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Inside the ORANGE

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BNCO'sCorner

By Sgt Lance Arp

Welcome back from Christmas Break, I hope everyone enjoyed their time off. I am truly looking forward to this semester. The Battalion staff and I have big plans for you. I promise to keep OC "Maddog" Hans on a short leash for as long as possible, however he tends to skip by me every now and then. Our goals are to foster morale and make this an enjoyable semester. Your time in college should be one of the most memorable times in your life [Note: See Launtz Rodgers for instructions] I believe that we are all here not as midshipmen, but as future Marine and Navy officers. Sometimes you may think that it would be so much easier to be a slimy civilian but I doubt you would be satisfied. Everyone here is a "cut above the rest". You have all shown your desire to lead men and women, whether in peace time or combat. Here is where you take the first steps toward reaching that goal. I feel that integrity is a trait that all officers must possess, therefore I demand this trait in all of you.

I am truly looking forward to some good times this semester. I challenge each and every one of you to make this unit better; to participate in Battalion activities, and compete against your fellow peers. A lot of functions this semester are not going to be mandatory, therefore I encourage your participation. Your time here should be fun, you shouldn't have to avoid the ROTC building. So maybe with a few changes and a little motivation we can accomplish this mission.

Last, and surely not least, I would like to thank the Anchorettes for their continuing support in Battalion activities.

Semper Fi

Every Thing You Wanted To Know About Anchorettes

...But Were Afraid To Ask

By Mikaela Adams

The Navy/Marine Sweethearts (Anchorettes) were founded a little more than twenty years ago by three college women who had boyfriends in the NROTC. It was founded on the principle of providing service, social, and spirit activities for the unit and others in the community.

Over the years the group has undergone many changes. Namely, (no pun intended), we have dropped the prefix and are now known as the Anchorettes. Having begun as an organization with close ties to the members we support, Anchorettes seem to be in sync with the battalion; as the size of the battalion fluctuates, so does our size. For example, when the battalion boasted over 200 men and women, we were over 50 strong. Now with enrollment of about 70 in the battalion, the Anchorettes enlist 19 for the cause—your cause.

And the cause is deserving. We are an auxiliary group of the NROTC at the University of Texas at Austin. We would not exist if it weren't for each and every one of you. You are employed in a duty to your country and we want to support you along the way. So now that you know exactly what we're about, let me tell you about some of our activities.

In the service category, we are involved in various things each year, such as mail call, blood drives, Toys for Tots, Race for the Cure, canned food collections, etc. To boost spirit around the unit, we love to participate in such activities as: Cookie call, sports spectators, Ironman, Co-ed teams, PRTs (except we resort to cruelty by eating doughnuts in front of y'all), etc. Finally; our favorite category as well as yours, social activities which include: TGIFs, Happy Hours, Big/Lil' siblings (yes! you, too, can get one!), Pledge Retreat parties, Dining out, casuals, Anchorette Auctions, theme parties, river floats, parties, parties, parties (well, not that many parties), and much, much, more.

With both of our organizations being small, this is the best opportunity for us to get to know one another as friends! This semester looks promising in that respect because we are planning some events in conjunction with yours. We invite you to get involved in our many activities. Just go to your nearest fantail and see the events displayed on the oversize calendars! We look forward to spending a fun-filled semester with you... and many more to come!

The Social Season

By Mary Kay Powledge

We were excited to see so many of ya'll at out "Meet the Mids." Thanks to your help, we now have eight new shining faces ! It seems like spring is always the more social season, and this semester should be a full one! The battalion has generously allowed us to hold a joint formal and casual with the unit. This will allow us an opportunity (and funding!) to plan more events.

The social calendar for this semester is already filling up quickly. Be sure to stop by the fantail and check the calendar boards for newly added events. For example, in addition to our TGIF's in Pease Park, we have also planned several happy hours at local establishments. (Most of these places do not require you to be twenty-one to attend, so don't let that scare you off!) New this semester for those of you with rug rats and yard apes, Anchorettes will be holding an Easter Egg hunt in the park, sometime in late March. We hope this will give us a chance to meet more of your families.

Our goal is to get everyone involved this semester! We're here to offer our support and friendship — you can help by letting us know what you need.

Upcoming events:
3/1 Cookie Call! after drill in the Fantail
3/4 TGIF 4:30 Pease Park- Picnic Basket Sales
3/25 Happy Hour @ Medieval Inn
3/26 PRT- NAVY/ANCHORETTE Casual
3/27 Easter Egg Hunt 12:30 Pease Park
3/29 Cookie Call
4/8 Night at the Salt Lick
4/12 Cookie Call
4/17 IRONMAN
4/22 Happy Hour at Don Limon's (E. 7th) 5-7
4/23 Sailing Regatta
4/28 Awards
4/29 TGIF- 4:30 Pease Park- Volleyball Tournament?
4/30 Navy/Anchorette Formal (6th street)
5/6 Anchorette Tap-In and Party

The Anchorette Pledgeship

By Mary Kay Powledge

Each semester the Anchorettes hold a short, informal rush in order to pledge new members. These prospective pledges must attend three out of four rush functions, and be voted in by the majority of a Rush board (made up of mids and Anchorettes.)

They must then complete a set of pledge tasks- fantail hours, wooden anchors, anchor signing, song and skit, pledge prank, pledge final and ceremonial- before they can become active members.

They attend weekly meetings (in addition to the active meetings on Tuesday nights), pay dues, and spend many hours in the kitchen baking those famous Cookie Call cookies.

Why do they do it? All for you! many of the Anchorettes have military backgrounds and have spent a lifetime supporting the Navy. All of them share a common goal- friendship, social connections, and support of those supporting our country.

Stop by the fantail and meet these girls on the way to your next class- they're very outgoing and we're excited to have them join us.

Battalion Member Of the Month

By Midn 4/c LaFuente

When I first heard that I had been nominated as a candidate for the Battalion Member of the Month, I thought someone was playing a joke on me. After that, my next expression was surprise, and in the end a sigh of relief. I had not heard or seen what the process entailed but it was definitely more thorough than I had expected. I originally thought that the person was chosen at a staff meeting where members nominated different people and then chose one. It's not quite so simple. When I was first told about my nomination I had to immediately set up an appointment with my platoon commander. During this interview he filled out a profile sheet indicating my grades, involvement in the battalion, extra curricular activities, major, and schedule. After this I received a call from the Operations officer telling me that I had an interview with the Scholastics officer, the Adjutant, the Company XO and the Operations officer.

When I arrived at the location where the interview was to take place, I saw the other two squad members that I was competing against. At that moment, I felt that I would not be the one to come out on top. The interview process was very formal and each of the officers had several questions to ask. These were not, however, questions that had right or wrong answers. The questions were intended to bring out certain characteristics of my personality that would distinguish me from the group.

After the interview was over, there was a big sigh of relief and I felt confident that I would at least be in the top three. Several hours later I met up with one of the interviewing officers who was quick to congratulate me on being selected as Battalion Member of the Month. He also told me that the competition was very close, as I imagine it is every month. This is redundant to anyone who has been nominated, but to me and anyone who goes through it for the first time; it was, and will be quite an experience.

The reason that I was nominated was for my activities last semester. Actually I really did not do that much extra on top of my classes, homework, applying for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, and keeping a long distance relationship. The things that I did do, however, I think I did them right. All the little things that the Battalion requires, all the attention to detail that the fleet stresses so much, really does pay off. I merely applied what I learned in the fleet, and put it to use here. If the Navy is installing these kinds of values in its people, we can all look forward to being good officers in the near future.

BZ and Congratulations!

Tale of Two Battalions

By Midn 2/C Mike O'Hare

Having recently transferred form the University of Pennsylvania NROTC unit, I thought I might share some insight into the similarities between my old and new unit. When I graduate, I will have had the unique opportunity to have divided my time equally between two NROTC units in two very different parts of the country. While most of the training, classes, and procedures tend to be standardized nationwide. Differences in the overall environment at the two locations lead to two very different experiences.

While both schools are considered urban campuses, Penn is situated in a poor, high crime area near the center of the nation's fourth largest city. Being suddenly dumped into a Ivy League "oasis" in the middle of the West Philadelphia community is quite a shock to some students and an interesting experience for all. There is a lot of underlying tension in the area as homeless West Philadelphians are forced to live beside wealthy Ivy League students and professors.

Another factor enhancing the experience at Penn NROTC is the tension with the University itself. Before President Clinton was elected, the Department of Defense policy regarding homosexuals in the military was a hot issue at many schools across the country, including Penn. A few schools, such as Dartmouth, removed their ROTC programs because of the policy.

Due to the pressure from several homosexual rights activist groups on campus, including QUIP (Queers Invading Penn) and LB (The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Association) and may other sympathetic students, the president of the university (now a member of the Clinton administration staff) issued an ultimatum, saying that the ROTC unit would be removed if they did not change the policy by summer 1993. Since NROTC units can't dictate Department of Defense policy. An administrative advisory board recommended that the unit be kicked off campus.

The issue however, lost momentum before the president of the University could take action when Clinton was elected and the country awaited his promised policy change. Now the issue has returned to the Penn campus with several groups saying that the " Don't ask, don't tell" policy is not enough. While the students at Penn and NROTC midshipmen have never been openly hostile, the situation has created much unwanted and unnecessary tension.

Within the two units, U. Penn and UT NROTC, the command structure, training, and classes are almost exactly the same, however, a major difference between the two units is the organization and activities of the battalion itself. First of all, the battalion staff at Penn is larger in proportion to the size of the battalion. (i.e. there are more billets in relation to the total battalion size). At the same time, the relationship of staff members to each other and to the rest of the battalion appear to be much more informal at Penn. This is surprising considering that Penn is the larger unit.

The battalion at UT seems to have a larger number of activities (in addition to normal training) than Penn. However, the Penn NROTC battalion holds activities like mandatory PT three times a week. Penn also has a tutoring program with a local high school. Like UT, Penn has many extracurricular sports activities like unit basketball, and on occasion, field meets with Army ROTC (Penn has no Air Force ROTC.) Penn also sends a team annually to Washington D.C. to undergo 26.2 miles (you don't forget the .2 if you're actually running it) of self-inflicted torture.

Like the battalion at UT, Penn NROTC has been forced to quickly face the effects of the Navy's drawdown. The unit is shrinking rapidly (the '93 freshman class was only ten people.) as Penn acts as the unit "hub" for many surrounding schools and universities (the mids from these schools must commute to Penn everyday for drill, PT, class, etc.) Penn NROTC also shares some of its unit staff with Villanova University (including the CO, XO, MOI, and AMOI.) This places a strain on the staff since they have to work harder to make themselves equally available to both schools.

Overall, Penn and UT NROTC are more alike than they are different. I found this uniformity surprising since the schools are half a continent apart. The degree of freedom inherent in the set up of the battalion structure creates most of the differences that don't come from one school being a Northeast Ivy League school and one being a state school in the far superior state of Texas.

I can't say, overall, which battalion is better and which is worse (at least not yet.); both have their strong points. While Penn NROTC seems to be a more cohesive unit, UT NROTC makes a lot more activities and resources available. At Penn, solidarity is almost forced (in fact it has to be or the mids from the other area schools would almost certainly be left out) while here in Austin participation appears to develop on a voluntary basis — that is, it' there for those who want it. No approach is necessarily right o wrong. The way each battalion chooses to organize itself is what gives it its individuality.

What's Happened to the Comaraderie

By Gunnery Sergeant Haehn

During my tour, I have watched patiently, for the most part, as you have matured and struggled to become officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. I have noticed a trend that is disturbing to me and I would like to address this now.

My entire career has been a great challenge to me and is going to continue to be. As you begin your careers I want you to think of the men and women who have worn their uniforms and given their lives for you. This isn't just about some old people that sit around talking about the "OLD CORPS" this is about what makes the United States Navy and Marine Corps an unbeatable team.

I am speaking of all the traditions that have slowly been eroded over the past few years and are in danger of becoming extinct. The saddest thing I have noticed is that many of you are so involved in your own personal struggles that you have let your shipmates become virtual strangers. Where have you been when there has been a need for a sword line for the ball? All of you should have been standing in line for the honor of being chosen as a representative of your class. Where were you when I asked for volunteers for the drill team? I should have had some response long before it was too late to prepare for the meet in New Orleans. I forgot that apparently the most important question asked by many of you was, "Is a party involved?"

The feeling of belonging and comaraderie in the unit isn't something that just happens, it is nurtured as a sacred trust. Upper classmen should be teaching their juniors all that is required of them, and not just during drill. Take the time to get to know each other because when the steel comes down range it isn't Joe Schmuck back here on the block that you will be calling on for help. It's these same people who're here with you now!

Always remember those who have gone before you. Your ceremonies, formals, and Birthday Balls, are a time for you to remember and pay respects to our fallen comrades, they are not just an "inconvenient party". Remember them and our traditions. It will help you when it is your turn to stand in the face of the enemy and return his fire.

SEMPER FI

The Way Things Ought to Be -- My Perception.

By SKCS (SW) Ali

How many times have you heard people say that things are not as good as compared to when they were growing up. "Old salts" describe situations in similar fashion when they meet changes set forth by higher authority. I don't think it has to be this way and these are my perceptions of how things ought to be.

Integrity, leadership, and job security are the key elements of a successful organization. Our Navy is no different. As you become officers in the world's most powerful navy your integrity will be put to the test many times. Sometimes with your full realization, but most often incidentally. Both the civilian community, especially the news media, and people working for you will judge you, your character, and this country's future by your actions and honesty. Remember that with truth and integrity you can accomplish anything.

Leadership will then follow. Leaders are not born but made! Everyone should aim to be a good leader, but not at any cost. First and foremost you must remember that to be a good leader you must be willing to be a good follower. You must be willing to learn the ropes and must start at the bottom of the ladder. Never be ashamed to ask from juniors and seniors alike, to teach you things that you don't know. In time, the experience that you will gain will ultimately make you a good leader. A temporary setback is not a total defeat. Do not sacrifice your people for the sake of earning a quick BZ or looking for a rapid promotion. Always try to lead by example.

Last, but not by far the least, is job security. Since policies are made in Washington, you will have limited success in this area. However, there are things you can do as an officer. Guide your people towards a better career by encouraging them to do things above and beyond the daily requirements. Educate yourself by reading up on current matters and policies so that you will be better equipped to provide intelligent information. A sailor who feels secure about his job will give you 110%. You can talk about job pride, patriotism, hotdogs & apple pie, but ultimately it all boils down to just one thing — job security. Earning a living and providing a better life for yourself and your family in an honest way can only be achieved if one feels secure about his/her job.

Soon you will be commissioned and step into a new platform which will be full of challenges and new encounters that you have never experienced before. But if you are truthful in your daily actions, make every task meaningful, reward at every opportunity, and let all around you feel secure in their jobs then you will have already made a head start toward a successful career and a bright future. Integrity and truth are the keys to good leadership. Through good leadership you can make things as good as they were before; maybe even better. It's just that we have forgotten the simpler things and have chosen a much more difficult path. It doesn't have to be that way. But no matter what, it's in our human nature to complain. We will be telling our children the same thing as our forefathers did- that things are not as good as they were when I was growing up. But by using these principles of leadership and by being true to yourself and your juniors, you can make things better then they used to be for yourself and others around you.

Opportunity Knocked

By Midn 2/C John Allison

As future Naval officers, we will all be expected to seek mental, professional, and social development. By allowing me to attend the mid-winter conference in Washington, D.C. this semester, the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (ROA) provided me with the opportunity of a lifetime to develop these qualities and have a good time doing it. The four day conference was packed with detailed briefings on as variety of topics varying from service selection to current national security issues. Briefings were given by Captains, Admirals, Colonels, Generals, Senators, and the Secretary of Defense. In addition to these traditional reports, beneficial lectures on leadership styles and pointers were given. The briefs provided me with an overview of our nation's defense and where it is going, status, and plans of the ROA, and personal tips on leadership.

Another aspect of the trip was Washington, D.C. itself. Tours were given through the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, where we observed the "changing of the guard" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We also had some afternoons off, during which we went to the Capitol building, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, National Archives, the Smithsonian, and the Air & Space Museum.

Although the briefs provided much information, I think that joint service cooperation was perhaps the most important facet of the conference. Flag officers, junior officers, and midshipmen/cadets were present from all services, including a few Swedish and Norwegian flag officers. The Secretary of Defense spoke of the increasing importance of cooperation in our defense system. Ample opportunity was provided not only to mix with officers of all services and ranks on a professional basis, but also on a very social level. Where else could a midshipman get the opportunity not only to see this many flag officers, but meet them as well? I can actually remember having to squint my eyes at dinner one night because I was being blinded by all of the silver eagles, stars, and yellow shoulder boards. I feel much more comfortable now knowing that we can work together to achieve common goals, even though I was more than a little nervous at meeting General Mundy (Commandant of the Marine Corps) and the Secretary of the Navy .

The trip was a success for many reasons and I would like to thank the Unit staff and the Reserve Officers Association for providing me with the opportunity to attend. The organization is worthwhile and extremely influential in national politics. Anyone that would be interested in becoming a member, please contact me anytime.

The Shellback: An Endangered Species

By OC Kevin D. Coryell

Nearly a thousand years before John Paul Jones captured Serapis, and over five hundred years before Columbus discovered the West Indies, a breed of sailing man fared the treacherous swells of the North Atlantic in voyages from Northern Europe to what is now Greenland and North America. These sailors were Norsemen; commonly known as Vikings, who left their frozen fjords every year to explore new lands and civilizations. Without steel hulls, engines, hot water, or the benefits of water tight integrity, these men sailed the most treacherous waters of the world in wooden sailing ships no longer than a mine sweeper, of much narrower beam, and with less that 10 ft. of freeboard. They are undoubtedly history's bravest, and most accomplished sailors.

A custom of these Vikings was an initiation given to their fellow shipmates who survived their first voyage. It was a rite of passage into an elite group of men who proved to their gods that they were worthy of sailing the oceans. Their rites included death defying acts of endurance, strength, and seamanship which commonly resulted in another soul destined for Neptunus Rex's dark and cold domain.

Our Navy unofficially adopted a similar rite of passage many years ago held every time a warship passed the bounds of the Earth's equator. It's become known as the crossing the line ceremony or simply "Wog day." Where all "wet- behind- the - ears" inexperienced sailors (aka Polly wogs) stand inspection before Nepunus Rex (Ruler of the Raging Main) and his able court of seamen (aka Shellbacks). Once all slimy pollywogs have endured a half day of tasks set before them, they kneel in front of Neptunus Rex and are finally declared to be Honorable and Trusty Shellbacks. Shellbacks are given a card, a certificate for their service record, and the respect of sailors everywhere.

These days in our post-Tailhook Navy, such initiations are under close scrutiny and in danger of disappearing. Hazing is the rule, rather than the exception, in these ceremonies. This includes, crawling on your hands and knees, being "spanked" with shillelaghs (short pieces of firehose: pronounced shil-lay-lee), and crawling through nets. There's also liberal use of lard, coffee grounds, and raw eggs, in addition to retrieving a cherry from the Royal Baby. This usually entails retrieving the cherry from the lard covered belly button of the fattest Shellback onboard with your teeth. It's a trifle barbaric and definitely a humbling experience. However Wog day is now an endangered tradition.

As a proponent of professionalism, TQL (Total Quality Leadership), and the recent spearheaded movement to address long standing problems of alcoholism, drug abuse, obesity (fitness standards) and sexual harassment, it might seem strange that I support the existence of the line crossing ceremony. In the way that sexual harassment, obesity, and alcoholism are detrimental to our Navy and even criminal in nature. I feel that Wog day is a worthwhile distraction in the middle of arduous underway periods, and a source of comaraderie amongst sailors. I believe that closely monitored and safety conscious ceremonies can be held that are as risk-free as any day on a U.S. Navy warship can be. Wog day is a rite of passage that needs to be monitored, but protected. I look upon it like many customs of the Navy such as, saluting, quarterdeck ceremonies, uniform wear, and the daily routine. I do these things with pride because better men than me have done these things since before written history.

WILD
THING
I'll make
your
BUTT
STING!

Wardroom Cooking with Buster

By Midn 1/C Joseph Fauth

I remember, as a 4/C Midshipman, walking onto the quarter-deck after a long, hot drill period, and noticing the alluring aroma of corn-dogs being evenly heated with a gently rotating motion inside a microwave oven. Much to my dismay, I learned that the source of this heavenly scent was the Wardroom, a highly guarded and restricted area reserved for the members of an elite clique known as the Senior Mess. I had to find a way to become a member of this organization, to know its ways, to live its traditions and, most importantly, to partake of its fruits. I was devastated when I learned that the only way to join this brotherhood was to endure three grueling years of existence an an underclassman and become a first class midshipman. The Wardroom became my ultimate goal, the pinnacle of my NROTC career. I made a solemn vow that once I achieved this goal, I would live Wardroom life to the fullest and enjoy every privilege which was available to me. Therefore, as Co-Senior Mess Treasurer, I feel that it is my God-given duty to maintain an unsurpassed level of knowledge on the proper use of Wardroom privileges. Contained in this knowledge is my expertise in the preparation and consumption of Wardroom fare. You may ask," How can nuked, frozen entrees be appetizing?" My answer to you would be "Preparation, my friend, preparation." Yes, with proper preparation, anything in the Wardroom can become a gourmet dish. I would like to share with you the secrets that will make your Wardroom experience more memorable and enjoyable.

Some of my favorites:

Lasagna- This is the trickiest of the Wardroom dishes, however it is one of the best.

1. Take lasagna out of wrapper. (duh!)
2. Cook for four minutes on high.
3. Remove from microwave and cut the lasagna in half. Remove top layer. Scoop thawed sauce and put it on top of the lasagna. (This keeps the sauce from burning.)
4. Heat for three and a half more minutes on high.
5. Eat!

Don't get discouraged. This is a tough dish that takes practice to master.

Fries : 3 minutes for soft fries. 3 1/2 for crispy (that's how I like 'em.)

Border Breakfast- This my favorite dish in the Wardroom.

1. Cut a small ventilation hole in the package.
2. Cook the tacos for 3 1/2 minutes WHILE STILL IN BAG. This is important to keep the tortillas from getting microwave burn and becoming hard.The wrapper keeps most of the moisture in to create nice soft tortillas with a hot, tasty filling.
3. Add Picante sauce to taste.

As you can probably tell, this is but a sampling of the Wardroom's smorgasbord. I hope to bring you more tips in future editions of this column. These are not only tools to increase your enjoyment of the Wardroom, but tools you can use for the rest of your life. They can be applied at home, as readily as in the Wardroom. For those of you who have a long way to go until you reach the Wardroom, my advice to you is this: Dare to dream, it might just come true. In the meantime, go home, reflect on what you have learned today, and have some fries.

Taking it to the Hoop

By Midn 1/C Launtz Rodgers

It is once again that time of the year for Intramural Basketball (WOO- HOO! WOO- HOO!). The last two years our NROTC team has come in second place (OOOF!). This year we will once again strive for the ultimate goal: The coveted IM Championship T-shirt! This year's team will be coached by point guard, and returning starter, Launtz Rodgers. Andy Miller is also a returning starter. Big Ol' will have to be a "Banger" in the paint, in order for this team to go the distance. Our third and final returning starter is guard Trevor "The Franchise" Dorroh. He is the most consistent performer on the team and is coming off an All-American freshman season. Bob "I'm Your Huckleberry" Salvia is our starting forward, and we will count on him being a versatile inside/outside threat to our opponents. Tim "The Crime Dog" Griffin will play the point/off-guard position for the squad. We will count on his outside shot and his ball handling skills heavily. Another guard/forward for our team is the streak shooting rookie Saul "No Pass, No Play" Montes. Once Montez becomes more familiar with our team concept, he will have the makings of a great player. Tom "The Buckeye" Brownfield will be the back-up man for both Big Ol' and Huckleberry. He will see a lot of playing time due to Big Ol's tendency to get into foul trouble. The rest of the roster includes reserves, Oscar "The Big-O" Moreno, Sean "Can I Play?" McNulty, and Busta "I Got Da Skills" Fauth. Rookie Oscar Moreno is a possible Redshirt this year but will be a significant contributor in the years to follow. Sean "McNugget" McNulty heads a cast of reserves that are always ready to step in when called upon. Last but not least there is Buster who has willingly taken on the duties as the team's equipment manager. As the cliche goes, "The Third Time's a Charm." At least it better be, because this should be my last year!

Liberty Call

By QMC (SW) Wilson

A phrase known by all sailors. Actually it is a word passed over the 1MC informing all hands that the Captain has ordered Liberty Call for everyone not in a duty status. " The brows are now open to go ashore for the night ". As future division officers, it is your duty to inform your personel of laws and traditions that may not be known to keep them from getting into serious trouble, especially in foreign ports.

Customs and traditions are not the same everywhere. In my travels with the US Navy, mostly in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, I have seen a lot of traditions and especially laws in foreign countries that I was not familiar with. Some eamples:

Singapore- Littering is a $1000.00 fine no matter how small the object is. A cigarette will cost you $1000.00

Thailand- Pointing at a picture of anyone in the Royal family could mean jail time. This includes rude remarks. They cherish their royal family. We make jokes about our leaders, but don't make jokes about theirs.

Japan- Illegal drugs (Marijuana) will cost you life in prison.

Although you are a US citizen and sailor, you are in their country and must abide by their laws. Gestures are something that does n't even enter our mind, they are actions we perform automatically. In other countries, a gesture that we normally use in the US may be very offensive to them. Gestures they use could be offensive to you. Be careful who you use your gestures towards and if they use one that offends you, let it be, remember you are a guest in their country.

During your travels in the US Navy, remember you are a US sailor and represent the United States. Our actions ashore determine the attitudes foreigners will have toward all US citizens. We must be diplomats and represent our country in the best possible fashion. It is your responsibility as future leaders in the US Navy to know and to inform your troops what is correct and incorrect behavior prior to entering a foreign port. The work we do to ensure our sailors act properly ashore will improve the relationships we have with the people of foreign countries.

IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!

Pistol Team Trip to Colorado

By Midn 2/C Daniel Copeland

From January 27 to Jan uary 30 the UT NROTC pistol team made its second trip to the University of Colorado at Boulder Pistol Competition. This year Gunny Haehn's team included Sgt. Arp, Sgt. Uribe, Midn. Aagaard, Midn. Geddie, and Midn. Copeland. The eighteen hour drive to Boulder was relatively uneventful (and comfortable with six people in a fifteen person van.) We arrived at Boulder about 0900 on Friday, and after a short breakfast, proceeded to the El Dora Ski Slopes. Although we were really there to shoot pistols, we forced ourselves to go skiing most of Friday. Gunny had slight braking problems on the slopes and we were all sure he had died when we saw him fly at high speeds into a path of trees. He managed to slow down before hitting a fence and we all left the slopes relatively unscathed.

That evening we met some of the MECEPs from the University of Colorado for dinner. Due to OUs team having a car accident, there was an open rifle team slot. Sgt. Arp, being confident of our superior marksmanship skills, bet a case of beets that we could beat UC's rifle team in the rifle competition (Note the title of the article stating we took a pistol team to Colorado.) So Saturday morning, after a not-so-marksman-like showing on the pistol range, we found ourselves lined up to shoot rifles that none of us had fired before. When the smoke cleared we came in a respectable 4th place. Unfortunately, there were only four teams competing. Midn. Aagaard did however, manage to tie for first place in the kneeling portion of the rifle competition. Look for Sgt. Arp supplying the beets to UC at the Ironman competition. We did avenge ourselves by beating the UC pistol team.

The trip home on Saturday and Sunday was a long one, as we tried to beat a winter storm back to Teaxs. After we had been on the road for over an hour and had already reached Denver, we all began to wonder if we would make it back in time for the Supe bowl. Once out of Colorado and New Mexico we were able to increase our speed from 30 miles per hour to 65, and we made it back by noon on Sunday. Overall, we had a good time at the meet and the skiing wasn't too bad either.

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