Notre Dame Hosts Annual Naval Leadership Weekend

MIDN 2/C Robert Murphy, USNR

A Notre Dame Naval ROTC tradition for seventeen years, this year’s Naval Leadership Weekend was a tremendous success. Midshipmen Coordinators, MIDN 2/C Madeleine Anderson and MIDN 2/C Kevin Hickey, and the NLW staff, coordinated the event. Their hard work was evident throughout the weekend. Over the course of two days, there were six symposiums, with four held on Friday and two on Saturday. In addition to the six symposiums, there were three special events on Saturday. These included an ethical decision game scenario, a panel discussion, and a special dinner in the Notre Dame Stadium Press Box. Over 125 midshipmen from 32 schools were in attendance during the weekend of 24 February, making it one of the biggest Naval Leadership Weekends to date.

The event kicked off on Thursday evening when midshipmen from across the country began arriving at the Sacred Heart Parish Center where they stayed for the weekend. After the Friday morning “Welcome Aboard” brief given by Captain Earl Carter, the Notre Dame NROTC Commanding Officer, the first symposium began with a presentation from the Honorable Mr. Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Stackley works with Research, Development, and Acquisition for the Navy and gave a very informative talk on some of the more technical aspects of how the Navy conducts research and acquires new technology.

Colonel A. E. Renforth, USMC, presented during the next symposium. He kept his talk short and focused on opening the floor for questions, allowing midshipmen the chance to get the insights of a Marine with extensive combat experience. MIDN 2/C VanMetre of Notre Dame commented, “It was nice that he began taking questions so quickly, I found it interesting to hear the concerns of midshipmen from other battalions about the issues confronting the military. The Colonel had great answers and gave great leadership advice.” Commissioner William C. Ostendorff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission presented the third symposium. Commissioner Ostendorff graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1976 and retired in 2002 as a Captain. He spoke of his time in the submarine community and emphasized the importance for leaders to value and respect their subordinates.

One of the most impressive speakers of the weekend, Major General Jerome G. Cooper, USMC (Ret.) and former Ambassador to Jamaica, gave a rousing talk to finish off the first day. MIDN 1/C Elliott described MajGen Cooper as, “hands down the best speaker of the weekend. He was engaging, did not lecture, and had a good mix of humor and quality stories. The MajGen was someone I would definitely want to see again.” A Notre Dame graduate, MajGen Cooper spoke of how he struggled against racism when he went through OCS and during his career in the Marine Corps during the ‘60s because he is an African-American. He never let this discourage him and eventually went on to have a successful career in the Marines. It was enlightening for the midshipmen to hear this inspiring story of overcoming hardship.

The second day of Naval Leadership Weekend opened bright and early with a talk from LCDR Nicholas Panos. As a former E-2 NFO who switched to the Naval Intelligence Community, LCDR Panos shared his unique career path that included a lateral transfer and assignments all around the world. Next came one of the most interactive and engaging events of the weekend - ethical decision games (or EDG’s). During this event, midshipmen were split into different groups and then given difficult situations they might encounter as officers. The situations were designed to test their judgment and decision-making skills when the right answer is not always clear. An intense exchange between the Marines in the room, about what to do in a situation where genocide seems imminent, left many midshipmen very motivated. MIDN 2/C Panikulm said, “Seeing all the Marines debate about following orders when it comes to a situation like the genocide in Rawanda was very inspirational.” (Continued on page 6)
BCO’s Words of Wisdom

MIDN 1/C Steven Prendergast, USNR
Battalion Commanding Officer

In my four years at Notre Dame, I have never been more proud of the Battalion than I was this year. This semester was fraught with challenges, but along with these challenges came opportunities, and we made the most of every one of them. As individuals, everyone stepped up their game this semester and many went above and beyond in their duties to make the unit run as efficiently as possible. As a Battalion, these individual efforts were multiplied one hundred fold. We have made incredible strides this year towards improving our own training and getting the most out of our time at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, and I know this trend will continue next fall. However, I am most proud of this Battalion for its perseverance and constant support. My staff and I came into this semester with lofty goals and a handful of changes right from the start. But no matter what we tried, I always found that we could count on the Battalion for support and great feedback to make a particular event better in the future.

At our final drill session, I left everyone with a challenge, and I will echo that challenge here: never stop improving yourself and those around you. This applies not only to your time at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, but also in your upcoming naval careers and in your civilian lives to follow. The minute that you stop seeking improvement is the minute you stop performing your duties as an officer and as a contributing member of society. I am certain that every one of you will go on to achieve great things in any of your pursuits, but this is not my concern. The temptation of accepting the status quo is ever-present, and we must do our best to resist this temptation and not become stagnant in our lives. It is also vital that you seek these improvements for the right reasons and never lose sight of the true purpose behind everything that you do: service to others. Self improvement must not be pursued for your own sake, but for the Sailors and Marines that you will be so privileged to serve. We are all called to lead America’s sons and daughters, and we owe them and their families our very best.

For the underclassmen, it may seem like you have a long road ahead of you, and you do. However, I envy you for all of the great times yet to be had in your Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s careers. It seems that as soon as you get comfortable, that’s when you have to move on to something new. Therefore, I urge all of the underclassmen and graduating seniors alike, to make the most out of every opportunity you have, while you still have it. I have learned so much here in these last four years, especially in these last four months, and I wish I could do it all again. We are all truly blessed to have the opportunity to attend the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College, and now that it is time for some of us to graduate, it’s comforting to know that we will always have this common place to call home. It has been an absolute honor to serve as your BCO and I look forward to serving with you all in the fleet in the very near future!
A Message from the CO

CAPT Clarence E. Carter, USN

On the heels of a great school year, and a very impressive Spring Semester, the past month has been a “whirlwind.” The completion of classes and final examinations, commissioning and commencement, our annual trip to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes with our newly-commissioned Ensigns, and now, I find myself in the process of saying goodbye to each of our Ensigns and Second Lieutenants as they head for their accession pipeline schools. To the person, they are incredibly impressive young officers with a bright future in the service of our nation, both while in uniform, and well beyond.

The one thing that comes out repeatedly during these bittersweet, one-on-one departure calls – unfortunately, the last such discussions I will have with these amazing young men and women in the near term, as they depart our campus for the Fleet and the Fleet Marine Force – is that they are fully ready to excel. The Notre Dame experience has prepared them well to succeed as leaders in their respective warfare communities.

The Naval ROTC Program is only a part of that preparation. For four, and in a few cases, as many as five years (e.g., Architecture majors), they have thrived in an extraordinary academic and social environment that challenged them intellectually, physically, professionally, emotionally, and spiritually. After over a year “in the seat” here as Professor of Naval Science, I have become increasingly convinced that there may be no better formative experience for commissioning across our military than that which our Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s midshipmen realize during their time here in South Bend.

If there is a message that consistently resounds from these young officers as they reflect on their days as a midshipmen here at Notre Dame, it is that the more they immersed themselves in – both in their University and in the Battalion – the more richly they were rewarded as aspiring leaders. Put another way, not a single person has said they tried to do too much, or wish they had done less. Not only are their countless accomplishments reflected in the great legacy that they leave their alma mater – but they also serve as an important message for those that follow in their footsteps as underclassmen. Simply put, there are innumerable ways to grow personally and professionally through the opportunities for service and leadership that the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College offer, and many of those are available through NROTC Notre Dame.

Perhaps the more subtle message, especially from the NROTC perspective, is that not every important key leadership role is a formally-defined one (e.g., BCO, Company Commander, etc). For the Classes of 2013 to 2015, I challenge you to embrace this lesson that your predecessors leave you, and come back with a renewed vigor, not only to excel in the classroom, but to look for new ways to serve and lead within the Universities and the Battalion. The Staff and I stand fully ready to support you in this endeavor. Not only will you be personally and professionally enriched, as your predecessors in the Class of 2012 have been, but you will set a great example for the Class of 2016, that matriculates this August.

For the rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, enjoy your summer training experiences, and with an open mind, allow them to shape your perspective as you anticipate your service assignment process. I look forward to seeing a number of you in King’s Bay in July and August for CORTRAMID EAST Submarine Week, and for those I do not encounter this summer, I look forward to hearing your “cruise stories” in the Fall.

We say farewell this season to three key staff members who leave quite a legacy here at Notre Dame. LT Dan Reinhardt has already departed to attend Medical School at Northwestern University, and was relieved by LT Mike Hood earlier in the Spring. LT Victor Panos and LT Mike Peters will also be leaving the Navy in September to pursue careers in the civilian sector, and their reliefs are inbound. The contributions of these three Lieutenants to NROTC Notre Dame have been invaluable, and they will be truly missed.

As we are reminded all too frequently, there is no better time to wear the cloth of the nation, especially in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps—nor is there more need for capable leadership of our Sailors and Marines in the future, in order to counter the threats that our country will invariably continue to face. Congratulations to all on a successful year, and to the Class of 2012, on your graduation and commissioning.

Travel safe, remain vigilant, and may God Bless!

Captain Earl Carter
Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science
To my Navy and Marine Corps Shipmates,

Another outstanding academic year has ended, and we all could not be prouder of the accomplishments of the Irish Battalion of Midshipman during the past year. You, the Midshipmen of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s College, have continued to excel in all your endeavors - academic, military, and physical. From my vantage point, it is apparent that the local community and the university, staff, faculty, and administrators have taken notice of these accomplishments as they are continuously reaching out to us to leverage your involvement and leadership within the university and the community. They, like your parents, are so proud of, and humbled by, your dedicated service as midshipmen and as student leaders.

To the underclassmen, your summer training periods will soon commence. Embrace the fantastic opportunities with which you will be presented and gobble up every morsel of professional information and training that you possibly can. “Pick the brains” of the Sailors and Marines whom you will encounter, and cherish and embrace the camaraderie and esprit de corps that they will undoubtedly want to share with you. As you fly naval aircraft, embark stealthy submarines and warships (hopefully while they’re at sea), and train with America’s elite fighters, the US Marines, please realize the fantastic blessings and opportunities you have, and realize that many of your fellow Americans can only dream about doing what will soon become routine to you and your Naval ROTC peers. When you consider the typical summer jobs and mundane internships (sitting at a desk) that many of your fellow classmates will endure this summer, I am certain that the exciting adventures upon which you will soon embark will motivate you and, furthermore, will cement the belief that you have chosen a noble, worthwhile, and exciting career. Although the core component of your summer training is to develop your professional skills and expose you to the “real” Navy and Marine Corps, don’t forget my most important rule – have a blast! Make friends with midshipmen from other NROTC units (your future shipmates), and you will certainly form many fond memories that you will cherish for the rest of your lives.

To the seniors who will soon be commissioned as Navy and Marine Corps Officers, I have seen you develop, since I arrived in South Bend three years ago, from timid and wide-eyed third class midshipmen to phenomenal battalion leaders and soon-to-be fantastic junior officers. You will undoubtedly leave your “Irish” mark upon the Fleet and the Fleet Marine Force, and we are all sure we will hear great things about you and your accomplishments. You might be sad to depart this great university, but you are beginning the most exciting career one could possibly imagine for young 22-year-old Americans. You will encounter countless occasions to excel, many demanding physical and mental challenges, and an infinite number of leadership opportunities. I will give you just a few pieces of advice: if you always lead with integrity and a moral compass you will not fail, embrace with vigor the opportunities that have been given, and never forget that your role as a leader is really that of a servant. What I mean is that you serve not only the American people and our nation, but most importantly, you serve the Sailors and Marines who are under your charge. You must strive to always mentor, train, and challenge them while personally looking out for their well-being and professional growth. As you are constantly reminded, it is not about you - it is about them! Take care of your shipmates and be a selfless leader, and you will be personally rewarded by succeeding in a fulfilling and meaningful career. Fair Winds Class of 2012!

On a personal note, I am thrilled that the Navy has extended my tour here at NROTC Notre Dame for a fourth year. This is the capstone tour of my career, and I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to spend an additional year doing my small part to help develop, mentor, and train the future officers of our naval forces. FLY NAVY! GO IRISH!
From the MOI’s Desk

Maj Jackie Schiller, USMC
MOI Notre Dame Naval ROTC

Graduation is soon upon us and we will have a batch of newly commissioned second lieutenants and ensigns. Commissioning is a culminating milestone encompassing four years of rigorous academic work and efforts within the Notre Dame NROTC Battalion involving physical fitness, community service, drill, leadership opportunities, and summer training. Yet, I want to echo to each of you…it is not over, you are only stepping onto a new plane, one in which you start anew, and must create your own track record and professional reputation.

The oath of office you will take at commissioning warrants some reflection. Military oaths hold their origins back with ancient Rome where one of the first professional armies was established. Our military oath of office was initially issued by General George Washington by general order on 07 May 1778. It has since changed in verbiage, but has remained similar in spirit. When senior officers recite the oath, and junior officers repeat the oath, there is often a stumbling over the phrase “and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.” I want you each to ask yourself what this phrase means to you. This phrase is captured in our core value of commitment. The phrase reflects the mandatory charge that you assertively and proactively master your duties, and you execute your duties excellently. This is not asking for perfection; however, the struggle toward perfection should be exemplified.

Ladies and gentlemen, I salute you and am humbled by your sense of service. You have all experienced a taste of something greater than yourselves. On this coming 19 May 2012, embrace this honor and challenge to well and faithfully discharge your duties. Do not stumble over these words during your commissioning, and I look forward to seeing you on the battlefield.

Semper Fidelis!
Midshipmen Have Good Showing at Annual Bouts

MIDN 3/C Neil Flattery, USNR

Bengal Bouts is an annual boxing tournament at Notre Dame that raises money for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. This tournament has grown over the past century to be one of the most anticipated and spirited sporting events held at Notre Dame. An integral part of this competition is the support that the school, students and the local community show for the participants and the cause to which they contribute. A rigorous three-month training schedule results in a highly competitive, highly entertaining contest in which young men demonstrate their physical and mental fortitude in the ring. The intense boxing training requires a dedication that illustrates the participants’ commitment to the cause as well as their drive to push themselves to their limit and further.

Naval ROTC saw eight midshipmen compete in Bengal Bouts this year: MIDN 1/C Daniel Chapman and Nicholas Raic; MIDN 2/C Robert Blume; MIDN 3/C Hank Duden, Justin Rumps and Murphy Lester; and MIDN 4/C Bryan Cooley and James Heisler. Each of these midshipmen decided to join for their own reasons: to get in shape, to raise money for a good cause, or even just to face a new challenge. MIDN Duden explained, “I’ve always been into contact sports and the Bouts were a big part of why I wanted to come to Notre Dame. My goal was just to push myself hard and go as far as I could.” As they progressed further through the training, many found even more rewarding aspects of Bengal Bouts. For MIDN Raic there were obvious physical gains in the training, but much of the satisfaction stemmed from “the fulfillment of knowing what they were fighting for,” the missions in Bangladesh. MIDN Rumps offered a similar sentiment that the reward was in “knowing that we were making a difference halfway around the world in Bangladesh.” The midshipmen participants demonstrate Naval ROTC’s commitment as future Navy and Marine Corps officers to a cause much greater than themselves.

Continued from Page 1: Battalion Hosts Annual Naval Leadership Weekend

It made me really think about if I would have the same courage in a situation like that.” The next event of the day was a panel discussion which allowed midshipmen to ask questions to a group of 5 esteemed professors on topics regarding the Navy with a primary focus on the question “What is the role of the Navy in being a global force for good?” The discussion from the professors gave midshipmen an insight into how those in the civilian world perceive the military. The final symposium was given by career naval aviator Captain Steven Malloy. Then visiting midshipmen were treated with a special dinner in the Notre Dame Stadium Press Box where a capstone speech was given by Admiral John C. Harvey, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Naval Leadership Weekend 2012 was a great success. It provided a chance for midshipmen from across the country to hear prominent leaders in both the military and civilian communities, giving them the tools and information that will guide them to success beyond the realm of college and into their unceasing challenge to become outstanding military officers. As the weekend finally came to a close, NLW Co-coordinator MIDN 2/C Hickey noted, “When it was all over, there was a big sense of accomplishment and relief. It was great seeing so many parts come together. The staff did a great job, and that showed in how well the weekend went.” The hard work and dedication of the staff elevated the bar to which future NLW’s will be held, a bar which will certainly continue to be raised.
**Senior ROTC Retreat**

**MIDN 1/C Mary Coyne, USNR**

On a damp February afternoon, eighteen seniors, chilled from the grey weather, shuffled into Moreau Seminary. These seniors were not concentrated from a single service, but diversely represented the Army, Naval, and Air Force ROTC units based at the University of Notre Dame. Although familiar with one another, many present had not interacted in depth with one another since their freshman year ROTC retreat, simply due to logistical constraints that cause members of each branch to mostly interact with classmates from their own unit. Despite this fact, the seniors attending this past year’s Senior ROTC Retreat embraced the company of their classmates and wholeheartedly engaged in deep conversation throughout the 24-hour retreat. The Retreat focused both on reflection of the past and discussion of what could be in the future.

It is important to distinguish the senior retreat from the one these same midshipmen and cadets experienced only 3 years prior. The freshman retreat highlighted the (potentially rocky) transition from high school to college life, what would be expected of these new midshipmen and cadets, and how Catholic traditions and Christ Himself weave seamlessly into these changes and challenges. The themes of the Senior Retreat, on the other hand, focus on the unfamiliar, intimidating perspective of “real life.” The Senior Retreat was largely a time for the three different branches to come together, reflect on collegiate careers, and hash out what obstacles and opportunities are lurking in the murky future ahead. It was a time to admit fear, to confront uncertainty, and to draw Christ and the compassion of those around them into their souls. At the conclusion of the Retreat, those present were given insignia for their covers as Ensigns and Second Lieutenants that had been blessed by Fr. Rocca, the ROTC Chaplain, but this simple physical gift could not fully encompass what was truly received by the participants during their brief experience together.

Although these seniors cannot say with any certainty how their lives will unfold in the real world of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, they can say with certainty that the spirit of Notre Dame and the love of their classmates will always be there to support them in any venture. It is an eternal bond that was strengthened this rainy weekend, and it is one that they will always treasure.

**Run for the Heroes**

**MIDN 2/C Joshua Gaston, USNR**

Every year, the Naval ROTC battalion does its best to remember the fact that they are part of something bigger than NROTC at Notre Dame. The Run for the Heroes, previously known as the Wounded Warrior Run, has been one of the ways to do this over the past three years. This 10k run, sponsored by the ROTC service groups, supports the Wounded Warrior Project, an initiative that aids wounded veterans and their families. MIDN 2/C Elizabeth Schroff, president of the Trident Naval Society (Naval ROTC service group), said, “I think it really hits home for us because these people that we’re helping to support will be the men and women that we’ll be serving with when we graduate.” The run took place early on Saturday morning, 31 March, and had a star studded opening with a tri-military color guard and the Notre Dame Glee Club singing the national anthem.

This 10k was open to the entire Notre Dame family, not just ROTC members. “We have a lot of participants who are from the three ROTC units,” Schroff said, “We also have a lot of people from outside the ROTC battalions [participating in the race]. It’s a great way to get everyone involved.” With 75 participants, this year’s run was a great success. MIDN 3/C Chris Patterson, Treasurer for Trident, commented, “What we do here is close to everyone’s hearts.” He went on to explain one of the goals this year was “to make this event bigger to reach more people and to get more participation.” This run has been firmly established as a key event for the NROTC battalion and will continue for many years to come. Ultimately, the spirit of the run was best put into words by MIDN 3/C Michael Falvey, “This is something that intimately involves everyone in the community. I think that it is imperative that the community supports these heroic individuals because these individuals give everything they have for the community.”
Deployment For Training (DFT) Prepares Marine Options for OCS

MIDN 3/C Henry Duden, USNR

On 27 April 2012, the Marine Option Midshipmen, accompanied by Major Schiller and Gunnery Sergeant Kennington, departed Notre Dame enroute to Fort Custer in Michigan for a weekend of professional development and intense training alongside students from the NROTC units of the University of Michigan, Miami University (OH), and the University of Wisconsin. Prospective candidates were given insight into what to expect when they report to Officer Candidate School (OCS) the summer after their junior year.

Before the OCS prep portion of the DFT, the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s midshipmen began the weekend with a night land navigation exercise on Thursday night. In teams of four and five, the midshipmen were given the coordinates of several checkpoints in the wilderness with only a compass, a protractor, and a map to help them find their way. Friday morning, several Navy Option Midshipmen drove up to Ft. Custer with LT Bennett to meet the Marine Options on the rifle range. There, midshipmen had the opportunity to fire the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol. Any seniors on the range were invited to execute a practice pistol qualification to prepare them to take the test in the fleet. After a long day on the range, the Navy Options headed back to South Bend while the Marine Options returned to the barracks to meet up with their peers from the other participating universities for a weekend filled with tests of speed, endurance, and intensity.

The Assistant Marine Officer Instructors from the various units, Master Sergeant Flores and Gunnery Sergeants Kennington, Corona and Quan, acted at the Platoon Sergeant Instructors for the weekend. The Sergeant Instructors created a stressful environment for the midshipmen, imitating what they would encounter at OCS. “[There was a lot of yelling and chaos. They didn’t let us get a lot of sleep,” MIDN 4/C Sullivan commented, “It was exhausting but motivating at the same time.” When the midshipmen were not being instructed by the Sergeant Instructors, they were being led through various OCS evolutions by a cadre of 1/C Midshipmen and enlisted Marines in the MECEP program who had successfully completed OCS in the summer of 2011. Evolutions included day and night land navigation, small unit leadership exercises, and a pugil stick session. MIDN 1/C Brainard remarked, “One of the most important aspects of OCS is being able to work well with students from other universities that you have never met before. That was what we tried to recreate, and I think it was the most beneficial aspect of the DFT.”

The weekend ended on Sunday afternoon with the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), an evolution designed to give candidates an opportunity to lead a small group through a difficult situation using their creativity and critical thinking skills. “The LRC was challenging, but it was a good chance to make use of the leadership tools we had been developing all weekend,” said MIDN 3/C Rumps.

After a brief Q&A session with the Marine Officer Instructors, the midshipmen made the trek back to Notre Dame and their normal lives as students. “I definitely feel more prepared for OCS,” Rumps said, “but for now, just being a college student is stressful enough.”

Midshipmen Celebrate End of the Year with Warrior Night

MIDN 3/C Neil Flattery, USNR

On 27 April 2012, the Notre Dame NROTC Battalion held its annual Warrior Night. As is tradition, the event was hosted in a converted barn at Saint Patrick’s Park. This year, competitions were held between all three companies to demonstrate the physical prowess and teamwork of the members of the NROTC unit. The games kicked off with a gear transition relay, consisting of low crawls, ammo can carries, bear crawls, and wheelbarrow races while wearing field gear and flak jackets. Next was the warrior relay, consisting of tire squares, log carries, grenade throws and tunnel rats. Each company then competed in a ‘Company Commander Carry,’ where a team from the company raced to carry their Company Commander a hundred yards. The last event was the tug of war contest, won by Bravo Company. After the competitions, everyone went inside for the start of dinner. After President of the mess, MIDN 1/C Brainard, declared the food suitable for consumption, everyone was served. Following the meal, formal toasts were made to United States, the President, the military, and to those who serve.

Colonel Jay D. Walker, USMC (Ret.) served as the guest speaker at this year’s Warrior Night. He first identified the retired Marines and Sailors who were in attendance as distinguished guests and thanked them for their service. He then offered words of wisdom to the commissioning seniors and underclassmen. He reminded the midshipmen that officers have a duty to the enlisted men and women whom they serve. Their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice, he noted, demands mutual respect which should never be taken for granted. After Colonel Walker’s remarks, Captain Carter presented each commissioning senior with a KA-BAR knife. The night concluded with skits performed by the 3/C and 4/C midshipmen, designed to poke fun at the graduating 1/C midshipmen. The jokes offered the seniors a chance to look back at the four years they served in the Notre Dame NROTC Battalion. Finally, CAPT Carter reminded the Battalion of the short time left in the year, and urged everyone to continue pushing for a high performance in finals. Warrior Night gathered the entire battalion together and gave all the midshipmen the opportunity to reminisce over the past two semesters and to look forward to the future.
NROTC Competes in Flying Irish Tournament

MIDN 2/C Joshua Gaston, USNR

For the 26th consecutive year, the Notre Dame Air Force ROTC Battalion held the Flying Irish Basketball tournament. This tournament brings in basketball teams from different ROTC battalions all over the country. The tournament fosters camaraderie between future military officers in a fun and competitive environment. This year, Navy Midshipmen formed both men’s and women’s teams, and participated in a Tri-Mil team. When asked about the women’s team, MIDN 3/C Katie Martinez said, “It was a great way to interact outside of the usual drill and PT. It was fun time to just hang out and play basketball.” Though the women’s team was unable to advance in the tournament, they enjoyed their time spent together as a team. MIDN Martinez appreciated that the tournament allowed for a women’s only team, since “every girl got to get some playing time.”

MIDN 2/C Charles Lee, a member of the men’s team, remarked the tournament “brings people from all classes, and companies under one united goal, making it a phenomenal experience.” Though their team was unable to advance from the first round due to point differential, the team dominated the ND Air Force team as well as ending Michigan’s playoff hopes by beating them in a close game. “Being in the military, most people are naturally competitive,” MIDN Lee joked, “but playing our Air Force unit and Michigan added additional motivation.” The Tri-mil team took second at last year’s tournament, so the team had high hopes coming in. MIDN 2/C Quinn Kilpatrick, a member of the team, said, “Every year our goal is to win the tournament, so we sort of expected to get there.” The team did get to the finals yet again, losing to Texas A&M, a familiar finals rival for the ND Tri-mil team. “Second obviously isn’t what we were trying to come in,” said MIDN Kilpatrick, “but hopefully this is an indicator to us to try and come back and win the whole thing next year.” Even with the loss, Kilpatrick truly enjoyed the experience because he was able to meet people from other ROTC units here and elsewhere, friends that he might not have gotten to meet otherwise.

Battalion Welcomes New Lieutenant

MIDN 2/C Henry Duden, USNR

The Battalion is excited to welcome Lieutenant Michael Hood to the Notre Dame NROTC Unit. LT Hood will be replacing LT Reinhardt as advisor to the Class of 2015. LT Reinhardt is pursuing a medical career while attending the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago.

LT Hood, a native of Anchorage, Alaska, attended the United States Naval Academy, where he was a member of the karate and jujutsu teams as well as a member of several running clubs. He graduated from the Academy in 2005 with a degree in Mathematics and then attended flight school in Pensacola, FL. LT Hood earned his wings in 2007 and then proceeded to the Fleet Replacement Squadron where he learned to fly the MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter. He then reported to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he carried out his first tour of duty, during which LT Hood went to the Arabian Gulf seven times and served as his detachment’s Mine Warfare Tactics Officer and Operations Officer.

When the time came for his shore tour, LT Hood chose Notre Dame specifically as his destination. “I wanted to instruct NROTC, and my wife is a Domer, so when I saw Notre Dame on the list of possible universities, it was my first choice,” he said. While at Notre Dame he will be enrolling in the Engineering, Science, and Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence Masters (ESTEEM) Program, which offers science and technical graduate students the opportunity to study business, entrepreneurship and innovation with a one-year master's program.

LT Hood enjoys salsa dancing with his wife of four years, Michelle, who is a professional ballroom dancer. He also remains an avid runner and fitness enthusiast, and he participated in Trident Naval Society’s Race for the Heroes 10k in March. He did not go it alone however, as he pushed his 4 month old daughter, Edith, all the way in a stroller.

About coming to Notre Dame, LT Hood said, “I’m looking forward to my time here. It’s exciting to be at a top notch institution.” We too are excited, and offer LT Hood a hearty “Welcome Aboard” to the Notre Dame family!
Nearly 200 Notre Dame ROTC Midshipmen and Cadets participated in the annual Pass In Review ceremony on the grey afternoon of 18 April 2012 in Arlotta Stadium. In the military, the Pass-in-Review ceremony originated as a way for a newly assigned officer to inspect all of the troops under his command. At Notre Dame, the review serves as an opportunity for the Army, Naval, and Air Force ROTC units to pay their respect to University President Father John Jenkins, CSC, and for the units to showcase their bearing and discipline. Gunnery Sergeant Kennington worked with key personnel from each of the branches to make sure each unit looked their best. MIDN 1/C Steven Prendergast, Battalion Commanding Officer, remarked, “The NROTC Battalion looked incredibly sharp and put on a great show for all those in attendance. The extra practice really showed, and the execution was enough to make not only Father Jenkins, but also GySgt Kennington, proud.”

The event began with an invocation from ROTC Chaplain, Fr. Peter Rocca, CSC, followed by a brief speech from Fr. Jenkins. The President’s words reminded the future officers standing before him not to forget the reasons for which they volunteered to serve their country. He expressed his gratitude to all present for the sacrifices they have already made, and even more so for the sacrifices they will surely make in the future. Fr. Jenkins emphasized the importance of humility and advised the graduating seniors to use their time at Notre Dame as a foundation upon which to build their futures, whether in the military or civilian world.

At the conclusion of Fr. Jenkins’s words, an awards presentation was held to honor the most distinguished graduating seniors in each battalion. Seven midshipmen received swords this year: MIDN Taylor Sheppard received the Strake Award, MIDN Kevin Brainard received the Colonel Brian C. Regan Award, MIDN Victoria Hennings received the Naimoli Award, MIDN Steven Prendergast received the CAPT John A. McGurty, Jr. Award, MIDN Barry Campion received the Chicago Navy League Award, MIDN David Simone received the Gallagher-Snider Award, and MIDN Brent Shawcross received the Easby-Smith Award. MIDN Sheppard commented on the meaning behind these awards, “We are lucky to have such great support from alumni. The seniors who are presented with a sword are reminded of those who have received one in the past. As officers, and especially as graduates of Notre Dame, it is important to carry on the traditions we have and remember those who have gone before us.” Following the presentation of swords, the ceremony concluded with the order from the Tri-Military Commander for the battalions to Pass In Review. All three units marched in formation in front of Fr. Jenkins and the Commanding Officers. Led by their student leadership, the units rendered a salute to Fr. Jenkins and the officers on their way out of the stadium. All who attended the ceremony left with a renewed sense of pride and desire to serve God, Country, and Notre Dame.
The Change of Command Ceremony marks the end of the school year and the transition of leadership from the graduating senior class to the rising senior class. While the senior midshipmen prepare for graduation and commissioning, the junior midshipmen look forward to leading the battalion in the coming year. The ceremony reflected on the successes of the past semester and the possibilities for continuing improvements next year.

At the ceremony, Battalion Commanding Officer MIDN 1/C Prendergast transferred command to MIDN 2/C Kevin Hickey. Throughout the past semester, MIDN Prendergast implemented numerous new ideas in the battalion. During the ceremony, MIDN Prendergast emphasized the importance of recognizing the accomplishments and successes from this semester so they may be built upon in the following years. This semester saw a new design for physical training routines, leading to zero failures on the Physical Readiness Test. The battalion also logged over twelve hundred service hours, demonstrating their commitment to give back to the community that supports them. While MIDN Prendergast reflected upon these accomplishments with pride, he implored the graduating seniors and rising midshipmen to learn from his missteps. In his final words as Battalion Commanding Officer, he challenged everyone to “never stop trying to improve yourself, because the day you stop is the day you fail, both as an officer in the military and a member of society.” MIDN Hickey accepted his position as Battalion Commanding Officer graciously, offering his congratulations to the graduating seniors and commending the past year’s leadership for taking risks to improve the battalion. He affirmed he would carry on what they had started and work to ensure Notre Dame remains the top Naval ROTC battalion in the country.

CAPT Carter also gave his compliments on the successful spring semester. He commended the battalion staff for building on the accomplishments of their predecessors and thoughtfully considering input from all members of the battalion to ensure they were aware of any issues or concerns within the battalion. He described the pride he took in a successful Naval Leadership Weekend and Pass In Review, and the numerous awards midshipmen received from organizations around the country. CAPT Carter explained how these awards “reflect the prestige Notre Dame NROTC holds with outside organizations and are a tribute to the hard working midshipmen of the battalion.” Finally, CAPT Carter expressed his confidence in MIDN Hickey as the new Battalion Commander and congratulated him for achieving this position.

Welcome to the Navy and Marine Corps Class of 2012!

ENS Clare Lyons, USN

On 19 May 2012, the Navy and Marine Corps welcomed thirty-two newly commissioned Ensigns and Second Lieutenants from the University of Notre Dame’s NROTC unit into the U.S. Naval Service. The commissioning ceremony was hosted in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, and the family and friends of the commissioning midshipmen filled the 900 seats of the auditorium. General Philip M. Breedlove, USAF attended the ceremony as the keynote speaker. General Breedlove serves as the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. In his message to the graduates, General Breedlove reminded them what they owed to their parents and families for bringing them to this point in their lives. He then commended the graduates for their decision to join the military during a time of war, reminding them of the sacrifices they are accepting by receiving commissions. While he stressed the difficulties of the years to come, he also emphasized how rewarding the experience would be. At the conclusion of his speech, General Breedlove administered the Oath of Office to the graduates, swearing them in as Officers of the United States Military.

After the ceremony, the new officers gathered outside for a reception with the ND ROTC staff members and their families and friends to celebrate this momentous occasion. Congratulations to the Class of 2012! GO IRISH! GO NAVY! SEMPER FI!
Thank you for all your support this year!!

Commanding Officer
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame NROTC Unit
213 Pasquerilla Center, Suite A
Notre Dame, IN 46556-5672

Return Service Requested