

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

After a long summer we are ready to start the Fall semester with our new Freshman but first we wanted to share our accomplishments and training from the summer of 2011 with our family and friends.

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The Spurs and Anchor

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CO's Corner

Captain Daniel Dixon



Greetings – we have recently welcomed 29 new freshmen midshipmen into our ranks after they successfully completed Orientation. We look forward to another great fall with this new batch of future junior officers. Over the summer after we launched our newly minted Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants out to the fleet, we also sent our midshipmen on various summer training evolutions. This edition of the Newsletter will describe these opportunities to interact and operate with Navy, Marine Corps and coalition military units.

We commissioned both 2ndLt Simone and ENS Medina on 18 August after they completed their graduation re-

quirements over the summer term. Lt Simone will be staying attached to the Unit Staff until he begins The Basic School in March 2012, while ENS Medina will be detaching next week for a DDG in Norfolk, VA. Congratulations to these two fine junior officers who have been stalwarts of our Battalion for the past 3+ years.

Longhorn football season starts in less than week, and we are excited for not only football but also the big NROTC events scheduled for the fall. Planning is already well underway for our Run-to-Dallas for the Texas-Oklahoma game (5-8 Oct); the NROTC Alumni Reunion (4-5 Nov) and the Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball (11 Nov). Our very capable Battalion Staff led by the CO, MIDN Goodrich and XO, MIDN McKinney, are doing a terrific job getting the Battal-

ion rolling as we prepare for this very busy fall semester.

Finally, I would like to congratulate MIDN 2/C John Garcia for leading a terrific team of professionals who orchestrated our Freshmen Orientation evolution. This was a very busy and intricate event which required countless man-hours in the preparation and execution of the 5-day schedule which went from 0500-2000 every day. Both the Orientation Staff and the Freshmen benefited greatly from MIDN Garcia's leadership. This team ensured the first imprint of military, university and NROTC life was very positive and fruitful for all 29 of our freshmen. Thank you for everyone's professionalism, teamwork and untiring work ethic.
Go Navy and Hook'em Horns



XO's Corner: Welcome Back!

Commander Vernon "Butch" Neuenschwander



"This means that all of the NROTC units, nationwide, report to the University of Texas NROTC on matters concerning this course."

We had a very productive summer and it's great to have everyone back on campus. I am happy to report that our Battalion members who went to various parts of the world on summer training performed above their peers from other universities. A testament to their hard work and dedication in becoming professional Naval and Marine Corps Officers.

A few weeks ago we welcomed the largest group of incoming freshman in recent history. The CO and I have been asking the Navy to give us more candidates and it appears they agree with us. When I first arrived last year, I was surprised to discover that the battalion had less than 100 members. Years ago, the battalion numbered well over 200. I don't know if we will ever reach those numbers again but we should be averaging 40 incoming freshman for the near future.

Over the summer I received great news. I applied for and was approved

to spend an additional year at UT. This will take my tour out to the summer of 2014. This provides stability since we were again facing an entire change out of the staff in 2013. Additionally, I applied for and was chosen to be the course coordinator for one of the required Naval Sciences classes, Leadership and Management. This means that all of the NROTC units, nationwide, report to the University of Texas



NROTC on matters concerning this course.

Another project I have been working on over the summer is the new NROTC facility. Located on the previous site of the old ROTC building, on the East mall, the new College of Liberal Arts building is taking shape. Scheduled to be completed later next

year, all three ROTC units will come back together and be located on the top floor. I am very pleased with the progress and look forward to moving into this state of the art facility. The Battalion and active duty staff will have more room and the quality of life will be much improved.

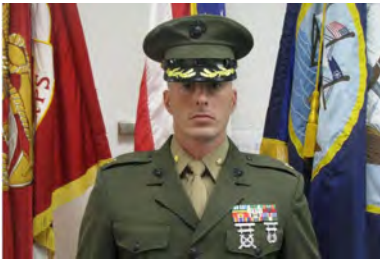
Finally, I want to say a few words about safety. Having grown up in this part of the country, this is the hottest summer ever. Still not as hot as my tours in the Middle East but still very dangerous, especially when people are not used to it. Hydration is critical. As much as you may like your coffee, tea or soda, it is imperative you get proper hydration. The best

source of hydration is raw, fresh fruit. I highly recommend you drink a 12 oz bottle of water when you wake and one before you sleep and at least four bottles during the day. We want everyone to improve their fitness but we must do it safely.

Hook 'em !!

MOI's Corner

Major Ty Kopke



The summer proved to be both productive and exciting as students and staff experienced the various summer training programs. We sent a total of 24 students out to various events ranging from cruises with the Chilean Navy to CORTRAMID,

Mountain Warfare training, and Officer Candidates School (OCS). LT Rivera served on the staff for CORTRAMID West while I served as a company commander at OCS.

We had our largest incoming freshman class in years with 33 students showing up for orientation and 29 taking the oath of office. The student staff is learning the ropes on organizing the battalion and developing a comprehensive plan for the fall semester.

We had our first full battalion physical training event this morning consisting of various CrossFit exercises. It became apparent who showed up in shape and who had too much fun this summer!

We have exciting events coming up to include the Run to Dallas, Veteran's Day Weekend, and the Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball. I look forward to this semester as we train and develop the next generation of Naval Officers.

"We had our largest incoming freshman class in years with 33 students showing up for orientation and 29 taking the oath of office."

Summer Commissioning

By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock



On August 19th 2011 The University of Texas NROTC program commissioned two more officers. The first was Ensign Jeremiah Medina commissioned into the United States Navy, as a Surface Warfare Officer. Ensign Medina graduated from The University of Texas with a degree in Biology

(Ecology, Evolution and Behavior) in August 2011. He was given the oath of office by a former classmate Ensign Richard Hecke, who commissioned in May 2011. Ensign Medina's shoulder boards were changed by his friends Bryan Turnbough and Nayeli Abarca. Ensign Medina received his first salute from SSgt Little.



Congratulations to newly Commissioned Ensign Medina

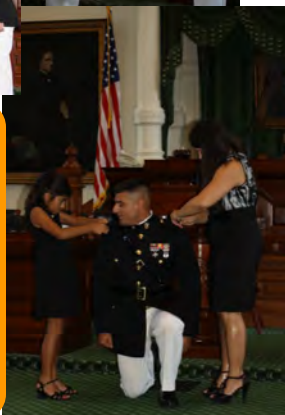
And

Second Lieutenant Simone



Luca Simone was the second officer commissioned on August 19th 2011. 2nd Lt. Simone was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps, through the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education program. 2nd Lt. Simone was prior enlisted earning the rank of GySgt, before reporting to the UT NROTC unit. He graduated with a degree in History from the University of Texas

at Austin in August 2011. 2nd Lt. Simone received the oath his oath of office Capt. Kozad, while his wife Michelle and daughter Victoria pinned on his new rank. Second Lieutenant Simone received his first salute from USAF Mater Sgt. Lindgens. Capt Kozad, presented 2nd Lt Simone, with his Mameluke Sword, during the sword ceremony.



Summer Training 2011

By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock

Every summer scholarship midshipmen participates in a summer training event more commonly known as Summer Cruise. A huge portion of a midshipmen's professional development occurs during their Summer Cruise. Summer training not only helps in their professional development but helps the midshipman make the decision as to which warfare community they want to pursue. Summer training is used to show midshipman every aspect of these warfare communities and provides midshipman with the background information that is necessary to make an informed career decision. A Midshipman's summer training depends on their class year and if they are a Marine or Navy option.

Following a midshipman's first year of school they attend Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen more commonly known as CORTRAMID. During CORTRAMID every midshipman spends one week with each of the four warfare communities: Surface Warfare, Aviation Warfare, Submarine Warfare and the Marine Corps. CORTRAMID is held every year at our home ports on the West Coast in San Diego, California and on the East Coast in Norfolk, Virginia. This year all of our rising sophomores were lucky enough attend the West Coast CORTRAMID training period. After talking to the returning sophomores they agreed that CORTRAMID was a great experience. MIDN Dinmore stated "CORTRAMID taught me that no matter what I end up doing in the Navy, I'm going to love it. Each week brought fantastic new experiences, and opened my eyes to the vast array of possibilities in the Navy and Marine Corps."

After a midshipman's second year of school Navy options go on their 2nd Class Cruise while Marine options attend Mountain Warfare training. Second Class Cruise is used to learn and understand the duties and responsibilities of enlisted personnel. While on 2nd class cruise midshipmen are assigned to an enlisted running mate, usually a First Class Petty Officer (E-6). The midshipman sleep in the enlisted berthing, eat on the mess decks, and becomes a part of their running mates divisions and experiences their jobs and life styles. Unlike CORTRAMID, 2nd Class cruise has many different options, and no two cruises are the same. From our battalion, we had some midshipman on LHD's (amphibious transport ships), while others were on Destroyers and one was on an Aircraft Carrier. Each cruise brings different experiences. Three of our midshipmen got to see New York City for their first time during fleet week in the beginning of their cruise before going underway back to Norfolk, VA. Once back in Norfolk MIDN Cahoon "sought work with the radar technicians and got to do some

cool stuff like carry heavy fire hoses and go onto the ship's mast." MIDN Watkins had arguably the most adventurous 2nd class cruise to date. MIDN Watkins was assigned to USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), and his cruise began out of Manama, Bahrain, and concluded in Hong Kong. MIDN Watkins stated "The places I saw were amazing but the people I met aboard the ship will have an everlasting impact on my naval career and a friendship that I hope to continue."

Mountain Warfare Training, that rising Marine Option juniors attend, is a very different experience from 2nd Class Cruise. Mountain Warfare Training is performed at an altitude ranging from 6 to 11,000 feet, involving small unit leadership, hikes, and survival classes. According to MIDN Reyes "it was extremely helpful to be able to learn and operate in a mountainous environment. Having the instruction of highly experienced Marines and learning, exhibiting and proving leadership as midshipmen will only help in our careers."

First Class Cruise is attended by all Navy option midshipmen the summer before their senior year. The purpose of the 1st class cruise is to get midshipmen prepared from commissioning and becoming junior officers. Midshipmen are paired with a junior officer running mate, where they should learn the responsibilities that a junior officer holds, while also developing leadership skills. 1st class cruise is much like 2nd Class cruise in the aspect that no cruise is exactly alike, but 1st class cruise offers more opportunities than 2nd class cruise. During 1st class cruise midshipman have the opportunity to be part of an aviation division like MIDN Strain who was attached to HSC-6, an SH-60 squadron nicknamed "The Screamin' Indians". On his cruise MIDN Strain received lots of time in the flight simulator and even got some actual stick time. 1st class cruise also provides the opportunity for Foreign Exchange Training of Midshipmen (FOREXTRAMID). A few of our midshipmen were lucky enough to get the opportunity. MIDN Goodrich got to spend 3 weeks of his summer in Punta Arenas, Chile, where he trained aboard Chilean ship ATF Lautaro in the Straits of Magellan.

Marine Options before their senior year attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). OCS is a six week course that is not only mentally but also physically exhausting. To graduate from OCS is a huge accomplishment and this year we had 3 MECEPS graduate.



Freshman Orientation

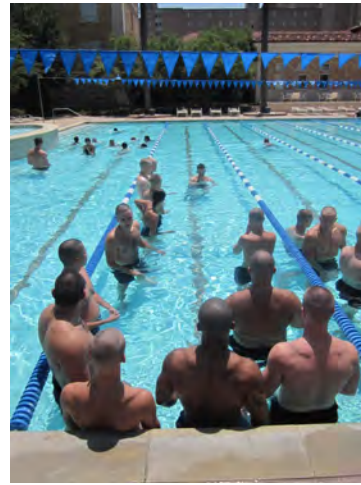
By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock

This year freshman orientation was a five day evolution in which all freshmen were put into a high stress, intense environment to break down individualism and have them grow as a group, while also teaching them the fundamentals of NROTC life. At 0530 on the first day of orientation 33 midshipmen candidates showed up to the Sanchez Building not knowing what to expect. They were quickly introduced to the high stress environment that they can come to expect as an officer. Then the class was split into smaller groups where they were given haircuts, issued uniforms, performed urinalysis, and studied plenty of knowledge. They were also given briefs by older midshipmen about hazing and NROTC history. The second day started at 0600, and was easily the most physically demanding day of the evolution. Every midshipmen candidate took their initial strength test (IST), consisting of maximum pull ups for males and maximum flex arm hang for females, 2 minute maximum pushups, 2 minute maximum sit ups, and a timed mile and a half run. After the IST, the candidates received a tour of the University of Texas Campus by MIDN Lowe. Following a few more classes about the basics of NROTC, the Candidates moved to the gym for Swim Qualification. During the Swim Qual, the candidates were required to properly demonstrate four survival strokes, inflate trousers as a floating device, and remain calm while doing the "dead man's float". After the Swim Qual, the candidates were introduced to Marine Corps drill under the instruction of GySgt Roush. On the morning of the third day,

the candidates prepared their summer white uniform for the Summer 2011 Commissioning Ceremony at the Capital building. The candidates made their way to the Capital and were allowed to tour part of the building before the ceremony began; for many of them, this was their first opportunity to see inside the building.



candidates received more classes, including a general orders class. On the fourth day the candidates were brought to the Marine obstacle course at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus. They were challenged not only by the obstacles, but also by the intense heat. After the O-course they changed over and received more classes including, Marine Corps History, Naval History and Battalion Organization. The last day started with a motivated run around campus in which the candidates util-



ized their newly instilled sense of unity to motivate each other to finish the run and subsequent calisthenics as a team. After the run the candidates changed over into their whites, then moved from Sanchez to the Tower for a quick practice before the oath. While the midshipman candidates were practicing, CAPT Dixon spoke with the parents about what they could

expect while their child was in the UT NROTC. Finally, the 29 remaining midshipman candidates were given the Midshipman Oath of Service, by CAPT Dixon in front of The Tower. The new Midshipmen were then gathered for a picture in front of the Tower and dismissed to their parents. The Midshipmen, their parents, Orientation Staff, and Unit Staff were given a chance to mingle and celebrate the candidates accomplishments during Orientation over catered BBQ in the Sanchez Building. Overall, the evolution went smoothly and prepared the new Midshipmen for life in the University of

Texas NROTC Battalion.



Texas
NROTC
Battalion.

