Go Irish!
A Message from the CO

Battalion,

I trust this note finds all of you feeling a sense of accomplishment with emboldened confidence as you all collectively reflect on your impressive accomplishments over the Spring 2016 academic term. You should all pride yourselves on a job very well done, take stock of knowledge learned, and focus forward with renewed commitment and dedication apply learning while embracing new experiences.

Your accomplishments this academic term have been remarkably impressive – you’ve executed a landmark Naval Leadership Weekend that hosted hundreds of midshipmen from across the country, you’ll committed yourselves to supporting your local community in innumerable ways, you’ve hosted an elite group of young men and women to participate in Notre Dame Naval ROTC’s 3rd annual SEAL training weekend, some of you participated in Marine option ‘Bulldog’ prep and Small Unit training to further your development and readiness to excel under challenging environments. Your commitment and professionalism to improve yourselves as individuals, a Naval ROTC battalion, as Notre Dame students, and citizens of this great Nation is commendable and I am proud of your efforts and meaningful accomplishments – keep you the fantastic work!

I’d like to publically recognize the specific leadership of this term’s Battalion Commander MIDN 1/C James Bachmayer, Battalion Executive Officer MIDN 1/C Deven Bolding, Battalion Operations Officer MIDN 1/C Brian Hall, Battalion Command Master Chief MIDN MCPO Zac Zubic, Command Fitness Leader MIDN 2/C Charles Blood, and Naval Leadership Weekend Coordinator MIDN 2/C Katherine Smart. The effectiveness, personality, and climate of your Battalion – the Battalion of the Navy Fighting Irish - is set by leadership. I am exceptionally pleased with your work to foster a healthy climate that enables and empowers initiative, resilience, and adaptability – all critical qualities of a healthy and growing organization. I personally thank you for your hard work maintaining supremacy of Notre Dame’s premiere Navy Reserve Officer Training Corp program – a program that embodies the storied and rich history that is uniquely Notre Dame – Navy. Thank you.

As you all embark on your summer adventures in the Fleet, across the United States, and around the Globe; I’d ask each of you to make prudent, safety minded decisions as you enjoy your time between academic years. To the graduating class, God speed - Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Go Irish, Go Navy, and God Bless the United States of America –TACAMO

Captain John P. Carter, USN, Commanding Officer
XO’s Corner

Midshipmen of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s:

Twenty-five years ago, I competed my “first tour” in NROTC, raised my right hand, and embarked on the adventure of a lifetime, although I didn’t know it at the time. I started with a simple goal—successfully land an aircraft on a ship—and had only a vague idea as to what the career that followed would bring. Now, as I complete my “second tour” in NROTC, and watch the class of 2016 commission, I’m not sure what their careers will look like either—so much for the wisdom of experience. I am certain, however, that for them, and all of you, it too will be an adventure.

That adventure will involve changes that none of us could possibly predict, any more so than I, or my NROTC instructors, could foresee their careers. My NROTC CO, Captain T.P. Fenno, served as a SWO in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. His Navy was all male, and at one point he was allowed to grow a beard. He served through the post-Vietnam “hollow force”, and retired at the end of the Cold War. I started NROTC at the height of the Reagan build up, when we were headed towards a 600 ship Navy. While I was in college, the Berlin wall fell, and the first Gulf War was fought my senior year. My female classmates started flight school expecting their flying to be limited to support roles, and were winged into combat communities. Other classmates served in Somalia; I flew operational missions over Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and participated in military exercises with former adversaries.

You, too, enter a Navy and Marine Corps that are constantly evolving. Perhaps a Notre Dame graduate will be one of the first female SEALs or Infantry Officers. You will integrate manned and unmanned operations in the air, on the sea, and under the ocean. You will serve in some familiar theaters, but also some unexpected ones; unfortunately, there is never a shortage of bad actors willing to resort to violence. The unpredictability of the future is exactly why your service is so important. I promise you, it will not be what you expect, but will be far more than you can imagine. It is a cliché, but I would trade places with any of you and do it all again.

The past three years have been outstanding—I can think of no finer way to complete a Naval career. It has be a pleasure to watch you grow as leaders and as men and women. Make the most of your time in the Navy or Marine Corps, whether you serve 5 years or 25. Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions, or just to let me know how you’re enjoying the adventure.

Go Irish! Fly Navy!

Commander Fred Landau, USN, Executive Officer

“You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end -- which you can never afford to lose -- with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.

- VADM James B. Stockdale
From the MOI’s Desk

As the academic year comes to a close, we send the Midshipmen on summer training, and most importantly commission our newest group of Ensigns and a Second Lieutenant; I’d like to thank the seniors for their hard work this semester. Job well done!

The Midshipmen of this battalion are certainly the best and brightest in the nation. You’re an incredibly intelligent, mature, and motivated group of students that dutifully represent all that is good in our Country. As many of your peers at the University become productive members of the private sector, engaging in honorable business transactions that drive our economy, we are blessed that you have chosen to serve our Country in uniform; that speaks volumes about your character. We live in a time of uncertain peace and our Country needs men and women like you serving as the force in readiness, prepared to respond to crisis at a moment notice.

I look forward to working with the rising 1/C, 2/C, 3/C and 4/C leaders next year. The primary reason that the NROTC unit exists is to prepare you to lead Marines and sailors in the operating forces; your professional development is our primary mission. This organization is a leadership laboratory for you practice your leadership skills so that you’re prepared for the rigors of the operating forces. You need to ask yourself everyday: Am I doing everything I can to prepare myself to lead sailors and Marines in today’s complex and dangerous world? Just remember, you’re not alone in this journey. The staff and I are here 24/7 to assist you in this process.

I wish you all the best over the summer and look forward to our interactions next academic year.

Semper Fi!

Major Regan Jones

Leadership is the sum of those qualities of intellect, human understanding, and moral character that enables a person to inspire and control a group of people successfully.

-LtGen. John A. Lejeune
Hello parents, family, friends, and my fellow midshipmen of the battalion,

Bravo Zulu on a great year! I am immensely honored to have the privilege of being the Battalion Commanding Officer this semester. I want to send each of you a resounding thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Unit! Everyone embraced his or her role in the battalion; your dedication was noticed and paved the way for future success at NROTC Notre Dame.

As a second semester senior, I look back on my time at Notre Dame and in the NROTC program and here are my thoughts as I transition. Let me make this abundantly clear: you are on the best path possible here at Notre Dame. Notre Dame students are impressive. However, some of the best students of this university are those that are part of this program. Midshipmen perform well academically, have experience working as team players, are disciplined, keep themselves in great shape, learn and practice leadership, and build close relationships among each other. This is a testament to the caliber of the individuals who choose the ROTC path as well as a testament to the NROTC program at Notre Dame. I am immensely grateful to the active duty staff whose leadership, training, and mentorship shape us into great future Navy and Marine Corps officers. I am also immensely grateful to you, my fellow midshipmen and friends, who have taught me in more ways than you know. You have made my time at Notre Dame.

My civilian friends are excited to enter the workforce after graduation. Some of them will be doing pretty cool jobs: working for NASA, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Electric Boat; some are working on Wall Street or in prestigious consulting firms. But I can tell you all of them wish they had the unbelievable opportunities that lie ahead of us after graduation: flying jets and helicopters, operating in the most competent and advanced nuclear submarine force, or being America’s presence across the globe on a cruiser, destroyer, or carrier. All while we see the world and protect those we love at home. Our jobs will be tough. But also incredible adventures that our civilians can only dream of having.

The point is you will be very proud and happy of the person you will become by the time you are a senior. The future is much more exciting to you than it otherwise would be. Rest assured, this is the program you want to be a part of. Embrace it fully.

Thank you again for a terrific semester! Wherever the winds send you, God bless and go Irish!

Very respectfully,

MIDN 1/C James Bachmayer

Editor’s Note

MIDN 2/C Tyler Dale, USNR

This newsletter would not be possible without a hardworking staff and the leadership of MIDN 1/C Staats and LT Morden working diligently to make it come to fruition. It has been a pleasure working with each of you. Bravo Zulu on a job well done!
Staff Writer: MIDN 1/C Stone

Notre Dame Naval ROTC held its annual Dining In dinner with the senior class on Friday, January 22nd in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall. The evening was full of comradery and revelry. The Executive Officer, Commander Landau served as President of the Mess while Midshipman Staats assumed the role of Mr. Vice. The evening began at precisely 5:30pm with a cocktail hour followed immediately by dinner, during which challenges were made against midshipmen and the head table alike. Most notably, Midshipman Hall addressed the mess wearing a sombrero on numerous occasions in an attempt to punish members of the senior class for their past transgressions. He even was so bold as to challenge the guest of honor, Dr. David Cortright, Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute. For all his eloquent efforts, Midshipman Hall was most successful in earning himself a round of calisthenics, several trips to the grog, and a five minute recess in the corner. The evening also featured an astounding number of uniform violations for which offenders were properly punished, some witty improvised poetry from Midshipman Hart, and a musical performance that left much to be desired of Midshipman Shawhan, despite singing the popular tune Love Yourself by Justin Bieber. Following dinner and a short recess, Dr. Cortright addressed the mess. In his remarks, he emphasized the critical synergies that exist between the instruments of national power, particularly diplomacy and the military, in the mission of advancing the cause for peace around the world. He also discussed Notre Dame’s unique role in this mission for which the Keough School for Global Affairs was founded. It aims to train the leaders of tomorrow to pursue the mission of peace using the Notre Dame’s normative values, anchored by a concern for the preservation of human life. Following Dr. Cortright’s remarks, the mess toasted to the United States Navy, Marine Corps, national leaders, military leaders, and finally the former members of the Notre Dame Naval ROTC class of 2016. Midshipman Shawhan deserves congratulations for his outstanding work in organizing the event, which will remembered for years to come by the class of 2016.
NAVAL LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Kelly
The University of Notre Dame Naval ROTC Program hosted its 21st annual Naval Leadership Weekend (NLW) from 25th to the 27th of February. The yearly leadership symposium draws midshipmen from units across the country and features presentations by a number of highly regarded individuals in the Navy and Marine Corps. Notable speakers at NLW 2016 included SgtMaj Justin Lehew, MajGen James Lukeman, CAPT Paul Rinn, RADM John Kirby, RADM Peter Gumataotao, and Director of Notre Dame Gameday Operations Mike Seamon. This year’s conference was capped by a formal dinner and a keynote address from Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command/Naval Forces U.S. Northern Command, Admiral Philip S. Davidson.

During the keynote, over two hundred midshipmen listened intently as Admiral Davidson drew on his breadth of experience in offering thoughts on leadership development and underlined four rules for the crowd of soon-to-be junior officers. In the first of these rules, Admiral Davidson emphasized the importance of holding a worldview founded on strong morals, saying, "Be a person with integrity, with it anything is achievable. Without it, we don't need you". In addition to integrity, other essential tools for a burgeoning Junior Officer according to Admiral Davidson include an unrelenting work ethic, a sense of humility, and recognition of opportunity.

Admiral Davidson then discussed the forthcoming transformation from midshipman to junior officer. Admiral Davidson encouraged the young sailors to stop thinking inwards, but rather focus on bettering those around you, remarking that "Your success depends on the success of the unit" and "You won't find any stars on ships that go 0-12". Admiral Davidson spent the remainder of his time taking questions from the midshipmen on matters ranging from specific foreign policy to future capabilities and responsibilities of the United States Navy. The dialogue between midshipmen and Admiral was a fitting end to an impressive symposium that featured some of the greatest leaders in the modern United States Navy, extraordinary individuals that provided the future leaders of the Fleet with ample takeaways for their journey ahead.

Dubbed "The Hero of Nasiriyah" for his actions in the Marine Corps invasion phase of the Iraq War, Sergeant Major LeHew opened NLW 2016 with inspiring words on the importance of clear-thinking in the face of adversity. Midshipmen were then granted an inside look at the forefront of physical training development as Major General Lukeman, commanding general of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command, spoke in regards to the new role of the force fitness instructor and on the hot-button issue of gender exclusion policies in infantry units. Captain Rinn closed the Friday session with a rousing speech highlighting his leadership challenges as the Commanding Officer of the USS Samuel B. Roberts during the ship’s 1988 mining in the Persian Gulf. On Saturday, Rear Admiral Kirby and Rear Admiral Gumataotao offered advice to the midshipmen concerning dispensability, time management, and global awareness. Bringing a civilian perspective to the conference, Mike Seamon continued the Saturday afternoon talks with tips on performing in situations of high stress, in particular indicating advance preparation as crucial in pursuit of success.

MIDN Stone presents a photograph to RADM Gumataotao.

ADM Davison delivers the keynote address.
SENIOR RETREAT

Staff Writer: MIDN 1/C Stone

On the weekend of January 29th, under the guidance of the ROTC chaplain Father Peter Rocca, midshipmen and cadets organized and participated in the Senior “Fr. Corby” ROTC Retreat at Moreau Seminary. The retreat was a time for senior cadets and midshipmen to reflect on their four years in college and ROTC and build camaraderie with members of other ROTC branches. The keynote address was given by Lieutenant Cornel Kelly, USA (ret.) He spoke about some of the ethical concerns midshipmen and cadets will face when they commission in a few short months. The retreat also featured presentations by cadets and midshipmen, and a cadre panel that asked the seniors to reflect and think critically about faith and ethics in their future careers as military officers. There was also time for prayer and reflection as well as great food and free time to enjoy the gym and games. Midshipman Liz Hart shared her reaction to the weekend, "This weekend was a great time to be able to reflect on my faith and how I will be able to incorporate it into my future career." Bravo Zulu to the tri-military retreat staff for coordinating an outstanding event.

FLYIN’ IRISH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Kelly

The Flyin’ Irish Invitational is an annual basketball tournament hosted by Notre Dame Air Force ROTC (Detachment 225). This year marked the tournament’s 30th installment and took place in the JACC on the weekend of February 6th. Over 500 cadets and midshipmen participated in the tournament which featured 50 teams from 23 different schools. The Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit’s team consisted of Midshipman 1/C Deven Bolding, AJ Godeaux, Danny Muldoon, Danny Shawhan, and Jack Taiclet; 2/C Nick Yusko; 3/C Patrick Colley and Noah Junge; and 4/C Seamus Long and Frankie Hagan.

The team’s opening round game was against the Air Force ROTC Detachment from Olivet Nazarene, a small Christian university in central Illinois. In a game marked by rough, sometimes dirty play, cooler heads prevailed as Midshipman 1/C Taiclet kept his team in the hunt with his well-balanced point guard play. Thanks to a buzzer-beater three pointer from Midshipman 1/C Shawhan, Notre Dame Naval ROTC started off the tournament with a hard-fought win.

Kentucky Air Force ROTC proved to be a challenging opponent in the next game, boasting a number of adept ball handlers and deadly shooters. In response, Notre Dame put an emphasis on creating a suffocating defense, a strategy that paid off as Midshipman 1/C Bolding and Muldoon hounded the Kentucky guards and converted one fast-break opportunity after the next. The game ended in heartbreaking fashion for the Irish, however, as Kentucky hit three free throws on a shooting foul as time expired to salvage the tie.

Following the tie with Kentucky, the Notre Dame Midshipmen bounced back with quite the performance, trouncing Nebraska Air Force ROTC and inducing the 30-point mercy rule. The star of the game was Midshipman 2/C Yusko, who hit several key 3-pointers en route to earning the well-deserved nickname "Swooshko". On the backs of the big win, Notre Dame Naval ROTC ended pool play 2-0-1. In bracket play, the Irish matched up with Wisconsin, a team of great size and skill. Anchored by the offensive efforts of Midshipman 1/C Bolding and Taiclet, the team kept pace with the Badgers, until a pair of late-game turnovers proved fatal and led to the team's exit from the tournament.

The midshipmen that participated in the 30th annual Flyin' Irish Invitational showcased great work ethic and commendable sportsmanship. The in-game leadership by several of the 1/C was impressive and exemplary of the Unit’s standards of excellence at large. This sentiment was echoed by other members of the team, including Midshipman 3/C Colley, "It was a great weekend, with a lot of good basketball. Losing to Wisconsin was a disappointing finish, but it was a lot of fun to play with all of the seniors one last time". Although the roster will undergo a degree of turnover, the team is looking forward to making a splash in the next year’s rendition of the Flyin’ Irish Invitational!
RUN FORREST RUN

Staff Writer: MIDN 4/C Palmier

On Saturday, March 19th, the Run Forrest Run 5k and 10k kicked off at the University of Notre Dame in support of the Gary Sinise Foundation’s work on behalf of our nation’s most severely wounded heroes. The event is a collaborative effort of Notre Dame’s AAS & ATLAS service groups, “dedicated to the ‘real LT Dans’ who sacrifice so much for our freedom.” It’s been 20 years since Gary Sinise played LT Dan Taylor in the movie Forrest Gump. Since then, he has put much of his time and effort towards making a real difference honoring our defenders, veterans, and first responders. Sticking to the theme, the Run Forrest Run 5/10k’s goal is to bring the Notre Dame community together once again to benefit the Gary Sinise Foundation’s work on behalf of these “real LT Dans.”

Runners started in front of the football stadium, passed Jordan Hall of Science, ran around Saint Mary’s Lake, ran past the Rock, Recker’s, and the Dome, around the Library, and then finished in front of the stadium. 10k runners ran the same course, but twice. Despite the temperature ranging in the mid 30’s throughout the event, participants numbered in the hundreds. “It was great to see a big turn out and a lot of support from Notre Dame students, midshipmen, and cadets at the event,” 4/C advisor LT Sean Bakey noted. It was truly refreshing to see people from all different communities in and out of Notre Dame come together to support this cause. Midshipman 4/C Jacqueline Courtney of Notre Dame Naval ROTC commented and reflected, “It was rewarding to be able to contribute to a foundation that supports veterans and other Americans who have given so much and made so many sacrifices for us. It was also a fun event and it felt good to accomplish a 5k race with other students, cadets, and midshipmen.

In addition to having fun and giving back, the event also witnessed some fierce competitors with runners such as Midshipman 2/C Benjamin Hoffner and Midshipman 3/C John Hatfield. Hoffner ran the 10k and took 5th overall with a time of 39:15, while Hatfield recorded a 41:30 in the same event. In addition to sharing their times, Hatfield and Hoffner pointed out details of the event that may be overlooked in the big picture. “It was very cool to hear from the veterans,” Hatfield stated, while Hoffner touched on the appreciation for hearing from the veterans as well. Hoffner also remarked, “I personally appreciate the work put into placing the American flags all over the library quad.” Another great reflection on the value of this event comes from a runner who participated in the 5k, Cadet Daniel Neuson. “Sometimes, I feel like we as Americans can think of veterans as damaged goods, and I think that having veterans participating in this event right alongside everybody else was a great way to dispel that idea. With all the stories coming out about how inadequate our support systems for veterans can be, tons of people are fed up and demanding that we treat our service members better. I think that going out and raising money was a good way for the community to show that we’ll be there to support and honor these citizens no matter what.”
HOLY HALF MARATHON

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Kelly

Olympic track star Emil Zatopek is well-known among runners for his quote "If you want to win something, run 100 meters. If you want to experience something, run a marathon." A great quote without a doubt, but one has to imagine that Zatopek didn’t envision running his marathon on a wintry South Bend morning! Notre Dame hosted the 12th annual Holy Half marathon on April 9th, with the 13.1 mile race benefiting the Reins of Life, St. Vincent de Paul, and Hannah’s House charities. The half marathon course involved double loop of a scenic route around South Quad, the Grotto, and the second prettiest dome on campus - the Stepan Center. One of the largest student-organized events on campus, the race featured several midshipmen from the Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit as runners and volunteers. Although the official race was cancelled due to inclement weather, these midshipmen nevertheless braved the conditions and completed the 13.1 mile course!

Since the start of the semester, midshipmen runners had dedicated several hours a week towards training for the race in addition to their existing physical training regimen. The Battalion’s resident mountaineer, Midshipman 3/C Dan Fisk, said he spent a good portion of his Saturday mornings leading up to the Holy Half logging miles around St. Joseph’s Lake and also credited his physical readiness to a spring break hiking trip in the Andes. Midshipman 3/C Isaac Althoff was one of many who decided to run in the snow, saying "April flurries brought no worries for this midshipman. My sister came down for the race and we weren’t going to back away from our ultimate goal of finishing a half marathon just because of a few snowflakes." Midshipman 2/C Peter Rodgers, an executive member of the Holy Half club, was a large part of the event’s planning committee. Although he was disheartened to see the event cancelled, it was a decision he firmly supported citing runner safety as a number one priority. A canteen-half-full person, Midshipman 2/C Rodgers is already looking ahead to the 13th annual Holy Half, "I am looking forward to next year’s race. We will begin the planning process in a few weeks, and I am confident it will be the most fun, most exciting, most successful Holy Half yet!"

In addition to Midshipman 2/C Rodgers, 3/C Althoff, and 3/C Fisk, other midshipmen who prepared for or otherwise participated in the Holy Half included Midshipman 1/C Danny Shawhan, 2/C Katherine Smart, 3/C Lizzie Cannon, 3/C Dylan Goitz, 3/C Madison Karlin, and 3/C Leah Plofchan. The Battalion commends these midshipmen not only for their commitment to excellence in the area of physical fitness, but also for serving others and supporting charities in the South Bend community. Bravo Zulu!
JUNIOR PARENTS WEEKEND

Staff Writer: MIDN 2/C Dale

From the 19th to the 21st of February, juniors at the University of Notre Dame participated in Junior Parents Weekend, a unique event in which parents can glance into the lives of their sons and daughters.

Friday night was highlighted by a formal gala in which students and their parents mingled in the Joyce Center. The event featured hors d’oeuvres, deserts, and a dance floor, giving parents the perfect opportunity to embarrass students. The next day was filled with events, leaving parents and students exhausted. First, each major held a presentation, explaining to parents the different classes and work their students do while at Notre Dame, hopefully gaining a basic understanding of the world class education their son or daughter is undergoing! Afterwards, residence halls held a lunch giving parents the chance to explore the places their college students live, meet the people they live with, and converse with rectors and rectresses of their dormitories. Following this event, all junior midshipmen and their parents were invited to the Wardroom at Pasquerilla Center, where they interacted with NROTC unit staff and one another. Overall, this event went absolutely spectacularly! Midshipman Walker Embrey, who was in charge of the event, deserves an enormous Bravo Zulu for his hard work and planning that made the event such a success. Additionally, Midshipman Drew Walker played a large role in setup for the event. Later that day, Mass was held in the Joyce Center, featuring an incredible homily given by Father Pat Reidy of Keough Hall. Saturday evening was completed with a dinner in the Joyce Center featuring a speech from the President of the University, Father John Jenkins, C.S.C.

Sunday morning, the weekend was finished with a delicious brunch. Overall, the weekend was a prime example of the Notre Dame family and will be a positive memory for students and their parents for years to come. Looking back on the entire weekend, Midshipman Ellen Halverson commented, “JPW has to be one of my favorite weekends I have had at Notre Dame. I loved being able to show my parents around my home for the past few years. Plus I finally got to introduce them to all my friends that have made going to school here so special!”

BENGAL BOUTS FINALS

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Kelly

Legend has it that the venerable Knute Rockne upon noticing the lack of non-academic pursuits on campus available to the student body established an amateur boxing tournament at Notre Dame in 1920. Over 90 years later, the tournament lives on, better known by the name Bengal Bouts since 1931. Rockne’s successor, Dominic Napolitano, linked Bengal Bouts with the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. It is out of this commitment to service that comes the tournament’s famous motto, "Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished”.

2016 marked the 86th Annual Bengal Bouts and featured four midshipmen from Notre Dame’s Naval ROTC Unit: Midshipman 2/C Chip Blood (157 pound weight class), Midshipman 2/C Michael Kappaz (137), Midshipman 3/C John Hatfield (163), and Midshipman 3/C Derek Meyer (182).
IRISH PENNANT
University of Notre Dame Naval ROTC

Midshipman 2/C Chip Blood, having reached the semifinals in 2015, picked up right where he left off in quickly dispatching his first round opponent, Sam O’Brien. An especially agile fighter, Midshipman Blood rode great footwork and a powerful offensive advance to a victory by unanimous decision. The quarterfinal was a display of stamina as Midshipman Blood outlasted Matt Schaefer and landed several powerful combinations in the third and final round en route to victory via unanimous decision. In the semifinal round, Midshipman Blood was defeated in a split-decision by Sean Himel in a competitive and close-quarters fight.

Midshipman 2/C Michael Kappaz was the beneficiary of a first round bye and used his fresh legs in overpowering Cam MacGregor. Clearly showing no rust from a semester abroad, Midshipman Kappaz then outmuscled opponent Chris Dethlefs in the following round, winning in a split decision and advancing to the finals. In the championship bout, Midshipman Kappaz faced off against Atticus Coscia. The title round started with a flurry of blows from each corner, but Midshipman Kappaz gained the advantage early connecting on a pair of long swings at the head of Coscia. Having staked out a lead by the first round, Midshipman Kappaz adopted more of a methodical fighting style the following two avoiding the big hits and covering up well. In a split decision, Midshipman Kappaz was named Bengal Bouts champion in the 137lb division!

Midshipman 3/C John Hatfield drew a tough task for his first round bout matching up with Bengal Bouts captain and two-time champion Pat Shea. Undeterred by his opponent’s pedigree, Midshipman Hatfield rushed hard and fast at the opening bell landing several key blows. Experience won out in the end, however, as Shea surgically attacked Midshipman Hatfield with a powerful right hand.

Midshipman 3/C Meyer, with a first-round victory under his belt from 2015, was determined to do some damage at the 182 pound division in 2016. Using his sprawling frame and technical approach, Midshipman Meyer defeated his first round opponent, Brian Brown, in a unanimous decision. Matched up with walk-on football player Eamon McCosker, Midshipman Meyer worked a defensive game plan in the quarterfinals, skillfully ducking and dodging the barrage of punches being thrown by his opponent. Although Meyer landed a couple heavy blows, the judges must have thought he was on the receiving end of at least a few more, awarding the victory to McCosker.

The midshipmen that participated in the 86th annual Bengal Bouts are individuals of remarkable toughness and determination. Their performance and attitudes in and out of the ring reflect admirably on the Notre Dame Naval ROTC program. The Battalion commends Midshipman Blood, Hatfield, and Meyer for their hard work this winter, and extends congratulations to Midshipman 2/C Michael Kappaz, the Unit’s first Bengal Bouts champion since Bernardo Garcia in 2010 - Bravo Zulu Midshipman Kappaz!
SEAL WEEKEND

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Hatfield

As the school year was winding down in mid-April, Notre Dame Midshipmen were given a remarkable opportunity. Three active duty Navy SEALs made the journey out to Notre Dame to help run a Naval Special Warfare workshop for over 45 participating midshipmen from fifteen schools. The SEALs included the Officer in Charge of the Seal Officer Assessment and Selection Program (SOAS), a SEAL Chief and former BUD/S instructor with 23 years of active duty experience in the teams, and an experienced SO1 preparing to commission as an Ensign. The cadre for the weekend gave all midshipmen a taste of the kind of physical training prospective SEAL officers will perform on a daily basis. They emphasized the high standard every SEAL is held to, and showed us that the standard will always be enforced.

Besides just physical training, the weekend offered leadership opportunities for many 2/C midshipmen looking to go to SOAS this summer. The midshipmen were broken down into “boat crews” of 6-7 midshipmen each, and the boat crew leader was responsible for his men at all times. Boat crews learned that success came only from learning to work as a team.

The weekend began Friday with classroom sessions and an intense pool workout at the Rock. Saturday, there were two long land physical training sessions as well as a physical screening test (PST) Saturday evening. The SEAL cadre purposely scheduled the PST as the last event so that midshipmen would learn that it is necessary to perform even when exhausted. Accountability was a major theme of the weekend. This incorporates not only accountability from the part of the boat crew leaders, but accountability of every aspiring SEAL to the community’s high standards set long ago. Throughout the weekend, midshipmen were given ample opportunity to pick the brains of the cadre, and learn from them about life as a SEAL and the traditions of the SEAL community. Although they obviously could not share everything about the clandestine community, they gave us midshipmen tips and advice on how to succeed in the SEAL selection process. They stressed that every candidate’s inner character is thoroughly assessed throughout selection.

Saturday night, the weekend culminated with a dinner social at O’Rourke’s Pub with all the midshipmen and cadre. Besides eating copious amounts of food, midshipmen also used this time as another opportunity to talk to the SEAL cadre. This interaction was important for midshipmen thinking about Naval Special Warfare because most NROTC units do not have SEAL cadre members to learn from. It was also beneficial to have a former BUD/S instructor among the visiting SEALs, since more than anyone, he was able to instill in us the discipline and motivation required of aspiring BUD/S candidates. Besides all the aforementioned opportunities of interacting with SEALs, the weekend gave us a chance to meet midshipmen from other NROTC units who are considering the same career path as ourselves. This weekend created many new friendships and connections among this group of future Naval officers.
PASS IN REVIEW

Staff Writer: MIDN 4/C Lillie

The University of Notre Dame has a long history with NROTC. Ever since World War II, Notre Dame has been training Naval Officers, and the University’s Pass-In-Review is a great reminder of the military presence on campus. In this annual event, the Notre Dame President, in this case Father Jenkins, inspects not just the Navy Battalion, but the entire tri-military presence of the school.

The event began with all the midshipmen and cadets standing in formation in the middle of South Quad. This year, Midshipman 2/C Dale was the commander of troops, and issued the various commands throughout Pass-In-Review. The tri-military force looked to execute the orders for this historic event perfectly as to show their collective precision and proficiency. Along with the marching and detailed movements that occurred in this event, there are also important speakers. One such speaker was Father Peter Rocca, who delivered the benediction. One midshipman, Midshipman 4/C Sinkovitz, responded to his poignant words by saying, “I was happy to see cooperation between the Navy and the school, and to see the values of the Catholic Church and those of the Navy align so closely.” The participants and spectators of Pass-In-Review also got to hear some words by Father Jenkins, who emphasized the University’s long history with the military, especially the Navy, and certainly conveyed a pride in Notre Dame’s ROTC programs. Similar to the benediction, Father Jenkins’ words carried a great deal of wisdom. Midshipman 4/C Yelich said, “Father Jenkins inspired me to continue to strive for excellence in academics, extra-curricular activities, and in all aspects of my life.” A number of awards were presented during the course of the event as well. The deserving recipients accepted their awards from Father Jenkins in front of the entire tri-military community.

The peak of the event occurred when the Midshipmen and cadets marched passed Father Jenkins and the Commanding Officers of the three branches of ROTC. This movement was where the ROTC members most clearly displayed their skill and accuracy as a whole. As the final cadet marched by, Pass-In-Review came to a close. Overall, the occasion was a complete success. With the collective effort of all the midshipmen and cadets, especially those in leadership roles, everything went smoothly, but nothing less would be expected of Notre Dame ROTC.

BULLDOG PREP

Staff Writer: MIDN 4/C Lillie

On April 7th, marine options in the NROTC programs of a myriad of schools arrived at the snow covered grounds of Fort Custer for Bulldog Prep. Besides Notre Dame, the event included the University of Michigan, Purdue, Marquette, Iowa State, and several others all of which sent their marine option midshipmen to be prepared for Officer Candidate School (OCS). To become Marines, NROTC midshipmen must pass OCS, six weeks of training and evaluation between junior and senior year. To say OCS is difficult would be an understatement. It is exceedingly demanding, both mentally and physically. Bulldog Prep seeks to simulate the stress of the OCS environment and fully prepare prospective marine officers for the challenges ahead.
For the training, the midshipmen were divided up into a number of platoons, each of which was assigned a drill instructor. These drill instructors, who have been evaluators at OCS, are instrumental in getting the midshipmen ready for their ultimate goal of becoming Marines. However, the drill instructors were not the only ones helping to train the students. Those who had already passed OCS, served as troop handlers for the various platoons. As staff members, the seniors who had already earned the title of Marine, instructed the lower classmen in a variety of ways. For instance, some seniors taught classes for the other midshipmen. These classes included topics such as history and land navigation. Such information will be essential for success at OCS. Becoming adept in the process of land navigation is something that most would expect to be important for a military evaluation, but one might not anticipate a commanding knowledge of history to play much of a role. In fact, at OCS a frequent punishment for any kind of mistake is to write an essay. Since no one escapes OCS without getting into some kind of trouble, having a sufficient grasp of military history is actually quite important. In preparation of such essays, the midshipmen at Bulldog Prep are required to write an essay during one of their nights at Fort Custer.

Troop handlers also helped to facilitate training beyond the classroom. During the short time the midshipmen are there, they are exposed to actual land navigation during the day and at night, small unit leadership exercises, and leadership reaction courses. Small unit leadership exercises (SULE) and leadership reaction courses (LRC) are both extremely important at OCS. These test leadership, confidence, and critical thinking, all of which are necessary for a Marine Corps officer. In the words of Midshipman 1/C Daniel Lillie, a troop handler, “It’s one thing to talk about leading, it’s another to do it. In SULEs and LRCs, the friction of simulated combat and complex scenarios breaks apart a candidates plan. The true test is how they adapt.” Along with these forms of training, there is also a great deal of physical training. OCS is exceedingly physically demanding so the staff members of Bulldog Prep do what they can to prepare them for what is to come.

Overall, Bulldog Prep is intended to acclimatize the midshipmen to the OCS atmosphere and give them the tools to perform quickly and accurately under heavy stress with a particular emphasis on attention to detail. The training the midshipmen received at Fort Custer showed them how to execute the actions required at OCS to the finest detail. With preparation like Bulldog Prep, the Marine options can rest easy, knowing that they are receiving the best training possible for OCS. As stated by Midshipman 4/C Christa Zubic, the Notre Dame unit, “prepares its Marine options well with many of the skills required to succeed at OCS.” The midshipmen have taken a great deal from this experience, and hopefully we will see all of them pass OCS in the years to come.

**CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Hatfield

On Wednesday, April 20th, the Notre Dame NROTC battalion observed the semiannual change of command ceremony. The former Battalion Commanding Officer, Midshipman 1/C James Bachmayer, handed over the Battalion flag to Midshipman 2/C Ellen Halverson, symbolizing the transition of midshipman leadership within the unit. The ceremony was presided over by the NROTC Notre Dame Commanding Officer, Captain John P. Carter, USN.

The Change of Command ceremony is steeped in a long tradition of naval units turning over command. Many military units observe some sort of official function for a Change of Command, and it has been a U.S. Navy tradition since the time of the Civil War. The original Change of Command ceremonies consisted of the crew mustering on deck of the ship where the outgoing CO would pass the unit flag to the incoming CO signaling the change in authority. The orders relieving the old CO and the orders appointing the new CO would also be read. Changes of Command have always been formal functions so that unit members always know who their leader is. Usually, the outgoing CO is given the opportunity to reflect on the units accomplishments during his or her term. The incoming leader then lays out his or her goals for the battalion for the following term.
In his final remarks as BCO, Midshipman Bachmayer thanked the battalion for the opportunity to lead. He encouraged the younger Midshipmen to use their time in ROTC as a chance for personal growth as a future officer and as a human being. Midshipman Halverson used her remarks to lay out the areas in which the Battalion will focus our efforts next semester. She also reminded midshipmen that their priorities are to perform academically, maintain peak physical fitness, and seek out opportunities to lead both in the battalion and in our lives as college students. The Battalion will be in good hands next semester.

**SPRING SEMESTER IN REVIEW**

Midshipmen see a T-45 trainer jet in action!

MIDN Bachmayer transfers command to MIDN Halverson.

MIDN Shawhan and Hoskins pose for a picture while playing paintball.

Professor Reynolds speaks to the Grogan Society about the Islamic State.

---

**Spring 2016 Irish Pennant Staff**

Advisor: LT Daniel Morden
Editor in Chief: MIDN 2/C Hoffner
Managing Editor: MIDN 2/C Dale
Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C Kieran Kelley

Staff Writer: MIDN 3/C John Hatfield
Staff Writer: MIDN 4/C Scott Lillie
Staff Writer: MIDN 4/C Henry Palmier