The Irish Pennant

University of Notre Dame Naval ROTC
Fall Semester 2018
Battalion,

Congratulations on the successful completion of another academic semester. Since I last wrote, we completed our summer training requirements, to include the pilot of a new Sea Trials program for rising 2/C MIDN. Congratulations to MIDN Breslin on his superior performance during the execution of this pilot. This also marks the last year of New Student Orientation (NSO) in its current form, as next summer we will be participating in centralized NSO at Great Lakes. Thanks to the MIDN leadership and Staff that provided a successful and safe training environment for our new MIDN.

Congratulations to the MIDN 1/C on your Service Assignments – this marks a significant step in your future Naval careers, and I am confident you will succeed.

We also held a very successful and entertaining Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball, with Notre Dame’s first four-star Admiral, ADM Chris Grady, as our keynote speaker. I ask you to reflect on his words as you continue forward both here at Notre Dame and in the Fleet.

Kudos to MIDN Jennings and Bolton on their great success in Baraka bouts – you represented the Navy admirably.

Well done to the Big Six leaders for this semester and good luck to next semester’s leaders – I look forward to our continued success as a Battalion.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the remarkable success of the Navy Flag Football Team – 2-0 with wins over both Army and Air Force! On the way to our first Commander’s Cup in years!

Stay safe, make good choices, and Go Irish, Go Navy, and God Bless the United States of America.

Captain Mark A. Prokopius, US Navy, Commanding Officer
Battalion,

Congratulations to the Midshipmen of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s for a fantastic fall semester in which you achieved and, in most cases, well-surpassed the minimum standards within the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program of academics, physical fitness, and aptitude. These program standards are deliberately challenging as it takes grit, mental and physical toughness, and discipline to conquer.

Secretary Mattis recently stated in a memorandum to his service chiefs and combatant commanders that “as we aggressively execute our National Defense Strategy and make our force more lethal, [he] reminds [us] that enhanced lethality demands more than increasing the size of our formations and obtaining newer, more advanced equipment – it also requires having a more disciplined force.” Rear Admiral Bernacchi echoed this message regarding discipline during your last NROTC Drill Period when he explained to you the reasons why Naval Service Training Command restructured New Student Indoctrination (a.k.a., Common Indoc), Sea Trials, and three Naval Science curricula. Through the successful achievement of the NROTC program processes and events, you should feel a sense of pride and ironclad confidence in tackling future challenges. Secretary Mattis emphasized that “it is incumbent on our leaders to ensure that American Forces are always the most disciplined on the battlefield, whatever the domain might be. [Furthermore] we must demonstrate respect for all Service members, build trust, . . . [and] learn to fight well by doing the little things perfectly, otherwise [we] cannot possibly get the big things right when all goes wrong.” Enforcing standards is a critical component of making you and our force more lethal.

As the fall semester culminates next week, I encourage all our midshipmen to practice discipline and to keep the “full-court press” on through your last final exam, your last class project, and your last thesis paper. Enjoy your well-earned winter break, recharge your batteries, and return safely back to Michiana ready to dominate the spring 2019 semester. Keep it 100. Gucci.

Fly Navy! Go Irish!
Chuck Dittbenner
Commander, USN
Battalion,

You are now another semester closer to your goal -- to commission as a leader of our Nation's sons and daughters. So whether you are a 1/C or a 4/C, congratulations! You've worked hard to get here, and you should feel good about that.

Between your goal of becoming a Naval officer, and your time here with the NROTC, it may be easy to lose sight of how closely these two evolutions are connected. Realize that as much as the active duty leadership invests our time and mentorship into each of you, you are truly being groomed by each other. As peers, as midshipmen leaders, and even as underclassmen, you are each forming your own leadership styles. I encourage you to continue to do so as we begin the Spring semester as well. Remember: leadership is not contingent on having a billet.

I would also ask that you reflect on the unique opportunities you have here at Notre Dame. In just a few weeks, we will have hundreds of midshipmen from all across the country coming here for Navy Leadership Weekend. These midshipmen and their staff fought hard to be able to secure a spot for the conference, and for good reason. They recognize the reputation of our unit, our university, and the level of leadership that is willing to come here and share their experiences. Do not take that lightly, because our visitors will have a close eye on each of you when they arrive. They will expect squared-away uniforms; they will expect sharp salutes with impeccable customs and courtesies; and they will expect a group of professionals ready to assume responsibility for divisions of Sailors, and platoons of Marines. If you continue to represent yourself to them, as you have for me, I am confident that our visitors will have those expectations met.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to reflect on all that you've accomplished this semester. Reflect on what things you can do better, and when you come back, do those things better. Also reflect on what you did well. Pat yourself on the back, feel good about them, and when you come back, do those things better, too. This isn't an administrative movement; this is a movement to contact. Continue to march!

Semper Fidelis,
Captain Brockelmeyer
U.S. Marine Corps
Congratulations on an outstanding semester! I am constantly in awe of the effort that each and every one of you put into your academics, your involvement in extracurriculars, and this battalion. From New Student Orientation, to the TNS 24-hour run, to the planning and execution of Navy and Marine Corps Ball, you have all truly demonstrated your outstanding work ethic and spirit of dedication to a common goal. You should also take special pride in the way that you have worked to transform the battalion this semester. Through your hard work, you have all created a community built on mentorship, camaraderie, and challenging one another to be his or her best, and I could not be more proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of it.

Looking back on the past three and a half years, I can definitively say that the greatest thing about my Notre Dame experience has been the sense of community, especially the community I have found in this battalion. This community has taught me what it means to work as a team and what it means to look out for one another, and I hope you also have the chance to learn these things from the amazing people around you.

Remember that each day you have at this university and in this battalion is an opportunity that you have earned: an opportunity to try something new, an opportunity to lead, an opportunity to shape who you are and the experiences that you have to share. Your four years at Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s will go by quickly, so take time to appreciate the nights spent in the library and the post-drill meals at the dining hall and the morning walks to PT because they are your opportunities to make your experience meaningful.

I am tremendously grateful to be a member of this battalion and your BCO. I have learned so much from each of you, and I thank you for the effort that you have put into making this battalion the very best it can be. Keep it up next semester!

MIDN 1/C Hailey Dikeman, BCO
This summer, Midshipmen from the Naval ROTC Unit traveled to both San Diego, California, and Norfolk, Virginia, to participate in Career Oriented Training for Midshipmen, otherwise known as CORTRAMID. The midshipmen spent four weeks exploring the different career paths of the United States Naval Service, including the surface fleet, submarine fleet, aviation community, and the Marine Corps. Each week they received a cursory overview of each of these communities.

During submarine week, midshipmen were able to experience life underway on an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine and glean some invaluable knowledge on one of the Navy's more isolated services. Midshipmen learned about the exciting aspects of the submarine service through a water casualty trainer, basic firefighting training, as well as numerous ship handling simulations.

Marine week took the midshipmen to Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune, where they participated in combat simulations, demolitions, and combat engineering. In addition, the midshipmen learned about the different military occupational specialties of the Marine Corps and their ways of life. Overall, the midshipmen were able to get an inside look at the missions of the Marine Corps as well as the mentality that has made it so effective.

Aviation week was an exciting opportunity for the midshipmen to experience Naval Aviation first-hand. Midshipmen were able to fly advanced simulators and even take the controls of a T-34 trainer aircraft. Surface week consisted of midshipmen exploring the different opportunities of the Surface Navy, such as Naval Beach Groups, amphibious transport ships and destroyers. Some of the midshipmen in San Diego were even able to tour the USS Zumwalt, one of the Navy's newest and most advanced warships.

Overall, CORTRAMID provided an incredible experience for midshipmen to explore the different options the Navy has to offer, and to discern what community they would like to pursue upon commissioning. According to MIDN 3/C Spencer Bindel, "CORTRAMID gave me great exposure to the possibilities upon commissioning. It also helped me understand the purpose of why we do what we do and how the things we learn here at Notre Dame will be used in the Naval Service." All the midshipmen who attended CORTRAMID will be sure to use their new knowledge and experience to improve themselves as midshipmen and future officers.

-MIDN 2/C Jones
From August 12th to 16th of 2018, this year’s incoming class of 4/C Midshipmen underwent NSO, the intense four-day introduction to the basics of the Naval Service, and their new roles as Naval Midshipmen at the University of Notre Dame.

This introduction began Sunday morning at 7:30 AM, when the future midshipmen entered the Pasquerilla center in order to begin the rapid process of undergoing tests, filling out forms, and receiving uniforms. After being sworn in and saying goodbye to their families, they were loaded onto a bus and taken on the two-hour bus ride to Fort Custer National Guard base in Michigan.

The new midshipmen began their NSO experience by meeting Gunnery Sergeant Commiato, who would begin their quick introduction to Naval traditions through a long period of drill practice. Each mistake during this session resulted in a sprint as punishment, introducing the importance of precision and purpose behind all that the midshipmen would do at NSO and beyond. After a greatly appreciated dinner, the Midshipmen underwent a brief class in Land Navigation, preparing them for the next day. The day ended at 2100, as the exhausted and overwhelmed midshipmen hit their racks, unaware of what the next morning would bring. “I was kind of knocked off my feet. I didn’t expect it to be that intense, and I was nervous about what the next day would be like,” recalls MIDN 4/C Fruchterman.

The next morning began with shouting and bright lights, as the Midshipmen were quickly awakened early in order to get ready for their first inventory PRT. After this intense physical test, the midshipmen prepared themselves for the highlight of the day: Land Navigation through heavy terrain. The midshipmen worked in pairs in order to use a compass and a map to make their way to a series of landmarks. “It was difficult trying to orientate ourselves without the use of modern technology,” commented MIDN 4/C Williams. “The thorn bushes didn’t help either.” Midshipmen 4/C Shyne and Williams managed to discover the most landmarks, finding four out of five objectives. The day continued with firearms training, as the 4/C class was briefed on how to safely and accurately fire their weapons for the following day.

After a brief morning PT session, the next morning was taken up by the LCS, or leadership confidence course. In this, the midshipmen would take turns leading a small squad of others in order to complete an objective, typically involving crossing a body of water using seemingly randomly selected supplies. Due to the water themed nature of the obstacles, not a single midshipman made it through the course without falling in at least once. “A couple of the obstacles seemed impossible, but I enjoyed trying to lead my squad through them” commented MIDN 4/C Shyne. The day continued on to the rifle qualifications, at the base’s outdoor firing range. MIDN 4/C Hoekstra managed to qualify at an Expert level, an amazing accomplishment.

The final day was slightly more relaxed, as the midshipman had no morning PT. Instead, they began their morning by going through the obstacle course at the base. After cleaning up the barracks, the Midshipmen boarded the bus to return to Notre Dame. “I didn’t realize how much I would miss my phone” remarked MIDN 4/C Ralph. The midshipmen had made it through NSO, each having been impacted by it in a different way. “My time at Fort Custer will stay with me forever, mainly because I’m thinking these blisters will never heal” MIDN 4/C Kramer stated, recalling the breaking in period for the boots she was issued. MIDN 4/C Elsin helps to summarize the overall opinion of NSO, saying, “We barely had to interact with each other at NSO, but once we emerged from Fort Custer it felt like we were already close friends.”

-MIDN 4/C Shyne
Each year, rising junior and senior midshipmen have the opportunity to go on summer cruises with various squadrons, ships, and submarines around the world. This experiences allows midshipmen to see how the fleet operates in practice.

As rising juniors, the second class (2/C) midshipmen go on their enlisted cruise, where they gain an appreciation for enlisted life by berthing, eating, and working with enlisted sailors. This experience is invaluable, because as future officers, midshipmen must have an understanding of the life their sailors lead to be compassionate leaders. On these cruises, some midshipmen get opportunities to travel interesting places or be involved in unique Navy experiences. For example, many 2/C began or ended their cruises in exotic locations like the Bahamas, Japan, or Hawaii. MIDN 2/C Bartlett went on a surface cruise on the USS Carl Vinson, which participated in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, a biennial maritime exercise bringing together 25 countries and 36 ships in and around Pearl Harbor. “It was awesome to actually see an important Navy event in person,” said Bartlett, “I got to see many different departments’ role in the exercise.”

In addition to traditional 2/C cruises, the Navy rolled out a new program for rising juniors called Sea Trials. This is meant to prepare midshipmen for the tougher parts of Navy life as well as ensure that all are qualified to be naval officers. MIDN 2/C Baldwin, Breslin, and Peterson all volunteered to be part of this pilot program, and traveled to Newport, RI for 10 days. MIDN Baldwin said of the experience, “Sea Trials was a tough, challenging, experience, but I know it has better prepared me to be an officer in the Navy.”

The rising seniors go on their first-class (1/C) officer cruise to commission. They spend time in the wardroom with junior officers, learning more about the jobs they will hold in just one short year. Seniors have more options than on juniors for their cruise, so several midshipmen went on aviation cruises and spent time with a squadron. Several had interesting opportunities, such as MIDN 1/C Courtney, who had the chance to take the controls of a MH-60 helicopter. Upon recalling the experience, she remarked that “hovering a helicopter is a lot harder than it looks!”

Overall, Notre Dame midshipmen had many enlightening summer cruise experiences, leaving them more informed and excited about their futures in the fleet.

-MIDN 2/C Bartlett
Before 19 September 2018, many midshipmen knew next to nothing about the important community of Engineering Duty Officers (EDOs), which they have the opportunity to enter upon commissioning. CDR Hoskins briefed the battalion on the pipeline, the lifestyle, and the duties of such an officer. EDOs work on all of the Navy’s platforms, from ships to submarines (including their weapons systems), doing everything from design to construction to repair and more.

What is more, the Navy requires every EDO to obtain a master’s degree in a technical field, either from the Naval Postgraduate School or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This provides great opportunities for the young officer both in and out of the Navy. MIDN 2/C Cyrul enjoyed the brief, saying, “the EDO speech gave insight into a community of the Navy I had never heard of before.” Overall, CDR Hoskins gave an excellent summary of a lesser known community to a captive audience of the midshipmen.

-MIDN 2/C Bartlett
On 10 SEP 2018, Midshipmen and Cadets from Tri-military ROTC joined University President Father Jenkins for the annual Father Jenkins Run. The units were in formation at 0545 in front of the Knute Rockne gate of Notre Dame Stadium. Father Jenkins then led the units around and throughout campus in a motivational run as the Midshipmen and Cadets led each other in several different cadences. The run began in between the library and the stadium, and ended with Father Jenkins leading the Midshipmen and Cadets down onto the field where he delivered a speech to all in attendance.

Father Jenkins’ speech focused on leadership and working hard through the semester. He encouraged all of the Cadets and Midshipmen to keep a good attitude and work ethic through the Fall. After the speech, the Battalion carried out Navy & Marine Corps push-ups while Army and Air Force ROTC watched in awe.

This tradition between the university president and Notre Dame ROTC began with Father Hesburgh and is rooted in the long-standing relationship between the Notre Dame and the Military. The Navy has an especially historic relationship with the university which can be traced back to World War II, when the Navy established an officer training program at Notre Dame to support the university during a period of drastically reduced enrollment. Father Jenkins has led this run every year since he became president and we are honored to be able to carry on this tradition, this year and for years to come.

-MIDN 2/C Jones
From 28-29 September, the Trident Naval Society (TNS) hosted its annual 24 Hour Run. The purpose of this run is to raise money for the local St. Joseph’s County Special Olympics. This year’s run broke the Notre Dame NROTC record for most money raised, bringing in well over $5,000 to be donated to the Special Olympics.

The TNS booth was set up on Fieldhouse Mall, between the LaFortune Student Center and North Quad. 2 Midshipmen were assigned to man the booth, tasked with talking to passersby, and managing the money. The other 2 Midshipmen ran around campus, with one wearing a shark suit and the other carrying a trident trying to raise money and awareness. Shifts were divided into one hour timeframes, and lasted from 1800 on Friday evening until 1800 on Saturday, an hour before the home football game versus Stanford.

The Stanford game certainly added an element of excitement to this year’s TNS run. With Notre Dame and Stanford ranked seventh and eighth in the country, Saturday marked the first time in over a decade that two top ten teams had met at Notre Dame Stadium. Campus was unusually busy with alumni even on Friday night. Says MIDN Barrett, “We met a group of former Mendoza students from Dillon Hall around 0200. How did we know they were Mendoza alum? They donated in euros.” Clearly people were in the giving mood, no doubt helped along by the excitement of the gameday atmosphere. All that being said, this year’s TNS run was certainly one to be remembered, if not for the weekend it fell on, at the very least in the record books.

-MIDN 2/C Cyrs
September 15, when undefeated Notre Dame took on Vanderbilt, marked the date of this year’s Military Appreciation Game. Each year, the Notre Dame administration selects one game of the year to honor our country’s past, present, and future service members. While every football game features an ROTC color guard filled by one of the three units here on campus, this contest featured a massive flag unfurling undertaken by ROTC members of all three branches.

As the giant American flag spread over the field and the national anthem echoed throughout the stadium, one couldn’t help but feel patriotism and pride for this great country. MIDN 3/C Dennis Krivda, who had both of his parents serve in the U.S. Army, said he felt “proud to be part of such a great tradition of service to our nation,” while MIDN 4/C Aidan Dillon said he felt a similar sense of emotion after deciding to follow in his father’s footsteps by attending Notre Dame and being part of the Naval ROTC here. It’s safe to say that the flag unfurling was a powerful moment for all in attendance.

-MIDN 2/C Cyrs
On October 5th, freshmen from all ROTC branches gathered at the Grotto in order to participate in the Freshmen ROTC retreat. This event would last until the 6th and took place at the Moreau Seminary. This event was designed to allow the freshmen of all ROTC branches to interact and gain a deeper insight as to what faith means to their college life, and future military career. In addition, it provided a brief period of rest and reflection from the academic rigors of their first semester at the University.

Once the freshmen group made its way to the Seminary, they were all checked in and assigned to their rooms. Though these rooms were small, they offered a place of peaceful contemplation during the little free time each freshman had during the busy two-day event. Once they were settled in, the introductory activities began, which involved several high intensity rounds of rock-paper-scissors. These events allowed for the midshipmen and cadets to get to know their peers in the other ROTC branches more closely than would normally be possible in the academic year. These introductions and icebreakers continued through dinner, which impressed all the attendees with its quality. “The retreat provided a welcome break from regular life at Notre Dame, even including the dining halls,” MIDN 4/C Shyne reflected later on.

After the meal, the freshmen were broken into randomly assigned groups in order to try and create the best skit out of all the groups on the retreat. These groups made it necessary for their members, many of who had never met before, to cooperate and create a short skit based on their experiences at Notre Dame. The topics of the skits varied, discussing anything from the different types of people during morning PT to the students’ first experience with their roommates. “It was definitely a lot of fun to make our skit, and I couldn’t believe that we won!” MIDN 4/C Elson stated when asked about the event later.

The rest of the first day was devoted to discussions based around the faith life at Notre Dame. These discussions were led by both upperclassmen staff for the retreat and priests of the Seminary. Included in the priests who spoke was Father Rocca, the director of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as well as the Chaplain of all ROTC units on campus. The evening ended with a prayer session in the chapel at the seminary, where students could receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or quietly reflect on prayer. MIDN 4/C Fructerman later recalled that “It was just a time to think about the school year so far and take a deep breath”. After the prayer, all freshmen spent the rest of the night either socializing with the other cadets through a very intense board game session, or a game of basketball.

The next day began early, as the freshmen cadets and midshipmen had to pack up their bags and prepare to return to campus later that afternoon. The morning began with small group discussions about the community life at Notre Dame, allowing each student to share what communities they had found while at the University. One cadet stated that “There are a lot of places to get plugged into life on campus, but ROTC is one community that will for sure remain central to my experience here”. The morning ended with the traditional dodgeball match between the three ROTC branches, including the upperclassmen staff, ending with another Navy victory against the other two teams. “This was probably my favorite event of the retreat!” MIDN 4/C Ralph said after the victory.

The final event of the retreat was a panel discussion with officers from the staffs of all the ROTC branches. Each shared their experiences with becoming and developing as an officer, as well as how their faith had impacted their military career. “The discussion really gave me an insight into the officers, and how varied everyone’s military career was.” MIDN 4/C McCann said afterwards. The Retreat ended with a mass celebrated by Father Rocca, in which each cadet and midshipman received a blessed medallion of St. Michael. After the mass, the midshipmen and cadets returned to campus, feeling refreshed and ready for the rest of the semester.

-MIDN 4/C Shyne
From 1630 on November 5th to 1630 on November 6th, Midshipmen and Cadets from all ROTC units participated in the annual 24-hour Veteran’s Day Vigil at Notre Dame. This solemn ceremony commemorates the sacrifices made by all those who have served. While conditions at the site of the vigil can vary dramatically in terms of weather, those standing vigil never leave their post, in honor of those who gave all.

The vigil took place at the Clarke War Memorial, known as “Stonehenge” to most students, on the north quad of the Notre Dame campus. The cadets and midshipmen participated in thirty minute shifts. They arrived in dress uniform and stood at parade rest on all sides of the monument. They broke their position only when rotating to the next side of the monument. The weather during the vigil varied immensely, from mild cold to an early morning rain shower. “While the event wasn’t the most comfortable at times, it’s the least we can do in remembrance” recalls MIDN 4/C Ralph. Impressively, all shifts were covered during the twenty-four-hour period, as students made adjustment to their schedule in order to cover their shift at the event.

Following the Vigil, all three ROTC units gathered for a ceremony honoring all current and former service members. The opening prayer was given by Father Peter Rocca, along with the benediction. Following the opening prayer, remarks were given by the Commanding Officer of Army ROTC, Lt. Col. Lachicotte. The Honorable Mike Gotsch, a magistrate judge for the Northern District of Indiana, spoke afterwards. “His speech reminded us about the importance of honoring those who served,” recalled MIDN 4/C Elson.

Though the Vigil was a long and cold process, it remains an important tradition among the Tri-Military Cadets and Midshipmen. This year’s Vigil and Ceremony were a success, and another in a chain of ceremonies honoring those who have and had served.

-MIDN 4/C Shyne
This fall several Midshipmen from the unit took on Air Force and Army Cadets in the annual Commander's Cup football tournament. This year was a remarkable year for the unit's football efforts as they were able to defeat both Army and Air Force ROTC.

The Air Force ROTC unit was the first to succumb to the team's withering firepower of accurate passes and aggressive runs. Though the Air Force was able to put up some points, it wasn't enough to match the ability and skill of the NROTC's team.

The peak of the season this year came when the unit's team was succeeded in shutting out the Army ROTC team. Our NROTC team scored two touchdowns and held the cadets to no points. While the offense was impressive to watch, it was the defense that shined during the shut-out. Army ROTC's offense was absolutely unable to make anything happen on the field, with either the run game or the passing game.

This year MIDN Cyrs, who organized the team, provided wise words regarding the victory. MIDN Cyrs told the Irish Pennant that "Al Davis said it best, just win baby, win' - Snoop Dog." When it comes to Tri-Mil football, this really was the case this year. Bravo Zulu to the team for their impressive victories.

-MIDN 2/C Jones
The Eve of Notre Dame’s pummeling of the Florida State Seminoles on the gridiron marked the celebration of the United States’ Navy’s 243rd birthday by your very own Notre Dame NROTC unit. In spite of the abysmal weather, the 2018 Navy and Marine Corps Ball was a smashing success. Located in the understated Century Center, midshipmen, cadre, and guests alike all enjoyed a wonderful evening of good food, energetic dancing, and most importantly great people.

Admiral Christopher W. Grady had the distinction of delivering the keynote address this year. ADM Grady is the head of U.S. Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command and, most importantly, a Notre Dame NROTC graduate. He spoke to the impressive relationship, both past, and present, between the Navy and Notre Dame, calling out specific graduates who had gone on to accomplish much in the fleet. He left us with his three most personal desires: a Navy where future and current officers respect and honor their sailors and marines, a nation that recognizes the sacrifices that military members make every day, and finally a win against FSU. Congratulations Admiral, if the first two aren’t 100% guaranteed, the last one at least is an uncontested victory.

After the Keynote address and dinner, the cake cutting ceremony commenced. It is the tradition that the oldest sailor and marine in the room feed a piece of cake to the youngest sailor and marine. This year 4/C MIDN Kramer and MIDN 4/C Gannon were the lucky recipients of these pieces of cake.

Once all of the cake crumbs had been swept under the table and forks licked clean of icing, it was time for the respective company dances. The Alpha Company 4/C delivered a comedic performance that featured 4/C Gannon as Olaf from Frozen. Bravo Company’s 4/C kept everyone entertained with their engaging and very well choreographed dance. Charlie Company’s 4/C again delivered a strong showing. It was too close to call, so the decision ultimately went to a Company Commander dance-off. The dance-off most notably featured MIDN Doherty receiving a bloody nose from the violence and energy he put into his dance moves. Despite all of his and the other company staff’s efforts, the win went unanimously to Bravo Company because of the superb execution and energy of their dancing.

This year was a notably successful and enjoyable Navy Ball. The night reminds us all to respect the institution within which we will serve, as well as allows us to enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship that we have been blessed with.

-MIDN 2/C Bolton
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Acknowledgements:

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Alpha Company Advisor– LT Brian Van Metre