



# The University of Memphis

## Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

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## New Student Orientation



The University of Memphis Naval ROTC extended a warm welcome to a fresh crop of incoming midshipmen, starting with New Student Orientation. This year has seen one of the largest groups of incoming students in recent times, and they show promise as a group. New Student Orientation is designed to help new students learn military customs and courtesies, grow accustomed to physical training, and set them up for success during their time in the Naval ROTC program.

New Student Orientation was conducted in part at The University of Memphis, but the majori-

ty of the training schedule took place at Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB). Upon their arrival at The University of Memphis, the new students and parents were welcomed by the orientation staff. The students were issued uniforms, gear, provided haircuts (to those that needed one), and headed to LRAFB.

Camp Warlord became their temporary home, providing air-conditioned sleeping spaces and showers. But little time was spent relaxing in the cool air; upon arrival at Camp Warlord, the students were quickly delivered into the hands of the troop handlers, who commenced indoctrination.



The new students inventoried their gear, getting rid of unnecessary items for their time at Camp Warlord. They were then quickly escorted inside their barracks and given a class on how to properly make their racks. Next, they were introduced to close order drill. The basic component of the military discipline starts with drill, and the new students will have a leg up by receiving instruction prior to their first semester in the program.

The second day of orientation began with a 1-mile formation run led by Major Perry, Memphis' Naval ROTC Marine Officer Instructor. After cool-

ing down with stretches, the new students were escorted to the dining facility to eat. To finish off the morning, they returned to Camp Warlord to resume close order drill until lunchtime.

Not all of the time at Little Rock Air Force Base was spent in close order drill, although it comprised a major part of the new students' training.

The next couple of days aboard LRAFB involved swim training and qualifications, which ensured that everyone joining the Naval ROTC unit was able to swim.

On Thursday morning, the final morning at

Camp Warlord and LRAFB, they were introduced to the Colt M16A4, Beretta M9 service pistol, and .50 caliber sniper rifle at the shooting range. The students were able to view static displays and disassemble and reassemble the weapons.

Upon returning to The University of Memphis, the students learned basic sailing techniques and set out to sail at Shelby Farms Park, conducting rollover drills and performing sailing maneuvers on Patriot Lake. Ending the day with



close order drill, the new students prepared for the next day's inspection by squaring away their khaki uniforms for the closing ceremonies. They finished off the night with a motivational movie and pizza, signaling the end of the week.

The following morning, exactly one week after beginning orientation, the new students participated in a mock PFT/PFA, which assessed their physical fitness according to





Navy and Marine Corps standards. After showering, the new students changed into their khaki uniforms for their first uniform inspection, carried out by the troop handlers.

Next, the students marched to Mitchell Hall for the graduation ceremony. Each student reported to the Commanding Officer and received their New Student Orientation Certificate of Completion to cheers and applause from family and friends. The day ended with a barbecue at the Naval ROTC unit. After which, the midshipmen were dismissed to return home and prepare for a successful first semester at The University of Memphis or Christian Brothers University.



Very respectfully,  
Isaac Parrish  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR



# Swim Qualifications



# Sailing



# Professor of Naval Science



Greetings to The University of Memphis NROTC and our family and friends! I am honored and humbled to have become the commanding officer of such a fantastic organization. From my first week aboard with Freshmen Orientation to the writing of this letter during fall semester finals, I have been incredibly impressed with the quality and dedication of both the staff and students in the unit and also with the incredible pace of activities and demands on everyone's time that goes into making NROTC Memphis one of the finest ROTC units in the nation.

As way of introduction, I've been in this great Navy of ours for twenty-seven years and am thrilled to cap my career with this tour where I can work with our nation's future leaders and do my small part

to help build them into successful Navy and Marine Corps Officers. I am a surface warfare officer by trade and, as such, have been in and around cruisers and destroyers most of my career. I have a wonderful wife and four children, and we've experienced many facets of the Navy life over my career. We've lived on both coasts, in-between, and overseas in London, UK and in Bahrain. Our oldest is in college, and our youngest is nearing the end of elementary school. So, I'm well-familiar with the trials and concerns of parents and the demands on our young college students today.

As I mentioned above, one of the strongest impressions I've taken away from my initial time on board is the quality of the staff our Navy and Marine Corps has sent to this unit and of our civilian personnel as well. Their day-to-day dedication to making this unit function is truly inspiring. I know the midshipmen see this, but I also want to assure our family and friends that your loved ones couldn't be in



better hands. Our intent is 100% to support these young men and women and do everything in our power to set them up for success. We know they are the future of our Naval Forces and want to give them every tool available to help them excel in college and our program and to commission as ensigns and second lieutenants in our Naval Forces.

I've also been impressed and inspired by the midshipmen, officer candidates, and sergeants that make up the unit. As you know so well, this is one of the toughest times ever to gain admission to the Naval ROTC program, and the quality of these young men and women that have made that cut is very evident. While they are very impressive academically and athletically, they are just as noteworthy in their dedication to the unit and their future as leaders of our military forces. The camaraderie in the unit is extremely high, and it is extremely comforting to know how much they support one another in school, in the unit, and socially. I am very proud of each and every one of them and look forward to seeing them commission in the future.

So, with such a great start to my tour here, I couldn't be more optimistic and excited for the future. Thank you for everything you do whether you are a student, parent, alumni, staff, or friend of NROTC Memphis.

Sincerely,  
Bradley C. Mai  
Captain, USN  
Commanding Officer  
NROTC, Mid-South Region

# Executive Officer's Corner



What a truly exciting summer and fall semester it has been for NROTC, Mid-South Region! We commissioned several from our ranks as ensigns in the U. S. Navy or second lieutenants in the U. S. Marine Corps and bid them fond farewells as they departed on the next segments of their professional journeys. The last few months were arguably equally exciting for the students who are still aboard and pursuing their academic degrees and commissions. During the summer of 2012 the majority of the NROTC students participated in the summer training program that included opportunities aboard aircraft carriers, submarines, frigates, amphibious ships, or at USMC Mountain Warfare Training or USMC Officer Candidate School. Some students even had the opportunity to participate in foreign exchange cruises aboard surface combatants of the Japanese and Belgian Navies.

In August we welcomed aboard our incoming freshmen with an orientation program at Camp Warlord (of the Little

Rock Air Force Base). I was extremely pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment exhibited during the indoctrination, and I continue to be delighted by their continued pursuit of excellence throughout the semester. To witness the transformation from recent high school graduates to fully engaged, proactive unit members who have embraced and put into practice the ideas of which I spoke at orientation – excellence in both academics and physical fitness and the demonstration of an aptitude worthy of a commission – is absolutely thrilling to me. Similarly, to observe how the sophomores, juniors, and seniors have matured and further developed their leadership skills in a variety of ways was very satisfying. I am continually impressed by the students' accomplishments!

An additional aspect of my duties and responsibilities that I find particularly rewarding is the privilege to teach academic courses. This semester I taught "Leadership and Manage-



ment" to sophomores at The University of Memphis/Christian Brothers University side of our NROTC consortium. Part of the course involved the students maintaining a "leadership journal" where they reflected on their experiences and provided their thoughts on the complex interactions involved among a leader, the followers, and the situation. From reading the students' writings it was clear that the students understood that leadership (and followership) can be difficult. A common thread of reflection that emerged among the journal entries was the value of and necessity for clear, effective communications. Indeed clear, effective communication is fundamental to the success of almost every endeavor in life. Ironically, effective communication is usually not an inherent talent; it is an acquired skill and one that is actively honed in the "living leadership laboratory" that is NROTC. I proposed to some of the students the following rubric for judging their own effectiveness in communication; I share it here for your consideration:

**Communication 101 –**  
"Ask yourself three questions: 'What do I know?', 'Who needs to know what I know?', and 'Have I told them?'

I wish all a happy and healthy holiday season, and I look forward to steaming at All Ahead Flank into 2013 with you shortly!

**Make Smart Choices!**

**Steve J. Skretkowicz**  
Commander, USN  
Executive Officer  
NROTC, Mid-South Region

# Marine Officer Instructor



Since I've arrived here at The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit, the students have exceeded my expectations; their ability to accomplish any assigned task is truly remarkable, and the future of our Navy/Marine Corps team looks very promising. The Naval ROTC unit is a training environment where the staff evaluates the future leadership potential of Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and MECEPs; I believe that our students are

developing those leadership traits and principles which will make them better leaders. We are looking for leaders who are self-reliant, disciplined, and responsible for their actions. Each student should strive to develop a leadership style that suits him/her and continue to learn about the things that make a leader great!

The motto at Officer Candidates school is *Ductus Exemplo* which is Latin for "Lead by Example." An individual's ability to lead where others follow without question is a tribute to the type of leader who is giving the orders. The leader has gained the respect and admiration of his/her subordinates and most likely his/her superiors, but that is not what makes a great leader. A great leader sets the example for everyone to follow, all the time while completing the assigned mission and taking care of their Marines and Sailors.

Over the course of this semester, I have discussed the

three pillars which I believe are vital to our success: academics (our number one priority), physical fitness, and professional development. Our students have embraced this philosophy and through their actions are building a strong foundation for the future of this unit. Average GPA increased from 3.08 in the spring 2012 to 3.26 this semester; physical readiness scores trended upward and physical fitness test scores increased by 5 points. In addition, our students are developing the necessary skills to think independently and make sound decisions. Most are well on their way to becoming fine Naval Officers and with the proper guidance and direction from the staff, they will lead our Navy/Marine Corps into the future.

I challenge the Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and MECEPs to continue building on what we have achieved during the fall semester and make this Naval ROTC unit even better.

I would like to thank the student company leadership for a job well done!

Fair winds and following seas to those who have graduated and received their commissions; I hope that what they have learned here at The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit serves them well as they take on the challenges that a Naval Officer will encounter in the Fleet.

Semper Fidelis,  
Tracy A. Perry  
Major  
Marine Officer Instructor  
NROTC  
The University of Memphis



# 1/C & 2/C Advisor



It has been an exciting and challenging summer and fall semester this year!

This past summer a few of our midshipmen got a firsthand look at what life is like in the fleet. Some of these experiences include a submarine female cruise from Guam to Hawaii, an aircraft carrier nuclear cruise out of Norfolk, Va, two foreign exchange cruises out of Japan and Belgium, and other various cruises out of San Diego, Norfolk, and Mayport. 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 en-

listed service member or an officer.

This fall semester has also been an incredibly remarkable successful and active semester. One of the highlights in the semester was the release of service assignment results. This is always an exciting, fun, and suspenseful time during the semester. Although not all of the seniors received their first choice, they are all extremely excited to know where the next leg of their journey begins. Midshipman Wilson is especially excited because she passed her interview with a four star admiral to be designated as a nuclear surface warfare officer. Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors!

This next semester will be last semester here before I rotate to submarine department head school in May. As I leave, I want to reflect on the importance of academic success. Grades are the number one indicator of how well a student performs and how much effort they put into succeeding. These grades will follow them around for the rest of their lives and they will either haunt their dreams or make them extremely proud. These grades

have the ability to either open doors in a career or slam them shut. It could be the difference between determining what they want to do in the Navy and being told what to do. Do not let grades be a limiting factor in life. Be able to choose the adventure.

I am not proud of my grades in college, and I rarely mention my major. I do not want this to happen to my students. My question to the midshipmen in this unit is; are you doing everything possible to achieve success by giving nothing but your absolute best? Will your major get you a good job outside of the Navy? Please reflect on these questions and make wise decisions while you are young because you don't always get second chances in life.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have spent two years here; and I look forward to seeing you all in the fleet! If you ever need to find me in the fleet, I recommend that you start with your SONAR system!

**Good Grades Pay Off!**

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



# 3/C & 4/C Advisor



The Fall 2012 semester brought in some new faces and a few changes in philosophy! Golf Company has adjusted well, and these new challenges are starting to make the unit better. The military is continuously changing and adapting to meet its obligations. If you are not willing to change and adapt, you are going to quickly be relegated to the annals of history as time passes you by! The student COC had to quickly adjust to fluctuations at the top and showed a level of maturity that will serve them well in the service of their country. From where I sit morale seemed to improve in every aspect, and the unit was very industrious. We have added an outstanding set of new freshmen and sophomores to our ranks, and they are meeting and exceeding all challenges. They are maturing into the future leaders of this great nation. We have seen soft spoken, timid men and women bloom into an attitude of taking on

any challenge they may face. They are hungry to learn and willing to add value to the future of tomorrow. Afghanistan and Iraq are seemingly winding down, and the NROTC midshipmen are witnessing firsthand the transformation the military is undertaking to meet the nation's goals of preserving freedom. Golf Company continues to be humming along on all cylinders this semester which is a testament to the exceptional work of the top four billets!

The road to a Navy and Marine Corps commission is paved with good intentions and now a new Staff Sergeant! As always, we have lost a few more midshipmen that could not meet the challenges. The strong and determined continue to rise to the top to take over the watch from the war weary on the front lines!

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 Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Programmers (MECEP) and the Seaman to Admiral (STA-21) Officer Candidates bring to the Naval ROTC unit. They continue to act as role models to our young midshipmen and provide them with valuable insight, guidance, and wisdom to be successful in the fleet. Fortunately we will lose one to the Marine Corps at the end of this semester. I have no doubt he

will meet and exceed all challenges in his future endeavors.

As the recruiting officer I have met with numerous potential students, families, and guidance counselors interested in the Naval and Marine Corps ROTC program. I continue to enjoy their encouraging and supporting comments and look forward to seeing these future students under a Navy or Marine Corps Scholarship or working diligently towards one in the near future.

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

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



# Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



The time for change at The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit has come again with the changing of the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI). As the new AMOI I'm here to assist with developing future officers mentally, morally, and physically. As future officers you have to learn how to adapt, improvise, and overcome all types of changes, even command changes. First Sergeant Kammer has left a strong foundation for me to maintain and build on. I would like to wish him and his family the best as they start their new tour.

As a drill instructor, I supported the training and development of future enlisted Marines. I wanted to continue developing the future of the Marine Corps, and I decided that my skills could be effective in developing the Corps' future leaders. That's when I decided to apply for the position of Assistant Marine Officer In-

structor. With one summer down at Officer Candidate School as an Academic Instructor, I can tell you that becoming an officer is not an easy journey whether it's in the Navy or Marine Corps. Good officers are made not born. If you have the desire and willpower, you can become an effective leader and officer. Officers develop through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience.

The fall semester is now in our rearview mirror. We must embark upon a new year and semester with the same tenacity and dedication that we began with in August in order to meet the new challenges and obstacles that we will face during the spring. Over the winter break you should continue with your physical fitness program because the physical training will incrementally become more difficult. There will be opportunities that I encourage you to participate in once the new semester starts, i.e. drill



competitions, races, and leadership conferences. I am definitely looking forward to challenging each and every one of you. As long as I am the AMOI, my goal is to ensure you meet your "GOALS."

Semper Fidelis,  
Quinton A. Shaw  
Staff Sergeant / USMC  
AMOI  
NROTC  
The University of Memphis

## CORTRAMID East

CORTRAMID East began Thursday 5 July 2012, and the students from The University of Memphis Naval ROTC program CORTRAMID East were all in Echo Company. The journey started out with Marine week. This week was action packed, high paced, and filled with thrills starting as soon as the Midshipmen got off the bus at Camp Lejeune, NC with everyone scrambling to get all their gear situated and stowed. Marine week was filled with exciting events including eating good old fashioned MREs, repelling, shooting big guns, and of course getting yelled at by Gunnery Sergeants. It also included a paintball simulation course in a fake town. The weeks most exciting event was flying in a V-22 Osprey.

After Marine week, it was off to Surface week. The Midshipmen went on one of three ships: the USS Mason, the USS Whidbey Island, or the USS Gettysburg. For those Midshipmen on any ship, but the Whidbey Island Surface week was apparently an in-

credible experience.

Echo Company was now off to Kings Bay, Georgia for Submarine week. When Midshipmen were not underway on the sub they were busy doing simulations, learning man overboard drills, how to drive a boat, and even some angles and dangles drills, not to mention enjoying the delicious submarine galleys. While aboard the submarine, the Midshipmen seemed to be in a constant daze trying to adjust to the 18 hour days, running around trying to complete the many tasks on a scavenger hunt, and making pizza with the crew.

After all the craziness of underwater life, Echo Company was back in Norfolk, Virginia for Aviation week. An incredibly laid back week filled with aircraft simulations, actual flight time, and an insightful brief by three master chiefs, which was definitely an amazing finish to CORTRAMID East. It was certainly a valuable experience and will ultimately assist the Midshipmen in ranking the communities in which they would like to begin their Naval careers.

CORTRAMID East 2012 Montage—Echo Company:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqKaE3PyOvs>

Very Respectfully,  
Ingo Bretschneider  
MIDN 3/C, USNR

This summer, three Midshipmen attended CORTRAMID West which took place in San Diego, CA from May 24 through June 23. The

# CORTRAMID West

time was split into four weeks for the four separate branches that Naval ROTC Midshipmen could join after commissioning. Those are Surface Warfare, Aviation, Submarines, and Marines. CORTRAMID West included Midshipmen from different units from all over the country. The Midshipmen were split into eight different companies, and these companies each experienced a brief week in the life of the different communities.

For Surface Warfare week, the Midshipmen went underway on a surface ship, usually a destroyer, and would receive different experiences while aboard the ship. My company was able to witness flight operations off the rear of the vessel, while a different company was able to witness the firing of the different array of weapons aboard. While not underway that week, midshipmen received firefighting training on base.

During Aviation week, the Midshipmen learned about the new helicopter class, the H-60 Romeo and Sierra, and experienced flying in different aircraft. The Midshipmen were taken up in an H-60 Sierra and were flown around different areas of San Diego, CA. They also each had a chance to fly in a T-34, which is the plane used in one of the first stages of flight qualifications for pilots.

During Submarine week, the Midshipmen were taken by tug boat to a place off the coast and boarded the USS



Nevada, which is an SSBN. While on board, the Midshipmen were treated to a meal with the Captain and were given a chance to listen to sonar, serve as the conning officer, serve as helmsman, participate in a fire drill, and toured the entire submarine.

Finally, during Marine week, the Midshipmen were transported to Camp Pendleton, where they spent the week with active duty Marines



who had just returned from a deployment. The first day the Midshipmen ran an obstacle course, fought with pugil sticks, and did a short workout with the Marines. The next day, the Midshipmen went to a Marine aviation squadron where they learned about the different helicopters used by the Marines.

The following day, they witnessed a weapons demonstration with 81mm mortars, a SMAW, an M-240, and a .50 caliber machine gun. The Mid-



shipmen were then able to fire several rounds from the M-240 and the .50 caliber machine guns and a single round from the 81mm mortar. The final day, the Midshipmen embarked on a 2-mile conditioning hike to an infantry immersion trainer. The Midshipmen spent the next day with Marines learning how to clear a room, conduct patrols, and different movement and fire tactics. They were put in an artificial Afghanistan village with simulated ammunition rounds and were subsequently ambushed to simulate what Marines are experience in combat today.

CORTRAMID West was designed to assist the Midshipmen in his search of a career, whether it be Submarines, Surface Warfare, Aviation, or Marines. Each week is meant to teach the Midshipmen what his/her responsibility may be each day as an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps.

Very Respectfully,  
Matthew Wendel  
MIDN 3/C, USNR

# Foreign Exchange Cruise

This summer, I spent 11 days in Japan as part of a Japanese Maritime Self-defense Force (JMSDF) Exchange. There were twenty U.S. Navy Midshipmen participating, as well as twenty JMSDF Midshipmen. As the U.S. Midshipmen arrived at the airport, we took a bus to U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, where we would be staying for the next 4 days. After spending the first night on the Naval base, we spent our first full day in Japan on liberty, with the option to take the train to Yokohama, Tokyo, or Kamakura. Two Midshipmen and I decided to head to Kamakura, because it is a smaller town with some of Japan's more historically cultural features, such as temples and shrines. While in Kamakura, we were able to observe a traditional Japanese wedding taking place at the Shinto shrine, Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gū, as well as visiting the second largest bronze Buddha statue in Japan. That night, we were introduced to the Japanese Midshipmen, who would be our running mates for the rest of our time in Japan. The next day, after receiving a brief on the history of the JMSDF Exchange and its two host countries, we traveled to the other side of Yokosuka Naval Base to tour the USS John McCain and the JS Takanami. Both ships were destroyers. It was insightful to see the slight differences and similarities, and it was our first interaction with active duty members of the

JMSDF. After the ship tours and lunch with our running mates, we went with them to visit the battleship Mikasa, which was built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Following this, we headed back to the base to participate in either soccer or softball. I chose to play soccer and, although the Japanese Midshipmen won the game by one point, I felt that everyone involved had a great time and that the event helped to boost both morale and camaraderie. After another day and a half of liberty, which included all forty Midshipmen visiting Kamakura at once, we had a reception on base with the opportunity to talk to some American and Japanese officers before we got onto the JS Takanami that evening.

The next morning we departed to Etajima, the location of the Japanese Maritime Officer Candidates School (MOCS), where the Japanese Midshipmen trained. Life on the Japanese destroyer for 2 days was definitely an experience. While underway, we had cultural Japanese food for each meal, which took some getting used to, particularly using only chopsticks. We also had the opportunity to learn about some of the ship's weapon systems, how to give helm commands in Japanese, and had a meal with the CO and XO. Some of the most memorable parts of being on the ship were: taking part in flight ops,



having ice cream every night, and the heated salt-water bathtub that was on board. Upon arriving in Etajima, we participated in the ship's disembarking routine, which consisted of the Midshipmen filing off the ship, saluting each member of the crew along the way. As we stepped off to begin our salutes, we heard "Highway to the Danger Zone" begin playing from the JS Takanami's speaker system, definitely a pleasant surprise.

Once at MOCS, we were given a tour of the facilities as well as a demonstration of the activities that the students participate in. We were able to meet with the superintendent, a Rear Admiral of the JMSDF, as well as witness Kendo, Judo, and practice calligraphy in Japanese. That evening we headed to Hiroshima, where we would spend the night and the next day.

One of the most surreal moments of entire trip was visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial with our Japanese running mates. After taking in a full day's worth of sights, we headed back to MOCS for our last evening with the Japanese Midshipmen. The next morning, we witnessed the seemingly chaotic rush of the Midshipmen's routine, followed by a quick breakfast.

Before I went to Japan, I had never been overseas, so there was definitely an initial culture shock. However, with more exposure to the Japanese culture I found myself wanting to learn more and more about my running mates. I am very grateful that I was able to participate in the JMSDF Exchange, as I had a blast and was able to get a small insight into another country's Navy.

Very Respectfully,  
Andrew Herron  
MIDN 1/C, USNR



# Mountain Warfare



On Friday, 22 June 2012 the first wave of Midshipmen arrived in Reno, NV to report in for summer training at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC) in California. The first official day was dedicated to presentations and classes on what we would need to know in order to conduct field training over the next ten days. The instructors explained how to succeed during the training exercises, how to properly use our gear in different weather conditions, what to do in the case of emergency, and basic survival skills needed on the mountain.

The first conditioning hike was 3 miles to Camp LTA, which proved to be a gut-check for a few Midshipmen along the way. Upon arrival at Camp LTA the platoons rotated through different field classes. The first class was knot tying, where the Midshipmen were taught basic knots that would be used in the future for climbing, repelling, and in creating the rope bridge. The second class was stream crossing, where the Midshipmen were taught different ways to cross a flowing stream as a group. The last class was crossing a rope bridge using a self-made harness. That night the Midshipmen bivouacked for the first time, experiencing how cold the nights could get in the mountains.

The next day consisted of wall climbing and repelling, followed by a 3-mile conditioning hike back to lower base. The Midshipmen were allowed to spend the rest of the day in PT gear and flip flops to air out their feet, while they washed their clothes. They also had the opportunity to ask questions and sit down with the Commanding Officer of MWTC.

The third conditioning hike was the most difficult, 4.5-miles of

the steepest terrain they had to offer, and at a faster pace than the previous conditioning hikes. If anyone fell back, then their packs would be put in the vans.

Over their stay at Camp Penguin, the Midshipmen hiked to Mean Peak, the highest peak in the area, were giving classes on skinning animals, setting traps, and survival skills. Each night a senior enlisted or officer was invited to sit down with each platoon during chow to allow questions about being officers, leadership, and knowledge about training.

After the majority of training was accomplished, the Midshipmen hiked back to lower base to enjoy their final event, Warrior Night, which consisted of a barbecue meal at the chow hall and a movie. They were allowed liberty to visit the PX and wind down, wash their clothes, and pack their things. The next day was field day, and everyone loaded their gear in the trucks to prepare to leave at 0100 in the morning to be at the airport in time for flights. Overall the training was a fantastic experience to prepare these Midshipmen for Officer Candidate School and give them a taste of the lifestyle they are getting into as future Marines.

Very Respectfully,  
Katherine Townsend  
MIDN 2/C, USMCR



# Submarine Cruise



This summer I traveled to the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut for my Midshipman 2<sup>nd</sup> class cruise. I was able to experience a week underway aboard the USS Dallas (SSN 700) with five other Midshipmen. The USS Dallas is a fast attack submarine of the LOS ANGELES class which was commissioned on July 18, 1981. On board the USS Dallas we were able to experience the lifestyle and jobs of the enlisted men and officers while underway on a submarine.



As a second class Midshipman, I ate my meals in the Crews Mess and slept in the nine man berthing. I had an enlisted Sailor, a mechanic in the engine room, as my "running mate." I was able to learn about the different equipment in the engine room which includes the diesel engine, CO<sub>2</sub> scrubbers, oxygen generator, AC/DC generators, and the refrigeration system.

On the submarine we were able to learn about the weapons ordinance on board, navigation systems, and the nuclear reactor by attending Midshipman school of the boat. We were able to participate in fire drills, observe

flooding and reactor compartment drills, and learn about damage control.

Mainly, we were instructed to walk around the USS Dallas and learn as much as we could about the submarine and the lifestyle of submarines. Some of things we were able to experience were observing the process of unloading a torpedo, learning how the reactor compartment works, how to track contacts, listen to sonar, and how to act while on the bridge.



Also we were able to experience the maneuvering watch, being at test depth, periscope depth, and angles and dangles. We were also able to learn about wardroom etiquette and had a chance to meet and talk to the Commanding Officer of the USS Dallas. During our meeting with the Captain, we were able to talk to him about the future of the submarine community, and we asked his advice for future submarine officers.

Overall this cruise was an eye opening experience for me, it allowed me to see all the challenges associated with life aboard a submarine, but also showed me the opportunities and knowledge someone will gain by serving on a submarine. This cruise enhanced my interest in joining the submarine community, but also taught me that this lifestyle isn't for everyone. I strongly recommend a submarine cruise to anyone who has the opportunity, because it is a great experience and one of the hardest working communities in the Navy.

Very Respectfully,  
James Zaken  
MIDN 2/C, USNR

# Nurse Cruise

At first, I wasn't sure what to expect of a nursing cruise. Receiving orders to board the *USS Peleliu*, an amphibious assault ship, seemed general enough for any Midshipman to have an experience related to their future career as a naval officer. Little did I know that the *Peleliu* and Expeditionary Strike Group 3 were nicknamed "The best medical team on the waterfront," both by its crew and the Commanding Officer. As a future nurse, I could not have been better suited for this training.



Since this was my first cruise, I took in the surroundings of the ship and the complex processes involved in everyday operations while at sea. The *Peleliu* conducted continuous flight operations throughout its first underway, which included vertical takeoff and landing of AV-8B Harriers, CH-46 Sea Knights, AH-IW Cobras, Hueys, and nearly every other craft from HMM-364 Marine flying squadron (informally known as the "Purple Foxes"). What one must realize is that medical is involved in every aspect of the ship, because the ship's crew is involved in every aspect of the ship.

Each area of major operations (in my case, the flight deck and the well deck) must have personnel on hand in the event of a medical emergency. These battle dressing stations, abbreviated BDS, are like a miniature emergency room where immediate wounds can be diagnosed and dressed before the casualty is evacuated to medical. Upon entering the triage area, the patient can travel to the emergency room, the operating room, or the doctor's exam table, depending on the severity of the injury.

The training that I received this summer will benefit me greatly as I start nursing school this spring. Having al-

ready learned how to draw blood, make beds with patients, insert catheters, work in the lab, and most of all provide patient-focused has prepared me for my future as a Navy nurse. Thanks to the helpfulness and engagement of the ship's crew with my training experience, I look forward to learning more in the coming summers.



Very Respectfully,  
Isaac Parrish  
MIDN 3/C, USNR

## OCS

Six weeks in Quantico, VA was the ultimate leadership test for Midshipman 1/C McAuley and me. We both attended Officer Candidates School (OCS) this summer to determine if we possess the mental, physical, and moral strength to lead Marines as company grade officers. After a few slow days of in-processing, pickup day came and we were formed into our training platoons that we remained in for the duration of OCS. From this day on there were countless hours of instruction and evaluation to determine how well knowledge is retained for use in practical applications as well as written examinations.



Each event was evaluated in the fast pace and high stress OCS environment designed to as closely as possible simulate decision making in combat. Stress came from the Sergeant Instructors, candidates, and other factors such as time constraints and lack of sleep. The conditioning hikes and physical training sessions were strenuous, but each day still required performance physically and mentally. There were failures as well as suc-

cesses for most throughout the training process that provided valuable learning experiences. Determination and resilience was important in order to progress as the challenges became increasingly difficult.



Evaluation was constant and was broken down into three categories: academics, physical fitness, and leadership. The emphasis was on leadership and whether or not you show potential to continue growing as a leader. An important focus is the realization that as a leader it is not about you or simply personal achievement, but always about those you lead. The University of Memphis' Naval ROTC training program provides excellent training for OCS. Success is driven by how you take the training here at the Naval ROTC unit and apply that with what you learned at OCS, in order to lead peers and act confidently.



Very Respectfully,  
Preston Beazley  
MIDN 1/C, USMCR

# 1/C Surface Warfare Officer Cruise

To begin, this cruise was approximately three weeks; there were seven Midshipmen who boarded the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier. We met our sponsor who was in charge of setting up various tours and paired us with our designated running mates who were JO's. After checking in and stowing our gear in our rooms, we went out to visit San Diego, CA for a day. The ship was scheduled to go underway the next morning. Before going underway the Midshipmen were assigned to various vantage points to observe sea-and-



anchor.

The aircraft carrier stayed underway off the California coast conducting various training exercises for their nuclear reactors which included several general quarter drills. While underway we took several tours of the engineering spaces, the nuclear reactor, and several other places on board. There were over 5,000 ship's company and riders on board. In addition, we had to stand several watch hours on the bridge and other areas for educational experiences. We were allowed on the flight deck



to watch flight ops, shot several weapons, took a helicopter ride, and talked to several different officers while eating meals in the wardroom. The wardroom allowed us to meet several officers from different backgrounds who gave us advice and were honest about how they felt about being in the Navy. We also ate lunch with the Admiral and Captain on board who told us their stories of their upcoming and humble beginnings.

Finally, after conducting the drills for two weeks we headed back into San Diego to drop off the air wing and its entire crew. The crew had just completed a seven month deployment and did not expect to deploy again until December. The Admiral made an announcement that they were getting deployed in late August, four months ahead of schedule. The morale seemed to drop due to the change in deployment timeline. The enlisted Sailors and officers were saddened by the news. The officers had to hide their emotions from the enlisted personnel in order to motivate them. The news will surely create leadership challenges for the crew prior to the deployment.



The officers told us that this is what we were going to be dealing with in the future, personal and career issues of sailors.

After dropping off the air wing, we sailed towards Seattle while the nuclear team completed their exams and got the ship ready for deployment. After docking we were allowed liberty and departed home the next day.

Very Respectfully,  
Acker-Moorehead, Jon-Ashton  
MIDN 1/C, USNR

## SWO Nuke Cruise



I had the pleasure of spending my Midshipman First Class Cruise on the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) a United States Navy Air Craft Carrier. This particular cruise was a SWO Nuke cruise. When I arrived at the ship I was met by



my running mate, a lieutenant I would be following and taking notes from for the remainder of my time on board. He welcomed me to the ship and gave me a great tour of the bow of the ship where the focsle (anchor room) is located, and we worked our way back to the engine rooms.

While aboard we had a presidential underway, the namesake President made an appearance. It was a great experience and a privilege to be accompanied by George H.W. Bush! It is not very often when you will see a namesake visit the vessel.

I had the opportunity to visit the flight deck during flight operations. Flight students were shooting off and landing hornets and super hornets. With strict supervision by Officer of the Deck and Conning Officer. I also was able to play the role of the Conning Officer on the ship, in this role I called commands changing the ship's course and speed. The remainder of my time was spent working near the reactor. This is where I learned how the ship came to life. All in all my time spend on the ship was a memorable one.

Very Respectfully  
Presley Morrissey  
MIDN 1/C, USNR

## Over the Edge



On 25 August 2012, I volunteered for the Over the Edge event. This is an annual event that is hosted and benefits the Special Olympics of Greater Memphis. As a volunteer, you have to be very therapeutic



to calm those before they rappel 365 feet down the White Station Tower. The volunteers make safety their number one priority. The participants are double and triple checked before they rappel down the training one-story area and even checked multiple more times before doing the full 365 feet.

The volunteers help with getting participants checked in, putting on their rappelling gear, hooking them into the rappelling ropes, and belaying. In order to become a participant, an individual must raise \$1,000 to rappel. As a volunteer, I helped for 13 hours over two days and was able to rappel multiple times.

Very Respectfully,  
Meagan C.A. Menzel  
MIDN 1/C, USNR

## Giving Back

On 15 September 2012, several Midshipmen from The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit spent their Saturday helping with Habitat for Humanity. Those who participated learned several important steps about building a house. Rather than standing and watching, they took an active and participatory role in putting up siding and roofing under layers. When the day was over, around 2:00 p.m., the Midshipmen had made tremendous amount of progress in completing the roof.



This event was not the only way these motivated young men and women gave their time to help out in the community. Members of the Memphis Naval ROTC unit also spent many weekends walking dogs with the Memphis Humane Society, teaching the Boys Scouts of America, counseling for church youth group activities, and coaching pee-



wee football, as well as many more individual efforts.

They spent a considerable amount of time helping the local Marine Corps Reserve unit with Toys for Tots, a program that collects toys around Christmas time and gives them to less-fortunate children in the Shelby County area.

Altogether, the company accumulated a remarkable 1,342 total hours of volunteerism with 20 Midshipmen earning individual achievement awards for having over 15 hours. The Midshipmen of The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit hopes to keep this dedication to helping the community strong in upcoming semesters.

Very Respectfully,  
Jordan Grace  
MIDN 3/C, USMCR



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# 9/11 Commemoration

On Tuesday, 11 September 2012 the three ROTC branches assembled on the Student Plaza in front of the University Administration building. The Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC units formed up facing the colors, ready to remember the fallen. John Selberg, fire chief of the Germantown Fire Department and 1983 graduate of The University of Memphis, was the guest speaker. He stood at the podium and delivered a powerful speech that recounted his time at the Pentagon in the hours following this tragedy. Selberg talked of his days as an emergency responder.



Following Selberg's address, three ROTC students participated in a rose ceremony. To the right of the podium, a table had been set up with a picture of each attack site and a vase. As Air Force ROTC Cadet Hayes described the events of that fateful day, each of the three students took turns walking to the table, rose in hand.

The rose was placed in the vase and a salute was rendered to those who had lost their lives eleven years before. Students took the time to pause on their way to class and pay their respects. Special guests included The University of Memphis President— Shirley Raines, Dean of Students — Stephen Petersen, Associate Dean of

Students — Ben Morton, and Student Government Association President— Russell Born.

**"We will never forget."**

Very Respectfully,  
Clara Barnes  
Midshipman 3/C, USNR

# Wine Under Wings

On Thursday, 4 October 2012, The Navy League Memphis Council hosted Wine Under Wings at Wilson Air Center at Memphis International Airport. This event has been thriving for four continuous years. The Navy League of the United States was established in 1902 by the inspiration of President Theodore Roosevelt. One of the main goals of the organization is to educate American citizens on the importance of a stronger frame for the sea services. Wine Under Wings raises money for the Midshipmen's scholarships to attend colleges such as The University of Memphis, Christian Brothers University, and Ole Miss. With these scholarships, the student will learn about the Navy and gain an education from a respected university. A portion of the money also goes to the support the Sea Cadet program. This



program is for 11-19 year olds who are interested in joining the Navy.

Before the event starts, students from various public schools get a tour of the aircraft, inside and out of the hanger. The University of

Memphis Naval ROTC unit displays a formal sword arch at the entrance for the military personnel and guest entering. Before the award ceremony begins, the Sea Cadet unit presents colors which shows pride in our nation. The Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and sponsors are represented at the event to show respect for their contributions to America and the Navy League. Without the generosity of the sponsors, the \$750.00 valued dinner tables wouldn't be as extravagant as they were. Guests were served hor d'ouerves and elegant wines. At the end of the night, those who attended honored the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812 and were entertained by the aircraft display and live band.

Very Respectfully  
Joshua Brewster  
MIDN 4/C, USMCR



# Sea Services Ball



Fall is important and memorable in its own way. For most people fall represents the holidays, midterms, finals, and of course changing weather. However, fall has a different connotation for the students of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps; it is a time of honor and reflection. During the year, around the birthdays of the Navy and Marine Corps, Midshipmen cease their studies to celebrate. On 19 October 2012, Midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and staff alike



came together for a night of remembrance, dinner, and dancing. Nevertheless, the Sea Services ball must first be planned.



Midshipman Schmitz had it all under control. The location would be on one of the top floors of Clark Tower, which is one of the most discernible buildings in Memphis. Also, Midshipman Schmitz had to form a timeline of events for the Sea Services Ball which include a cocktail hour, ceremony, dinner, toasts, and dancing.

Ultimately, all his time and dedication lead to a memorable night.

At last, the day of the Sea Services Ball arrived. Those attending the Sea Services Ball arrived in their best of dress ready for the events of the night. The ball flowed smoothly from the ceremony to the dinner. At one point in the ceremony, the guest of honor, Colonel Hobaugh, gave a motivational speech. The former astronaut, who has logged over 5,000 flight hours in over 40 different aircraft and 36 days in space, described his experiences as a Naval Aviator, Marine Corps Officer, and NASA astronaut. The night ended with dancing, laughter, and overall good morale. In the end, the night was successful and the Midshipmen are anticipating the next time where they can celebrate the birth-

days of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Very Respectfully,  
Amber Oliver  
MIDN 4/C, USNR

# AFROTC - NROTC Flag Football

On 2 November 2012 a flag football matchup between Navy and Air Force started and before the first snap, you could see that tensions were high with Air Force looking to keep their winning streak alive. Meanwhile, the Navy midshipmen were in search of revenge

provement. Naval ROTC proceeded to score another two touchdowns, ending the half at 21-7. Morale was high as the midshipmen took a quick water break. The team's coach, Gunnery Sergeant Ward, provided the team with a few quick words of wisdom and a couple



touchdown. The Air Force took advantage of one of the numerous timeouts and managed to regroup. With 15 minutes left in the game, the Air Force seemed to break out a secret weapon. It became immediately obvious that they had devised a new strategy. With a series of short plays that were effectively executed the Air Force cadets had managed to tie the Navy Midshipmen. The game went in to overtime, and Air Force scored quickly, while also getting the extra two points. Now it was the Navy Midshipmen's turn, they answered back with an amazing catch by midshipman McAuley out jumping half of the Air Force cadets. Now all Navy had to do was get the extra two points, and it was on to the second overtime. Everyone was anxious and nervous for the outcome of the next play, the quarterback MIDN 1/C Drapeau made a pass to MIDN 4/C Johnson on an out route to the sidelines that was a dive away from a completion. The incomplete pass ended the game and the Midshipmen's chance for redemption, but they walked off the field with their heads held high and looking forward to another rematch.

Very Respectfully,  
Matthew Johnson  
MIDN 4/C, USNR



from last year's loss. This year Navy came out strong scoring a touchdown within the first two minutes. The Air Force cadets soon got their act together and retaliated. With the score tied up, MIDN 1/C Drapeau gave the team a quick pep talk. Those who were on the side-lines will never know what words of inspiration were relayed to the team that day, but there was a noticeable im-

of strategies. The water boys, MIDN 3/C Huetson and MIDN 4/C Mckinney, were diligent in getting water distributed to the barely winded Midshipmen. With the sound of a whistle, the players were called back out to the field. The game was at an obvious stalemate for a few minutes as each side would rush the field and get gradually closer to scoring the next



# MUD Crusade

On 3 November 2012 the Mud Crusade came to Millington, Tennessee and 14 University of Memphis Naval ROTC Midshipmen and 2 MECEPs chose to get dirty and support the race's chosen charity: The Semper Fi Fund. Shortly before the race began, the DJ and race announcer asked the Midshipmen to join them on stage and showed their support to our military service members, especially those who are serving overseas and their appreciation for the Midshipmen's desire to serve their country.

This proved to be a very humbling experience for our Midshipmen who were still on the road to becoming part of the active service, but it showed them that the community views them as an extension of the active duty forces. Around noon the Naval ROTC team would line up at the starting line in boots and utilities ready to challenge their prowess against mother nature's greatest obstacles: water and mud. Inspired by the acknowledgment they received moments before, the team chose



to take the lead in their wave and set the pace for everyone to follow. As the starting horn sounded, they took off and led the way through the first few obstacles before breaking off into two-man teams for the duration of the race. These obstacles included mountains of mud, tubes submerged in water, and high walls to climb over. The weather was very warm that day, making these three miles of having water in their trousers and mud caked to their boots a true physical challenge. Since they were not running for time, a few Midshipmen chose to take their time, helping others overcome

obstacles and motivating others. To end the race, everyone scaled one last hill and took a running start to a slip and slide all the way down to the bottom in the last pool of muddy water, before taking off and leaping over a line of fire to the finish line. Together as a group at last, it was time for a group photo to show off just how dirty they got; the team also took photos with other race participants. Overall the race was a fun event at no cost to the Midshipmen who had a good taste of the spotlight as the only openly military team at the time and represented themselves appropriately. The Midshipmen are eager to run more races in the mud in their boots and utilities in order to get dirty for a great cause.

Very respectfully,  
Katherine Townsend  
Midshipman 2/C , USMCR



# Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a very important day for many Americans, but for members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, it is perhaps one of the most important days. For ROTC members this is the day that they not only thank veterans who have served, but also remember those who have gone before them and have given the ultimate sacrifice for justice, freedom, and this great nation. The University of Memphis ROTC units honored this memorable day with a motivational run and ceremony.

On the early morning of 12 November 2012 at 0600 the Naval, Air force, and Army ROTC units mobilized into a formation at The University of Memphis' Memorial Field. Soon after formation, the motivational run kicked off. Each branch ran in their formations with their respective flag flying high. While running each branch would yell a cadence as loud as they could trying to outperform the branch behind or in front of them for extra motivation. The ROTC units ran a loop around the campus



which is about 1.8 miles in distance. After the short inspiring run each branch circled back to do a final pass by the fountain in the middle of campus. When the ROTC units passed by the fountain, Staff Sergeant Shaw and a representative from each of the ROTC Units saluted. This was the peak of inspiration and motivation of the run. It symbolized the pride and respect that each branch of the military has for our veterans.

Shortly after the motivational run at 0700, each ROTC unit fell into formation at the University Center for the Veterans Day ceremony. After the greeting and invocation

was given by an Air Force ROTC cadet, everybody's attention was directed to the Prisoners of War / Missing in Action table. Placed around the table were covers from each branch of the military with their respective service member standing behind the cover. In a strong voice the Master of Ceremonies began to explain the contents of the table: "Those who have served and those currently serving the uniformed services of the United States are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation, and internment."

**VETERANS DAY**  
NOVEMBER 2012

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

Before we begin our activities this morning, we will pause to recognize our POW's and MIA's. We call your attention to this small table, which occupies a place of dignity and honor near the head table. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POW's and MIA's. We call them comrades. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families today, so we join together to pay our humble tribute to them, and bear witness to their continued absence.

This table, set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single red rose in the vase, signifies the blood they many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return. The yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us today. A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted - they cannot toast with us this night. The chair is empty - they are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.

Let us pray to the supreme

commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families."

Those words laid heavy on the hearts of everyone in the room. When the Master of Ceremony said, "May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families," each representative standing around the covers saluted. Showing respect for those lost and missing in action. After the contents of the table were explained cadets of Air Force ROTC folded an American Flag. One cadet then placed the folded flag at the end of the table for the honored memory of the men and women missing in action.

In the conclusion of the ceremony *Taps* was played. As this song was played over the speakers, each branch stood at attention proudly honoring the veterans who have given selfless service to this nation. Also, they honored those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation and for the ultimate goal of liberty and justice for all.

Very Respectfully,  
Matthew Huetson  
Midshipmen 3/C, USNR



# Marquette Nursing Symposium

The 2012 Marquette Nursing Symposium took place from November 9<sup>th</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup>. This event is for nursing option Midshipmen to come together and hear from Navy nurses all the way from Ensign to Captain. Over twenty schools were represented at the symposium from all over the country. The University of Memphis' Naval ROTC nurse

speak on the future of the Navy Nurse Corps and her journey as a Navy Nurse. Lieutenant Junior Grade Milan gave the next speech on perseverance and his very difficult path to become a Navy Nurse. Lieutenant Commander Gomez is the detailer for new Navy Nurses, so he was the most anticipated among the speakers. Next was Lieutenant Commander

responsibilities, except school work.

There was then a question and answer session with the nurses and perhaps the most touching speech of the day came from Commander Yach who spoke about her experiences with the Marines in the Middle East. After the final speech there was a short break followed by a dinner with the



options included Officer Candidates Judy and Yoder and Midshipman Menzel, Parrish, Hansen, and Oliver. The symposium kicked off early Saturday morning with some breakfast and a quick tour of Marquette's nursing simulation lab. Captain Martin was the first to

Hutchinson who spoke about furthering the nurses' education through duty under instruction. She gave a lot of insight on how the Navy graciously pays nurses to get their master's degree while still receiving normal pay and are full time students with no other

nurses. The symposium wrapped up after, and the Midshipmen and Officer Candidates departed back to their respective schools.

Very Respectfully,  
Kelsey Hansen  
MIDN 3/C, USNR

# LCpl Tim Creager Memorial 5K



On July 1, 2004 in Anbar Province, Iraq, a Marine 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 7th Annual Lance Corporal Timothy Creager 5K on 10 November 2012.

This was the second year that The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps has hosted the race. The course began on Hornet Avenue, weaved through Navy Road and Dakur Street to finally finish at Memphis Avenue 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 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. Five minutes before the race began, an invocation was given by Mid-

group along the streets of Millington. Midshipmen lined the course to cheer on all the participants and ensured a safe route as the runners followed the course. Memphis Runners Track Club timed and recorded the results for the race. As each participant crossed the finish line, he or she was greeted by the Marines and Midshipmen who thanked them for their support. As the racers waited for results, they had the option to compete in the pull-up competition and bid on silent auction items. Before moving on to announce the winners for each category, door priz-

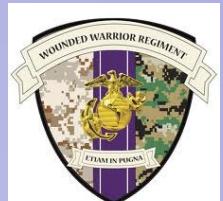


shipman 1/C Drapeau followed shortly by the National Anthem. A moment of silence was held followed with heartfelt remarks presented by Major Perry in memory of LCpl Creager just before it was time to run. The runners were ushered to the start line where the ten riders from the Patriot Guard lead the

es were awarded. Then the winners received their personalized dog-tag for placing first, second, or third in their age group. After it was all said and done, we had almost 200 participants register for the race which not only made the day successful, but one that will be remembered for many years to come. In addition, to the overwhelming support and success of this event, this is the first year that some proceeds from the race were donated to the Wounded Warrior Regiment in honor of LCpl Creager.



Very Respectfully,  
Dylan Stahlhuth  
MIDN 3/C, USNR



# Super Squad Competition

Each semester the squads are evaluated in various events to determine who will be the Super Squad winner. The two main events are a drill competition and a field meet. This determines the strengths of the squads as well as the leadership of the squad leaders. The squad leaders for Navy platoon were MIDN 2/C Ethan Gray, MIDN 2/C Kevyn Evans, and MIDN 1/C Kourgee Williams. The squad leader for Marine platoon was MIDN 3/C Nathan Sampson.

On 13 November 2012 the squads were inspected by the Company Commanding Officer and Executive Officer and then participated in a drill competition. 1<sup>st</sup> Squad of Ma-



rine platoon led by MIDN 3/C Sampson won the inspection, and 1<sup>st</sup> squad of Navy platoon led by MIDN 2/C Gray won the drill evaluation. The squads participated in a field meet on 26 November 2012 consisting of a relay, tug-of-war, and obstacle course to test the physical strength and teamwork of the squads. There was also a memory game to test their ability to observe and recall details later. In a very close competi-



tion 1<sup>st</sup> Squad of Navy platoon led by MIDN 2/C Gray won the field meet. This year all four squads had stand out strengths that fueled the fierce competition. In the end only one squad can win and get the trophy. These events are major factors in the determination of who that is for the fall 2012 semester. Final semester grades will determine the winner of the Super Squad Competition.

Very Respectfully,  
Preston Beazley  
MIDN 1/C, USMCR



# Midshipman of the Semester



Midshipman 3/C: Parker Grace

Hometown: Red Boiling Springs, TN

Major: History

GPA: 3.76

PFT: 286

Desired MOS: Intelligence



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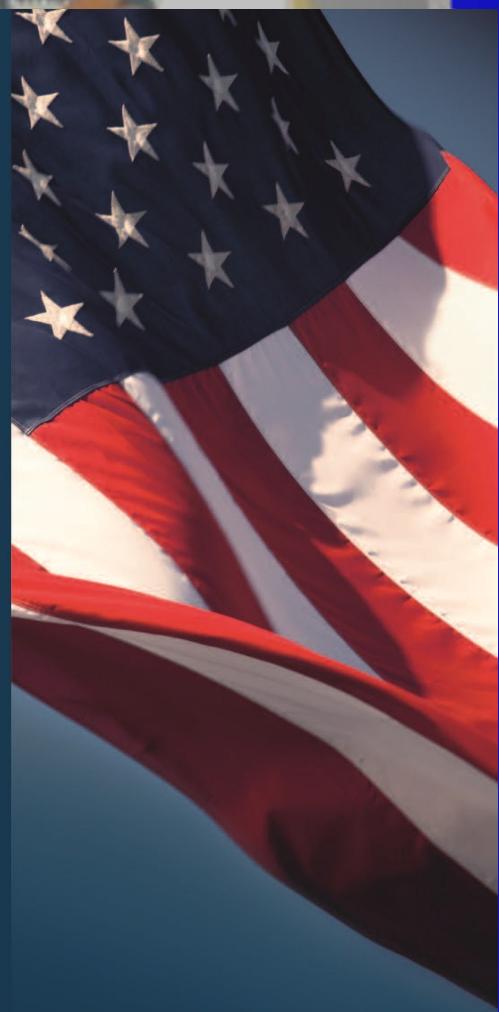
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# MOI Endurance Challenge



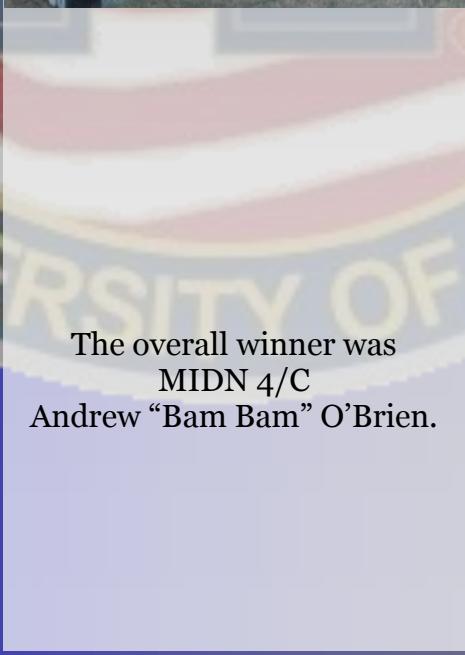
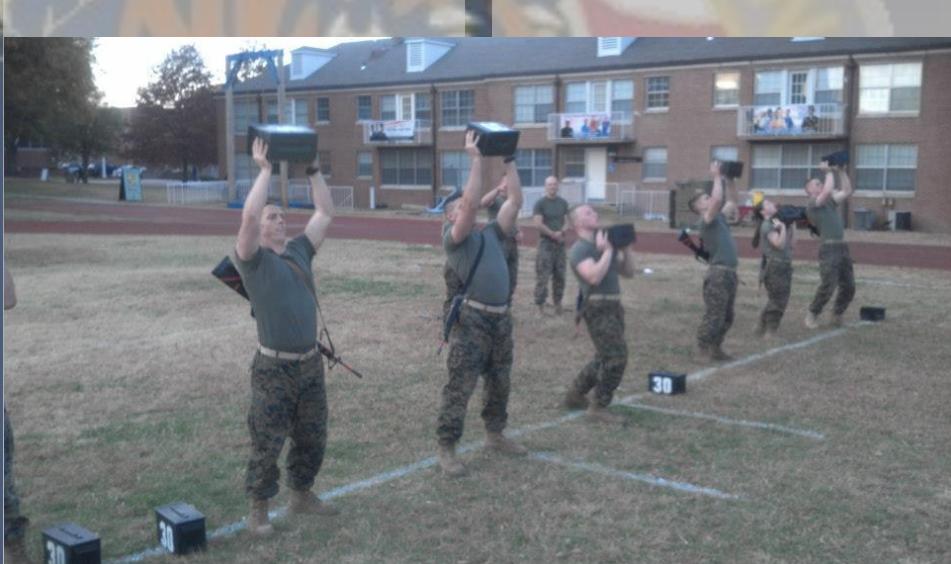
On 15 November 2012, the Marine Officer Instructor conducted an Endurance Challenge for all Marine Option Midshipmen and MECEPs.

Round one consisted of: burpees, single leg wall squats, dying bug, and a 800 meter sprint. Followed by a 5 minute break.

Round two consisted of: cadence push-ups, box jumps, crunchy frog, and a 400 meter sprint. Followed by a 5 minute break.

Round three consisted of: pull-ups/flexed arm hang, ammo can lifts, crunches, and a 100 yard ammo can run / sprint.

The Marine Options and MECEPs enjoyed the physical challenges, but only one could claim the "Iron Mike" trophy and be crowned the Marine Officer Instructor Endurance Challenge winner and receive a gift certificate to Dicks Sporting Goods Store.



# AROTC vs. NROTC Flag Football



with a touchdown of their own. The score at half was 21-7.

The second half was a defensive struggle. The Navy line, anchored by Midshipmen Bretschneider, Morrissey, Townsend, and Menzel, applied consistent pressure all day. As a result, two Army drives were cut short by interceptions made by MIDN 1/C Lyons and MIDN 4/C Johnson.



On 30 November 2012, the final flag football game of the season was against the Army. The Navy was looking to rebound from the gut wrenching overtime loss to the Air Force cadets. Once again the Navy started off fast scoring

touchdowns on two of their first three possessions. The Army answered with a touchdown, but the Navy, led by quarterback MIDN 1/C Draupeau and wide receiver MIDN 4/C Johnson, charged back

The Army was able to score a touchdown late, but the fate of the game had already been sealed. Navy wins 21-14.

Very Respectfully,  
Brandon McAuley  
MIDN 1/C, USMCR  
And  
Matthew Ward  
Gunnery Sergeant, USMC



# Lieutenants' Challenge



On 5 December 2012, during the last physical training day of the semester we had our students participate in a grueling Lieutenant Challenge that consisted of a series of relay style Navy related exercises in the pool.

We began the challenge at 0600 and had the students run over to the pool in their assigned teams. Once at the pool, they were told to jump in and tread water with a 10lb medicine ball for 5 minutes. The fire teams had the luxury of sharing the load of the ball between the 4 or 5 members of

their team. Once the teams completed their five minutes, they briskly walked to the shallow pool where they all had to do one lap around the pool on a kick board.

Once the last person in the relay reached the starting/ending

point, they walked back to the deep pool and swam a combined 550 yds between the team members. The catch was that they all had to use a different Navy survival stroke.

Once this relay event was completed, they hurried back over to the shallow pool where they had to complete one "tug boat" lap. This is an extremely difficult and exhausting exercise if you are not conditioned for it.

This proved to be the major challenge for the teams as some of the teams dropped out of contention for first place. The winning team received a chit that allows

them to miss one PT session of their choosing next semester.

This was an extremely challenging and fun event that allowed the students to become more familiar and comfortable in the water while having fun. The Lieutenants' Challenge also taught the students that it pays to be a winner and that if you want something in life, you have to go out and earn it by being the best.

We will be conducting the event again this upcoming



semester and are looking at increasing the level of difficulty and length of the challenge.

The students are already looking forward to earning more no -PT chits, so that they can sleep in their warm beds while their shipmates are PT'ing on the cold and wet grass.

Very Respectfully,  
Lieutenants Edward May  
and Michael Jacobs



The successes, challenges, and lessons learned throughout the Fall 2012 semester leaves our company on higher plains with bright outlooks. Beginning the semester with our new student orientation, hosted at Little Rock Air Force Base, gave confidence in the abilities of a new company staff and their handling of demanding time restrictions, changes in plans, and goal accomplishment.

As the company commander, I couldn't have hand-picked a more capable and exceptional staff than the leaders who carried the torch with me, throughout this semester. They accepted their roles with grace and took charge of all areas within their scope of influence. Their hard work and dedication leaves a lasting impression



# Student Company Commander

not only on the Midshipmen who follow in their footsteps but also me. As they commission this and coming semesters, I have full trust and confidence in their ability to lead Marines and Sailors in future endeavors.

The events this semester have become memories of hard work and fruitful results. Near the beginning of the semester, in order to instill morale and bond, we held a leadership lab at Shelby Farms Park, which included sailing, water balloon fights, and a cookout. Our sea services ball, at the top of Clarke Tower in Memphis, inspired and motivated our students with tradition, food, and dancing.

A highlight of the semester is the opportunity we had to recognize our nation's heroes the Monday of Veteran's Day through a memorial run and ceremony. Whether through these experiences or the fun had as each platoon planned and carried out training evolutions or morale events such as bowling or a dinner out on the town, the members of this company have been thoroughly enriched and filled with a sense of what it means to serve our community and country.

Looking forward, the incoming Company Commander, MIDN 1/C Drapeau, and his staff have great aspirations for the spring semester. Their ide-

as and plans for the company are sure to bring positive change and a lasting legacy on this great unit. With the cooperation and support of each member of the company, success is easily within reach and the rank of Ensign or 2nd Lieutenant will be soon within your grasp.

My time as the company commander has reminded me



of how important an officer's role is in leading his/her men and women. To each member of the unit, thank you for your contributions, devotion, and enthusiasm. Without you this company would be nothing. Keep your heads up and those gold bars at the forefront of your mind. Earning a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps is worth every sacrifice asked of you here. Congratulations on a semester well done. I look forward to seeing you in the fleet!

Semper Fidelis,  
Shane M. Kennelly  
Sergeant, USMC

# Hail and Farewell



On 6 December 2012, The University of Memphis Naval ROTC Fall 2012 Hail and Farewell ceremony was one of many successful events that we host for our Midshipmen and Staff. A hail and farewell is a Navy and Marine Corps traditional event where we honor those who have are about to depart the unit and thank them for their service. At the same time we welcome those who joined our unit. This celebration builds organizational ca-

maraderie and esprit de corps.

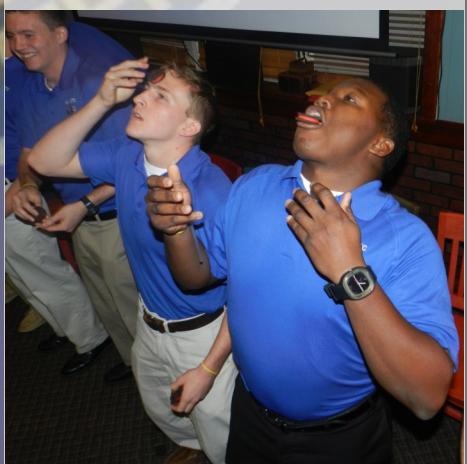
This semesters Hail and Farewell was held at Central BBQ. We started off the event with the "hailing and fare welling" Midshipmen and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Programmers. This included a number of elimination games, the last standing would win the Hail and Farewell games and earn a fifty dollar gift card; this semester's winner was Midshipman 4/C Johnson.

Following the games, it's a tradition in our unit for those departing to leave behind words of wisdom. This is also the time where the Midshipman of the Semester is announced and receives their award presented by the Marine Officer Instructor and Professor David Burchfield



(Sponsored by the Navy League Memphis and NFCU). Midshipman 3/C Grace was the recipient of this award for his overall outstanding performance for the fall 2012 semester. In closing the event was wrapped up with warm welcomes and fair winds and following seas.

Very Respectfully,  
Presley Morrissey  
MIDN 1/C, USNR



# Fall 2012 Graduates

**Ensign  
Craig R. Allen**

The University of Memphis  
Bachelor of Professional Studies  
in Organizational Leadership  
and Management  
First Assignment -  
Naval Pilot Training,  
Pensacola, Florida



"If we are not perfect, it  
should not be from a lack of  
effort."

CWO5 Mitch Allen

**Second Lieutenant  
Shane M. Kennelly**

The University of Memphis  
Bachelor of  
Business Administration  
First Assignment -  
The Basic School at  
Quantico, Virginia



"Freedom is the sure posses-  
sion of those alone who have  
the courage to defend it."

Pericles



# Alumni Interest Group

The Alumni Interest Group (AIG) is new to The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit. The AIG is looking for alumni who are interested in reconnecting with former classmates, helping to mentor current Midshipmen, financially supporting unit events, or providing their experience since receiving their commission. The AIG hopes to bring these individuals together in order to form a bond that will extend well after their years serving in the military have ended.

At the beginning of the semester the AIG began gathering contact information for all Navy and Marine Corps officers who graduated or commissioned from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. The AIG is excited to continue with the next step of connecting with all of the shipmates from the past.

An AIG kick-off event is being looked at for the upcoming spring semester, with hopes of having numerous University of Memphis Naval ROTC alumni in attendance.

For more information on the AIG, please contact Major Tracy Perry at [taperry2@memphis.edu](mailto:taperry2@memphis.edu).

Very Respectfully,  
Timothy J. Strawser  
Midshipman 1/C, USNR

**Mission:** The AIG's mission is to promote the fellowship and welfare of The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University Naval ROTC alumni and current Naval ROTC students by providing transition assistance, mentoring, financial assistance, social events to all members, and to enhance the visibility of the United States Navy and Marine Corps team and its contributions to the United States.

**Transition Assistance:** Provide a network to link members together as they leave The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University to their first assignment, move between duty stations, exit the Naval Service, transfer from the active to reserve component, seek civilian employment, or choose to relocate.

**Mentoring:** Offer professional and personal insight to members by remaining available to Midshipmen or newly commissioned officers seeking information on various career paths, serving as a non-command representative to current military members wanting guidance, or advising members on available military and civilian career opportunities.

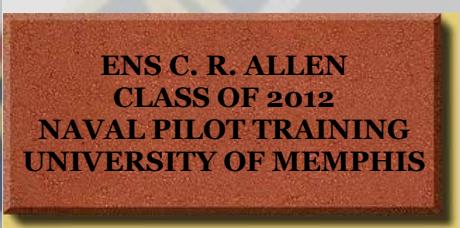
**Financial Assistance:** Generate revenue to benefit the AIG and Naval ROTC unit by contributing to scholarship funds or endowment accounts, assisting students with fundraising endeavors, attending alumni or student run fundraising events,

or sponsoring awards and scholarships.

**Social Events:** Connect with The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University Naval ROTC Alumni and current students by attending or sponsoring social events such as tailgates, football games, and reunion weekends and participating in Navy and Marine Corps traditional celebrations and events.

**Liaison:** Maintain a professional relationship with the Professor of Naval Science and the assigned support staff.

Bricks are available for all naval officers from The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University.



To make a donation, please use the "Make a Gift" link on our



# Upcoming Events

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Leadership Conference



Courageous Leadership: Bold Action in the Face of Adversity

27 January—30 January



One Team  
One Fight

Naval Leadership Weekend  
21 February—24 February



Mardi Gras Drill Meet  
8 February



5K for Freedom  
30 March



6th Annual Beale Street Drill Meet  
12 April—13 April



Alumni Weekend  
Date TBD



Spring Commissioning Ceremony—10 May  
Spring Commencement Ceremony—11 May

