The Irish Pennant

University of Notre Dame
Naval ROTC
Spring 2020
A Message from the CO

Battalion,

Congratulations on the successful completion of a bizarre and unique academic year. I hope this issue finds you safe in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I come to the end of my third year in command of NROTCU Notre Dame, I continue to be impressed by your accomplishments and involvement in the community. The past semester was highlighted by an outstanding Naval Leadership Weekend (NLW), culminating in the inspirational keynote address by ADM Burke. The leadership demonstrated by the NLW staff, specifically MIDN 2/C Johnston and Krivda was outstanding. Our performance at the Tulane Drill Meet was outstanding, given the fact that we just stood up a drill team this semester. Great job to Gunny Curran for putting the team together. Shout out goes to MIDN 1/C Cyrs for winning his Bengal Bouts bracket. Continuing our close relationship with the Notre Dame International Security Center, our MIDN participated in a virtual Small Unit Leadership Exercise with completely positive feedback.

Unfortunately, due to the shutdown of the University and social distancing considerations, we had to cancel our annual 1/C Dining In as well as Warrior Night. We look forward to reinstating those traditions next year. Well done to the outstanding leadership demonstrated by the Senior Class through the year. I fully anticipate your success as you transition to the Fleet. Good luck to the incoming leadership from the Junior Class as you take over Battalion Operations. I look forward to a safe return to campus for 2020 – 2021, and the resumption of our own New Student Orientation in the wake of summer training being cancelled.

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
I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well. I can honestly say that I’ve never experienced an event with such a drastic impact on how we live and work as the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the staff, we miss seeing you and can only imagine what you’re going through, especially our seniors. You remain our top priority, especially when it comes to your health and safety. We have adapted to the changing environment very quickly but like you, are disappointed by the cancellation of summer training and the 2020 in-person commissioning ceremony.

Times of great uncertainty and change can be hard to navigate. Besides being flexible and adaptable to the best of our ability, when things are in flux, the question to ask ourselves is, “What isn’t changing?” Things that aren’t changing at the Unit are…

- Our mission, vision, and values.
- Our commitment to our Midshipmen.
- Our commitment to be there for each other.
- Our commitment to excellence.

Being as flexible and adaptable to the best of your ability is a key competency of emotional intelligence. Our world is in a state of rapid change and it doesn’t look that will change anytime soon. When trying to deal with the uncertainty and chaos around you professionally and personally, instead of asking, “what is changing?” hold onto the notion of “what isn’t changing.” Things that don’t have to change are your ability to: choose your attitude, choose your words, choose your actions, choose how you will serve others, focus on things that lift you up, and your love for family and friends.

In his book “Good to Great,” author Jim Collins mentions the Stockdale Paradox. Named after the legendary Vietnam prisoner of war, the premise is that we need to balance optimism with a healthy dose of realism. In other words, hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. Stockdale knew he was going to prevail in the end and even turn the experience into the defining moment of his life, which, in retrospect, he would not trade. He explained, “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."

FLY NAVY! GO IRISH!

Commander Jason D. Thompson,
US Navy, Executive Officer
Battalion,

What a year we’ve had, and what a semester in particular! Although I know each of you are disappointed in that you were unable to return to campus, know that the staff and I share in that disappointment. Each of you are the reason we find our job here so rewarding, and I look forward to greeting those of you returning at the end of summer.

For the seniors, I take comfort in knowing that we are sending you off as fully-trained Ensigns and Second Lieutenants. The CO took great pains to ensure that all requirements and classes were met without cutting corners, and our commissioning ceremony, although unorthodox, will set the standard for honoring this pivotal moment in your personal and professional life. You’ve led your underclassmen, and you’ve made the staff proud. Now go forward and lead your Marines and Sailors!

For the juniors, I am inspired and motivated by the urgency with which you’ve accepted your new leadership positions. I met each of you during NSO in 2017, and I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to watch you lead NSO 2020 during my last year aboard Notre Dame. You will set the tone for the upcoming year, define expectations for our new midshipmen, and carry out the CO’s intent for the unit. Plus, it gives Muller a chance to find the rest of his Land Nav boxes.

For the sophomores, I applaud you for stepping up to the plate. Despite your smaller class size, your willingness to make sure the Battalion succeeds does not go unnoticed. Use the extra time you have this summer to rest, but also to study your profession. Read voraciously, and discuss among your peers and mentors. As rising 2/C, the underclassmen will look to you as experts within your field as you move closer toward service assignment, and assume greater positions of responsibility. Make sure they’re correct in their assumptions about you.

For the freshmen, you have redefined what a 4/C is possible of achieving. Drill Teams, MECs, and other events have been reinvigorated for the first time in years. Your enthusiasm was contagious, and the Battalion needs that to continue into your 3/C year. Thank you for the attitude, motivation, and excellent questions during our training. Now, I challenge each of you to find a way to improve over the summer and come back better. Don’t settle.

Continue to march, and Semper Fidelis!

Captain M. Cody Brockelmeyer, U.S. Marine Corps
Battalion,

BCO:

Y’all are incredible. You all should know that and look upon your accomplishments as individuals, students, and midshipmen with pride. You are an elite group of people, but not because you put people down in order to be better than them. You are elite because you utilize the strength you possess each and every day to build yourselves and those around you up. Never forget the people you are surrounded by, even if they aren’t always visible to you. I am truly honored to have worked with such incredible people, and I will never forget my time here. I wish I could say goodbye to all of you in person, however, this will have to do. I wish you all the best in your careers and I hope you all leave here knowing you are a part of a strong and tight-knit community here at Notre Dame Naval ROTC. And as always, keep being ELITE.

BOPS:

Thank you so much for such an awesome semester! I have loved being a part of this amazing group of people during my four years at ND and it was a privilege to serve in a leadership role during my final semester. I am constantly impressed with how much you all accomplish both within the Battalion and outside of it. For me, the hardest thing about having the semester end early is not being able to say true good-byes and thank yous to people that have meant so much to me. So I’m going to say it here. Thank you for the post-PT breakfasts, the football game run-ins, the across-campus waves, and the post-Drill dinners. There isn’t a more fun and impressive group out there. I can tell you one of the things I am most excited for in the future is going to be running into one of you while on some random base or ship. So please say hey when you see me so I don’t stand there and wave awkwardly. Keep in touch, keep killing it, and keep making ND NROTC proud. Thank you for everything you have given me and for being the awesome group of people that you are. See you in the fleet and Go Irish!

BXO:

This semester has truly been one for the books. Four years as a midshipman has gone by faster than I ever expected, helped along by the loss of the final weeks of this semester. However, I see that this time ‘lost’ has shown once more all the things that make our battalion great. We are truly a community brought together by dedication to a common goal: earning our commissions as Naval and Marine Corps officers. Together we build discipline, maturity, responsibility, and strength. We fail and flourish as a team and iron sharpens iron. Each midshipman has their place in this Notre Dame NROTC family. I am so thankful for each and every one of you, for the ideas you bring, the talents you contribute, and the effort you have put into all you do in this unit. I leave this Battalion confident that it only grows stronger with each passing year and each rising class. This place and the time we have spent learning together will always be dear to me and will forever be a part of who I am as a person and an officer. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with all of you, and I am sad to see it end. I look forward to meeting again in the future as fellow Notre Dame officers. Keep up the good work. Go Navy! Go Irish!
Naval Leadership Weekend is a special time at the University of Notre Dame. Midshipmen from 47 different schools across the country showed up to listen to speakers, dialogue with other service members, and ask questions about how they can better lead the future fleet. We began on Friday, 31 January before most of campus was awake, with a group photo at 0815 in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center before being welcomed in by Midshipman 2/C Johnston and Captain Prokopius.

Our first speaker, Captain Duffy, the Director of Sea Combat Division at the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, really woke up the audience with some impressive sea stories about his time in the Navy and how he has been able to reach out to others through his leadership roles and help them to overcome hardships in their lives. Captain Duffy’s talk was referenced in every seminar for the rest of the day as an outstanding example of naval leadership and how little effort it takes to be a leader with an immense impact.

After a brief break to network among other midshipmen and gather our thoughts, Vice Admiral Jackson took the stage to speak specifically about the navigation of our lives towards ownership and service through leadership. Almost everything that the Admiral offered as advice could be traced to having a constant growth mindset in all that we do. It was very clear that the importance of being humble and seeking help and knowledge could not be overstated. One of the other important aspects of her talk dealt with compassion. That our sailors needed to see our humanity as well, and we are obligated to be there to help them.

As the last seminar before lunch, Major General Alford had a tall task to keep the audience engaged and he absolutely delivered. His key takeaway was servant leadership as outlined in nine actionable principles. Although his ideas were forged in a Marine setting, they are universal principles of quality leadership and will serve to guide us in the right direction. Major General Alford also sought to persuade the audience of one of his big life lessons, reading. He made it a point to recommend multiple books to us including a strong endorsement of Neptune’s Inferno and books by James Mattis.

Following lunch the room was cleared of all senior officers for the Junior Officer Panel where midshipmen were more free to ask three Lieutenants and a Marine Captain about their experience in leadership as young officers. The officers stressed the importance of humility and humanity in their responses, emphasizing the importance of learning quickly and understanding your comparative lack of knowledge while creating a community and taking care of your people and yourself. From the panel, the midshipmen went to Pasquerilla Center and broke off into community breakouts where they could hear more career specific advice and information. Despite such a long day of talks, the attendees seemed energized by the information they had been given and were ready for more on Saturday.

-MIDN 4/C Fangman
On Saturday, 01 February, the second day of talks for Naval Leadership Weekend commenced at 0845. The first speaker, Rear Admiral Kirk Foster, Retired, began the day with a discussion on the great power competition between the United States and countries like China and Russia. RADM Foster likened the contemporary great power competition to a jungle, in which an array of forces in the environment seek to bring harm to you. The West works to trim the jungle by supplying forces to guard and garden the jungle as well as knowing the necessary rules, skills, languages, and topography to survive in the jungle. While the United States’ original power competition no longer stems from competition with the Soviet Union, the jungle has grown back with the rise of China. RADM Foster concluded his discussion with a set of proposals, including improving our cybersecurity, energy exportation, immigration policies, and relationships with our allies. Ultimately, by doing so, he believed that the United States could bring back stability to its government and present a better model for other countries to follow.

After a brief intermission, Command Master Chief Teri Zehnacker talked about the leadership lessons she learned. CMDCM Zehnacker emphasized that officers need to be personable in order to better lead their sailors. We should strive to be ourselves and be human, while still maintaining a high degree of professionalism. There will be hard days – they are inherently ingrained into our lives. Given her magnitude of experience in the Navy, CMDCM Zehnacker presented a few incredibly touching and inspiring stories to demonstrate the extent to which one’s actions can influence others. And finally, in order to succeed as leaders in the Navy, CMDCM Zehnacker also encouraged her audience to take the hard jobs and make them adventures.

After lunch, Chaplain (Col) Lawrence Dabeck led a discussion on the qualities of military leadership, incentivized with candy. He defined military leadership to be the process of inspiring and influencing people by providing positive direction and motivation to accomplish the mission and strengthen the Navy and Marine Corps. Despite many humorously miscalculated lobs, Chaplain Dabeck left the audience with some key points, such as being able to learn from mistakes, inspire others, understand one’s purpose, and prioritize the care and well-being of one’s people. Additionally, Chaplain Dabeck talked about the various facets of external leadership, internal leadership, and vertical leadership. With the end of the final talk, midshipmen were given some time to take a break before the cocktail hour and keynote dinner.

Naval Leadership Weekend was formally concluded with a keynote dinner. The keynote dinner was followed by a speech given by Admiral Robert P. Burke, Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Overall, Naval Leadership Weekend was a great success, and the valuable insight given by the distinguished speakers will certainly prove useful for soon-to-be junior officers in the fleet.

-MIDN 4/C Xu
To conclude a very successful Naval Leadership Weekend, midshipmen from all over the country gathered in the Downes Club Saturday evening for a keynote address from ADM Robert P. Burke, Vice Chief of Naval Operations. With a beautiful view overlooking the field with the dome and basilica in the background, this venue gave a perfect place to conclude the weekend. All visitors experienced an iconic Notre Dame view before hearing ADM Burke’s final address. ADM Burke is an accomplished submariner and has had ample experiences that he was able to call upon during his keynote speech to help guide and teach midshipmen about being a successful leader. A social hour kicked off the event, which included an opportunity for all participants to talk with the other midshipmen and officers that attended this event and form connections that can be carried into the fleet.

Main themes from ADM Burke’s address included potential upcoming power competition, the status of our current Navy, and critical leadership skills to be utilized in the fleet. He especially touched upon lessons he learned in the fleet, namely from his time as the Chief of Naval Personnel. Attendees were able to use this talk to hone their leadership skills learned throughout the weekend. This inspiring talk given by ADM Burke gave them a final outlook into the Navy today and the final lesson in how to apply the leadership lessons learned throughout the weekend to their time in the fleet.

Following the end of ADM Burke’s speech, Father Rocca gave the benediction which signaled the conclusion of the 2020 Naval Leadership Weekend. Hopefully all attending midshipmen learned a lot of useful information that can be applied to their futures in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. As MIDN 1/C Cahill nicely summed up, “The VCNO served up a hot cup of fired up! I now can’t wait to get out to the fleet.”

-MIDN 1/C Cameron
For the 25th consecutive year, Our Lady’s University played host to the premier ROTC leadership conference in Naval Leadership Weekend 2020. Midshipmen representing colleges and universities from across the nation assembled on campus alongside Notre Dame’s NROTC battalion to hear from an esteemed list of accomplished and well-respected military leaders. The conference spanned two full days of engaging speakers and interactive panels, concluding with a celebratory keynote dinner and speech.

The conference started off strong with CAPT Jon P. Duffy relating a captivating story of leadership in times of crisis as he shared his experience in the aftermath of the USS Fitzgerald incident in 2017. Representing Navy Installation Command, VADM Jackson shared her lessons on leadership throughout the years by emphasizing preparedness and ownership in command. Drawing on his unique experiences serving in the Marine Corps, MajGen Alford outlined his 9 points on servant leadership through his call it as you see it mentality. Later that afternoon, Midshipmen had the opportunity to hear from Junior Officers on life, work, and reality in a more conversational setting in the JO Panel and community breakouts.

To kick off the second day of events, Midshipmen heard from RADM Foster (ret.) on changing dynamics on the world stage as our Navy’s pivot towards a focus on great power competition with several near-peer competitors. Following his speech, we heard a different perspective from CMDCM Zehnacker with her powerful relation of difficult leadership moments that she has faced throughout her career. To close, COL Dabeck of the US Army, presented a compelling speech pulling on his experiences as a chaplain.

To wrap up events and celebrate a successful leadership conference, Midshipmen were treated to a delicious dinner overlooking Notre Dame’s historic football stadium at the keynote dinner. Guests were honored to hear from the night’s keynote speaker, ADM Robert P. Burke, Vice Chief of Naval Operations. The VCNO spoke of the Navy’s honored history, various leadership challenges, and the pivot towards great power competition. The VCNO spoke candidly and outlined a clear vision for the future for America’s fighting naval force. Throughout the weekend, it was a special privilege to learn from well over a collective century’s worth of military leadership from some of our most distinguished servicemen and women. Spurred on by this thought-provoking and motivating Naval Leadership Weekend 2020, Midshipmen are sure to go back to their units to share the lessons they have learned and stand better prepared to assume the role of America’s next generation of Navy/Marine Corps leaders.

-MIDN 1/C Cahill
The spring 2020 edition of Notre Dame’s Bengal Bouts boxing tournament, which finished up just two weeks before the COVID-19 outbreak brought an abrupt end to the academic year, was unquestionably the battalion’s best performance in years. This year’s Navy boxers came from every class year: Evan Molka represented the 4/C, Aidan Dillon and Hayden Hoekstra the 3/C, Evan Muller the 2/C, and Pat Rafferty, Matt Cyrs, Will Jones, and Mike Breslin the 1/C.

In the bouts opening round, Dillon, who battled a shoulder injury all year and dislocated it again in the first round of his fight, lost a tough split decision after fighting in a lot of pain. Molka and Hoekstra picked up valuable wins in their first ever fights, while all the rest of the Navy’s participants had byes to the quarterfinals due to new bracket formats. In the quarterfinals, Mike Breslin had an unfortunate exit by dislocating his shoulder within seconds of the first round’s opening bell. Will Jones impressed in his ring debut by coming out swinging and continuing to play the aggressor throughout his fight in a dominating victory. While Molka and Hoekstra took tough split decision losses, two-time semifinalist Evan Muller cruised to an expected victory with ease. Veteran senior boxers Pat Rafferty and Matt Cyrs closed the quarterfinals in thrilling fashion, both winning by referee-stopped contest before their fights went three rounds. Cyrs, notably, won his bout with the first Bengal Bouts knockout in five years after a thundering right hook sent his opponent into the mat.

The semifinals featured four Navy ROTC boxers, all hoping to break the battalion’s three year drought since their last finals appearance and four years since their last finals win. The injury bug, however, struck again with senior Will Jones. Despite dominating the first two rounds of his fight, chasing his opponent around the ring and causing the bout to be stopped not once, but several times for medical checks, Jones’ bid for glory ended in heartbreak with a shoulder injury in the third round. While he was not allowed to finish the fight, his incredible senior year run was truly a spectacle to watch. Muller, Rafferty, and Cyrs all won in convincing fashion to give the Navy three boxing finalists.

After a week of fanfare, finals night arrived for the Navy’s three remaining boxers to make their runs at Bengal Bouts immortality. Muller, fighting in the 147lb division, fought with his usual overwhelming aggression, “bulldogging” his opponent around the ring despite taking several big counterpunches. In the end however, Muller’s sheer strength and willpower were not enough to hold off his lengthy opponent, whose reach and counterpunches scored him a victory by unanimous decision. Pat Rafferty, in the 168lb division, faced a tough matchup against boxing captain Kyle Mettler, a notorious switch hitter considered by many to be the best boxer in the program. Rafferty, however, proved he was not one to fold under pressure, taking the fight to Mettler in the opening round and continuing to apply pressure as the fight went on, moving his feet and changing angles in a brilliant display of boxing. In the end, however, the junior captain just managed to outscore the senior Rafferty, winning narrowly in a heartbreaking split decision. Matt Cyrs, in the 202lb class, fought with the exact same style that led him to victory in his first two bouts and found similar results. Looking to set up space for his right hook, he found his shot towards the tail end of the first round and ended the match via his third straight referee-stopped contest, becoming the battalion’s first champion since Mike Kappaz in 2016.

2020 was a great year for Navy boxing with four semifinalists, three finalists, and one champion. With a number of young boxers coming up and looking to challenge next year, as well as Muller looking like a lock to be a senior year captain, it’s safe to say that the future is bright for battalion boxing.

-MIDN 1/C Cyrs
One of the most important weekends of the year for 2/C MIDN started on 14 FEB with JPW. Junior Parents Weekend is a staple of the Notre Dame tradition that brings parents and their children together for quality time at Notre Dame. Parents get a much better sense of their sons and daughters’ lives on campus and the midshipmen get a chance to flaunt their second home.

The weekend launched with a Friday night gala in the brand new Duncan Student Center, while Saturday is all about the college experience. Parents got opportunities to meet with hall staff, attend academic workshops, and go to mass before culminating in the President’s Dinner at the Joyce. Before the dinner, 2/C MIDN and their parents gathered in the wardroom for an afternoon social. Lots of parents were able to come and get to know the other midshipmen that their son or daughter got to spend so much time with through Drill, PT, classes, and extracurricular activities. Officers also attended to meet the families behind all their wonderful midshipmen.

The weekend concluded with a Sunday brunch, the sending off of parents, and a return to studying for our 2/C. In the end, everyone had a great time. MIDN 2/C Yusko summed it up very nicely, “JPW was a great event for our parents to come back together and catch up since NSO, freshman year.”

-MIDN 4/C Fangman
The Flyin’ Irish Basketball Tournament brings an array of men’s, women’s, and tri-military ROTC teams from all over the country. Hundreds of players from over 50 different universities make the trip to South Bend, IN to compete in the basketball tournament. This year, Notre Dame NROTC sent two teams to the tournament, a men’s team and a combined women’s Team.

Notre Dame NROTC dominated the Flyin’ Irish Basketball Tournament on both ends of the floor, hitting tough shots and locking up their opponents. The starters on the men’s team were MIDN 3/C Gannon, 3/C Hoekstra, 2/C Rafferty, 3/C Ralph, and 2/C Yusko. Particularly, MIDN Hoekstra and MIDN Ralph were key players, as they led the team by making big time plays, communicating well on defense, and setting up teammates for open shots. The men’s team won all three pool games, and beat Indiana University Army ROTC, Ohio State Army ROTC, and Texas A&M to advance to the tournament final against Ohio State Air Force ROTC. In the final, our men’s team easily defeated OSU AFROTC, outscoring them 47 to 24. Afterwards, they were crowned as the champions of the Flyin’ Irish Basketball Tournament.

The Notre Dame Tri-Mil Women’s team performed incredibly well at the Flyin’ Irish Tournament, taking home 3rd place overall and winning their pool. Comprised of 11 members representing all three branches of ND ROTC, the team made it to the semifinals, where they lost to a challenging Virginia Tech team by 5 points. The team played hard and won their pool, consisting of The Ohio State University Air Force, Marquette University Army, and Iowa State University Air Force teams. NROTC represented well, with 6 key players: MIDN 1/C Madison Lee, 1/C Hannah Lovejoy, 1/C Kathleen Halloran, 4/C Shannon Scheetz, 4/C Allison Church, and 4/C Madeline Holl. Lee, Lovejoy, and Holl contributed outside on the wings, with Scheetz handling the ball at point guard and Halloran and Church defending the basket inside on the post.

The team was primarily coached by Cadet Sophie Koeppel, a junior in Army ROTC, with assistance by MIDN Halloran and junior Cadet Clark Bowden. Overall, the tournament was a great success. All the MIDN represented Notre Dame NROTC very well and highlighted the battalion’s plethora of athletic talent. We can definitely expect great things on the hardwood next year.

-MIDN 4/C Xu
Over Valentine’s Day weekend, Senior Midshipmen and Cadets of the tri-military command at Notre Dame chose to spend 24 hours in close companionship and prayer. Led by Father Rocca over at Moreau Seminary, this retreat mirrored the freshman retreat many of these Midshipmen and Cadets attended four years earlier. Focused on an introspective reflection of the student’s college career as well as a look towards future careers as military officers, attendees participated in events ranging from contemplative evening prayer to camaraderie building dodgeball.

Early on, ROTC seniors had the unique and insightful opportunity to glean advice and guidance from a panel of experienced leaders that included all unit Commanding Officers, two chaplains, and several Junior Officers. Following a fruitful discussion, evening prayer was held in which seniors were guided in spiritual and reflective prayers and were also presented with the opportunity to attend confession.

There was plenty of time for bonding and fun, as Midshipman partook in a movie watch, card games and shared communion in good food and conversation. Jokingly, MIDN 1/C Ralph expressed the tightness of the bond formed at the retreat by jokingly exclaiming, “Anyone that didn’t come, I am no longer friends with!”

In a final send-off for seniors, Father Rocca led a ceremony of the blessing of Ensign and Second Lieutenant bars which will adorn the uniforms of these Midshipmen upon commissioning this May. Overall, seniors left this weekend feeling better prepared mentally and spiritually as they get ready to take on the momentous call of duty in committing to a profession of arms in defense of our nation.

-MIDN 1/C Cahill
While we were all looking forward to returning to campus after our mid-semester break, COVID-19 had different plans for us. Staying home and becoming a full-time Zoom University student was tough, especially for seniors whose end-of-semester and post-graduation plans were unfortunately interrupted by the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, members of the battalion have found creative ways to cope with staying at home. Some have spent their time learning or improving their artistic skills, while others have been arduously working out or volunteering in their communities. Their hard work and dedication has proven that the midshipmen of ND NROTC are cut from a different kind of cloth. In times of greatest needs, many midshipmen have stepped up in their communities. MIDN 4/C Galvin, for example, has served as a volunteer firefighter in his community while MIDN 4/C Xu has worked as a volunteer for his community Mask Project and Food Drop, cutting fabrics for volunteer sewers and delivering masks and food bags to the needy. While staying home, all MIDN have been continuously working to improve their personal fitness. MIDN 3/C Williams, in particular, found creative ways to exercise in Hawaii by surfing and open ocean canoe paddling for hours. Also, MIDN 4/C House held his own mini triathlon in freezing weather. Talk about being elite!

Although the 2019-2020 school year has concluded, the COVID-19 pandemic is still posing a serious health concern and affecting our lives. It’s imperative that all MIDN continue to follow CDC guidelines, wash hands and wear protective masks and other PPE as needed. Despite the fact that summer training for midshipmen has been cancelled, there are plenty of opportunities to stay engaged and have a fun, productive summer. Be sure to exercise caution to stay healthy and well.

And to the ND NROTC class of 2020, the battalion sincerely wishes you all the best in your future endeavors and careers as officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps!

-MIDN 4/C Xu
Attention Alumni, Family, and Friends

Want to keep up with the success of the Notre Dame Midshipmen? Check out the battalion social media to keep up with all battalion events!

Instagram Page: @NotreDameNavalROTC
Twitter: @NotreDameNROTC
Facebook Page: Notre Dame Naval ROTC

We would love to hear from you! Please reach out or send old photos to nrotc@nd.edu with the subject IRISH PENNANT.
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