



The University of Texas at Austin
Naval ROTC



The Longhorn Log 2020-2021

Editor: OC Patrick Russell



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11 September 1940

On that day, then Acting Secretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal, authorized the creation of a Naval ROTC unit on the campus of The University of Texas. UT

would be one of eight NROTC units in the country at that time and would go on to produce thousands of Navy and Marine Corps officers. The original goal of NROTC was to produce well-educated junior officers for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Reserve. Military skills and knowledge have been passed down to midshipman inside and outside the classroom. Sixty-seven years later the unit is now commissioning young men and women as active duty war fighters. The leadership skills that our midshipman gain during their short tenure here creates a foundation for success in the Navy and Marine Corps. Many of the midshipman arriving at UT are thrust into a completely new environment.

For many it is their first time living away from home, they may not know anyone, or may not have their career choices planned out. NROTC provides guidance to every one of these volunteer individuals, along with lasting friendships, and the skills needed to begin their military careers. This past year we have seen our young midshipman grow immensely. They have begun to learn the importance of followership, have found their niche in the college environment, and are now understanding how to manage this new demanding environment. Our upperclassmen have also come a long way as they complete their final year of preparation in becoming commissioned officers. We all have come together through many activities this year. Platoon integrity was built at battalion drill sessions and at early morning PT. A sense of pride and accomplishment are felt while running in formation and while marching on the drill field. The hours of practice on the drill field play greatly into building the confidence and leadership capacity of the platoon leaders.

Stadium clean-ups and support from our generous alumni, provided the battalion with funds to make activities possible. Our first major event and age old tradition, inspired by the UT vs. OU football game is Run To Dallas. Where MIDN run the ball all the way to Dallas. Intramural sports bring camaraderie to our midshipman as well. Sport competitions provide much needed stress relief to those who participate. This year, the Buccaneer Drill Team attended the Tulane Drill Competition in New Orleans. The team's hard work paid off. Midshipmen that attended were awarded by getting to enjoy the Mardi Gras celebrations afterwards!! Other UT NROTC traditions that lived on this year were the biannual President's Cup and Captain's Cup competitions. President's Cup is a tri-service competition between all three ROTC units, where each compete in sports and physical fitness events for the President's Trophy. Captain's Cup, similar to the President's Cup, is hosted within our battalion. Platoons compete in tests of physical fitness, drill, and academics for the title of "Honor Platoon."

The battalion comes together to celebrate the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday each Fall. This allows the battalion to show off its military pride and tradition. Our upperclassmen participate in a traditional mess night. The mess night served as a great way to build camaraderie between the upperclassmen and gave the midshipmen an understanding of how to interact with senior officers in a social environment. These formal events are precursors to the decorum and ceremonies of the fleet. They also give us the chance to prove that we look good in uniform. We also come together to celebrate the end of the school year at our annual Spring Social.

The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps' is measured by each newly commissioned officer it releases to the fleet. Honor, courage and commitment are the cornerstones of every sailor and marine, but accountability and command authority come with gold bars.

Captain David Koss



Captain David E. Koss was commissioned in May 1991 upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy after receiving his Bachelor of Science in Ocean Physics. Following a year "stashed" at Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic, he reported to NAS Pensacola, Florida in May of 1992. Upon completion of initial flight training in VT-2, he reported to NAS Meridian Mississippi to fly the T-2 Buckeye and TA-4 Skyhawk with VT-19 and VT-7. He received his wings of gold in March of 1995.

Following completion of the FA-18C Fleet Replacement Squadron training with VMFAT-101 at MCAS El Toro, California, Captain Koss reported to The Golden Warriors of VFA-87 at NAS Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida. During his 3-year tour, he completed a Summer Med/Adriatic Sea deployment participating in operations over Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina while embarked in USS JOHN F KENNEDY (CV 67).

In February of 1999, Captain Koss reported to Fallon, Nevada for training at TOPGUN. Upon completion, he reported to the VFA-106 Gladiators for a 2-year tour as A Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor and Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Pilot. In July of 2001, Captain Koss re-joined VFA-87, embarked in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), in the Arabian Gulf. As the Training Officer, he flew missions in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. A year later, he "fleeted up" to Department Head with the Golden Warriors, went back to sea embarked in USS ROOSEVELT (CVN 71), and flew missions in support Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In December of 2004, Captain Koss reported as Air and Maritime Planner to Standing Joint Force Headquarters, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith Hawaii. He completed a 2-year tour at SJFHQ, participating in numerous Multi-National exercises within the Pacific Theater. In November of 2007, Captain Koss reported to VFA-122 to conduct training in the FA-18E. Upon completion, he reported In July of 2007 to VFA-14 as Executive Officer.

In November of 2008, Captain Koss assumed Command of the Tophatters and completed an 8-month deployment embarked in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In May of 2010, Captain Koss turned over command of the Tophatters and reported to VFA-125 to retrain in the FA-18C. In September of 2010, he reported to the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. In May of 2011, he left the Blue Angels and reported as Executive Assistant to the Director of Air Warfare in the Pentagon. Following a year in the Pentagon, he reported to the National War College where he was awarded a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies.

In August 2013, CAPT Koss reported to Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet as Deputy Commodore and subsequently assumed command of the largest Type Wing in the U.S. Navy in December 2014. After serving 18 months as the Commodore, he reported to the Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific staff as the Readiness Officer (N40). Following a two year tour focusing on manning, training and equipping challenges within Naval Aviation he reported to his current position serving as Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the ROTC unit at the University of Texas. He has accumulated over 740 carrier arrested landings and over 3,700 flight hours in the FA-18C and FA-18E/F aircraft. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (2 awards), Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Combat V (two awards), Strike Flight Air Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Joint Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), LT Charles Nelson and LCDR Mike Longardt leadership awards, and numerous other campaign and service awards.

Commander Robert Young



Commander Robert D. Young, hailing from Holly, Michigan, is a 2001 Graduate of the University of Michigan (UM) with a Bachelor of Science in General Biology and earned his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. After leaving UM, he reported to Surface Warfare Officer School Division Officer Course to receive training on basic ship-handling, FFG-7 Class engineering, weapons systems, communication systems, and basic leadership fundamentals.

CDR Young has accumulated over 11 years of sea duty time and completed six deployments. His sea tour assignments include Combat Information Center Officer / Legal Officer / CMS Custodian / Search and Rescue Officer / Electronics Warfare Officer aboard USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47) from November 2001 to August 2003, completing a Standing NATO Forces Atlantic / Standing NATO Forces Mediterranean (SNFL / SNFM) deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Following a brief stop in Charleston, SC as a student at Naval Nuclear Power School and Nuclear Power Training Unit MTS 635, he was detailed to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) as Reactor Controls Division Officer / Repair 21 Locker Officer / Professional Nuclear Engineering Officer (PNEO) program coordinator from November 2004 to

November 2006 and deploying in support of OEF and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). For his Department Head tour, CDR Young was detailed to USS RAMAGE (DDG 61) from July 2009 to January 2011 as Operations Officer / Afloat Safety Officer and conducting exercise Joint Warrior and the Navy's first ever Defense of Israel deployment. He was subsequently detailed to USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) from January 2011 to January 2013 as the Main Propulsion Assistant and completed two West Pac Deployments in support of OEF and Operations New Dawn and Inherent Resolve. Upon return from deployment, CDR Young was present for Naval Station North Island's first ever dual media discharge for a CVN. Following his screening as Executive Officer (Special Mission) (XO(SM)) CDR Young was detailed as the third ever Damage Control Assistant aboard USS AMERICA (LHA 6), completing her Post-Shakedown Availability, basic training cycle, and the first in class Total Ship's Survivability Trials. His most recent at sea assignment was as Assistant Reactor Officer aboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) from May 2017 to July 2020, where Mighty IKE conducted the Navy's longest at-sea period of 206 straight days during her 2020 deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and having been the only operational CVN in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility to forgo port visits to remain COVID-19 free.

CDR Young's first set shore assignments were from November 2006 to September 2008 where he was billeted as the Flag Aide to Commander Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC). When NPDC began to be disestablished, he was tasked to become an Individual Augmentee to United States Military Observe Group – Washington (USMOG-W) serving as a United Nations Military Observer July 2007 to January 2008 for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) where he performed the duties of Operations Officer, Logistics Officer, and Evacuation Contingency Planner for Team Sites Badme and Adigrat. Upon his return to Norfolk, VA, he reported as the Executive Assistant to Commanding Officer, Center for Naval Engineering assisting in the development, contracting, funding, and execution of training for all the Navy's conventional engineering 'A' and 'C' schools. His Post-Department Head shore tour was as the Requirements, Resources, and Manpower Division Chief (SOJ82) at Special Operations Command, Pacific at Camp Smith on Oahu, Hawaii from January 2013 to October 2015, where he assisted in the production and management of Integrated Priority Lists and Future Year Defense Program Budgets submissions for both U. S. Indo-Pacific Command and U. S. Special Operations Command to the Joint Staff. He is currently serving as the Executive Officer / Associate Professor of Naval Science at the University of Texas at Austin's NROTC program.

CDR Young has successfully completed both JPME I and II and has received the designation as a Joint Qualified Officer. While at the 10-week in-residence JPME II course, he received the Lieutenant General Paul J. Cerjan Distinguished Writing Award. Furthermore, CDR Young has received a Master of Arts and a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University.

His personal military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), United Nations Service Medal, and other various unit and campaign awards.

CDR Young has been married to his wife, Joycelynn of Andrews, TX, since 2005. They have three wonderful sons.

Major Anthony Gantt



Major Anthony Gantt was born and raised in Florida. After graduating from Miami Coral Park Senior in June of 1998 he attended Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU). In September of 1999, he enlisted in the Selective Marine Corps Reserve and completed Marine Corps Recruit training in Beaufort, South Carolina in January of 2000. Immediately following recruit training he completed Marine Corps Combat Training in Jacksonville, North Carolina and later would complete the basic M1A1 Tank Crewman course in Fort Knox, Kentucky. After serving as a reservist for two years Major Gantt reenlisted onto active duty in April of 2003 and reported to 2nd Tank Battalion, Camp LeJeune, North

Carolina.

He served as an enlisted Marine for ten years and obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant. During that time he served as M1A1 Tank Commander, Platoon Sergeant, Martial Arts instructor, and Command Financial Specialist Instructor.

In 2005, he was selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program. As such, he returned to Tallahassee, Florida and received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Florida A&M University in April 2010.

Major Gantt received his commission post-graduation and reported to The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia. He graduated from TBS April of 2011 and reported to Air Support Control Officer Course. His assignments were with Marine Air Support Squadron 3, Marine Air Control Group 18, Marine Air Support Squadron 2, and Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (Reinforced). He has served as a Company Executive Officer, Squadron Assistant Operations Officer, Company Commander, Group Assistant Future Operations Officer, and Detachment Commander for the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 (REIN) in support of the 31ST Marine Expeditionary Unit 2016-2017 deployment. His personal awards and achievements include: the Bronze Star Medal with device "V", Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, two Navy Unit Commendation Ribbons, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, two Good Conduct Medals, Selective Marine Corps Reserve Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, five Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - International Security Alliance Force Afghanistan Medal.

He has been married to his wife Novia for seventeen years and together they have six beautiful children.

Lieutenant Maressa Guynn



LT Maressa “Arya” Guynn, a native of Uniontown, PA, received her commission in 2014, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, she attended flight school in and earned her Naval Flight Officer (NFO) “Wings of Gold” in 2016 from the “Warbucks” of Training Squadron FOUR (VT-4).

Upon her designation as a Naval Flight Officer, she received orders to the “Greyhawks” of Carrier Airborne Early

Warning Squadron ONE TWO ZERO (VAW-120), the E-2C/D Hawkeye Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), where she honed her skills in the E-2C Hawkeye 2000 prior to joining the fleet. Maressa’s first fleet assignment was with the “Sun Kings” of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE ONE SIX (VAW-116) in Point Mugu, CA. While with the Sun Kings, she deployed aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) to the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility and flew missions in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. While attached to VAW-116, the command earned the Chief of Naval Air Forces Pacific Battle Efficiency ‘E’, The Chief of Naval Air Forces Rear Admiral Frank Akers ‘A’, reserved for the best E-2 squadron across the fleet, and the Chief of Naval Operations Safety ‘S’. Maressa’s duties while attached to the Sun Kings include: Ground Safety Officer, Schedules Writer, Avionics Division Officer, Electronic Key Management System Manager (EKMS), and Naval Aviation Training and Operations Standardization (NATOPS) Officer.

LT Guynn reported to the University of Texas NROTC in June 2020 as an Assistant Professor of Naval Science and aviation liaison. She has been married to her wife, Zoe, a nurse from central Pennsylvania, since 2016.

Lieutenant Matt Ziesmer



Lieutenant Matt Ziesmer spent his early life between Merrillville, IN, and Sugar Land, TX. He commissioned as a submarine officer in January 2014 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2013 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Naval Science.

He reported to Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) in Charleston, South Carolina to begin training for Submarine duty. LT Ziesmer graduated from NNPTC in October 2014. Following completion at NNPTC, LT Ziesmer attended Prototype training at Nuclear Power Training Unit (NPTU) Charleston-MTS 626. In July 2015, following completion at NPTU Charleston,

LT Ziesmer transferred to Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) in Groton, CT.

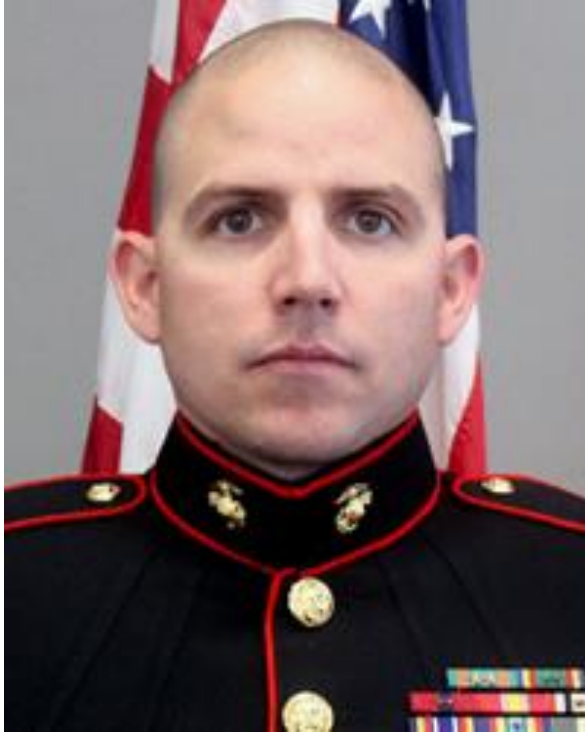
LT Ziesmer reported to the USS Louisiana Gold Crew (SSBN 726), homeported in Bangor, WA, in October 2015. During his tour, he served as the Electrical Assistant, Main Propulsion Assistant, and Assistant Weapons Officer. He completed five strategic deterrent patrols, four dry-dock availabilities, and one Explosive Handling Wharf period.

Following three years on the USS Louisiana, LT Ziesmer transferred to the Singapore-based Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) Seven as the Submarine Operations and Theater Security Cooperation Officer in November 2018. He was the lead exercise planner for Maritime Training Activity Malaysia with the Royal Malaysian Navy, lead ASW planner for exercise Guardian Sea with the Royal Thai Navy, and lead ASW planner for exercise Pacific Griffin with the Republic of Singapore Navy.

After two years at DESRON 7, LT Ziesmer reported to the University of Texas at Austin Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps as an instructor. He teaches undergraduate courses on naval engineering and naval weapon systems to midshipmen and university students. He is pursuing a Master of Global Policy Studies graduate degree at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

LT Ziesmer's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He has been married to Stephanie, a chemical engineer from Milwaukee, since 2018.

Gunnery Sergeant Samuel Linares



Samuel J. Linares was born and raised in Yuma, Arizona.

He enlisted on September 11, 2006 and underwent recruit training at Company G, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California.

In February 2007, he completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, CA. In March 2007, he completed Enlisted Supply Basic School at Camp Johnson, NC. He was ordered to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, Twentynine Palms, CA, for duty where he completed two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq where was “Combat Meritoriously” promoted to the rank of Corporal while deployed. He served in a

variety of billets from Fiscal Clerk to Unit Movement Coordination Chief.

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on February 1, 2010. He was transferred in February 2010 to Logistics Policy Division, Training and Education Command, Quantico, VA. Outside of his primary duties as a Table of Organization and Equipment Change Request Clerk, he was assigned numerous duties to include; Commanding General Inspection Program for supply, TECOM Color Sergeant, and Training NCO.

In September 2012, he received orders to Drill Instructor School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. Upon completion of Drill Instructor School, he was assigned to Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Chief Drill Instructor. During his tour on Parris Island, he served as an Academics Instructor, Physical Training Instructor, and Academics Testing SNCOIC for Instructional Training Company, Support Battalion. He was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant on December 1, 2014. He completed his B.A. In Transportation and Logistics Management from the American Military University on December 12, 2014.

He was transferred in December 2015 to 1st Tank Battalion to serve as the Supply Section Chief. During SSgt Linares’ tour with 1st Tank Battalion he served as the battalion supply chief and was subject to multiple inspections by Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO) and Logistics Readiness Evaluation (LRE) receiving above the 90th percentile with no findings on all occasions. He was promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant on February 1, 2018.

Gunnery Sergeant Linares was transferred in March 2018 to the University of Texas at Austin to serve as the Assistant Marine Officer Instructor for the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Lieutenant John Bolchoz



Lieutenant John R. Bolchoz, III, a native of Columbia, SC, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Weapons and Systems Engineering.

He reported to Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) in Charleston, South Carolina to begin training for Submarine duty. LT Bolchoz graduated from NNPTC in

May 2014. Following completion at NNPTC, LT Bolchoz attended Prototype training at NPTU Charleston. In January 2015, following completion at NPTU Charleston, LT Bolchoz transferred to Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) in Groton, CT.

LT Bolchoz reported to USS North Dakota (SSN 784) in March 2015. During his tour, he served as the Main Propulsion Assistant, Reactor Controls Assistant, Quality Assurance Officer, and Assistant Operations Officer. He completed one Mediterranean deployment as well as Post-Shakedown Availability at Electric Boat shipyard. Following three years on the USS North Dakota, LT Bolchoz transferred to the PCU South Dakota (SSN 790) in February 2018. He completed the new construction process, sea trials, and commissioning in February 2019.

LT Bolchoz's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Lieutenant Ray Reinarz



Lieutenant Roy L. Reinarz III, a native of Austin, Texas, was commissioned in December 2009 through the Naval Reserve Officer Corps upon graduation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL, after receiving his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics. He reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, FL in April 2010 to begin training as a student Naval Flight Officer (NFO). Upon completion of Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, he reported to Training Wing SIX for training in the T-6 Texan II, T-39 Saberliner, and T-45 Goshawk. He earned the NFO Wings of Gold in January 2012.

Following a cross-country drive to NAS Lemoore, CA, he reported to VFA-122 Flying Eagles, the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), for training as a F/A-18F Super Hornet Weapons System Officer (WSO) in February 2012.

Graduating from the FRS in January 2013, Lieutenant Reinarz was assigned to the Fighting Redcocks of VFA-22, also stationed at NAS Lemoore. With VFA-22, he deployed onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) for the longest scheduled aircraft carrier deployment in almost 40 years. The deployment included six months in the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. While with the squadron, he served as the Avionics and Armament Branch Officer, the Mission Planning Officer, the Personnel Officer, the Ground Safety Officer, and the Aircraft Division Officer.

Following his time at NAS Lemoore, in February 2016 Lieutenant Reinarz reported to Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTGPAC), onboard Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado, CA, as an instructor at the US Marine Corps' Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) schoolhouse. While at EWTGPAC, he qualified as a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) and JTAC-Instructor (JTAC-I).

In December 2018, Lieutenant Reinarz reported to a West Coast based SEAL Team as the Fire Support Officer. In March 2021, he reported to his current position as a Naval Science Instructor at the University of Texas, and is very happy to be home.

He has accumulated over 200 carrier arrested landings and 945 flight hours. His personal decorations include Strike Flight Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Battalion Commanding Officer

Battalion Executive Officer

Battalion Operations Officer

Senior Enlisted Advisor

Adjutant

Supply Officer

Public Affairs Officer

Training Officer

H&S Company Commander

Alpha Company Commander

Bravo Company Commander

1/C Blackwell

SSgt Rice

1/C Hicks

OC Johnson

1/C Birk

1/C Cartwright

2/C Hostak

OC Bowling

OC Moore

Sgt Bishop

1/C Mpande



Battalion Commanding Officer

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Public Affairs Officer

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H&S Company Commander

Alpha Company Commander

Bravo Company Commander

1/C Cartwright

OC Bowling

1/C Mpande

1/C Birk

SSgt Tyler

2/C Smith

OC Russell

2/C Hostak

2/C Perry

2/C Roberts

2/C Ayub

Commissioning Seniors



Congratulations to the following midshipmen and enlisted Sailors and Marines for overcoming the rigors of college and NROTC to become commissioned officers in our armed forces!

Four years of hard work and perseverance have prepared these newly commissioned officers for their earliest forays in the fleet as future division officers, student aviators, student NFOs, and platoon commanders.

We wish them the best as they begin their thrilling journey.

Midshipman First Class Robert Hicks

Hometown

Austin, TX

Major

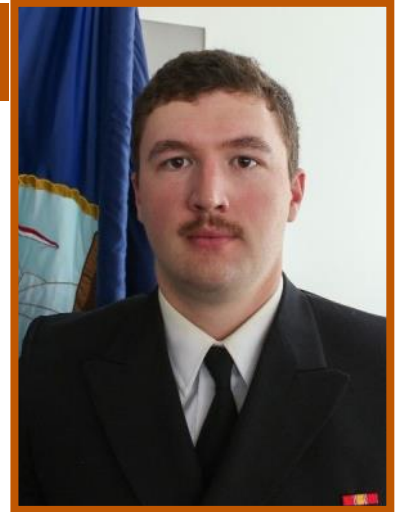
Aerospace Engineering

Reporting To

Charleston, SC

Next Steps

Ensign Hicks will be assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston prior to ship selection.



Officer Candidate Tyrone Johnson

Hometown

Jackson, MI

Major

Physics

Reporting To

Charleston, SC

Next Steps

Ensign Johnson will be assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston prior to ship selection.

Officer Candidate Cara Wallace

Hometown

Baytown, TX

Major

Mathematics

Reporting To

Charleston, SC

Next Steps

Ensign Wallace will be assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston prior to ship selection.



Midshipman First Class Jazzlyn Birk

Hometown

Rockwall, TX

Major

Psychology
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Reporting To

Yokosuka, Japan

Next Steps

ENS Birk will serve aboard the USS Antietam as a Surface Warfare Officer.



Midshipman First Class Bailey Blackwell

Hometown

Pensacola, FL

Major

Mechanical Engineering

Reporting To

Yokosuka, Japan

Next Steps

ENS Blackwell will serve aboard the USS Rafael Peralta as a Surface Warfare Officer.





Officer Candidate Christopher Bowling

Hometown

Blue Ridge, TX

Major

Electrical Engineering

Reporting To

Charleston, SC

Next Steps

Ensign Bowling will be assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston prior to ship selection.

Midshipman First Class Zachary Cartwright

Hometown

Coronado, CA

Major

Physics

Reporting To

Charleston, SC

Next Steps

Ensign Cartwright will be assigned to Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston prior to ship selection.



Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Merrill

Hometown

Smithville, TX

Major

Economics and a Minor in Business

Reporting To

Quantico, VA

Next Steps

2ndLt Merrill will attend The Basic School to determine what his specialty will be as an officer in the Marine Corps.



Midshipman First Class Joseph Mpande

Hometown

Houston, TX

Major

Computer Science

Reporting To

Mayport, FL

Next Steps

ENS Mpande will serve aboard the USS Carney as a Surface Warfare Officer.





Staff Sergeant Mitchell Rice

Hometown

Burleson, TX

Major

Kinesiology

Reporting To

Quantico, VA

Next Steps

2ndLt Rice will attend The Basic School to determine what his specialty will be as an officer in the Marine Corps.

Staff Sergeant Corbin Tyler

Hometown

Greenland, NH

Major

Economics and a Minor in Business

Reporting To

Quantico, VA

Next Steps

2ndLt Tyler will attend The Basic School to determine what his specialty will be as an officer in the Marine Corps.





Fall 2020



Spring 2021

Congratulations to our newest commissioned officers!

The Battalion



Whether they're from the big city or a small town, from the fleet or the Corps, each member of our Longhorn Battalion is valued for their unique character and leadership ability.

At the University of Texas Naval ROTC, each of our members are given the chance to excel through various leadership opportunities afforded by our program.

Our close-knit organization exemplifies the qualities of selflessness, cooperation, and camaraderie.

Juniors

Jordan **Ayub**
Hunter **Carman**



Reed **Herzog**
Adam **Hostak**



Chase **Lowe**
Jordyn **Myers**
Penny **Pellegrini**



Jack **Perry**
Jack **Roberts**
Joseph **Sharpee**



Patrick **Smith**
Niklaus **Zora**





Thomas **Corrigan**
Richard **Lofgren**



Max **Tortorelli**
Thomas **Vogelgesang**



Ema **Waring**

Sophomores

Freshmen

Colton **Bruton**
Noah **Freedman**



Ki Hwan **Kim**
Daehyun **Kyoung**



Emile **Niyonkuru**
Braxton **Robison**



Jonathan **Swallow**
Adam **Weimer**





Sgt Timothy **Bishop**
OC Marcus **Franz**



SSgt Ray **Gregory**
OC Chris **Mattson**



SSgt Tomas **Montanez**
OC Joshua **Moore**



OC Devin **Okelly**
OC Patrick **Russell**

OCs and MECEPs

Awards & Scholarships





Crawford and Hattie Jackson

OC Bowling, MIDN Herzog, MIDN Lowe, MIDN Myers, MIDN Zora

FADM Nimitz

MIDN Hostak, MIDN Mpande

FADM King

MIDN Ayub, MIDN Hicks

Robert Brown

Sgt Bishop

Gray and Haynes

SSgt Rice, SSgt Tyler

Crow's Nest

MIDN Birk

Lt James A. Burns

MIDN Sharpee

Keys A. Curry

MIDN Mpande

CAPT Max Miller

MIDN Lowe, MIDN Pelligrini, MIDN Perry

RADM Clay Fulcher

MIDN Carman, MIDN Smith, OC Wallace

Four Chaplains

MIDN Pelligrini

RADM J. Weldon Koenig

MIDN Perry

UT NROTC Alumni

MIDN Birk, MIDN Blackwell, MIDN Gammon,
OC Johnson, OC Moore, OC O'Kelly, OC Russell,
MIDN Smith,
MIDN Vogelgesang, OC Wallace

CDR Tom Williams

MIDN Birk



William and Linda Dvorak

MIDN Zora

CAPT Rodney Koenig

MIDN Herzog

Kenneth J. Leo

MIDN Waring

Kenneth Moore

MIDN Cartwright

Wayne E. Miers

MIDN Perry, MIDN Roberts

CAPT McDonald

Sgt Bishop

James Mulva

MIDN Ayub, MIDN Birk, MIDN Blackwell,
MIDN Carman, MIDN Cartwright, MIDN Gammon,
MIDN Hicks, GySgt Merrill, MIDN Mpande,
SSgt Rice, SSgt Tyler

CDR Mergele

MIDN Lofgren

RADM Moore

MIDN Blackwell

LtGen D'Wayne Gray Sword

GySgt Merrill

ADM John Alvis

MIDN Hicks

Widenthal

MIDN Roberts

Col. Kengla and Col. LaGrone

GySgt Merrill

LT George H. Blume

OC Johnson

CAPT Jack Ritter

MIDN Sharpee

CAPT John Hitchcock

MIDN Lofgren

William Powers



Spring 2021



Military Order of the Purple Heart

SSgt Rice, MIDN Herzog

Veterans of Foreign Wars

MIDN Perry, MIDN Zora

Daughters of the American Revolution

MIDN Waring

American Legion Award

MIDN Kyoung, MIDN Smith, MIDN Roberts, MIDN Weimer, MIDN Pelligrini, MIDN Swallow

USAA

GySgt Merrill

Sons of the Republic of Texas

MIDN Mpande

Patman Scholarship

MIDN Myers, MIDN Kim

Martin Dies Jr. Scholarship

MIDN Kyoung, MIDN Waring, MIDN Vogelgesang, MIDN Tortorelli

NFCU NROTC Award

2/C Blackwell

Navy League

MIDN Cartwright

Military Officers Association of America

MIDN Vogelgesang, MIDN Carman

MOAA Alamo Chapter Scholarship

Sgt Bishop



Gung-Ho Award

MIDN Vogelgesang

Lonestar Leadership Award

MIDN Birk, MIDN Sharpee, MIDN Bruton, MIDN
Freedman

“Come and Take It” Award

MIDN Blackwell

Longhorn Academics Award

OC Bowling

“Ready to Fight” Award

MIDN Corrigan

CNO Distinguished Graduate

MIDN Blackwell

Freshman Scholarship

MIDN Bruton

MIDN Corrigan

MIDN Freedman

MIDN Kim

MIDN Kyoung

MIDN Niyonkuru

MIDN Robison

MIDN Swallow

MIDN Weimer



Battalion Member of the Month

Every month, the battalion recognizes a midshipman for their excellent performance in the program and the university. A careful assessment of their combined achievements and an interview by a selection board takes place to determine who, among several midshipmen, will be the recipient of the award. The following midshipmen stood out among the best of their peers and reflect the standard that our organization maintains at all times. Congratulations to this academic year's recipients!



OC Bowling
September 2020



MIDN Ayub
October 2020



MIDN Kyoung
November 2020



MIDN Lofgren
February 2021



MIDN Vogelgesang
March 2021



MIDN Zora
April 2021



Fall 2020 Events

New Student Orientation

The 2020 academic year kicked off with the New Student Orientation (NSO) for the incoming UT NROTC Midshipman. Led by MIDN 1/C Mpande, these Midshipmen learned basic drill movements, participated in rigorous physical events, and were introduced to military customs and courtesies. Spanning from August 17th to the 21st, activities such as rifle drill and classroom learning were conducted with CDC COVID-19 measures in place. During all evolutions, the Midshipman were required to maintain social distancing and the wearing of masks. While an unusual start to their ROTC careers, the new Midshipman are ready to begin their training to join the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



Run to Dallas

OC Devin Okelly

Midshipmen began running after a private ball handoff at the UT practice field from coach Tom Herman on Wednesday, October 7th, three days before the big game. Due to strict COVID restrictions put in place by the unit to ensure the safety of personal, the battalion was grouped into much smaller squads to allow personnel to social distance both on the road and while in transit. Because of this, not everyone was able to participate on the road to the Cotton Bowl. In order to incorporate the entire battalion, members recorded miles individually via the Strava running app as our smaller squads ran to Dallas. With this hybrid model of Run to Dallas, the battalion collectively ran nearly 1,000 miles.



October PNS Inspection

On October 20th, the battalion donned their summer whites for the semiannual PNS Inspection conducted by the UT NROTC Commanding Officer. Foul weather and university protocol kept the battalion indoors and masked.

Battalion inspections also test the professional knowledge and military bearing of every midshipman. The midshipmen are quizzed on their Navy and Marine Corps knowledge, chain of command structure, and uniform regulations.



Change of Command

To prevent the spread of illness among the student body, the University of Texas at Austin directed that all in-person activities be canceled after Thanksgiving break. As such, the NROTC battalion did not conduct an official change of command ceremony which usually occurs in the beginning of December. Nevertheless, the responsibility was passed as MIDN 1/C Bailey Blackwell was relieved as Battalion Commanding Officer by MIDN 1/C Zachary Cartwright.

Fall Commissioning

ENS Robert Hicks

ENS Tyrone Johnson

ENS Cara Wallace

Even though the university did not conduct an in-person graduation ceremony, the NROTC unit was able to execute its commissioning ceremony as scheduled. The ceremony was meticulously planned and conducted in a way which satisfied guidelines set by the CDC and the University of Texas at Austin. Limitations on guests, strict social distancing, and the wearing of face coverings were used to mitigate risk.

Congratulations to our newest Ensigns.





Spring 2021 Events

Ship Selection

On February 24th and 25th, UT NROTC's three future Surface Warfare Officers chose their first assignments. This year, the event was streamed live over the internet so family and friends could be a part of the occasion. The future SWOs and their selections are as follows:

MIDN 1/C Jazzlyn Birk-Cockburn
USS Antietam (Yokosuka, Japan)

MIDN 1/C Bailey Blackwell
USS Rafael Peralta (Yokosuka, Japan)

MIDN 1/C Joseph Mpande
USS Carney (Mayport, Florida)



PNS Inspection

On March 30th, the battalion donned their summer whites for the semiannual PNS Inspection conducted by the UT NROTC Commanding Officer.

Battalion inspections also test the professional knowledge and military bearing of every midshipman. The midshipmen are quizzed on their Navy and Marine Corps knowledge, chain of command structure, and uniform regulations.



Change of Command

On May 4th, MIDN 1/C Zachary Cartwright was relieved by MIDN 2/C Joseph Sharpee as the Battalion Commanding Officer. MIDN Cartwright is commissioning this Spring and MIDN Sharpee is a Marine option who will be graduating in 2022.



Captain Koss' Retirement

On May 7th, the Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer, Captain David Koss, ended his three-year tour with the University of Texas NROTC battalion as well as his thirty-year naval career. The ceremony was held in-person with the battalion and virtually for family, friends, and colleagues. In appreciation of his leadership, the battalion presented CAPT Koss with a souvenir paddle and signed collage commemorating his time at the unit.



Spring Commissioning

On May 21st, the University of Texas at Austin NROTC battalion commissioned the Navy and Marine Corps' newest Ensigns and Second Lieutenants. Congratulations to the following officers on their achievement:

ENS Jazzlyn Birk

ENS Bailey Blackwell

ENS Christopher Bowling

ENS Zachary Cartwright

2ndLt Christopher Merrill

ENS Joseph Mpande

2ndLt Mitchell Rice

2ndLt Corbin Tyler





The
Longhorn
Log