



# Tiger Cruise Newsletter

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Spring 2010

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## 3rd Annual Beale Street Drill Meet and Endurance Challenge



**The University of Memphis, Naval ROTC Drill Team prepares to take the drill field at the Beale Street Drill Meet.**

On the 27th of March 2010, The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit hosted the 3rd Annual Beale Street Drill Meet. There was a lot of hard work and preparation put into this meet by the University of Memphis students and staff. Judges and graders for the meet were provided by Sailors from Naval Support Activity, Millington and by Marines from Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 23d Marines. The schools that participated this year included South Carolina University, Purdue University, Savannah State University, University of Mississippi, Iowa State University, North Georgia College and State University, and the University of Memphis. The events in-

cluded an endurance challenge, platoon basic drill, squad basic drill, color guard, platoon exhibition drill, squad exhibition drill, two man exhibition drill, and individual exhibition drill.

The endurance challenge put four-person teams through a very challenging course that had over five and a half miles of running, including running with 25-pound sandbags, logs, and 50-pound packs; a buddy carry maneuver course; ammo can maneuver course, 200 pull-ups, and a keep-in-memory game. It was an extremely close finish this year between Memphis and Iowa State with Memphis coming out on top by just 24 seconds. The

team from Ole Miss finished third.

It was certainly a great day for drill as all of the schools had a good time competing in the event. All of the teams put many hours of hard work and practice for this competition and it was evident by the performances. A special thanks to all those who worked hard in the preparation for this drill meet and to all of the schools for participating in our event. There is much anticipation for next year's drill meet that will take place April 2, 2011.



**MIDN Beazley, Strawser, Lyons, and Newman competed for the University of Memphis at the Endurance Challenge and took 1st Place.**

## Results

	FIRST	SECOND	THRID
ENDURANCE CHALLENGE	Memphis	Iowa State	Ole Miss
PLATOON BASIC	Iowa State	Memphis	North Georgia
SQUAD BASIC	North Georgia	Memphis	Ole Miss
COLOR GUARD	North Georgia	South Carolina	Memphis
PLATOON EXHIBITION	North Georgia	N/A	N/A
SQUAD EXHIBITION	North Georgia	South Carolina	Memphis
1-MAN EXHIBITION	North Georgia 1	Memphis	North Georgia 2
2-MAN EXHIBITION	North Georgia 2	South Carolina	North Georgia 1
OVERALL	North Georgia	Memphis	South Carolina





# Professor of Naval Science

As we are winding up our 2009-10 school year, I am happy to have this opportunity to provide my observations and to voice my expectations for the upcoming summer and school semester. Overall I continue to be extremely pleased by the performance and conduct of our NROTC unit. I have observed continuous self-improvement at all levels (especially in the freshmen); our drill teams and athletic competitors



**CAPT Sorce at the Beale Street Drill Meet Awards Ceremony.**

have excelled; attitudes are positive and though we have all been working hard, morale seems high. You have tackled a lot of challenges this year and you have every right to feel a strong sense of accomplishment.

Another big part of your NROTC experience will occur this summer as most of you will get the opportunity to observe the Fleet and/or Marine Force. During your summer cruises/orientations you get the chance to leave the classroom and see firsthand what your future fellow Marines and Sailors are doing, and more importantly, what they will be

expecting from you. Have fun when the opportunities present themselves (and they will), but more importantly, use this summer to increase your awareness and ask the hard questions. The expectations of Midshipmen will be far lower than those of Junior Officers, so there is no reason to hold back now.

Throughout the rest of your summer I hope you get the chance to relax and recharge. With that said – STAY MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY SHARP! I want to pick up next year where we are leaving off this year so no going backwards.

I would like to give a personal “well done” to all of our graduates in the class of 2010. You did a superb job this year, and I wish you all the best. I look forward to meeting the class of



2014 in August. Fair Winds.

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



**CAPT Sorce presents a unit challenge coin to RDML Nora Tyson, Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific, following her presentation to the unit at Leadership Lab.**

# Thinkers, Dreamers, Doers = Leaders



Another Successful Year Under Our Belt!

It is hard to believe that WE have finished another school year! Look around you and you will see why we have enjoyed so many successes this year. Each of you has contributed to our TEAM in some form or fashion, but in the end, WE all pitched in to make it work! From Freshman Orientation to the 3rd Annual Beale Street Drill Meet, to the addition of the 5K for Freedom Run, you all pulled together and hosted some awesome events! The Tri-Service Awards were spectacular. The Navy/Marine team was well represented! Although it lasted only an hour, I have never heard the MOI talk so much! I cannot begin to put into words how proud I am of the things that WE accomplished this year. Nice Job!

To those that are departing our ranks and heading to the Submarine Fleet and Fleet Marine Force, you did a fantastic job leading the Company! When we look at everything we did, whether it was an event we hosted or an event we supported with a Color Guard, you need to be proud of the magnitude of effort you and the unit put forth. You made things happen and you did it safely and professionally and it was noticed by our staff, the University students and staff and several Flag Officers that we were fortunate enough to have visit. I heard nothing but positive comments from all concerned. You need to reflect on what you did to lead this team and take it with you as you begin your commissioned career.

To those returning, take note! Your predecessors did it right. Remember what you learned from them, be it from their examples, their words or just (simply) how they carried themselves on campus, they are the ones you need to emulate as YOU take over the reins of the Company. You provided the muscle and the middle management for the Company staff for the last year and I am confident you learned many leadership lessons you can now put to use. It is your time to take advantage of the leadership opportunities that will present themselves. Be ready and step up; that is what I expect from returning midshipmen, officer candidates and MECEPs.

As you leave for the summer, remember our CORE VALUES! Honor,

Courage and Commitment are not just buzz words that look good on posters. It is expected...no, it is demanded of you if you plan to lead America's sons and daughters. Remember that you are always an ambassador for the Navy, the Marine Corps, The University of Memphis, your family and our Nation. Represent yourself well regardless if you travel to Europe, to Virginia, or to the local mall. For many people here and abroad, you will be their only "link" to the United States military and they will form an opinion of the University and the Naval services based your appearance and actions. I want you all to enjoy yourselves, but don't get lax! Don't lose what you have gained when it comes to physical fitness or good study habits. If the Navy or Marine Corps is sending you somewhere this summer, take it in and learn what is ahead of you. Talk to the Officers, Sailors and Marines that make up the most capable military team in the world. They are excited to share it with you and believe me; they have a lot of experience, knowledge and Sea Stories to share! This will pay huge dividends for your future.

I look forward to hearing of your adventures first hand in the fall and I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE PICTURES to show those that visit our spaces! Take care and have fun!

Performance Counts,  
Curtis R. Dunn  
Commander / USN  
Executive Officer



# Marine Officer Instructor

As my first year as the Marine Officer Instructor for the University of Memphis Naval ROTC comes to a close, I would first like to say that I have truly been impressed by the level of professionalism, dedication, and caliber of students that we have in this unit. Prior to arriving here I thought I had a good idea of what to expect. But in just the past 8 months, most of my expectations have either been met or surpassed. I credit the tremendous success of this unit to the students that have stepped up and given selflessly of themselves. That is what I would like to address this semester; the importance and role of selfless service and leadership as it pertains to junior grade officers.

Selfless service and leadership are invaluable traits that all officers must possess in order to be an effective leader. Having the ability to give of yourself without asking what you will get in return is an important quality that I hope to instill in each one of you before you step foot in the fleet. You must understand that although your subordinates work for you, you also work for them. They are the

worker bees, they are the ones that make things happen on the ground floor, and you must understand where you fit in. Your job is to give them the tools and advise that they need to succeed, and then provide them guidance along the way.

I have seen numerous times where this has not been the case. Sometimes, individuals quickly lay claim to the success of a unit that they are in charge of without giving any due credit to those that actually did the work. Make sure that when you are in charge of a platoon or a work section, that you give your subordinates their due credit before taking any yourself. Remember, you will not succeed unless those under you are successful.

Finally, I will conclude by saying that honest mistakes in error must be acceptable, as long as they are not repeated. Failure can serve as a great teaching and learning tool, and you must be capable of accepting failure as long as it does not take away from the mission, or cause serious harm to person or property. If you instill an environment where



subordinates are allowed to push their limits and take initiative on their own, then your unit will be better for it, therefore making you and your unit better.

Each student in this unit has in some way or another made valuable contributions to this unit, and each and every one of you should be proud of what we have accomplished this year. For those who are graduating, I look forward to working with you and for you in the fleet. For those that will return next year, I look forward to building upon our successes this year. I implore you to be safe this summer, stay motivated, and return ready to hit the ground running when you return in the fall.

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

**Capt Wickham presents a unit polo shirt to Iwo Jima veteran, Mr. Nick White, following his presentation to the unit at leadership lap.**



# Spring 2010 Reflections



Whether you are the newly commissioned officer in the Navy/Marine Corps team or the 3/c Midshipman that is happy to have survived their freshman year of college you have made noticeable improvements in yourself. You are more educated and intelligent than when you started the program; and no, I am not referring to the math equations, historical dates, or medical terminology that you were tested on. I am not even referencing the leadership and ethical lessons intended to prepare you for future careers as leaders of America's sons and daughters. What I am talking about is the lesson that Thomas H. Huxley says is, "perhaps the most valuable result of all education," and that, "is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not." He goes on further to say that, "it is the first

lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a [person's] training begins, it is probably the last lesson that [they] learn thoroughly." I have to agree with Mr. Huxley, not just because of my military experiences, but as a result of all my life experiences combined. Specifically, as an officer you will be ordered and expected to do things that you do not want to do, not because they are the wrong thing to do, but rather for the simple reason that they are less than enjoyable. This fact holds true for all walks of life and is also why I argue that the sooner we learn Mr. Huxley's lesson, the easier life will be. Furthermore, the self-satisfaction that comes as a result of serving your country while doing, "the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not," more than makes up for the un-pleasantries.

Having said this, I would like to point out that even though you may not realize it, you have begun to learn this lesson during your time in the unit. On top of that, you have been learning this lesson at a much faster pace than your peers who do not get up to PT at 0600 in the morning or volunteer to serve food at St. Mary's Church or organize and execute drill meets that attract teams from around the country. The more I think about it I would say that you all came to school having some basic understanding of this lesson. Life as a midshipman, officer candidate, or MECEP student is more demanding than

what most college students endure, but each of you have your own goals and the understanding that sometimes you have to do things you do not want to do in order to meet those goals. This understanding will serve you well now and for the rest of your lives. This is not to say that the lesson has been learned in its entirety. Be sure that you continue this lesson and reflect on Mr. Huxley's words so that you do not just learn it, but that you learn it thoroughly.

As I conclude my thoughts I can only hope that my words contain some inspiration and at the same time convey the respect that I have for each of you and what you are doing with your lives. Keep up the good work and know that in the end all of your efforts will be worth much more than the sacrifice.

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



**LT Hopp presents MIDN Whitens with her award at the Tri-Services Awards Ceremony.**



# Firing with all Cylinders Blazing

Well, now I have two semesters under my belt, and the University of Memphis Naval ROTC unit is still firing with all cylinders blazing. We've had a few new faces arrive and we've had some realize that the path to a Navy or Marine Corp Commissioning is challenging and have elected to seek other career fields. For those that remain they realize that nobody is handing them a Commission into the Navy or Marine Corp, their going to have to earn it, like the many before them. Once they pin on their 2nd LT or Ensign

run better and more efficiently this semester. They recognized obstacles in their path, overcame, and transformed this unit into an organization that closely mirrors the fleet. These changes will ensure that our goals here will complement the fleet. The skill to recognize obstacles, and make changes that will improve the way we do business are hallmarks of the type of officer we strive to produce.

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

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

To the graduating midshipman I will say



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

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



**LTJG Jacobs sitting in his high chair at Mess Night.**

Bars they know that their future journey is really just beginning and that a far greater challenge, still lays ahead!

The Navy and Marine Corp midshipmen recognized that the unit could



**LTJG Jacobs being hailed in at the Fall 2009 Hail and Farewell.**

# Pillars of Leadership



Every semester starts with a change in leadership, adjustments are made and the mission accomplished. Unfortunately some never follow up or evaluate how efficiently they performed the task. With this approach leadership can be left to chance rather than rely on a consistent level of competence. To increase our leadership "health" we need to have guidelines. Here are five leadership

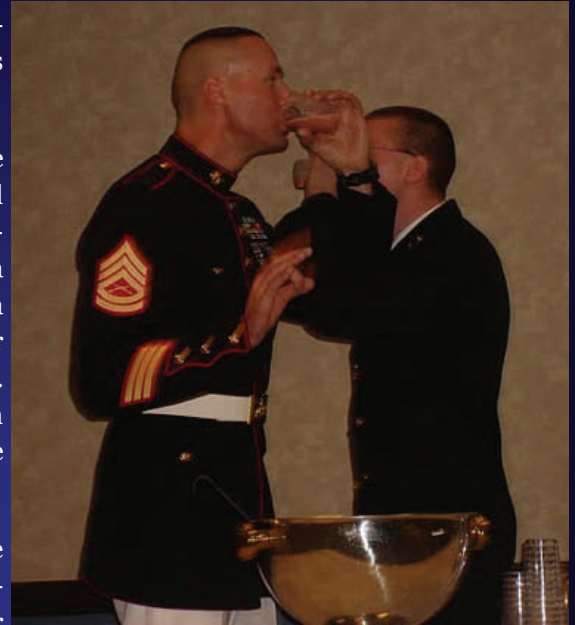
Pillars which can help to increase our effectiveness as leaders.

**Character:** The aggregate mental, moral, and ethical qualities that defines the essence of an individual or a team. Peer evaluations are a great test to discover how your traits are viewed by others. Pattern your leadership with moral and ethical values as the foundation.

**Courage:** The will to do the right thing for the right reasons. Not always the popular choice, but it must remain constant.

**Commitment:** The deliberate act of engaging and dedicating oneself to the organization and its members through willing sacrifice of individual desires for the betterment of the team, which includes one's own personal development.

**Toughness:** A force of personality



**GySgt Kammer partaking in the grouge at Mess Night with MIDN White**

personified by uncompromising determination.

**Teamwork:** The selfless contribution of individuals acting together, in the interest of accomplishing a common goal or mission.

Continue to apply the lessons learned as leaders this semester in order to influence the new students in a positive way this fall. Learn to practice your senior leadership instead of waiting for your commission to come. Maintain your state of physical fitness throughout the summer in order to return with strength and endurance.

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



**GySgt Kammer inspects the folding of the colors.**



# Student Company Commander

I am extremely pleased with this semester's success, and I want all to know that it was a result of every single member of this command. As a company, we have moved in the right direction with personal responsibility and ownership, and I have had the distinct pleasure of being the Commanding Officer during this time of prosperity and triumph. The Spring 2010 semester has led us down a road that is sure to lead to further success and recognition.

As I begin my journey as an Ensign, many are continuing on their paths as midshipmen, and for them, I have a few words of wisdom:

First, bear in mind that you are al-

ways being watched. As you think you are alone on a run, or when you are sitting in the back of your class, someone is always watching. Although no one will be around to babysit you, people are always watching. Henry Ford once said, "Quality is doing what is right when no one is looking." I challenge all potential officers to strive to become quality officers.

Next, be sure to pull your own weight. The only thing worse than someone not doing their job, is having to do it for them. Just as you don't want to do the extra work, no one else wants to do the job you are paid to complete, so make every effort you can to do your share.



Finally, keep pushing. Never give up. Do not lose sight of the ultimate goal. When you stumble upon a road block on your path to success, be sure to remember that obstacles are nothing more than opportunities to prove your determination.

As I ready myself for a career in the Nuclear Navy, I feel more than confident leaving the unit in the hands of those to come. With the dedicated staff, motivated midshipmen, and aspiring leaders I am convinced that nothing but good will come out of The University of Memphis NROTC. It has been my greatest pleasure to serve as Commanding Officer, and my best wishes go out to all who choose to indulge in a life of service and sacrifice. Fair winds and following seas!

Very Respectfully,  
Dennis C. Guy  
Ensign / USN  
Student Company Commander  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



**MIDN Guy receives the Navy Submarine League Award from LT Hopp at the Tri-Services Awards Ceremony.**

# Life as an Officer Candidate

What is an Officer Candidate? We are the select elite chosen from the fleet to complete a bachelor's degree and obtain a commission as a naval officer in the world's greatest navy... the United States Navy!

To become an Officer Candidate (OC), enlisted sailors must apply and be selected for the Seaman to Admiral-21 program (STA-21) and graduate from the Naval Science Institute in Newport, Rhode Island. Before getting to our respected NROTC affiliated universities, we are required to have a set degree plan not to exceed 36 months of colligate studies and be physically qualified by the United States Navy Standards.

Officers Candidates and Midshipmen work together to accomplish goals



**OC Hicks and OC Fitzwater partake in the grouge at Mess Night.**

and task that are required for the successfulness of the University of Memphis NROTC. An Officer Candidate is treated much like a Midshipman. We are both put in a rotating chain of command so that each of us has the ability to develop better leadership and followership qualities. The main difference between Officer Candidates and Midshipmen are Officer Candidates have prior enlisted experience and Midshipmen don't. The experience we bring from the fleet helps to develop us as better leaders. It also gives the Midshipmen a taste of working with enlisted sailors.

Officer Candidates bring excitement and diversity to the NROTC. With experience from Aviation, Surface, and Sub-Surface communities, Officer Candidates provide a window of information for Midshipmen to utilize when wondering about the fleet. Many of us Officer Candidates have spent time In Iraq, Japan, Afghanistan, Philippines, and Europe just to name a few.

The NROTC program does a great job in preparing us for the experiences that we will face as Junior Officers in the fleet. Here we are required to maintain good grades, stay physically fit, and participate in various community service projects and NROTC affiliated actions (such as color guards and drill).

In comparing the NROTC experience with my own personal fleet experi-



**OC Fitzwater filling up the van on the way to the Tulane Drill Meet**

ence, it is not much different. Everything is operated on a priority based system which has time limits and scheduled requirements. The time limits and scheduled requirements placed on required activities help to get us exposed to things such as showing up 15 minutes early to physical training and military functions, as well as having correspondences correct and taking personal pride in all that we do.

Overall being an Officer Candidate in the NROTC is a fun and challenging experience. Being in the NROTC program is not easy. If it was everybody would do it and it wouldn't mean anything. I came here thinking that it would be a walk in the park, but my



first semester here my eyes were opened. Now ending my second semester, I have honestly learned more about myself and I have leaned more from the Midshipmen than I ever thought I would. We are all here for the same purpose – to receive a commission in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. This purpose has brought us together as a unit and a

family. One that I can say I am PROUD to be a part of!

I will leave you with a quote from one of the greatest presidents that our great nation has ever seen to further explain our commitment to University of Memphis NROTC program – President John F. Kennedy.

"I can imagine no more rewarding a

career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'

Very Respectfully,  
Riccardo S Hicks  
Officer Candidate / USN  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

## Life as a MECEP Marine

As I approach the end of my second semester as a Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) student I realize how this program has and will continue to provide new experiences and leadership lessons. Being a MECEP is a unique position; I am away from the "fleet" Marine Corps and placed in a college environment as a student alongside other students aspiring to

become Navy and Marine officers. This opportunity provides insight into how our officers are introduced to the military lifestyle.

As a MECEP, I have the opportunity to learn and grow with my fellow members of the NROTC. We PT together, train together, and learn together. Participating in intense physical training as a unit two to three times a week, along with my personal exercise routine allows me to not only maintain a high level of fitness but also to increase my abilities.

The MECEP program is one of the best opportunities for enlisted Marines to make their way into the officer corps, bringing with us our experience and leadership. As a recognized asset to the future of our military, we are given up to four years away from the operating forces to earn an undergraduate degree and a commission. I look forward to completing this program and once again leading Marines; only it will be from a position of broader perspective and



**Sgt Bratcher and Sgt Kennelly stand inspection during leadership lab.**



**Sgt Kennelly receives an award at the Tri-Services Awards Ceremony.**

influence.

Very Respectfully,  
Shane M. Kennelly  
Sergeant / USMC  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

# Life as a Midshipman

Being an NROTC student is a different way of life and we are held to a higher standard than most college students. We wake up before the sun to PT harder than most can imagine, we perfect ourselves in close order drill, we strive for academic excellence, we help build houses or feed the hungry, we create a special bond amongst each other, and most importantly we are all preparing to be leaders of Marines and Sailors. On the other side of the coin we are not so



**The Joint Color Guard from the three ROTC units present the colors at the Tri-Services Awards Ceremony.**

different from our peers; many of us participate in sports or teams, go to the gym to relieve stress from school, study hard for finals or tests, and deal with everyday problems the typical student does. Being a Midshipman in this unit is an interesting one to say the least. We are all here for different

reasons; for a way to pay for college, family background, to challenge oneself, the list goes on. We come from different backgrounds, not just from the rainy North West, the bland Mid West, or the flavorful Mid-South, but how we were all raised. All of these values are put together into a “melting pot” inside the unit and leads to many creative and interesting ideas or methods. It is inevitable that not everyone will agree but it is a part of the learning process and helps develop our ability to cope with actions we do not like and will breed easier or better ways to accomplish the mission. However, the biggest thing we must deal with in the unit is motivation. It’s true that it’s easier to switch branches so PT is easier, take classes in place of lab to skip out of boring briefs, be sick or injured to get off of PT, or do the bare minimum to avoid leadership billets. This is not what we are about, we have to look into ourselves and ask “Is this how I want to be led?” We will be officers one day and



**2nd Platoon completes the 9-mile hike at Shelby Farms.**

our actions here reflect the actions in the future, this way of life may be hard now but we will soon look back and realize that it wasn’t so bad and it only made this difficult job easier. Keep carving the trail ahead and remember “YCBAPAYL”.

Very Respectfully,  
James Bilyard  
Midshipman 3/C  
NROTC, The University of Memphis



**Members of the unit compete in Squad Drill at the Tulane Drill Meet.**



# Tri-Services Awards Ceremony

The University of Memphis Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps hosted the 27th Annual Tri-Service Awards Ceremony in the ballroom of the new University Center, on April 6, 2010. In all, 98 awards were presented to well deserving cadets and midshipmen from the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC units. Captain Buz Sorce hosted special guests Rear Admiral Craig Faller, Commander, Naval Recruiting Command and Dr. Henry Kurtz, Dean of the College of



**The Student Commanders from the three ROTC units present the Guest Speaker, RDML Craig Faller, with a memento for his words of advice.**



**The Joint Color Guard from the three ROTC units present the colors at the Tri-Services Awards Ceremony.**

Arts and Sciences at the University of Memphis.

Rear Admiral Faller, a 1983 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, was the guest speaker. He has served as a Legislative Fellow on the staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, as head of Surface Nuclear Officer Program and Placement, Navy Personnel Command, as Executive Assistant to Admiral William J. Fallon, the Special Assistant to the Joint Staff Strategy Working Group, and as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The Admiral's speech was focused on "Trust" and its necessity in effective leadership, not only in the military arena, but in life.

Following Admiral Faller's words, representatives from over 20 organizations joined the Admiral, Captain Sorce (NROTC Commanding Officer), LCol Kim Cowen (AROTC Commander), LtCol Jerry Brumfield (AFROTC Commander) and Dean Kurtz on stage to present the awards and congratulate recipients.

It was a great time for the members of the different military services and members of the university community to join in fellowship and acknowledge those cadets and midshipmen honored with awards. The University of Memphis ROTC units are very grateful to all of the organizations and guests that came out and supported this year's ceremony.

Armed Forces Electronics Communications Association

Air Force Association

American Legion

American Veterans

Association of the United States Army

Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America

Marine Corps Association

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

National Defense Industrial Association

National Sojourners

Reserve Officer's Association

Scottish Rite

Society of the War of 1812

Sons of the American Revolution

The Retired Officer's Association

University of Memphis

United Services Automobile Association (USAA)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Spring 2010 Commissioning



**ENS Dennis C. Guy**  
**United States Navy**  
**Submariner**



**2ndLt Charles E. Thompson**  
**United States Marine Corps**  
**Ground**

## 5k for Freedom Fundraiser

Our first annual 5k for Freedom run proved to be a successful event. After facing adverse weather conditions the run was moved back one day to Sunday when the weather cleared. The sun was shining and there was a cool comfortable breeze that morning as the run began. The conditions were perfect for the course that stretches through the streets of Arlington, TN. There were participants running for competitive time while many simply took pleasure in a nice pace. All participants surely enjoyed themselves feeling pride and patriotism as the event transpired.



**Runners starting the 1st Annual  
5k for Freedom Run.**

Unsure of participation in our first 5k, all effort was maintained to make certain this event would be a success.

The 5k for Freedom did turn out to be a fun and exciting run that provided funding for the Semper Fi Society and Blue and Gold Association. The funds remove some of the financial burden and allow for a dynamic future for midshipmen to participate in various activities such as drill meets and physical endurance races throughout the country, as well as serve the community through volunteerism.

The run was one of Memphis NROTC unit's biggest fundraising events of the year. Next year's event has a bright future as we look to improve and build upon our outstanding first 5k for Freedom.



# Company Volunteerism

The 2010 Spring Semester at NROTC University of Memphis held more opportunities for volunteerism than the previous one. First off, the volunteer opportunities have expanded to include such activities as soup kitchen work, mentoring elementary school students, and Relay for Life. The majority of time spent by volunteers was done at St. Mary's Catholic Church, a soup kitchen that's been in operation for over one-hundred years. The kitchen serves dozens of homeless people daily in downtown Memphis. The NROTC volunteers who attended prepared sandwiches, soup, and snacks, and personally handed the items out to the homeless. After the meal was finished, the midshipmen helped sweep and clean the picnic area where the homeless had been seated. Perhaps the greatest thing the midshipmen learned from the experience was a sense of

appreciation for their own lifestyle. The unfortunate folks who come to the soup kitchen for their meals own little more than the clothes on their backs and have been through rough times to say the least. Although college life can be hectic and stressful, it pales in comparison to the problems faced by those who have to make do on the streets. In the end, the midshipmen had a valuable experience serving the community and learned to be grateful for everyday things they may have taken for granted.

The second volunteer opportunity, Big Brothers and Sisters, is a service that involves NROTC students being paired with elementary school students who may not have the best living conditions at home. Volunteers are paired with students who have similar interests to their own, and in some cases, have had similar back-

grounds growing up. This helps both the student and midshipman by developing mentoring skills.

The third volunteer opportunity, Relay for Life, is an upcoming event that promotes the fight against cancer. By volunteering for this event, midshipmen will walk or run around a track in remembrance of those who have lost the battle, or in support of those still fighting it.

Throughout the semester, volunteerism has been strong in the unit. In the future there will be more opportunities and this trend will continue to grow.

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

# Endurance Team 2009-2010

The NROTC Endurance Team has had a busy and challenging schedule since the fall, kicking the year off with the Colorado Relay, a 174 mile race through the Rocky Mountains. This was the first time that the Unit had competed in this event and the ten man team that competed definitely got every last bit of the challenge that they were expecting. Planning has already begun to make the trip back up there to compete again this coming fall. Next on the agenda was the St. Jude Marathon. Various



**The Endurance Team competes in the Commando Challenge at Texas A&M.**

members from the unit gathered together to run the half and full mara-

thon. The marathon was incredibly inspiring to anyone that participated in the event. Thousands of people lined the course providing support and motivation to the runners and was one of the most surreal experiences a person could have. To see all those people come together for a greater cause. It was an honor to participate in the event and contribute to the wonderful work that St. Jude is doing. The third event was the Endurance Challenge provided by our own drill meet. This was proba-

bly one of the most challenging Endurance race's that our team has competed in. Consisting of a sandbag run, a pack run, log PT, buddy drags and fireman carries, and that's just to name a few of the events! This was definitely a gut check to anyone of the teams that participated. At the end of the day however, only one team would stand above all others as the victor. I am proud to say that the team in first was the Memphis Endurance Team. To wrap up the year the Tadpole squad, a small five man team, traveled to Texas A&M University to participate in the Commando Skills and Endurance Competition. The event is challenging to each individual as well as the team with events being

timed for both average and overall team times. The scenario is a simula-



**MIDN Lyons completes the Ammo Can Maneuver Course at the Beale Street Endurance Challenge.**

tion of being on a combat mission with no support. This was another first for anyone in the Unit to participate in and something we are definitely looking to do again. Events kicked off on Friday night with a 3 mile run. The next morning the challenge continued with a 1000 meter swim, marine obstacle course, stamina course, pull-ups, and a 1.5 mile sandbag run. It was a great event to participate in and we look forward to heading back for more. Another year down for the endurance team, with an even greater year to come.

Very Respectfully,  
Craig Allen  
Midshipman 3/C  
NROTC, The University of Memphis

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