

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

After a successful fall semester, including events of Run to Dallas, and The Navy Marine Corps Birthday Ball, we are all ready for a nice long winter break. But first we wanted to share our semester accomplishments with you!

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The Spurs and Anchor

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 16TH, 2011



CO's Corner Captain Daniel Dixon

not much of contest to watch, but our Longhorn color guard did a superb job to kick off the festivities for the game; and we were proud to be able to participate with some Wounded Warrior Marines from the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

A couple weekends later we participated in the NROTC Alumni Weekend festivities which included the O'Course Dedication Ceremony, Friday Awards Dinner, Saturday Alumni Scholarship Ceremony and post-game BBQ. The NROTC Obstacle Course was dedicated to the memory of 1stLt James Burns, USMC, an NROTC graduate who was killed during combat operations in Vietnam in 1969. 1stLt Burns' sister, Judy Enstone, attended and spoke at the Dedication which was very moving and inspirational for the next generation of NROTC graduates. Our very dedicated and generous alumni provided over \$38,000 in scholarships for our students which were awarded on Saturday morning during the Alumni Foundation General Business Meeting. We are very fortunate to have such a terrific group of alumni who give back so much of their time and resources in support of our Longhorn military leaders of the future.

Our final big event of the fall semester was the Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball which was organized by MIDN Jordan Reyes. The evening was a spectacular success with local marines and many alumni in the audience. Video messages from the CNO and Commandant were

played, and the various traditions were facilitated perfectly by our very capable master of ceremonies, MIDN Joseph Wright. I believe the highlight of the night occurred on the dance floor after the formal events were completed. We saw some extreme talent which included LT Rivera's resounding (and somewhat surprising) victory in the dance competition.

Congratulations to our two December graduates and commissionees – Officer Candidate William Pacl and SSgt Matthew Little. OC Pacl will begin Nuclear Power School, Charleston, SC in the spring, and SSgt Little will attend The Basic School in Quantico, VA. Both of these individuals have been integral members of the Battalion leadership team for the past 3-4 years, and while we will miss them, I am sure they will be very successful junior officers leading sailors and marines in the very near future.

Finally, I would like to thank MIDN Carley Tadlock for her tireless efforts as Battalion Public Affairs Officer. She has been solely responsible for pulling together these Newsletters for the past year, and has created our very popular Facebook page with hundreds of photos from our various NROTC events. Her individual efforts have elevated the morale throughout the Unit, and have kept our friends, families and alumni in touch and well-informed with the Battalion. Thanks for all the hard work.

Well done to all for a very successful fall semester – enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone again when classes begin in mid-January
Go Navy and Hook 'em Horns - CO

Greetings from the Longhorn NROTC Unit – I hope that every one is enjoying their holiday and spending quality time with family and friends. We have had a very busy fall semester with many significant accomplishments within the Battalion. First and foremost, we have enjoyed the integration of our freshmen class into all aspects of both University and NROTC life. They have proven to be a great team who are an extremely enthusiastic and talented group.

Our first big event of the year was the Annual Run-to-Dallas which was orchestrated by a team led by MIDN Ryan DeFranco. We took delivery of the game ball from Coach Mack Brown at the Torchlight Pep Rally and then ran the ball for 115 miles over the next 26 hours. We were all glad to arrive at the hotel in Dallas, and shower the night prior to the joint run into the Cotton Bowl alongside our shipmates from the Oklahoma NROTC Unit. We played well in the UT-OU flag football contest on Friday afternoon, and the Battalion was able to attend the Texas State Fair for a few hours that evening. Unfortunately, the Texas-OU football game was

XO's Corner:

Where did the semester go?

Commander Vernon "Butch" Neuenschwander



"I am personally excited because all three ROTC units (Navy, Army and Air Force) will be back together, occupying the entire top floor of the new building."

equipment to utilize, not to mention a small gym similar to the one they had in the old ROTC building. I am personally excited because all three ROTC units (Navy, Army and Air Force) will be back together, occupying the entire top floor of the new building. I miss walking down the hall and giving the Air Force a piece of my mind.

the fleet and just finished a tour in Afghanistan. Welcome aboard to him and his family.

As always, I must mention safety. A month off from UT and ROTC is a long time. Idle minds are a dangerous thing. The potential for accidents increases this time of year. Long distance traveling, cold weather, drunk drivers, all can have devastat-

It seems like yesterday we were checking in our freshman. The Battalion is performing well as evident by all the hugely successful events from "Run to Dallas" to the Navy/Marine Corps Ball. I was honored to run the UT/OU game ball for the first 2 miles this year. It is one of those experiences you will never forget, especially since it was midnight when I was running.

The new ROTC facility construction continues ahead of schedule and we are less than a year away from moving in. I am excited for the Battalion as they will have more space along with state of the art



tating effects on our lives. No matter what you do, always have plan and always make a safe decision. Nothing good happens late at night, so don't put yourself into a situation that can ruin your career or even worse.

From my family to yours, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a

"safe" Happy New Year!

We will begin the spring semester with our new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, GYSGT Reed, who is bringing a wealth of experience from

MOI's Corner

Major Ty Kopke



years of our Navy/Marine Corps team on Veteran's Day. Viewing the commandant's birthday message and it's commemoration of Pearl Harbor and September 11th was emotionally powerful. To be a member of the profession of arms defending and serving the greatest nation on the planet is truly an honor. An equal honor and privilege is to lead America's

We have come to the end of a busy semester. With the Run-to-Dallas, Veteran's Day Weekend, Obstacle Course dedication, birthday ball, fall field exercise, and the change of command behind us we have an opportunity to pause and reflect. This has been a challenging semester for the student staff. I believe valuable lessons regarding commander's intent, proactive planning, top down leadership, and the key troop leading step of supervision have been learned. While it has been bumpy the ultimate goal of this program, leadership development, has been attained. These experiences will prove to be timely lessons that will serve our future officers well during their careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

The birthday ball was a huge success and was particularly relevant as we celebrated 236

sons and daughters.....your sons and daughters. The students of the Naval ROTC are truly special. I don't tell them this.....but I'm proud of them and inspired by them every single day. My wife and I were blessed to be the guests of honor at a local Marine Corps Junior ROTC birthday ball. I opened my remarks with the following:

"Last night we celebrated the birthday with the students and staff of the University of Texas Naval ROTC. They represent the future of our naval service ready to receive the torch from those like me nearing the end of our careers. As the inevitable changing of the guard occurs I couldn't be more proud of those taking my place."

Every day is a gift, and every day I get to mold and watch tomorrow's leaders take shape. We truly have the best and brightest that America has to offer. For those parents out there I thank you for entrusting us with your most valued treasure. The product that you have provided us is amazing. You have my utmost admiration and respect.

With that being said much work is left to be done. The new student staff is busy planning for the spring Mess Night, next Summer's Freshmen Orientation, leadership conferences at Notre Dame, the Naval Academy, Texas A&M, the spring Field Exercise for the Marines, next year's Run-to-Dallas, birthday ball, and spring competitions for the rifle/pistol/drill/color guard teams. Oh, by the way they are full time college students at a demanding university!

Please take time to remember "the reason for the season" as we approach Christmas and get ready to start a New Year. Enjoy this time with loved ones and reflect on what is great about America.

Semper Fidelis,
MOI

"I believe valuable lessons regarding commander's intent, proactive planning, top down leadership, and the key troop leading step of supervision have been learned."

Cub Scout Visit

On Thursday October 27th, about ten midshipmen went to the Highland Park Baptist Church where they showed Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from all over the Austin area, the proper way to present the Colors. After the presentation was over the Midshipmen



then taught and instructed the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts the proper etiquette and handling of the colors. They were also able to sit down and talk to the children not only about the flag, but about their troops and their own personal experiences in the Boy Scouts.



personal experiences in the Boy Scouts.

Wounded Warriors Visit

By: MIDN 3/C Alford

On 23 Sep 2011, members of The University of Texas at Austin's NROTC Leatherneck Platoon went down to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio to visit and pay respect to the Marines and Soldiers wounded in action in the Wounded Warrior Battalion. Upon arrival at the Wounded Warrior Battalion the Leatherneck Platoon was briefed on the purpose of the Wounded Warriors Regiment, what types of people end up at the regiment, the treatment wounded warriors undergo, and how the regiment affects the families of those who are being treated.

After the briefing, members of the Leatherneck Platoon met with several wounded warriors and asked them their stories on how they were injured and how it affected their lives in the military

and their lives in general. The wounded warriors honored the Leatherneck Platoon with a cookout prepared for by the regiment where the Midshipman and MECEPS



had time to hold conversations many of the warriors. As future officers in the United States Marine Corps, the Leatherneck Platoon was able to understand and gain knowledge about what would happen if and when their future marines become injured.



Run To Dallas

By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock

This year UT NROTC participated in the biggest Run to Dallas event ever. As the Run to Dallas tradition goes, UT NROTC receives a game ball for the Red River Shootout from the head football coach at the Torchlight Pep Rally, and then runs it in a relay style all the way from Austin to Dallas. Once in Dallas, they meet up with the University of Oklahoma's NROTC, and the two units run together through the Texas State fair grounds, and up the steps of the Cotton Bowl.

The event started with Midshipman participating in the Torch Lighting Parade and Pep Rally on Wednesday night. At the pep rally, Coach Mac Brown talked about our event and then tossed the Battalion Commander, MIDN I/C Goodrich the game ball. Right after the pep rally, everyone changed into their running gear, loaded up the two buses and the real journey began. The battalion was divided into six run groups; the groups would take shifts, each running six miles total per shift. The groups ran throughout the night and all day on Thursday, only stopping to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. We checked into the hotel in Dallas late on Thursday night and rested up for the eventful day to come. On Friday everyone was up early and back on the bus to the Texas State Fair to meet up with the OU NROTC. Once outside the gates, the two NROTC formed into columns of two, and began the run in cadence through the fairgrounds and up to the Cotton Bowl steps with their horns up, getting many cheers of approval from the people at the fair. After the photo shoot at the Cotton Bowl, the two NROTC units, packed up their stuff, and met up again on the flag football field. After the flag football game, we returned back to the hotel. The Midshipman spent Saturday at LaGrange Bar where they watched the game before loading back up the buses and driving back to Austin.

We were very lucky to have two groups of special guests that travelled with us along the way to the Cotton Bowl. First was a film crew from The Longhorn Network. The Longhorn Network filmed the ball receiving ceremony at the pep rally and the run all the way to Dallas. They then put together a short video on our event. The other group included a group of Wounded Warriors from the Wounded Warriors Project San Antonio Marine Battalion. The Wounded Warriors participated in every part of RTD to the best of their ability, from running with the football to bonding on the bus.



Birthday Ball

By: MIDN 3/C Poli

On November 11th 2011, the UT NROTC hosted their annual Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Ball was held in the Carpenter-Winkel Centennial Room at Darrel K. Royal Memorial Stadium.

This time old tradition is one of the biggest events of our semester, and is a formal celebration which brings service members of the past and present together to commemorate the founding of our beloved Navy and Marine Corps.

The Ball includes many traditions and ceremonies including the Sword Line, Cake Cutting ceremony, and an address by the Guest of Honor. The Sword Line was commanded by MIDN 3/C Joe Barone and included Third and Fourth Class Midshipmen as part of the detail. This year the Cake Cutting ceremony included representatives from both the Navy and Marine Corps. As the tradition



goes, the cake is ceremoniously marched in by the Cake Detail, commanded by MIDN 3/C Alexandra Meyers. The CO then cuts the cake, and the first piece is given to the Guest of Honor. The next piece is given to the oldest service member present who then passes their piece to the youngest member present, symbolizing the passing of history and traditions to the next generation. Dr. Hans Mark, former member of the United States Navy who was born in 1929, passed his piece of cake to the youngest Navy-Option, MIDN 4/C Zachary Parrish who was born in September, 1993. Mr. Bob Brown, former member of the United States Marine Corps who was born in 1929 also, passed his cake to MIDN 4/C Mark Beasley, a Marine-Option who was also born in September 1993. The evening's ceremonies concluded with the address by our esteemed Guest of Honor, Rear Admiral Kovacich. He told stories of his previous duty station in Afghanistan while also offering his advice

and experience to Midshipmen and guests. After dinner and the ceremonies concluded, the real party got started on the dance floor. The Midshipman Officer In Charge, MIDN 2/C Jordan Reyes, surprised the guests throughout the evening with a game of musical chairs and a dance competition in which the

winners, MIDN 4/C Beasley and Lt. Rivera (respectively), received a cash prize.

Upon the conclusion of the event, MIDN 2/C Reyes had this to say: "We encountered a few unforeseeable obstacles, however thanks to the Birthday Ball Committee, the Unit Staff, and everyone else who contributed, the event was a total success and set a new standard for years to come."



Color Guard

By: MIDN 4/C Stoop

The University of Texas Naval ROTC Color Guard was headed by sophomore Color Guard Commander Midshipman 3/C Lee during the Fall 2011 semester. Those serving on the Color Guard with Midshipman Lee included MIDN 2/C Cahoon, Culpepper, and Wright; MIDN 3/C Barone, Dinmore, Witherspoon, and Kelly, along with newly recruited MIDN 4/C Riley, Parrish, Stoop, and Beasley. The year began with several half-staff ceremonies at the University of Texas Main Mall, followed by the October Red River Rivalry Cotton Bowl game in Dallas. For this event, NROTC midshipmen organized and took part in the Run to Dallas – running from Austin to Dallas - in order to deliver one of the game balls to coach Mack Brown at the big game before presenting the colors on the field. Also in October was the Hurst Dedication Dinner, at which five midshipmen presented the colors in honor of Captain John Clark Hurst, a decorated Marine Corps pilot who served and was killed in the Vietnam War. The Naval ROTC Color Guard finished out the month of October with a less somber event at Highland Park Baptist Church, where they taught young Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts the proper etiquette and handling of the colors.

November's NROTC Alumni Weekend, spread over three days, brought back the Battalion's past alumni for an obstacle course dedication, awards dinner, and a scholarship presentation for outstanding midshipmen. The Color Guard performed at both the dinner and the scholarship presentation, where several of the upperclassmen on the Color Guard received awards and scholarships. On Veteran's Day, the Naval ROTC Color Guard joined with the Army and Air Force ROTC's for a joint ceremony at the Main Mall. The three groups coordinated to lower and fold a 10' by 19' flag in remembrance of those who served in defense of people and country. The next day, the colors were once again presented at the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball, a night of ceremony and celebration for midshipmen, officers, alumni, along with family and friends. The semester finished with the Longhorns' last football game against Kansas State in a joint Color Guard to cap off a successful 14 event semester for the University of Texas Naval ROTC Color Guard.



Alumni Weekend

By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock

Alumni weekend this year brought many alumni back to their old stomping ground, where they got to see many of their fellow classmates and share learning experiences with the current midshipmen. Alumni weekend started on Friday afternoon with a dedication of the UT NROTC's obstacle course to 1stLt James Burns, USMC, an NROTC graduate who was killed during combat operations in Vietnam in 1969. During the ceremony his sister, Judy Enston, shared her thoughts about her brother and his time in the Marine Corps and NROTC unit at The University of Texas. After the ceremony, there was a competition between 3 platoons of the Battalion, Freshman, Navy, and Leatherneck, and then the Unit Staff. In a very close call the Freshman actually won the competition, but this was also a great experience for everyone present to understand how the obstacle course is actually ran. That night there was an alumni dinner, to honor Robert L. Armstrong, John T. Montford, and ADM William McRaven, USN, for their military careers and achieve-

ments. Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Montford were then each presented with their award in turn, plus a framed photo of the battalion from Captain Dixon.

Admiral McRaven could not attend, but was still formally recognized.

The dinner was started with the University of Texas NROTC Color Guard presenting the Colors and MIDN 1/C Tallant being presented with an award, and was concluded with Captain Dixon speaking for several minutes, thanking the Alumni Foundation for their support, before Captain Michael Waldron gave the closing remarks.

Saturday morning started bright and early, with an Alumni Foundation General Business Meeting. During this meeting the Alumni gave out over \$38,000 in scholarships to different Midshipman and MECEPS. After the Alumni were done giving out scholarships, all of the Navy commissioning seniors of Fall 2011 and Spring 2012, were awarded mini community

pins, based on the warfare community in which they will be commissioning into, including Sub, Surface, and Aviation. After the award ceremony, everyone got on their burnt orange and headed down the Darrell K. Royal Stadium, where they watched UT destroy Texas Tech, 52-20. After the game, everyone gathered on Speedway, for a nice BBQ, Texas style from Poke E Joes. This tailgate was not only a great experience for old friends to catch up, but also many midshipmen attended, which gave them the opportunity to talk with the alumni. I know I enjoyed listening to stories about how different the UT NROTC battalion use to be, and stories of the old crow nest, as well as hearing stories from when they were first commis-



sioned in completely different time in the Navy and Marine Corps then it is now a days. Alumni weekend is a great time to learn from those who have already been in your shoes, but it is also a time when midshipmen finally understand how many doors can be opened up for them, and that the possibilities are virtually endless, just by listening.

Winter Commissioning 2011

By: MIDN 2/C Tadlock

On Friday December 16th 2011 Ensign William Pacl, and 2nd Lieutenant Matthew Little were commissioning into the United States Navy and Marine corps respectively. Ensign Pacl was part of the Seaman to Admiral-21 program (STA-21). Being a part

of the STA-21 program means the Ensign Pacl, enlisted into the United State Navy and then was nominated by

his superior officers and handpicked by the Navy to go to college and get a degree to become an officer. 2nd Lieutenant Little took part in the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP). MECEP is very similar to the STA-21 program for enlisted Marines. 2nd Lieutenant Little entered college as a Sgt in the Marine Corps. Although commissioning is a huge accomplishment for everyone, going through a program like STA-21 or MECEP, makes it extra special. When both these men enlisted in their respective services, neither of them could have even dreamed of this day. And to make it even more special, they both have their own families to celebrate with.

Ensign Pacl was commissioned first and given the officer oath of service by his grandfather Lieutenant Commander Lawrence Pacl Retired. Lieutenant

Commander Pacl, graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1952, after receiving an appointment from the Secretary of the Navy from the Naval Reserve, he then retired in 1972, after 20 years. Then Ensign Pacl's sons Aiden

and Austin came up and changed the rank on his uniform. After the ceremony Ensign Pacl received his first salute from his very proud father, EMI/SS Timothy Pacl Retired. Ensign Pacl was presented a sword by Lieutenant Christian Rivera.

2nd Lieutenant Little was given the officer oath of service by Capt David Godwin. Capt Godwin is an infantry officer who

served as his platoon commander in 1st BN 6th Marines and they deployed together to Afghani-

stan in 2004 as part of the 22nd MEU. It was then in Afghanistan that Capt Godwin told 2nd Lieutenant Little about the MECEP program, as he was commissioned through the program. Then 2nd Lieutenant Little's very proud wife Jocelyn Little and mother Anne Little affixed his new bars on his uniform. After the ceremony 2nd Lieutenant Little's old high school friend an infantry marine who is currently serving as Ops Chief for Headquarters BN at Marine Corps Hawaii GySgt Nathan Dreyer gave him his first salute. Capt David Godwin, then presented 2nd Lieutenant Little with his honorary mameluke swords during the sword ceremony.

We are very proud of both Ensign Pacl and 2nd Lieutenant Little here at the University of Texas Naval ROTC. We would want

to wish them the best and make sure they know they will definitely be missed as mentors to the current midshipmen.

