



The University of Memphis

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

TIGER CRUISE NEWSLETTER

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On 24 April, 2014 the University of Memphis Naval ROTC Company BBQ took place. It was one of the many successful events we hosted for our Midshipmen and staff this semester to raise unit spirit, and congratulate the hard work well-done.

This event has become a pre-final tradition for everyone to kick-back, relax, and prepare for to study hard for the week ahead. The Company BBQ was held on the Ellipse on campus, which was a great, open spot for football, ultimate Frisbee, and a water balloon fight. Midshipman Allen made it his priority to nail as many people as possible with balloons. It wasn't surprising that, at the end of the event, he was chosen to have the rest of the pink lemonade poured on

top of him.

The event boosted our midshipmen's morale by giving us the acknowledgement that we had made it through the unit a whole year and summer break was on its way. I look forward to having another successful Company BBQ next year, and the year after. It was a great way to spend one of our last labs, and last days for the Spring 2014 semester together.

Very Respectfully,
Kristy Levin
MIDN 4/C, USNR



Professor of Naval Science



Greetings to The University of Memphis NROTC and our family and friends! With the spring and summer semesters complete, I am pleased to report that our midshipmen performed exceptionally well. I am extremely proud of officers that this organization puts out to the fleet, and I am honored to be its Commanding Officer.

In addition to the daily rigors that come with participation in the NROTC program, the past months have included several professional development opportunities for our Midshipmen. Our drill team did a fantastic job competing in the Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in February. The midshipmen also experienced a taste of Naval and Marine Corps tradition and heritage during our annual Mess Night, which we held at the end of April at the Downtown Memphis Courtyard Marriott.

The spring semester was capped with four of our best midshipmen earning their commissions. Captain Ken Auten, USN (Ret.), a former Commanding Officer of The University of Memphis NROTC, was the guest speaker and helped us welcome four ensigns into the United States Navy. Additionally, our summer semester culminated in the commissioning of one more ensigns into the Navy. This commissioning was different from other recent ceremonies in that it was

a commission into the Supply Corps; normally not a path from NROTC.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Thomas Nenon, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as our distinguished guest at the ceremony and are grateful to enjoy his continued support for the NROTC program.

I am confident that these warfighters are entering the Fleet with all the tools required to successfully lead their Sailors and Marines!

I would like to address two important issues. One, as always, is academics. Each Midshipman's academic performance plays a significant role in his or her development as a Navy or Marine Corps Officer. A strong performance will lead to more opportunities, while a poor performance can unfortunately lead to those same opportunities being lost. While we closed out our spring semester strong, earning a respectable 3.27 grade point average as a unit, there is still room for improvement. My staff and I consistently emphasize the importance of strong academics, and I urge all of our midshipmen to challenge themselves to earn an even higher GPA next semester!

The second issue I would like to address is sexual assault. As many of you are aware of, the focus on sexual assault in the armed forces has reached the national level. This heinous and inexcusable crime has unfortunately taken place within the Navy and Marine Corps. Our leadership is taking bold measures to eradicate completely this illegal activity from our organization, and we are thoroughly implementing these measures here at The University of Memphis. As of this summer, every single midshipman has received several hours of intensive training in sexual assault prevention and response. This training is just one tool that we have used at The University of Memphis NROTC to raise awareness of and take an active stance against sexual assault. My staff and I are committed to ensuring that the environment we provide is safe and professional.

As we usher in the fall semester, I urge all of our midshipmen to continue to give their best effort in all facets of their military careers. Success in our program demands the highest levels of performance academically, physically, and professionally. I am confident in the abilities of our midshipmen and am excited to continue developing each one of them into the future leaders of our nation's Navy and Marine Corps.

Bradley C. Mai
Captain, USN
Professor of Naval Science
NROTC, Mid-South Region





Another semester has quickly passed for the NROTC, Mid-South Consortium, and what a productive Spring 2014 semester it was! We commissioned graduates representing two of our universities – The University of Memphis and The University of Mississippi.

Collectively, the new officers reflected quite the diversity of academic specialties. Despite the broad swath of academic interests and beyond the successful navigation of the academic requirements to earn their degree, these Ensigns have demonstrated the physical fitness, military aptitude, dedication to duty, teamwork, and ethical decision-making required for them to earn a commission. I am confident that each of the officers we commissioned is thoroughly prepared and capable to be immediate contributors to mission success at their first assignment as a commissioned officer. As we part company and they commence the next segment of their journeys, I wish them all a fond farewell and all the best. I am proud of each of them!

Most of the remaining NROTC students will be departing for summer training with Naval and Marine Corps units throughout the United States and at sea. The training is so very valuable to their development as the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps. I

Executive Officer's Corner

urge the midshipmen to make the most of the opportunities presented to them during summer training; each of them should “become a sponge” – absorb every bit of knowledge and experience that they possibly can.

Some of our staff also will be away on temporary duty assignment – serving as the training and coordination staffs for midshipmen on summer training from NROTC Units around the country. Major Perry in San Diego, CA; Capt Ruvalcaba, GySgt Wilcox, and SSgt Shaw in Quantico, VA.

As is typical in military service, most assignments are on the order of two-three years in duration. As such, NROTC Mid-South is losing some outstanding active duty instructors and gaining some new ones. I wish these officers good luck in their follow-on assignments.

Finally, as I turn over the duties of Executive Officer with Commander Lozano, I am confident that this NROTC unit is better and stronger as I depart on yet another journey. I will miss the impact we have had on the future leaders of our Navy and Marine Corps team. Good luck in the Fall 2014 semester.

I close with just a few simple words: “Performance matters—make smart decisions!”

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





Marine Officer Instructor

score, and continue to develop your leadership style.

I encourage all of you to read "*The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*" by John C. Maxwell. He uses the 21 laws to shape leadership; he builds on the fundamental aspects that make leaders great and by adding additional laws you will increase your effectiveness to influence/lead others.

I challenge the Midshipmen and MECEPs to continue building on what we have achieved during the spring 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.

I look forward to the new challenges during the upcoming fall semester.

Semper Fidelis!

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

I am extremely proud of our Naval ROTC unit and your accomplishments during the spring semester. The Midshipmen, and MECEPs of The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University are determined and committed to achieving their ultimate goal—a commission in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps.

Over the course of this semester, I have continuously 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 remained above the university average; physical readiness/physical fitness test scores trended upward. Through guided leadership discussions and professional reading our Midshipmen are gaining valuable insight into what is expected of future Naval leaders. Focus on the future and strive for greatness: 4.0 GPA, Perfect PRT/PFT





Hello parents, friends, and Midshipmen of NROTC Mid-South Region, The University of Memphis. I am eager to tell you about all of the exciting things that we have accomplished this semester, but first let me quickly introduce myself.

I am from Camarillo, California and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2008. I am a graduate of the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC, the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT and the Navy Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (Prototype) in Saratoga Springs, NY. Upon graduating from prototype in April 2010, I reported aboard USS ALABAMA (SSBN-731), a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine stationed in Bangor, Washington. I proudly served as the Main Propulsion Assistant, Damage Control Assistant, Tactical Systems Officer, and Assistant Engineer. In 2012 I was certified by Naval Reactors as a Nuclear Engineer Officer.

I have been here for approximately six months and each day I'm more impressed by our outstanding Midshipmen. The past semester and summer were packed with valuable experiences; the Midshipmen have done some fantastic things both here at the unit and out in the fleet.

This past summer, several of our midshipmen were able to experience a firsthand look at what life in the

1/C and 2/C Advisor

fleet is like. Some of these experiences included cruises on nuclear-powered fast attack submarines out of Pearl Harbor, HI and Norfolk, VA, a surface cruise on a missile-guided frigate out of Mayport, FL, a surface cruise on a guided missile destroyer out of Norfolk, VA, an aviation cruise with an F/A-18 squadron out of Lemoore, CA, CORTRAMID operations on both the West and East coasts, the Mountain Warfare Training Course in Bridgeport, CA, and Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. The Midshipmen who were able to attend these summer cruise training programs received valuable fleet experience that will directly correlate to them becoming more well-rounded officers. I encourage our Midshipmen to pursue their summer cruises with an open mind and a positive attitude, as each one of them is a direct representative of the next generation of Navy and Marine Corps Officers.

While a summer cruise is an extremely valuable training tool for a Midshipman's development as an officer, it is not the only important aspect of this program. A Midshipman's academic performance should be his or her highest priority; a good academic record can open doors while a poor academic record will shut them. During the spring 2013 semester, my current seniors (1st Class Midshipmen) earned an average GPA of a 3.17. I continue to stress the importance of academics to our Midshipmen and I'm confident that they will give a great effort academically this semester. The better a Midshipman's grades are, the more opportunities they will have available for them as officers in the Navy.

I also have the privilege of being in charge of service assignments for the Midshipmen when they become seniors. This is where I submit their paperwork for them to become a Submarine Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Naval Aviator, Naval Flight

Officer, or Navy Nurse Officer. I am pleased to report that all eight of this year's commissioned seniors received their first choice Navy service assignment. This again leads back to academics, as it is a significant part of the calculus that is used to determine what service assignment a Midshipman will be given. Put simply enough, the better the Midshipman performs, the higher the chance that he or she will receive their first choice in service assignment!

As we approach the fall semester, I urge all of our Midshipmen to continue to do their best in all aspects of this NROTC program. Remember, you will soon be the warfighting leaders of the strongest and most technologically-advanced Navy the world has ever seen. This requires excellence in academics, military performance, and physical fitness: traits that I am confident each Midshipman is capable of. I look forward to leading each of you to the fleet!

Christopher D. Whitley
Lieutenant, USN
1C & 2/C Advisor
NROTC, The University of Memphis

3/C and 4/C Advisor



Hello to family, students, and friends of University of Memphis NROTC! We have had an exciting spring and summer full of training and look forward to another year of personal growth, professional development, and challenges accomplished.

I want to start off first by congratulating our two side-load scholarship recipients from this past cycle. The hard work and dedication exhibited by these midshipmen paid off and both these outstanding young men are on track for a commission in the United States Navy within the next few years. I am excited about submitting as many freshmen and sophomores as possible next year for scholarships and wish them all the best of luck during this upcoming and challenging academic school year.

I am pleased to welcome the latest group of freshmen (Fourth Class Midshipmen) to our

unit. They bring with them a new energy to the company and are eager to learn, follow, and eventually lead. For many of them, the introduction to the military was just recently during Freshmen Orientation. This consisted of an intensive week long indoctrination process where these young men and women were exposed to many of the foundational attributes of our program. Though they were pushed both physically and mentally, they also participated in various exciting activities such as survival swimming, military drill, firearm familiarization, and the proper wearing of a standard military uniform.

There will be challenges ahead as each one of our freshmen strives to succeed in the demanding environment fostered at NROTC. The concepts of time management, responsibility, accountability, and self-sacrifice have been emphasized and it will be interesting to see how they adapt both individually and as a group. As they continue in our program, they will also have ample opportunity to display their leadership abilities and leave their mark upon future classes at University of Memphis.

The mark of a successful military unit is the shared cohesion from top to bottom of the chain of command. Golf Company continues to grow and excel despite the consistent turnover by our student leadership and the large influx of freshmen students. This constant state of flux will reinforce their leadership skills as they prepare for increasingly dynamic situations and environments once they reach the Fleet. I

have been extremely impressed with the seamless transition that lower ranking freshmen demonstrate as they fill more demanding leadership roles left behind by rising seniors eager to step in and fill the company leadership void left by our newly commissioned officers.

In addition to being the 3rd/4th class advisor, I am also the recruiting officer and have met with many interested students, families, and various members of the Memphis community over the last several months. I appreciate their interest and look forward to receiving these prospective students on Navy or Marine Corp Scholarship or as a College Programmer challenging themselves to select for a scholarship in the near future.

In conclusion, I look forward to another successful and fulfilling academic year and am proud to be part of the professional development of our future leaders and warfighters.

Michael P. Mayeux
Lieutenant, USN
3/C & 4/C Advisor
NROTC, The University of Memphis

Assistant Marine Officer Instructor



My second year as the Assistant Marine Officer Instruction for the University of Memphis Naval ROTC has been nothing but impressive. The standards continue to increase and the midshipmen are extremely motivated, dedicated and professional. As a unit we strive to build excellence within the unit and produce the best commissioned officers to the fleet.

Leaders do not command excellence they build excellence. Excellence is being all you can be within the bounds of doing the right thing. To reach excellence you must first be a leader of good character. You must do everything you are supposed to do. Pursuing excellence should not be confused with accomplishing a job or task. Excellence starts with leaders of good and strong character who engage in the entire process of leadership. And the first process is being a person of honorable character. Character develops over time. A person's

observable behavior is an indication of their character. This behavior can be strong or weak, good or bad. A person with strong character shows drive, energy, determination, self-discipline, willpower, and nerve. To be an effective leader, your followers must have trust in you and they need to be sold on your vision. One of the ways to build trust is to display a good sense of character composed of beliefs, values, skills, and traits

Beliefs are what we hold dear to us and are rooted deeply within us. They could be assumptions or convictions that you hold true regarding people, concepts, or things. They could be the beliefs about life, death, religion, what is good, what is bad, what is human nature, etc.

Values are attitudes about the worth of people, concepts, or things. For example, you might value a good car, home, friendship, personal comfort, or relatives. Values are important as they influence a person's behavior to weigh the importance of alternatives. For example, you might value friends more than privacy, while others might be the opposite.

Skills are the knowledge and abilities that a person gains throughout life. The ability to learn a new skill varies with each individual. Some skills come almost naturally, while others come only by complete devotion to study and practice.

Traits are distinguishing qualities or characteristics of a person,

while character is the sum total of these traits. There are hundreds of personality traits, far too many to be discussed here. Instead, we will focus on a few that are crucial for a leader. The more of these you display as a leader, the more your followers will believe and trust in you.

As we prepare for the fall semester we must continue to strive for excellence. We also must influence the new students incoming students and show them how they are suppose to conduct themselves as future leaders.

Quinton A. Shaw
Staff Sergeant, USMC
Assistant Marine Officer Instructor
NROTC, The University of Memphis



Student Company Commander



I would first like to say job well done for completing another semester for all of the current students. It can be difficult some times to manage NROTC and a class load at certain times during a semester. This semester everyone has done a great job. As a unit this semester we have had to deal with a lot of last minute changes due to weather and financial reasons. Everyone in different ways has been able to keep a positive attitude and persevere. As an example we were unable to do two of our biggest events this year but we were able to gain knowledge and resources on how to make them a success next year. A great amount of hard work and planning went into these events but unfortunately we weren't able to host them. However, we were able to gather key knowledge and

resources on how to make them more successful in the future. I feel like this is an important attribute to have to be successful in this program by not being discouraged by your failures or short comings. It is important to keep an open mind and continue to move forward. There is always something you can learn from any type of situation so it is important you take advantage of it.

I strongly believe everything happens for a reason and I truly had to learn this the hard way. Through the course of this semester I was given a second chance in trying to be accepted into the submarine community. Receiving a second chance is extremely rare especially from a 4 star admiral. Unfortunately I was unable to be accepted even though I felt so much more prepared and confident the second time around. Luckily I was given the chance of a lifetime to be stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the newest Destroyer in the Navy. I never imagined being in this type of situation or holding the position as Company Commander. When I entered this program my main goals were to always improve in anything I tried and work the hardest. I feel like these two things helped me achieve my goals and successes. I really be-

lieve in shoot for the stars because you never know where you will end up. As my time as Company Commander it has been truly rewarding to influence and see different people grow as a person and as a leader. I am confident that they unit will only continue to grow as each semester progresses because of how many outstanding individuals are in the unit. I wish everyone the best of luck and I hope to see you in the fleet.

Very Respectfully,

James Zaken
MIDN 1/C, USNR



Find us on Facebook

Mardi Gras Drill Meet



On the 27th of February 2014, 21 of the University of Memphis' Naval ROTC Midshipman loaded up on a charter bus to head to New Orleans to compete in the Beale Street Drill Meet at Tulane University. The competition was held the following day beginning with the Color Guard competition at 8 a.m. 4 midshipmen competed while the rest of the team cheered them on from the sidelines. Following the color guard competition was squad drill which consisted of seven total midshipmen and leaded by MIDN 2/C Wendel. Next was the platoon inspection portion of the drill competition which was led by MIDN 4/C King. Each of the midshipmen were asked a series of knowledge

questions as well as judged on the appearance of their uniforms. The last drill event of the day was platoon basic drill which was also led by MIDN 4/C King. Platoon drill consists of basic stationary and marching movements which are judged based on precision, togetherness and timing. The last event of the day was the awards ceremony. Although Memphis did not place high enough in any

category to receive a trophy, they did score high enough to be ranked 5th in platoon basic drill and 7th in squad drill. Out of a total 21 schools present at the drill meet, this was an impressive feat. After a long day of drill, the midshipmen were given the opportunity to venture out into New Orleans for a night of fun at Mardi Gras. The next morning was soon to come as the bus left bright and early to head back to Memphis. Although empty handed, the University of Memphis' Drill team had much to be proud of for their performance at the Tulane Drill meet.

Very Respectfully,

Kimberly King
MIDN 4/C, USNR



Commander's Cup Softball

On Friday, April 18th, the University of Memphis Reserve Officer Training units gathered once more to compete for the Commanders Cup. The day's event was none other than softball. Our pitchers for the day were MIDN 4/C Lootens and Sergeant Melton substituting while he was at bat. The NROTC unit started its first game against the Air Force unit. Air Force started the game off very strong hitting balls in the right spots of the outfield, but Navy was scrapping and making plays where they could. At the end of the 5th inning Navy was run ruled by the Air Force unit, but they did not go silently and

had scored a run. For Navy it was as though the Air Force game was a warm up, since it was the team's first time playing together. In the second game against Army, after switching the lineup and positions around, the midshipmen and Sergeant found their stride and got synchronized. In this game Navy were the first ones to draw blood and take the lead. This game went at a slower pace than the Air Force game and runs were a lot harder to come by for both teams. The game really heated up going into the bottom of the 6th with Navy up 4-3 against Army. Army hit a rally during this inning and was able to bring in 2

runners making the score Army 5 Navy 4. With their last at bat and the game on the line Navy went into the 7th inning with a fierce attitude and with two outs had two runners in scoring position, but came just shy of bringing one in. Those who were big play makers during the two games were MIDN 4/C Lootens, MIDN 3/C Brewster, MIDN 3/C Johnson, Sergeant Melton, and MIDN 2/C Grace.

Very Respectfully,

Matthew Johnson
MIDN 3/C, USNR

Midshipman of the Semester



Midshipman 2/C Michael Parker

Hometown: Arlington, TN

Major : Management Information Systems

GPA: 3.26

PRT: 275

Desired Service Assignment: SWO

ENS Michael J. Schmitz's Commissioning

Tuesday, 28 January 2014, was the day that ENS Schmitz has been looking forward to for four and a half years, commissioning day. Commissioning is a ceremony when congress appoints the individual as an officer in the United States military, provided that they swear an oath to defend the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. In order to commission, a midshipmen in the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) must meet all requirements: complete naval science courses, pass physical fitness standards, prove him/herself leadership capabilities, and receive a Bachelor's degree. ENS Schmitz completed all those requirements and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering in December 2013.

To begin the Ceremony CAPT Brad Mai, the NROTC Mid-South Region Commanding Officer, gave his opening remarks to the

midshipmen about the importance of seeing one of your peers commission as a naval officer. During the ceremony, ENS Schmitz's father, CDR Jeffrey A. Schmitz (Ret.), gave him the oath of office. Then CDR Schmitz pinned on the Ensign shoulder board ranks and placed the officer cover on his son. Midshipman 1/C Jimmy Zaken presented ENS Schmitz with the folded American flag, and ENS Schmitz gave his first salute to SSgt Quinton Shaw, the University of Memphis Assistant Marine Officer Instructor. Maj Tracy Perry presented ENS Schmitz with the University of Memphis NROTC "fair winds and following seas" plaque. ENS Schmitz gave a few words of his own at the end of the ceremony. He was honored to work with the midshipmen and staff and was thankful for the training he received. He also said that even though he has accomplished his goal, it is only the beginning of a

great journey ahead. ENS Schmitz will report to Nuclear Power School in April 2014 where he will begin his training to become an officer in the submarine community. All the staff and midshipmen of the University of Memphis NROTC unit wish ENS Schmitz the best of luck and we will see you out in the fleet.

Very Respectfully,

Samuel Gargis
MIDN 3/C, USNR

2014 Leadership Conference

At 0630 on the 26th of January, Midshipmen Bretschneider and Grace set off with Lieutenant Whitley and Ensign Herron for the annual leadership conference hosted by the US Naval Academy. After many hours in a car, they arrived in Annapolis, Maryland. The next morning, the Midshipmen were shuttled from their hotel to the campus where they met over 200 fellow Midshipmen and other young adults looking to improve their ability to be leaders in their communities. First to welcome the attendees was Vice

Admiral Miller, Superintendent of the US Naval Academy, who briefly spoke about this year's theme, "Followership: The Evolution of a Leader."

For the next three days, the aspiring leaders listened to keynote speakers including Joel Kaplan, Vice President for U.S. Public Policy, Facebook, Lieutenant General John Sattler, former Director of Strategic Plans and Policy the Joint Staff, Sergeant Major Carlton Kent 16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Commander Christopher Cassidy,

NASA astronaut and Navy SEAL, General John Allen, former Commander of the International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan and United States Force, and former Vice President Dick Cheney. Moreover, three panels composed four to five distinguished individuals discussed different aspects of leadership through followership over the three days. Shortly after these panels, the attendees formed small groups to further examine the points made by the panelists.

The opportunity to hear from such accomplished leaders and learn from their experiences has undoubtedly been a great benefit to all those who attended.

The participants also gained great connections during the time allotted for them to make acquaintances with each other and

the Midshipmen guides provided by the Academy for each school represented at the symposium. The lessons and connections taken from the conference will undoubtedly help aid the leaders of the future to lead with a sense of followership.

Very Respectfully,
Parker Grace
MIDN 2/C, USMCR

Navy vs. Air Force Basketball

On 21MAR14, the University of Memphis's Navy ROTC program took on the Air Force's ROTC program in a basketball game for the Commander's Cup, an annual sports competition between the ROTC programs across the campus. The Navy arrived to the Recreation Center on campus to a bleacher full of Air Force Cadets and officers, but that didn't deter Navy's focus a bit. Sergeant Melton, Midshipman 1/c Evans, Midshipman 1/c Menzel, and Midshipman 3/c Parker lead warm up layup lines on the opposite side of the gym. All were scoping out the Air Force and trying to predict what would come. They knew that the Air Force's team had a few athletes, so mistakes on the court had to be minimal. The starting 5 midshipmen tipped off for the ball. It went to Air Force, and the game was underway. The game was pretty evenly matched at first, but then, Navy's confidence started to dwindle as time went on. The midshipmen could not yet stop the fight though the game was not even half over. "Timeout," called Navy's team captain Midshipman 1/c Evans,

"We need to huddle up." Plans were made to move Midshipman Jones down low to get rebounds, because that was determined as the primary cause of the point deficit. Both bleachers were cheering on their fellow Cadets and Midshipmen. The entire thing was a morale booster for both branches. Time went on, and the Air Force came out on top with a comfortable lead and a win. Both teams lined up for a congratulatory "Good Game" high five line. Both teams shook hands with the referees, and thanked them as well. Navy huddled again after the loss, but this time with the officers on attendance. The officers gave their words of advice, encouragement, and so did the Air Force's officers. Even though competition in the Commander's Cup can be felt as one sees the midshipmen and cadets play, they all exist as one. One fight. One nation. One purpose. One goal. They all serve the same great nation, and that is what they must never forget for as long as they serve in their respective branches. Events such as this serve to boost up moral and promote the idea of

inter-service relations between the 3 ROTC branches across the campus. This is one of the many other events that ROTC students participate in, aid in their training here on campus. The purpose is to mold them into the finest officer material possible, using concepts of teamwork, unity, inter-service relations, and commitment.

Very Respectfully,
Eric Jones
MIDN 4/C, USNR

Navy V. Army Basketball Game

In preparation for the upcoming basketball season for the Commanders Cup, the Navy midshipmen of the University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) had been practicing hard during their normal physical training sessions on Friday mornings. At first, it was a feeling out process. It was a new team. Also, the Navy midshipmen lacked number and height. The Navy midshipmen had only a few players on the team over six foot tall. The midshipmen also had to learn how to play together, although that was never really a big issue. On the other hand, this group of midshipmen had never played together in an organized game. It took a few weeks and the midshipmen eventually found the formula for success after scrimmaging and practicing during the physical training sessions when they practiced.

Eventually, it came time to test their skills. They Navy midshipmen were ready to take on the Army cadets from the University of Memphis Army ROTC unit. Coming into the game, the Navy midshipmen knew the Army was a tough opponent. Winning would not be a walk in the park, but the Navy midshipmen were ready for their first game of the season. Eventually, Friday rolled around and it grew closer to game-time. The midshipmen met at the Rec-

reation Center on campus and began to warm-up. As it grew closer to gam-time, everyone grew nervous or excited. It was game-time as the horn sounded and the teams gathered at their respective benches or one last instruction before the game. As the game started, the midshipmen pulled ahead with some quick transition offense and tough defense. From the looks of it, it seemed like the Navy midshipmen had been playing together for a good amount of



time. The Army cadets would not give up easily though. The Army cadets eventually made a comeback after being down and pulled out in-front. The Navy midshipmen began to have some troubles with communication and assignments. They made turnovers and let the Army cadets get easy points off the Navy's mental and physical lapses. The Navy midshipmen would not accept defeat. The Navy midshipmen made a comeback of their own after being down by a margin of ten points late in the game. It was evident

that both teams wanted to win the game. At one point late in the game, the Navy Midshipmen had four of the five players on the court diving and fighting on the ground for a loose ball. The game went into overtime, where both teams remained even. It was much of the same thing as it was late in the game. Although, players from both teams were tired and shots were not going in the hoop as much as either side would have liked. As a result, the game went into a second overtime. The Navy midshipmen finally found what they were looking for: momentum. With a few calls that swung their way and offensive/defensive opportunities, the Navy midshipmen began to roll. The Army fought hard, but were not able to finish the game. The Navy midshipmen won by four

points in double overtime. It was a tough task given the intensity and hustle of the Navy midshipmen. Both teams wanted to win this game, but it was a matter of who wanted it more. This fact was evident given the score at the end of the game and the amount of time the game required in order to determine the winner.

Very Respectfully,
Samuel Lootens
MIDN 4/C, USNR

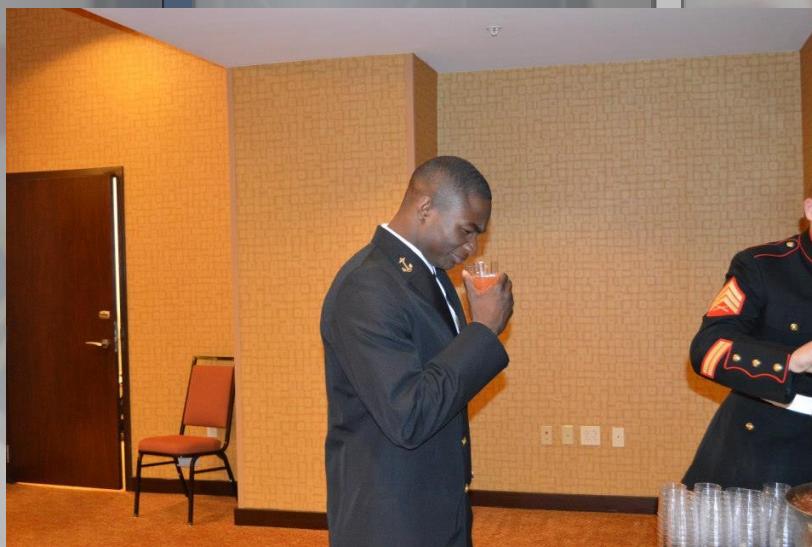
Mess Night



The University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit held its annual Mess Night on the 11 of April 2014. The night was full of laughter and tradition as the unit and ROTC staff enjoyed the wonderful meal that was prepared for us.

Before entering the mess, many freshmen were nervous about being sent to the grog, whereas the upperclassmen saw this as an opportunity to get back at other Midshipmen who messed up throughout the year. After everyone had entered the mess and the initial ceremony had been completed, the floor was opened to fines. Once the floor was opened to fines, the Midshipmen began to stand up and accuse others of "heinous" crimes that were committed throughout the year. One of the fines that was brought to the mess was the "crime" that

Midshipman Jones committed by setting off the fire alarm in the unit from cooking popcorn. After the case was presented to the President of the Mess, Midshipman Jones was sent to the grog. Some Midshipmen were bold



enough to plant evidence such as a cell phone under other Midshipmen's chair, so that they would be called out for it.

After the great meal and fines were completed, skits by

each platoon and squad were brought to the floor for entertainment. The 1st platoon skit was led by Midshipman Jones who impersonated every officer in the unit that talks to our school circle, along with other midshipmen and

Platoon staff. The 2nd platoon skit replayed the normal morning of receiving a count for 2nd platoon. The night was finished off with toasts and history about the Navy and Marine Corps. Overall, everyone enjoyed themselves a lot, and gave our unit a great boost in morale.

Very Respectfully,
Michael Parker
MIDN 3/C, USNR

Spring 2014 Commissionees



Ensign
John Francis S. Flores

The University of Memphis
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

First Assignment
Nuclear Power School
Goose Creek, South Carolina

"Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

-Vince Lombardi



Ensign
Meagan Christina Abad Menzel

University of Memphis
B.S. in Nursing

First Assignment:
Naval Hospital
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

"If I could give you information of my life it would be to show how a woman of very ordinary ability has been led by God in strange and unaccustomed paths to do in His service what He has done in her. And if I could tell you all, you would see how

God has done all, and I nothing. I have worked hard, very hard, that is all; and I have never refused God anything."

- Florence Nightingale

Spring 2014 Commissionees



Ensign
Kevyn T. Evans

University of Memphis
B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

First Assignment:
MCM Devastator
Manama, Bahrain

"I've failed over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."

Michael Jordan



Ensign
James R. Zaken

The University of Memphis
B.S. in Mathematics

First Assignment:
USS Michael Murphy
Pearl, Hawaii

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

Hail and Farewell

On 29 April 2014, The midshipman and staff of the University of Memphis Naval ROTC gathered at Central BBQ to honor those departing from the unit and celebrate the new coming members through Hail and Farewell. This celebration builds unit morale and brings the unit together for a fun night of laughs and games. The incoming and outgoing midshipman competed in multiple games of elimination. As a result of being eliminated, the midshipman would have to endure a spoonful of nasty baby food, all caught on video. The games included finding jelly beans inside piles of cool whip, marshmallow mouth stuffing, hula hoop con-

tests, and other lively events. Midshipman Allen eventually danced his way to victory and



was rewarded with a fifty dollar gift certificate. Following the games, the outgoing midshipmen were given an opportunity to speak about their time in the unit

and provide words of wisdom to the novice members of the unit. Midshipmen Parker, Brewster, Johns, Lootens, Gray, and Zaken were later recognized for outside awards. Midshipman Zaken was voted the honor graduate for the spring 2014 commissioning class and was awarded a sword. The midshipmen and staff ended the night with safe partings and high morale to last the summer.

Very Respectfully,

Amber Zink
MIDN 4/C, USNR

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Tri-Service Awards



On 15 April 2014 the University of Memphis Reserve Officer Training Corps branches held the Tri-Service Awards Ceremony in the Rose Theatre. The awards ceremony started off with the arrival of the official party for this event, which included the Naval ROTC Commanding Officer, Captain Bradley Mai, USN; the Army ROTC Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Steve Sigloch, US Army; and the Air Force ROTC Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Marc London, USAF. Once the official party had arrived the awards were given out. Midshipmen and Cadets were recognized for their outstanding leadership and academic achievements. Each organization presented an award to a student in each service. Over 40 awards were allocated amongst the branches. Once

all the awards were distributed Lieutenant Colonel Steve Sigloch spoke to the midshipmen and cadets. He started off by congratulating the awardees, and he then moved on to speak to the group in regards to how we as members of

the ROTC programs at the University of Memphis share a common goal, which is to commission in the United States Military. He then discussed how only one percent of the American population is elected to join the armed services, and we are preparing to become officers in the community in which we are a part of that one percent. Once he finished giving his remarks to his audience the official party departed. The midshipmen and cadets were then dismissed to the lobby to enjoy cake, punch, and each other's company.

Very Respectfully,

James Coronado
MIDN 4/C, USNR



Mid-South Mud Run

The last stand of the three hundred Spartans at Thermopylae, Neil Armstrong's first "small step for man" on the moon, The Jamaican bobsled team and finally the Mud Run. All examples and testaments to mankind's self-determination and constant hunger to become something greater. The Mud Run that fateful weekend was held in Millington, Tennessee and gathered crowds of all backgrounds, races and denominations. There were people in kilts, some were wearing mudflaps, some wore almost nothing at all, the experienced however had their shoes ducttaped to their legs. On the foggy starting line of the battlefield that morning as the ambient music of the DJ permeated the battlefield the race began as waves of warriors in outrageous

outfits went forth unto their destiny. Through the next five kilometers of were strewn various obstacles and tests of the human spirit. The first obstacle was crossing fifty yards of a freezing cold river by rope. The mud at the bottom swallowed your legs and those

the strength enough to overcome these spirit-dampening obstacles were greeted at the finish line with the sweet melody of the Navy band playing, tables of food, and people taking pictures of the warriors as they crossed the final obstacle, the Chiefs. There were

Navy sailors everywhere and the Chiefs were in charge of the event since all proceeds went to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. After washing off at the fire

truck and the awards ceremony the warriors left to tend to their wounds and attempt to wash off the rest of the mud.

Very Respectfully,

Tyler Johns
MIDN 4/C, USNR



not strong enough were dragged down to their inevitable doom. After more running through the hills and woods there were eight foot deep pits of mud to climb in and out of, one hundred foot tall vertical hills to climb, pits of mud and gravel to crawl that cut every part of your body, and gigantic tractor tires that required teamwork to clamber over. Those with

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Society of the War of 1812
Society of American Engineers
Sons of the American Revolution
The University of Memphis
USAA
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Putt Putt Motivational Lab

The Thursday motivational lab was one that will definitely go down in the books as one of the most entertaining. The lab began, as with most motivational events, with a meal. However, the wind roared and the piles of paper plates plummeted to the ground. The chicken, beans, and barbecue were delicious and the roaring of laughter as midshipmen attempted to pick up the plates created the atmosphere only friends could understand.

While Lieutenant Whitley, Sergeant Melton, and Midshipmen Lootens, and Grace were in the batting cages swinging away to stories about the high school glory days, Staff Sergeant Shaw and the rest of the midshipmen were drifting and colliding in the go carts. Meanwhile Midn Phillips, Flores, Jones, and Barnes were getting completely drenched on the bumper boats.

Later, Midshipman Ryan won the jackpot on the Wheel of Fortune arcade game. 10 minutes passed and tickets were still slowly creating a pile higher and higher. Because Ryan felt lucky he decided to test his skills against the game of Deal or No Deal. Would you believe it...he won on that as well! As the time was coming to a close Midshipman Zink, and Midshipman Johns joined their tickets with Midshipman Ryan to obtain the prizes all children seek. Finally, having gained attention from other midshipmen, Flores, Lootens, and several others joined the ticket counter and received a small piece of Candy or treat from Zink, Johns and Ryan.

Even though very few midshipmen played the Putt Putt,



every single individual left with a smile on their face and an increase of moral.

Very Respectfully,

Jake Ryan
MIDN 2/C, USMCR



2013-2014 Commander's Cup Field Meet

In April 2014 the annual Commander's Cup Field Meet was held on the Memorial Field between the University of Memphis' Army, Naval and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units. The Field meet is one of three portions of the Commander's Cup, which also includes a basketball and football tournament. The morning's activities began promptly at 0600 with formation of the three services followed by the first event, a 4x400 meter relay.

In the relay, each team consisted of four members who would each sprint 400 meters and to the next teammate. The Navy team began with Navy holding the lead in front of Army and Air Force for the duration of the run. Navy held strong for the first part of the race but Air

Force and Army slowly began closing the gap. Navy's final two runners sprinted with all they had, but were still overtaken, granting Air Force its first victory of the field meet with Army in second.

The Navy swimming team consisting of 4 midshipmen was to complete a 400-meter timed race as quickly as possible. The Navy swim team held a strong lead throughout the beginning of the race as Army and Air Force struggled to maintain a close distance. As the race proceeded, Army edged closer and closer, eventually catching up to Navy's final

swimmer. As both Army and Navy's final swimmers pushed out in their last lap, Army had managed to just push past Navy and take first place in the swim portion

The next event of the morning was the tug of war championship. As the two teams took their places along the rope, midshipmen and cadets gathered around to cheer on the teams. With their



ability to get on their feet quickly, Navy took their first victory against Army. Navy was then able to claim a victory against Air Force as well. As Army and Air Force battled for second place, the Navy tug team watched and cheered on as they happily rested in first for the evolution.

The final event was the dodge ball tournament on the Field House Basketball court. Competition was fierce for this event and after the first match where Navy had taken an early victory against Army. The following game between Army and Air force was

also intense, as an Army victory would at least score a tie for Navy. In the final match, the tie breaking game between Navy and Air Force became so heated even Army cadets began chanting, "Lets go Navy!" The game ended in a win against Air Force leaving the event as a victory for Navy.

In total Air Force still had the most victories long before the field meet and had won the most

events, giving them the overall victory of the Commander's Cup. Despite the lack of victory in the Field Meet, Navy will be ready with a new group of motivated freshman in the coming semester to claim the Commander's Cup once again.

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

Very Respectfully,

Dylan Stahlhuth
MIDN 2/C, USNR

Super Squad Competition



All four squads mustered behind the unit for the super squad drill meet. All of the squad leads were nervous despite how hard they tried to conceal it. The squad from another platoon had gone. It was obvious that this squad had not practiced. The other squads had higher expectations from them because the service they represent has a reputation for being the best at drill. Third squad went afterward. The squad leader was loud, and had a strong command presence. He led his squad confidently. The squad leader unfortunately made a mistake while calling commands and his squad scattered; some of them followed his command, while others did the correct command. They immediately aligned themselves afterwards, and completed the rest of the drill meet. The first squad aligned on the drill field. The squad leader failed to report into the drill instructor, and points were deducted instantaneously. He did not have a strong command presence, and his squad also made several mistakes. The

second squad leader positioned herself across the field, and her squad fell into their respective places. She said her commands loudly, clearly, and confidently. Her command presence surprised everyone because she has a quiet and shy demeanor. As she called her commands, she made a mistake. Although she had called the wrong command, her squad obediently carried out her command. Despite her simple, yet detri-

mental mistake, the squad finished strong.

The super squad field meet consisted of several events that every squad was competing to win. The first event was a 400 yard sprint around the track. Because a few of the runners did not pace themselves in the beginning, they did not have the energy to have a strong finish. The second event was a push-up competition, followed by a sit-up competition. There was also a football throw competition to see who could throw the football the farthest. The final competition was a strenuous ammo can lifting. Two members from each squad have to complete a combined total of 100 ammo can lifts.

Very Respectfully,
Isabella Gray
MIDN 3/C, USNR



Ship Selection



Ensign Zaken and Ensign Evans got to partake in Ship Selection earlier in the semester. This process has become a right of passage for Midshipmen that are facing their commissioning. Ensign Zaken selected the USS Michael Murphy. The ship is stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Ensign Evans selected the MCM Devastator which is stationed in Manama, Bahrain. They both have bright futures ahead of them as Naval Surface Warfare Officers. Fair winds and following seas!

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.

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.

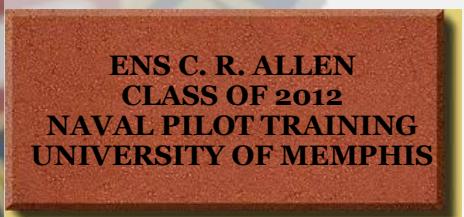
Financial Assistance: Generate revenue to benefit the AIG and Naval ROTC unit by contributing to scholarship funds or endowment accounts, assisting students with fundraising endeavors, attending alumni or student run fundraising events, or sponsoring awards and scholarships.

Social Events: Connect with The University of Memphis and Christian Brothers Univer-

sity 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 website or click the image.



Upcoming Events

Ridiculous Obstacle Challenge	Nashville, TN	21 Sep
Wine Under Wings	Memphis, TN	3 Oct
Wisconsin Fall Invitational	Madison, WI	4-5 Oct
Air Force vs. Navy Football	Memphis, TN	TBD
Sea Services Ball	Memphis, TN	18 Oct
LCpl Creager 5K	Millington, TN	9 Nov
Army vs. Navy Football	Memphis, TN	TBD
MOI Endurance Challenge	Memphis, TN	15 Nov
3 Mile Conditioning Hike (Marines)	Shelby Farms	TBD
3 Mile Conditioning Hike (Navy)	Shelby Farms	TBD
Fall Commissioning Ceremony	Memphis, TN	13 Dec

