinand proceeded to read "Old Glory" as Sailors, midshipmen, and officers—each one representing a rank that CDR Dunn has held throughout his career—slowly passed an American flag down the line until it was presented to CDR Dunn himself.

The Naval ROTC units from The University of Memphis and The University of Mississippi also had their share of thanks to give to CDR Dunn for his service to his country and for his time spent with the unit. Officer Candidate Johnson presented a shadow box



to show appreciation from all members of the unit. After the presentation of the shadow box, the new Executive Officer, CDR Steven Skretkiewicz, recited "The Watch," a traditional oratory honoring the discipline and commitment of a sailor. At the end of the ceremony CDR Dunn was appropriately hailed ashore one last time to the sound of the boatswain's pipe. FAIR WIND AND FOLLOWING SEAS!!!

Very Respectfully,  
Isaac W. Parrish  
Midshipman 4/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

On Tuesday, 01 November 2011, the Memphis City Schools conducted the eleventh annual Memphis Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Service Academy Jamboree from 0900 to 1200. It was held at the Memphis City Schools Teacher and Learning Academy auditorium. Representatives from the "Five Pointed Star" (Regarding to the five military academies: United States Military Academy, Unit-

ed States Naval Academy, United States Air Force Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy), Lincoln University, University of Memphis (Army ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Naval ROTC), University of Tennessee at

Martin, Middle Tennessee State University, North Georgia College and State University, Georgia Military College, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and Arkansas State University were present to give out information about their units as well as deliver a speech to

## JROTC Recruiting Jamboree



"pitch" their respective units. Those in attendance to proudly represent our unit were MIDN 4/c Guthrie, MIDN 4/c Phillips, MIDN 3/c Evans, and myself.

At the beginning of the event I was a little skeptical about how much interest there would be of our Naval ROTC unit due to the JROTC students were all Army and the rest of the representatives were Army ROTC units (besides UofM Air Force ROTC and the "Five Pointed Star" academies). However, we had something that the majority of the other units did not have... we had STUDENTS working the booth and giving the speech. Every other unit had an officer speak. This gave

us the advantage of relating to the JROTC cadets and giving them insight to what it is like to be a student living the ROTC life. Furthermore, the speech that I gave was directed more about our unit and what we did within the unit rather than information about what ROTC is and what it can do for them. The speech was opened with a statement about winning the Commander's Cup last year, in which the JROTC cadets cheered in approval. Throughout the entire speech, the cadets were attentive and reacted positively with all the activities we do within the unit and through the unit (i.e. community service, working Memphis in May, etc.)

When the speeches were done, we had many cadets come to our booth requesting more information. There was diversity in interest with the Marine Corps option, Naval option, and Nurse option. Many pamphlets were given out and we even ran out of LT Jacob's business cards due to so many cadets taking them. Overall, I believe that our unit having students present gave us the biggest advantage and made it easy for the cadets to talk to and to find out our experiences.

Very Respectfully,  
Meagan C. A. Menzel  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis



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# Wisconsin Drill Meet

The 2011-2012 drill season started off early with the Wisconsin Drill Meet occurring only a few weeks into the school year. The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) drill team was a very inexperienced team with mostly freshmen filling the ranks and a few upperclassmen. The practices were tough as many of the movements had to be taught and relearned many times but persistence paid off as the drill team came together with only a few short days left before the big meet. The drill team went to Madison to compete with a platoon, squad, color guard, and sailing team.

The travel from Memphis, TN to Madison, WI was an 11-hour trip that made the team anticipate the drill meet even more

and left us little time for any pre-game practices. The next day we put our uniforms on and had a short practice which left some feeling nervous, yet others more confident. Memphis was the second school to compete in platoon and left little time for the freshmen to see what the graders were looking for or how they would grade.

Once the platoon drill team entered the field, commanded by Midshipman 1/c Scott Miller, it was game time. Nerves were high as this was the first time most of the team had ever competed, but thankfully we had a competent and experienced unit leader. The platoon card went smoothly and much like how we practiced except for a few hiccups such as not completing a movement on time or improper placement of rifles.

After platoon basic was complete the sailing team was up, the team was composed of Midshipman 4/c Canton Phillips, Midshipmen 2/c Presley Morrissey and Meagan Menzel, and the captain of the team was Midshipman 1/c Charles Jamison. The sailing team had to utilize Wisconsin's sail boats which they

were not familiar with, leaving a drainage plug unsecured which led to the sinking of a boat halfway through a race.

As the sailing regatta was underway, our color guard team was set to perform, commanded by Midshipman 4/c Nathan Sampson. After waiting for the graders to get ready the team entered the field with a team of four freshmen and one sophomore and completed the entire drill card well with only minor mistakes.

The squad basic drill team, commanded by Midshipman 1/c James Bilyard, took the field after color guard team had finished. The squad of five midshipmen was composed of two seniors and four freshmen. The inexperience of the team was not as evident once the team was on the field as the freshmen competed with intensity and bearing.

Overall, none of our teams placed, but the Wisconsin Drill Meet did serve as an excellent way for our teams to gain experience and prepare for future drill meets. After the awards ceremony we received the official results with our platoon basic drill team placing fourth, squad basic drill placing fifth, and color guard placing sixth. Overall we came in eighth out of twelve teams that participated.

Very Respectfully,  
James M. Bilyard  
Midshipman 1/c / USMCR  
NROTC, University of Memphis



# Blue Angles Display

On 16 September 2011, The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) unit attended the Friday rehearsal of the 2011 Memphis Air Show. During the rehearsal show, those in attendance had a chance to witness aircraft from both the Navy's past and present perform in a Heritage Flight demonstration, which consisted of an F4U Corsair from the World War II era, an F4 Phantom from the Vietnam era, and an F-18 Hornet from the current era. The Heritage Flight demonstration observed the 100th year of Naval flight. After the Heritage Flight demonstration, the Blue Angels were up. They began with their pre-flight checks which were car-

ried out with just as much detail and precision as when they fly. Once they took to the air it was amazing to watch how close the plane got while traveling at speeds over 500 miles per hour. Blue Angels #1-4 demonstrated the precision flying that is the hallmark of the Blue Angels, while Blue Angels #5 and #6, opposing solos, demonstrated the maximum capability of the F-18 Hornet. For the civilians, veterans, and military personnel in attendance the show really brought out the patriotism in everyone. For the midshipmen who wish

to one day serve as Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers, seeing the Blue Angels up close really had a lasting impression. After the Blue Angels were back on the ground, the midshipmen had an opportunity to meet the Blue Angel pilots and take a picture with them in front of the Blue Angel's Commanding Officer's plane, Blue Angel #1.

Very Respectfully,  
John J. Acker-Moorehead  
Midshipman 2/c / USNR  
NROTC, University of Memphis





# AFROTC - NROTC Flag Football

Friday, 30 September 2011, began the coveted Commander's Cup Competition. The University of Memphis' Army, Naval, and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units compete against each other in different events, each worth points that combine to declare the winner. Last school year saw the Naval ROTC bring the trophy home, and they have no plans in letting the trophy go this year. The first event of the competition is an eight on eight flag football round robin.

Navy opened the game on offense. Midshipman (MIDN) 4/C Dillon Beloate had the helm at quarterback. In the first drive, Navy only gained 15 yards on a reception by MIDN 2/C Robert Lyons; which was not enough for the flag football rules that regulate a first down is only achieved at each 20 yard increment. Air Force only needed two plays to score on a 6 yard run by their quarterback.

MIDN 1/C John Drapeau started the second possession for Navy. This drive came to a halt when Air Force intercepted his first passing attempt. Navy made some adjustments to their defense and only allowed the Air Force to gain 3 yards before turning the ball over on downs. Officer Candidate (OC) Ricardo Hicks highlighted the defense with a sack for a loss of 6 yards.

Navy's offense came alive in the third drive with MIDN Drapeau going a perfect 4 for 4 passing. The drive was capped off by an 8 yard touchdown reception by OC Hicks, tying the game at 7. After this the shootout began. The next seven drives ended in scores.

MIDN Beloate threw a touchdown to MIDN Drapeau for 24 yards. MIDN Drapeau threw a 40 yard touchdown to MIDN 2/C Brandon McAuley, and a 5 yard touchdown to MIDN 1/C Scott Miller. Air Force scored the last touchdown of the half with only a few seconds remaining. Navy only had time for one play, and that ended in a 2 yard sack. The score at half-time was Air Force 35 - Navy 28.

During halftime, Navy was continuously going over adjustments for their defense. On Air Force's first play in the second half, they connected on a 40 yard pass for a touchdown. Navy came back and MIDN Beloate hooked up again with MIDN Miller, this time for a 15 yard touchdown. Navy pulled back within one touchdown. All they needed to do was to come up with a defensive stop and give the ball back to their offense. The defense answered forcing the Air Force to turnover on downs. Navy took the ball back but started to go the wrong way. Two sacks for a combined loss of 16 yards forced Navy to punt. There was still plenty of time left, but the defense needed to step up again.

MIDN 1/C Craig Allen started the defensive effort with a sack for a loss of 5 yards. Air Force then picked up a first down on two straight completions. The quarterback for Air Force then rushed 23 yards until he found the pay dirt, putting Air Force back up by two touchdowns. Navy then could not pick up a first down and gave the ball back to the Air Force. Air Force then started to run the clock down, waiting for the very final second to snap the ball. Their quarterback

rushed for another touchdown. Navy had time for only two plays in which they could not score. The final score was Air Force 56 - Navy 35.

Air Force had a total of 312 (102 rushing and 210 passing) yards and six first downs. They had three passing and five rushing touchdowns. Navy scored all of their touchdowns through the air. They had 247 (15 rushing and 232 passing) yards and four first downs. MIDN Beloate went 5 of 9 for 90 yards and 2 touchdowns. MIDN Drapeau went 10 of 12 for 142 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 1 interception. MIDN Drapeau was also responsible for the 15 rushing yards. MIDN McAuley had 83 yards on 3 receptions and 1 touchdown. MIDN Miller caught 4 balls for 39 yards and 2 touchdowns. OC Hicks also caught 4 balls for 52 yards and one score. MIDN Drapeau's only catch was the 24 yard touchdown. MIDN Beloate added 14 receiving yards with his 2 catches. MIDN Lyons had one catch for 15 yards.

When the final whistle blew, each side lined up to shake each other's hands. Although they were playing against each other during the game, we are all playing for the same team. Navy's next game is against the Army on Friday, 02 December 2011.

Very Respectfully,  
Harry C. Niewald III  
Officer Candidate / USN  
NROTC, University of Memphis





I think it is safe to say that the flag football game between The University of Memphis' Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program and Naval ROTC program on 2 December 2011 would have made for good television. Those that came out to watch the game really got their money's worth; a game that went back and forth with both teams giving it their all. At the end of regulation the score was tied 14-14 so it came

## AROTC - NROTC Flag Football

down to overtime, quadruple overtime to be exact. This had to be one of the most exciting games I have played since I have been in Naval ROTC program, as it really could have gone either way in the end. With the result of this game the Naval, Army, and Air Force

ROTC units are in a three-way tie for first place in the Commander's Cup Challenge.

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

## Dronet Challenge

On Saturday, 19 November an 11-person team composed of individuals from The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Army ROTC competed in the 5th annual Dronet Challenge at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The challenge was held in memory of First Lieutenant Brandon Dronet. 1stLt Dronet was assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 when he was killed on 17 February 2006 in a helicopter crash in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Djibouti,

Africa. His widow, Mrs. Summer Dronet, was in attendance and oversaw the competition.

The competition began at 0900 after a few words from the Commanding Officer of Southern University's Naval ROTC unit, Captain Alton Ross, United States Navy, and a presentation of flowers to Mrs. Dronet. The first event was cadence push-ups. After the push-ups the teams moved to the cadence sit-ups followed by pull-ups, a water jug relay, fireman carry relay, poncho stretcher relay, two mile

endurance course, combat fitness test, and tug of war. Each unit had a team in every event. The competition ended around 1300.

After the challenge each school formed up on the field in the Ace W. Mumford Stadium for the awards ceremony. There were trophies for the top three teams. The University of Memphis came in third place, Southern University placed second, and the University of Houston had the highest score and placed first in the competition.

After dismissal the units congregated outside the stadium for lunch and the midshipmen from each unit had the opportunity to meet with each other and share their experiences. Overall the event was a success and helped strengthen the ties between the midshipmen from several different states and gave tribute to our one of our nation's fallen, 1stLt Brandon Dronet.

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



On 12 September 2011, The University of Memphis held a 9/11 memorial service in recognition of the lives lost ten years ago on that fateful day of 11 September 2001. The service was led by the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) unit and was attended by both the Naval ROTC (NROTC) and Army ROTC (AROTC) units.

The service began with the playing of the National Anthem, while all three services saluted the National Ensign at half-mast. Following that the University of Memphis Student Government Association (SGA) president, Tyler DeWitt, spoke of the courage that was shown by the passages of flight 93 that

## 9/11 Memorial

crashed in Pennsylvania and how service members have continued to show that same courage over the past 10 years while fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. When the SGA president was finished, Air Force ROTC Cadet Jeremy Martin described the three rose ceremony and how each rose stood for each of the three locations that were attacked that day. Each ROTC unit had a representative lay a rose in front of a picture of each of the three locations. The service was completed with a moment of silence and the playing of Taps.

Overall, it was an emotional ceremony that respectfully memorialized the victims of the tragedy and the wars that followed, but also drove home the tremendous responsibility and dedication that each midshipmen and cadet is taking on by heading down the path to become a commissioned officer.

Very Respectfully,  
Matthew T. Wendell  
Midshipman 4/c / USMCR  
NROTC, University of Memphis

## HENAAC College Bowl

From 5-9 October 2011, two University of Memphis Midshipmen attended the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) Conference sponsored by Great Minds in Stem in Orlando, Florida, at Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort.

On 6-7 October, MIDN 4/c Grace and MIDN 4/c Wendel became participants of the HENAAC College Bowl. The HENAAC College Bowl is a two-day, high energy competition in which teams of students, coached and judged by representatives of over twenty-five different companies and government officials (including representatives from all four

military branches), focus on showcasing their talents, teamwork and leadership skills. Each round the coaches were required to help less and less, focusing on the students' leadership. MIDN Grace was recruited by the CIA, while MIDN Wendel was recruited by Cummins. The two midshipmen worked with their teams for the next two days.

On the night of 7 October, both midshipmen were invited to a dinner where the honored guest was Major General Angela Salinas, who is the first female Marine to command a Marine Corps Recruit Depot (San Diego), and the sixth female Marine to obtain the rank of Brigadier General. Major

General Salinas told a brief story of her past, and gave advice to the people in the room to be dedicated and continue to fight for what they want.

On 8 October, a career fair was held exhibiting all of the companies and government jobs. Both Midshipmen were required to stand post at the Marine exhibit to field any questions about pursuing a career as a Marine Officer and a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) major. That night, a dinner was held to present awards given to students who had earned scholarships and to the winning teams of the College Bowl.

Very Respectfully,  
Matthew T. Wendell  
Midshipman 4/c / USMCR  
NROTC, University of Memphis