A Tri-Mil Run With Fr. Jenkins

MIDN 1/C Christopher Fencl
PAO/Editor-in-Chief

Every year since Fr. Jenkins’ inception as President of Notre Dame, all three ROTC branches—Navy, Army, and Air Force—have joined him for an early morning run. Jenkins, an avid runner himself, proposed the idea, and it is to be considered much to his credit that he has remained physically capable of continuing this tradition even under the stresses and demands which unavoidably attach themselves to the presidential office of Notre Dame.

The run this year took place at 0630 on 25 SEP, and was approximately three miles long. Navy Midshipmen and Air Force/Army cadets ran along a road-route on the east side of campus, with each ROTC branch running separately but in close formation. Throughout the run, representatives from each service took turns calling motivational double-time cadences for their respective groups. Following the run, Fr. Jenkins took a moment to thank the midshipmen and cadets for their service and commitment to justice.

Joint Military Liaison MIDN 1/C Jason Dodge was directly involved in the planning process for the run, and commented, “Cooperative preparation and active teamwork among the services allowed for the successful planning and subsequent execution of a flawless Tri-Mil Run that once again showed itself to be a significant opportunity for the Navy and other military services to show their pride and project their power.”

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

MIDN 3/C Katherine Gomrick
Staff Writer

A Patriot’s Day Ceremony was held by the reflecting pool in front of the Hesburgh Library commemorating the sixth anniversary of the September 11th attacks. It was a Tri-Military event, hosted by the Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC units here at Notre Dame. A reasonable crowd of university staff, faculty, and students attended the ceremony to honor those lost in the attacks six years ago and those who are still fighting to ensure that such a devastating event is never repeated.

The ceremony began with the presentation of the colors. Following the national anthem, a benediction was offered, praying for all the victims of the September 11th attacks including the firefighters, policemen, and civilians who perished.

Notre Dame’s men’s basketball coach, Mike Brey, was the guest speaker for the ceremony. He reflected on his personal experiences with the U.S. troops overseas. This past summer he had the opportunity to work (cont’d on page 2)
A Word From BCO

MIDN 1/C Anna Pursley, USNR
Battalion Commanding Officer

Welcome back from summer break! Fall semester began with an incredibly successful O-Week. The 4/C and staff alike displayed motivating effort with great results, though I would venture to guess that the staff enjoyed the week a touch more than the freshmen. Of course, I think all hands enjoyed PTI’s Pikachu impression; any witness is bound to let out at least a little giggle (if you haven’t seen it yet, schedule an audience with him immediately). But seriously, Bravo Zulu to everyone involved with orientation; the week was as close to flawless as they come.

The rest of the semester has also been off to a great start. It is amazing to think we’re already a third of the way through the semester. We are certainly keeping busy—running with Fr. Jenkins, participating in the Patriot’s Day Ceremony, and dominating the football game versus Michigan… at least in the game that matters. Everyone has transitioned nicely into their new jobs. The 1/C are stepping up to their leadership roles, just a short step from being commissioned in the Navy or Marine Corps. The 2/C and 3/C have entered the illustrious ranks of midshipmen with enlisted midshipmen billets, completing the grunt work that keeps the battalion running. The 4/C have already had a very positive impact on the battalion. They are truly a motivating group of young men and women, and I am excited to see them continue to develop as midshipmen.

Heads up for Tri-Mil events; we are going to bring the cup home this year. Keep up the good work, both in your classes and within the battalion, and I know we have a successful year ahead. Go Irish!
A Message from the CO

CAPT Dale Nees, USN
CO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

My first Irish Pennant – hope everyone isn’t expecting something too profound from the new CO. First let me start out by saying how thrilled I am to be here at Notre Dame. You all know by now that I’m not an alum of this fine institution, but as a Naval Academy grad (who has actually seen the Naval Academy Crest at ND) and a naval officer of over 28 years, I have a great deal of admiration, respect and fondness for this institution, especially how it has embraced the Navy for so many years. There is no other University in the country that has done more for our Navy. There is such a rich history between ND, USNA and the Navy, including a little rivalry involving 80 football games (and a 43 year losing streak – but who’s counting) that I’m excited and honored to now be associated with “Our Lady of the Lake”.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and wish Fair Winds and Following Seas to Captain Mike Neller (retiring) and YN1 Sonya Davis (transferring to Japan), both of whom notably served this institution, the staff and midshipmen with the utmost professionalism during the past three years. Captain Neller and I started our Navy journey together over 32 years ago, standing side by side on a hot humid day in Annapolis (not unlike Indiana in August), raising our right hand and swearing an oath to support and defend our Constitution (its people and our liberty) against all enemies, just like each of you (Midshipmen) here at Notre Dame. It was special being able to relieve Mike in this assignment after all these years. By the way, now that Captain Neller is gone we are going to ratchet things up around here in physical fitness.

In my short time on board, I’ve been most impressed with the quality of the people here at the unit. The staff and faculty are top notch and committed to the success of our Midshipman (Navy and Marine Corps option). The seniors (1/C) are truly first class. You will be joining the Fleet and Corps soon and will put into practice the leadership, honor, courage and commitment you have learned while here at Notre Dame. There is no doubt in my mind that you are up to the task and have a solid foundation due to the strong education and high morals imparted on you at Notre Dame. The freshman (4/C) are excited and eager (perhaps a little bewildered at times) to embark on this journey – one that will find them following their fellow Domers into service of their country in what will seem like four short years. The juniors (2/C) and sophomores (3/C) are stepping up to the plate and beginning to exert that leadership we expect of them. I’ve heard lots of favorable praise by the MIDN 4/C following freshman orientation, at least in some areas. My advice to all of you is to enjoy the experience and everything Notre Dame has to offer while you are here.

Just one last comment since this is already longer than some of your FYC essays; I’ll try not to be too philosophical. I know many folks out there are “disappointed” with the football record this season. No one more than me, since I wanted Navy to beat an 8-0 Notre Dame, but now is when you need to show the most support for your team, especially your fellow student athletes. They continue to dedicate the time and effort while also balancing their studies, and nothing is more demoralizing than to hear negative comments directed toward them. It’s disappointing to hear the boo birds (hopefully not the students) in ND Stadium but encouraging to see the students standing and cheering to the bitter end. It shows courage, honor and commitment to support your team when it is down and others around you are being critical. Games will be won and lost, but the character you display in victory and more importantly defeat, will define you. As the British novelist, Virginia Woolf said, “One likes people much better when they’re battered down by a prodigious siege of misfortune than when they triumph.” The message here is simple; sometimes adversity can bring out good qualities such as humility and compassion. Notre Dame (football) will be back, like a forest after a fire, greener and better than ever.

Go Irish! Go Navy!
Greetings everyone from Notre Dame! Here we go again; the beginning of another outstanding school year is upon us. It’s great to have everyone back and motivated for another year at Notre Dame. The upper class midshipmen are returning from some exciting summer training, and we have an exceptional class of freshmen joining us this year.

But before we get into that I want you to know of some staff changes we have had since the battalion left in the spring. As you may know, CAPT Neller retired after 3 fun filled years here at Notre Dame and 28 years of Naval service. We welcome his relief, CAPT Dale Nees and his family, who joins us from Washington D.C. We’re excited to have him here and look forward to the next few years with him in command. We also want to welcome LT Theresa Bly, who’s coming to us straight from deployment on the USS NIMITZ. And finally we’re excited to welcome back LT Greg Keigher who has just returned from a 10 month deployment to Iraq. We’re glad to have him back safe and sound.

As I said earlier, we have an outstanding freshmen class joining the battalion this fall. With 34 midshipmen in the class, it’s one of the largest in recent memory and one of the most motivated. They have all come in and hit the ground running at full speed. It is a pleasure to see such high quality young men and women coming into the Navy and Marine Corps and from what I’ve observed so far, they are going to make outstanding leaders in the Naval service. I want to also congratulate the upper class midshipmen who were in charge of Freshmen Orientation this summer. They did an outstanding job! Their professionalism, dedication and motivation made the orientation week a huge success and laid a solid foundation for a successful school year.

By the time you read this, mid terms and fall break will be almost upon us. It’s hard to believe that the semester will be half over already. Where does the time go? Before we know it, there will be snow on the ground, the students will be heading home for the holidays and everyone will be looking forward to spring break. But I’m getting way ahead of myself; I need something to write about in the next issue. I hope everyone has a great year too and if you’re in the neighborhood here at Notre Dame, stop in and see us. Until next time …

This summer MIDN 1/C’s Andrew Linn and Dan Justice had the opportunity to take part in a FOREX cruise with the naval portion of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF). The JSDF replaced the Imperial Japanese Navy and the rest of Japan’s military branches in 1947, when Japan, in the aftermath of WWII and the dissolution of its Empire, drafted a new constitution which renounced the use of positive military action in all of its international affairs. Japan’s current navy consists of 119 warships, all of which are employed in strictly defensive or domestic tasks, such as patrolling territorial waters and managing the nation’s sea lanes.

MIDN 1/C Linn began his cruise by staying four days at Yokosuka U.S. Naval Base. Here he met other American midshipmen taking part in the FOREX program and reported aboard the JS Harusame, a Japanese ship roughly equivalent to a U.S. destroyer. On the Harusame, 1/C Linn transited to Kure, Japan, where he stopped and spent three days at MOCS, which is (cont’d on page 10)
CASH BACK – NOW THAT SHOULD GET YOUR ATTENTION.

The USAA Cash Rewards® MasterCard® puts money back in your pocket with every purchase.

- 0% intro rate on balance transfers and cash advances for 6 months after opening an account.¹
- Earn cash back on your purchases — up to 1.25%.²
- 14% rate on all balance transfers, cash advances or funds deposited directly to a USAA-Debit card.³
- Special interest rate for up to one year during regular deployment or PCS.²

¹Get an immediate approval decision.
Visit usaa.com or call 800.531.2090.

We know what it means to serve.

Insurance • Banking • Investments • Member Services

¹Subject to credit approval. Introductory APR will end and usual and customary rates will apply if you or an authorized user misses two payments past due. As of June 15, 2020, variable APR on Purchases and Cash Advances is 15.00%. There is a foreign transaction charge of 3% and a cash advance fee of 3% except for balance transfers. Convenience check or funds deposited directly to a USAA-Debit card.³Cash rebates range from 0.35% to 1.25% depending upon level of purchases. You must contact us within 60 days of the start of deployment/PCS or six months after your military campaign. Penalties may apply. Read all the restrictions and select an account. • Gift cards issued by USAA Savings Bank. Member FDIC • © USAA 2020. All rights reserved. 20-0624318-PUB-2020-1438
Irish Pennant

Naval ROTC  University of Notre Dame  October 2007

Freshman-O-Week ‘07

MIDN 3/C Kevin Fitzgibbon
Staff Writer

On a Sunday in August, 35 young men and women arrived on campus at the University of Notre Dame. They were about to begin their 4th Class orientation into the university’s Navy ROTC battalion. Unsure of what to expect, they nevertheless were eager to begin their lives as members of the nation’s armed forces.

O-week, as it is affectionately known, is an important experience in the life of a midshipman. Orientation consists of many evolutions with purposes ranging from team-building to improving physical fitness. Most importantly, it signifies a transition from civilian life to a life of service to the United States of America.

When the new freshmen arrived, they were quickly immersed in a high-tension military training atmosphere. They checked in, were issued gear, and were shown to their quarters for the week. Each midshipman was assigned to a platoon, first or second, each with a 1st Class CO, a 2nd Class MPO, and a 3rd Class guide. Once the platoons were assembled, the freshmen began to play the “name game,” standing in a circle and sounding off the names of those who came before them in order. Most importantly, they also took an oath to serve their nation honorably and selflessly.

From the outset, O-week is designed to be a stressful environment. Such a high-tension situation helps foster teamwork, camaraderie, and selflessness among the participants. Midshipmen have little time to themselves throughout the day, as they are constantly undergoing evolutions. Waking up before 0600 to PT, or exercise, the freshmen proceed from event to event, including briefs, drilling (marching), and studying, as well as being tested on basic Navy knowledge. Throughout the day, they are expected to maintain proper “bearing,” i.e. keeping their appearance professional, showing respect, and usually staring straight ahead, unless studying or paying attention to a brief. The evenings are spent ironing uniforms and shining shoes for the next day.

O-week isn’t entirely serious, however. The atmosphere became less tense as the week progressed, and by the end the new midshipmen learned that, while respect is always in order, military units can have fun, too. One way in which fun and training were integrated was the “bearing checks.” These consisted of upper-class midshipmen entering the room and attempting to make the 4th class laugh or in some way lose their composure whilst studying. (cont’d on page 8)

Reflections on Summer Cruise

MIDN 2/C Hy Pham
Irish Pennant CPO

Whenever I am asked about what I did during the summer and how my summer was, nothing but positive thoughts run through my mind. Just the thought of it now as I am writing this article brings back so many great memories and experiences. It was truly amazing, and I have so many stories to share.

It all started around early July. While most people in the unit had already gone on their “cruises,” I had not received my orders yet. I had absolutely no clue where I was going or what I was doing, but then the long, awaited envelope finally came through the mail. ‘Yokosuka, Japan,’ it said. DDG-56, U.S.S. John S. McCain. Instantly right then and there, I just knew it was going to be a great time, and it was.

My plane left on July 20th, and whereas most “cruises” are two to three weeks long, I left knowing that I was not coming back for at least another month. Ask me now, and I wish it could have been longer. Upon arriving, I met up with five other midshipmen, all from different schools across the country including The Ohio State University, Texas A&M, Vanderbilt, Arizona, and VMI. Being that the ship was not going underway for another week or so, the captain did grant us off-base liberty to explore Japan, and we definitely took advantage of the opportunity. Things we did included visiting a temple and seeing the “Great Buddha” in Kamakura, going to Tokyo, and seeing the Imperial Palace, and believe it or not, we even climbed Mt. Fuji.

My overall impression of Japan was very positive. For one thing, it truly is a very interesting place. Being there, one cannot help but to absorb the great sense of history and culture that the country has to offer. Not only that, I have never seen people who are so respectful and friendly and so welcoming. I must admit, though, that the language difference was a little difficult to get over at first, but rest assured, I was able to learn enough to order sushi, which by far was the best I ever tasted.

We went underway the second week. I soon learned that we were going to take part in a big group naval exercise known as “Operation Valiant Shield 2007,” an exercise which involved not only one or two, but three carrier battle groups. It was definitely the experience of a lifetime to be part of it, and although I will not be able to publicly disclose any specific (cont’d on page 8)
From the MOI’s Desk

Maj. Tyrone Theriot
Marine Officer Instructor

Change is in the air here at the unit. We recently had a number of NROTC staff changes to include a new Professor of Naval Science, CAPT Nees, USN, a new advisor, LT Bly, USN and a new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, GySgt Macias, USMC, along with a new group of seniors in charge of the Midshipmen (MIDN) battalion. For the new freshmen, the entire NROTC program is new, so these personnel changes are not as significant to them. But, for those returning sophomores, juniors and seniors, these changes are a great opportunity to observe even more diverse leadership styles. This period of change should also serve as a reminder to all MIDN that throughout your future military career, and life in general, change is inevitable.

For the senior MIDN and billet holders, this is your opportunity to lead the battalion after three years of hard work. The current seniors have served diligently in a myriad of billets within this battalion, developing their own leadership styles in order to become effective leaders here and in their future naval careers. Each semester, we experience a new MIDN battalion staff emerging from the senior class, and inevitably, comparisons are made between how things were done in the past to the present. For those who will be commissioned in a short seven months, this is your chance to continue with processes that worked well or to implement change based upon years of experiences and observations in this battalion.

It is never easy to take over as a platoon commander or a division officer, but it is something that is done on a daily basis in the Marine Corps and Navy. Do not hesitate to ask for new ideas from your fellow MIDN, but remember that the decisions will be yours to make. These decisions should not necessarily be based upon consensus or democratic vote, rather your judgment should be your guide. Just because something is done differently from how it was done in the past, does not mean it is a bad idea. All MIDN need to keep in mind that the MIDN battalion staff is attempting to make improvements using past successes as a starting point for the achievement of even greater goals.

I will tell you that as long as you are attempting to set and maintain consistent standards of ethics, training and professional development, you are doing the right thing. Each one of you has the opportunity to lead, whether you hold a billet or not. It has often been said leading your peers will pose the greatest challenge to your leadership development. This is as true a statement for MIDN as it is for Second Lieutenants and Ensigns. Do not focus on what occurred in the past. Instead, use those experiences, good or bad, to establish a vision for the future. Do this and your fellow MIDN, and future Marines and sailors, will strive to meet any goal under your leadership.

Semper Fidelis!
Tyrone Theriot
Major, USMC

Jumble Puzzle

MIDN 1/C Christopher Fencl
Irish Pennant PAO/Editor-in-Chief

The CNO’s conduct at the Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting was nothing less than __________.

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Unscramble the letters that appear in the circled boxes to find the missing word.

*Answer on page 10
Summer Cruise (cont’d from page 6)

information regarding what we did, let me just say that the United States Navy can do some amazing things.

What I can talk about in great detail, however, was what I experienced personally. As this was my 2nd Class “cruise,” I was assigned to an enlisted running mate; his name was BM2 Bradley. Of all the running mates to which midshipmen on our ship were assigned, he was definitely one of the better ones, if not the best. Joining into the boatswains mate way of life, everyday was different, and they had me working and getting my hands dirty from the time I stepped onto the ship until the day I left. I honestly had no problems with it at all, and if anything, I am grateful that the deck division took me in in the way they did because I really did get a great chance to see and learn a lot. Some of the interesting things I did included being the helmsman on the bridge, the signalman during one of the UNREP’s/RAS’s (underway replenishment/refueling at sea), and even the phone-talker during both sea and shore anchor detail. In addition, I also was able to see numerous day and night flight quarters, witnessing up-close the great precision, effort, and teamwork it takes to have a helicopter land on a destroyer. It was amazing.

All in all, my experience on the USS John S. McCain was definitely one that I will never forget. While most college students spent their entire summer working or simply relaxing at home, I not only had the opportunity to see the world from the top of Mt. Fuji but also witness and experience what life in the United States Navy is like firsthand. How many people in their lifetime can ever say that? Not many, not many at all.

O-week (cont’d from page 6)

Some memorable moments were a Harry Potter-style “duel,” the singing of “Mr. Jones,” by the Counting Crows, to midshipman 2nd Class Jones, and a rousing rendition of the Captain Planet theme song. On the last day, the 4th Class spent time in the wardroom getting to know the upperclassmen and performing skits making jest of them.

All in all, the unit’s newest members had an exciting and fulfilling O-week experience. As midshipman 4th Class Zak put it, “It was a great experience, and I formed some great friendships with my fellow midshipmen. They were days I will remember for the rest of my life.”
NROTC Football Team Beats Michigan for 2nd straight year

MIDN 1/C Christopher Fencl
PAO/Editor-in-Chief

The Notre Dame football team received a trouncing at the hands of Michigan this year, but we can at least mildly soothe our consciences with the knowledge that our NROTC football team beat Michigan’s on the same weekend—and beat them for the second straight year.

The tradition of playing against Michigan’s NROTC unit began two years ago, and the games have always been memorable. Although there were no hospitalizations this time around, apparently the game was still very physical. Even 4/C Sierawski, whose brother Patrick is a member of Michigan NROTC and was playing on the opposing side, managed to play with aggression.

Outstanding performances were had by 2/C Jones, who had an amazing diving catch for a touchdown, and also by 2/Cs Malherek and Costanzo, who both had interceptions. That one of the female Michigan players was described to me as something of an Amazonian Xena redounds greatly to the credit of our 3/C Jen Malherek, who was charged the task of guarding this behemoth.

The special contributions of individual players were assuredly an essential ingredient of this victory, but the magnificent team effort exercised by our NROTC squad was also vital to the win. Congratulations to all of those who participated. Your victory, but also your sportsmanship, reflected very well on the unit.

PAO’s Perspective

MIDN 1/C Christopher Fencl
PAO/Editor-in-Chief

“Assume a virtue, if you have it not.”
--Hamlet (Hamlet; act III, iv); William Shakespeare

It is no secret that throughout history virtue has been practiced only by a few. In one sense we should not find this surprising; indeed, nothing is more consistent with human weakness. But there is something about this obvious fact that ought to amaze us. It suggests that the greatest achievements of human civilization owe their existence to a relatively small portion of the world’s historical population. It implies that the writing up and enforcement of law, the progress of science and medicine, the planning of cities, the production of artwork, the maintenance of order in the household, and the just administration of kingdoms have been made possible only by a determined and beneficent handful of persons. Moreover—what is perhaps most arresting—it indicates that it was only by their steadfast practice of the virtues that these few people succeeded in applying themselves to, and directing others toward, such laudable ends. In light of these considerations the awesome feats which the virtuous few managed to accomplish ought to shock us much more than the moral indifference and productive mediocrity of the many.

The men and women of history who have practiced virtue are our leaders, regardless of the various stations that happened to occupy them. Every person is given a sphere of influence; doing one’s duty consists in doing one’s utmost to provide for the common good within one’s sphere. For this reason we ought not to praise the life of an Emperor Charlemagne any more than we ought to praise the life of a forgotten monk whose actions were limited in their historical impact but unmatched in their goodness. A good will deserves our admiration, whatever the extent of its influence.

But there is more to admire than the good will of virtuous persons. We should also admire their virtue. After all, the practice of the virtues is what allows men and women of good will to act in those ways which are most likely to bring about the ends of their will. The virtues, in other words, are those qualities which are responsible for ensuring that men and
A View From the East (cont’d from page 4) essentially the JSDF’s version of the Naval Academy. At MOCS 1/C Linn and the other American midshipmen were able to interact with Japanese officer candidates and take part in much of their rigorous daily routine. After spending his time at MOCS, 1/C Linn traveled to Tokyo. Here he visited the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, witnessed Karate and Kendo demonstrations, and toured the largest fish-market in the world.

The intention behind the FOREX cruise was to expose American midshipmen to the naval forces of Japan, a longstanding ally and important economic partner, and to foster even further the close relations which exist between the two countries. 1/Cs Linn and Justice were grateful for the opportunity to be part of this unique cruise experience.

PAO’s Perspective (cont’d from page 9) women act according to wisdom, that they act in ways which befit the achievement of the ends which they set for themselves. Indeed, without virtue, there can be no assurance that right intention will issue in right action. Consider, for purposes of illustration, a man of good will who sees another person trapped under a burning piece of debris. He will obviously desire and intend to put out the fire in order to save the person. But if he acts imprudently—for example, if he applies gasoline rather than water to the debris—then he fails to attain the worthy end to which his good will prompted him.

Virtues, then, are primarily the instruments or enablers of good will. Prudence allows us to choose the right method of conduct in a given situation. Art assists us in applying the right rules of reasoning within a given discipline. Courage gives us the strength to overcome difficulties and fears—the obstacles which would impede right action. Perseverance allows us to continue acting rightly in the midst of mental and physical exhaustion. Temperance helps us rein in our lower appetites. And justice is what allows us to harmonize our goodness with our reason such that we see to it that each person receives what he or she deserves.

To know the virtues is the first step toward practicing them. And all people ought to practice the virtues, since they provide the best means for securing one’s own good as well as the good of the community. “Virtue,” says St. Thomas Aquinas, “makes its possessor good, and his work good likewise.”

Just as the state of the world is in large part determined by the number of virtuous men and women which it contains, so is the state of the Navy. A successful Navy depends upon, and cannot function without, a certain minimum number of virtuous officers. We owe it to God, Country, and Notre Dame to do all that we can to ensure that when we enter the fleet we can count ourselves among them.
We Need Your Help

Each year, NROTC Notre Dame publishes a yearbook, *The Irish Wake*, to memorialize Battalion events. In order to produce a high-quality annual with more than 50 glossy pictures of NROTC Notre Dame memories, we rely on the generous donations of parents and friends of the Battalion. If you would like to make such a contribution, checks (made payable to “Navy Marine Corps Council”) can be mailed to:

Irish Wake  
c/o Naval ROTC  
213 Pasquerilla Center  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Three types of sponsorship are available:
- **Blue Sponsor**: Contribution of $30 or less
- **Gold Sponsor**: Contribution of $31-49
- **Page Sponsor**: Contribution of $50 or more

Blue and Gold Sponsors will be recognized by name on the last page of *The Irish Wake*. Page Sponsors will have their name printed on the bottom of a page along with a personalized message; please include your message with your donation.

All Wake sponsors receive a complementary copy of *The Irish Wake*.