



THE IRISH PENNANT



Naval ROTC

University of Notre Dame

Fall 2008

Freshman Get Their First Introduction to NROTC at O-Week

MIDN 4/C Kerry Olinger, USMCR

Staff Writer

The morning of August 18th, 2008 was a strange one. As we, the incoming 4/C, approached Pasquerilla Center still clinging to our luggage and parents, we had no idea what to expect for our O-week. Most of us had heard horror stories from family and friends (which we later realized more accurately described boot camp or plebe summer at the Naval Academy), and were very nervous to begin our transition into military life. Little did we know that by the end of the week, the 1/C staff would be fairly impressed with our abilities to adapt and learn new things. Although our O-week was apparently not as “intense” as those of years past, we still found it challenging and learned a lot not only about the Navy and Marine Corps, but also about teamwork and leadership.

Tuesday morning came as quite a shock to many of us, especially after a long night of frantic ironing, hemming and shoe shining. The first full day of O-week left many of us questioning our decision to join NROTC, yet we endured and learned to cope with the brisk walks across campus in new leathers, carrying (and subsequently dropping) about six or seven items at a time. Our knowledge was decent upon arrival, but we definitely had to work on our bearing and confidence. Constant studying and bearing checks kept us on our toes, but often allowed for some brief humorous moments. The name game, alliteration game, and laugh button with MIDN 4/C Koehr especially were welcome reliefs after an hour or so of rote memorization. The 1/C staff found some incredibly creative ways to test our bearing, including: 2nd platoon’s gun show, Mr. Macke being pushed around in a cart by Mr. Malherek, song requests for “Barbie Girl” and “Beast of Burden,” and BCO asking MIDN 4/C Coyne, “Do you know the muffin man?” during her inspection (to which she unflinchingly replied, “Yes sir. Who lives on Drury Lane?”). While the whole week may not have been “fun,” it certainly was entertaining at times.

When we weren’t studying or walking somewhere, we were practicing drill. After some decent first tries on the drill deck with GYSGT Macias, we began to get the hang of marching and executing movements with precision. According to BOPS, we looked “impressive, especially given the relatively short time for training.” 1st Platoon Commander Mr. Martin was equally satisfied with his platoon’s performance at drill. But despite our intense love for facing and flanking movements, the 4/C was most enamored with the command “Gaggle,” particularly when accompanied by the word “friggin.” Those two words could, and still can, literally keep us occupied for a good half hour.

Our O-week also included something new: paintball, aka pigment sacking. Naturally, everyone was excited for this evolution. Pigment sacking (platoon vs. platoon) provided us an opportunity to work together, as 4/C alongside the 1/C. Mr. Martin agreed, saying that it was “a good change of pace, and allowed us to bond in a different setting.” This, combined with our skits and casual free time with the 1/C on the last day, was without a doubt everyone’s favorite part of the week. The skits were the highlight of the 1/C’s week, as confirmed by BCO, who said, “I have now been a part of 4 O-weeks and I can say without a doubt that this year’s skits were the best I have ever seen.” We fondly made fun of Mr. Macke’s clumsiness, Mr. Martin’s mannerisms, Mr. Shamrell’s lost voice, Ms. Pearl’s use of “friggin,” and PTI’s extraordinary physical ability and affinity for burpees. After this, the winners of the titles Honor Platoon and Iron Midshipman were announced. Second Platoon (second to none!), commanded by a hoarse Mr. Shamrell, won Honor Platoon, and MIDN 4/C Campion was named the Iron Midshipman.

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BCO's Words of Wisdom



MIDN 1/C Alexander Duffy, USNR

Battalion Commanding Officer

As this is the only Irish Pennant of the semester, this is my only chance as BCO to leave a lasting literary legacy. Boom, alliteration. And since I'm really, really good at putting things off until the last minute, well... I'm writing this at the last minute. But I've never let that deter me from spitting out literary genius before so here we go.

This semester has been, in a word, educational. It has also been spunky (my favorite adjective), but that doesn't apply to this article as much unfortunately. As the first semester winds down, I begin to look back at what has made the last few months (and years for that matter) special in my eyes. First off, O-week. My fourth consecutive O-week was substantially different from my first 3, mainly because I was behind the scenes instead of out on the front lines grillin' knowledge and checkin' bearin'. How rewarding it was, however, to see a freshman class emerge from their orientation week as a cohesive group of friends with as much personality as I've ever seen from a fourth class. I see great things in the future for the freshmen. Right now, they are still a little unsure about how they are supposed to act and what their role is supposed to be. And my response to that is "Be easy." I can't go into the meaning behind that saying but roll it around in your head and you'll eventually figure it out.

Which brings me to my next point: the first class. My buddies. It's weird to think that we were the nervous little freshmen only three extremely short years ago. And now we have our service selections in hand; all with our first choices too (with an exception or two I believe). As the years have gone on and I've gotten to know everyone in our class I can honestly say that I have love for everyone in this class. Every single person has something about them that I love. I won't go into details, but ask me at the right time and I'll entertain you for hours with stories of all of these individuals.

But this isn't about the first class. We are the old timers. We are gone after May. When you think about it, this is no longer our battalion since we can't make any significant impact on it anymore. We'll make sure it doesn't run into the ground but the rest is up to the underclassmen. Which brings me to my next point: Funky butt-loving. (If you haven't seen Rookie of the Year, please grow up before you talk to me again). But seriously, it is up to you, the underclassmen, to make sure that the battalion goes in the direction that *you* want it to. Don't be constrained by "How it's been done in the past" or "I'm too busy to come up with something new" because there is no reason to be slave to the past.

Which brings me to my final point. As I wrap up my only piece of writing to ever be read by public figures (I'm a business major after all), I will end with the philosophy that I live by: "There is a time and place for everything." After several years of battalion involvement, I can say with absolute certainty that finding a balance between social life and ROTC is the key to rising to the top in the battalion. And let's be clear about this: I think it's important for everyone to enjoy their college experience as much as is humanly possible. After all, we go to Notre Dame, not the Naval Academy. BUT, you are still midshipmen that have taken an oath to defend this great nation. And that cannot be taken lightly.

And with that I leave you. Hopefully I have imparted in you some sense of antiquated wisdom from my previous years of Naval ROTC experience, and you are aware of what you are capable and expected to accomplish as a midshipman at the University of Notre Dame.

The Irish Pennant Staff- Fall 2008

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A Message from the CO

CAPT Dale Nees, USN

CO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

I knew 70 degree weather on Halloween was too good to be true. Less than two weeks later and we have to move the annual Veterans Day Ceremony inside because of freezing rain. The Midshipmen and Cadets however, stood their ground through sub-freezing temperatures and mixed rain, holding a 24 hour vigil at Clarke Memorial Fountain to honor all our veterans. I think the Marine Options wanted to go another 24 for fun; you got to love 'um. Father "Ted" Hesburgh graced us again as our guest speaker, reminding us all of the sacrifices and significance of those who serve in our military and praised those young men and women in the ROTC programs who choose to lead our forces in the future. We all echo his sentiments.

Hard to believe we are only a month away from final exams, soon the students will be back home telling their families what they've been up to this semester – at least some of it. Tomorrow we celebrate the 233rd Birthday's of the Navy and Marine Corps with our annual combined Birthday Ball. This year's guest speaker will be RDML Jack Prendergast, ND '79. The Admiral is flying in from Washington DC that day, then returning back to Baltimore early Saturday morning to go to the Navy-ND football game, then on to Kuwait and Afghanistan that evening - just a typical weekend for a Navy Domer on the go.



I've been very impressed with the Battalion this year. Our new group of freshman (one of the largest NROTC classes in recent history) seems more motivated than ever. As always we have a cross section of walk-on varsity athletes, marching band, symphony and choral groups, future intramural sports and boxing champs, etc., and yes outstanding academic students. Perhaps some just don't know it yet, with respect to the academic excellence, but I'm sure they are catching on. Our seniors stepped up to the plate and took an active leadership role within the battalion, from Freshman Orientation to all events since. The Battalion Commander, MIDN 1/C Alex Duffy, Battalion XO, MIDN 1/C Catherine Kane and Battalion OPS, MIDN 1/C Chris Reidy have done an outstanding job in running the Battalion. When I talk with the underclass midshipmen they have nothing but praise for the upper classes which bodes well for the quality of men and women in the unit. I couldn't be more proud of all the midshipmen and their accomplishments.

I'm also very impressed with my staff. They continue to set the bar for excellence in the NROTC program, whether teaching, mentoring or administering to everyone's needs.

Happy Holidays to all.

Keep charging!

Go Navy! Go Irish!

O-Week (continued from page 1)

Overall, our O-week was outstanding, and the 1/C did an excellent job helping us with our transition into battalion life. It may have been a challenge at first, but ultimately we gained great memories and great insight towards our futures in the Navy and Marine Corps. As a class, we hope to contribute to the battalion and make the most of our four years as part of the best NROTC unit in the country. I leave you now with the BCO's encouraging words: "I look forward to seeing what the 4/C can accomplish. They are already very close as a class and they have all the potential in the world." Gaggles on, 4/C.

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XO's Corner

CDR John Herman, USN

XO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

It sure is amazing how time flies when you're having fun. It's hard to believe that it's almost Thanksgiving and another school year is halfway complete and it's the beginning of my final year here at Notre Dame. It's also hard to believe that the warm weather we have gotten so used to is now nothing but a nice memory as we settle in for what according to The Farmer's Almanac is going to be a "catastrophic winter". I'm not sure what that means, but I sure don't like the sound of it since last year I had at least three feet of snow in my yard for most of the winter.

We've had some new additions to the staff here at ND since we ended last semester since Major Theriot, LT Karnowski, and LT Lipke have all transferred after very successful tours. We welcome three new members to our unit this year, Major Dave Hart, LT Wil Fensterer, and LT Drew Dewalt. All have hit the deck plates running as we say, and are making great contributions to the unit. We're happy to welcome them and their families to our family here at Notre Dame.



The Battalion had another busy and successful semester so far this year led by Midshipman Captain Alex Duffy. He did a tremendous job leading Freshmen Orientation for 37 highly motivated Freshmen midshipmen; one of the biggest classes in recent memory. The Battalion was also busy with the Tri-Military run with University President Father Jenkins, Veteran's Day ceremony and the vigil at Clarke Memorial and our annual Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Our Guest of Honor this year was Rear Admiral John Prendergast, Notre Dame class of 1979 who was as excited to be a part of our ceremony as we were to have him with us.

Our First Class midshipmen are anxiously awaiting their Service Selection results so they can start planning their careers in the Navy and Marine Corps. The results will be out before the holidays this year and those becoming Surface Warriors should be selecting their ships in the next few months. Final exams are just around the corner and the last event before a well deserved holiday break. I'm sure grades will be outstanding again this year. With everything the midshipmen have going on in their lives; ROTC obligations, sporting events, community service, and countless campus activities, it always impresses me how they excel academically.

I'm out of room and out of time. I'm keeping my fingers crossed in hopes that we'll have one more Indian summer so I can get out on the golf course one more time. I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. See you all next year.

Notre Dame Football

ND 21 San Diego State 13 W	ND 38 Purdue 21 W	ND 33 Washington 7 W	ND 27 Navy 21 W
ND 35 Michigan 17 W	ND 28 Stanford 21 W	ND 33 Pittsburg 36 L	ND 23 Syracuse 24 L
ND 7 Michigan State 23 L	ND 24 N. Carolina 29 L	ND 0 Boston College 17 L	ND — USC — TBD

Battalion Welcomes New Advisors

MIDN 3/C Matthew Zak, USNR

Staff Writer

The unit has another new arrival, the new 3/C advisor, LT Wil Fensterer. LT Fensterer is a NROTC graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Graduating in 2003, with a degree in Civil Engineering, the LT selected the Surface Warfare community. He commented that he wanted to be in the Navy to see the world, and get out on his own. However, before he entered into the fleet he participated in the Navy's Immediate Graduate Education Program (IGEP) and he attended Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California where he graduated with a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Out in the fleet he served on DDG69 USS Milius, an Arleigh Burke-class Aegis guided missile destroyer. The motto on their crest is "*Alii Prae Me*" which means "Others before myself." While aboard the destroyer he noted that being an Electrical Officer and Auxiliaries Officer were some of his challenging roles. Next he was stationed with Inshore Boat Unit (IBU) 53. The small boat unit was deployed to Kuwait where they operated in country. He added that one of his favorite foods was a chicken shawarma, a sort of Middle Eastern style Burrito. Both units were stationed out of San Diego where while in port he developed a love for Padre's Baseball. "They play at PETCO Park which was close and the tickets are 15 dollars." When asked what his favorite hobby was Lt. Fensterer answered, "Picking up hobbies." He has enjoyed surfing, fixing cars, and most recently picking up the guitar. He also enjoys watching St. Louis Rams Football as well as the TV show House. In talking about House he said that "He is smart and brutally honest." In response to his impressions of Notre Dame so far he said, "Love it. It is a different atmosphere, but it has the whole package." He said that undergraduates get an "awesome experience," and "you should have no regrets." Lastly, I asked him if he had any quotes to live by. He said, "Have fun. It's not worth doing unless you're having fun."



MIDN 3/C Arianna Cassani, USNR

Staff Writer

One of the new faces around the unit is a fellow Domer, LT Drew DeWalt. He grew up in Waco, Texas and he eventually attended Notre Dame where he graduated in 2004. A submariner, he immediately went off to nuclear power school and then was stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI on the USS Cheyenne for three years. If he had any other career, he would want to be in the foreign service for the great travel experiences, but LT DeWalt loves the Navy because of the sacrifice and the service that he does for his country. When asked why he returned to Notre Dame to fill the ROTC position, he responded, "Why would you not?" We are all certainly glad to have you at Notre Dame, Lt DeWalt. Welcome back!



From the MOI's Desk

MAJ David Hart, USMC

Marine Officer Instructor

This is my first article to the Irish Pennant as a member of the Notre Dame Naval ROTC unit. I checked into the unit in June of 2008, transferring from an infantry battalion at Camp Lejeune, and since my arrival have been nothing but impressed with the high caliber midshipmen that make up this battalion. As I interact with most of you on a daily basis you continue to impress me and you have made excellence a daily occurrence. The self discipline, dedication, and esprit de corps are contagious and every bit as good as I have seen in any unit throughout the course of my career. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve with you thus far.

As we get ready for the Christmas break I think it is critical that we as a battalion take time to reflect on why we have chosen to be part of the Navy and Marine Corps martial culture. We all do what we do for different reasons, however, I would argue that most of you chose this path in life primarily to serve the greater good and make a positive difference in this world. And to put this in perspective, at the end of the day, it matters not if you are a Navy or Marine Corps' warfighter what matters is that you are a warfighter. For over 233 years the Navy and Marine Corps team has arguably been the finest integrated, fighting force on the planet. Our unit reflects this critical integration and we have adjusted our physical training program for all hands to a more realistic combat conditioning training regime; there are half a dozen Navy options that choose to train alongside the Marine options in the Marine combat conditioning program four times a week, and the leadership billets throughout the battalion are completely integrated with Navy and Marine options. These types of unit activities are good for camaraderie and make us all more capable. It is absolutely critical that you understand the Navy/Marine team concept and the importance of the various Warfighting roles that our organizations perform in combat. This will ultimately make you a much better prepared and significantly more well-rounded Navy or Marine Officer.

In a few short years you will face some of the greatest challenges of your life as you take command and responsibility of America's most precious assets; her enlisted Marines and Sailors. Let me put this in perspective for you as well. The only reason an officer exists in any military service is to serve and to lead. You are not entitled due to your commission; the needs of your enlisted should always come before your own. Your only function in life is to ensure they are the best trained, most physically and mentally tough, and most proficient warfighter humanly possible. Your responsibility as a commander is to ensure that conditions are shaped and set so that your Marines and Sailors always fight from a position of advantage. On a daily basis you should be teaching, coaching, and mentoring them as if their lives depend on it, because they do. At this stage in your career you are morally obligated to ensure you are as ready as possible to effectively lead. You should be putting forth one hundred percent effort towards learning be it your academic discipline at Notre Dame or military skill sets. Remember you are not learning for yourself, you are learning for the Marines and Sailors that you will serve and lead. There is no greater honor or more noble profession than that of a warrior. I commend you on your chosen path in life, this country is as indebted to you as she is to every active duty service member that has ever served. I look forward to serving with you again next semester. Stay focused and finish strong you owe that to the families of and the future young Americans that you are going to be privileged to serve.

Semper Fidelis,

David Hart

Major, USMC





Notre Dame represents at the Marine Corps Mud Run

Semester Highlights: Notre Dame's NROTC Battalion in Pictures

ROTC Freshman Retreat: 4/C girls make a pyramid



Navy's dominating Tri-Military Soccer team



Freshmen cadets and midshipmen battle it out in a grueling ice breaker, "Rock-paper-scissors," during the Freshman Retreat.

Battalion Hosts Annual Flag Football Game with Michigan Naval ROTC

MIDN 3/C John Horgan, USNR

Staff Writer

The Friday before the Notre Dame / Michigan game was not a pretty day. It was gray and rainy. Our football team had left the pep rally to get a good night's sleep before the game. While they rested, the ND NROTC team gave Michigan a taste of the defeat they would experience again on Saturday.

I arrived to cover the game and found Notre Dame already on the field. They were dressed in an assortment of green and were running practice plays. They seemed at ease and ready for what was to come. Michigan arrived dressed in their own blue and gold uniforms. They spread out into regimented stretches and drills run as orderly as PT. They were an intimidating sight, operating like a varsity football team.

Our captains 1/C Kane and 1/C Falvey met the Michigan captains at mid field and won us the ball. Led by our quarterback 1/C Costanzo, Notre Dame made sure to set the tone of the game quickly. With a 23 yard pass to 3/C Sierawski followed by a 52 yard bomb to 4/C Looney, ND drew first blood in 2 plays. 1/C Falvey came through in the clutch with a diving catch to score the extra point and make the lead 7 – 0. Michigan answered quickly with a QB sneak followed by a long run with a broken tackle for a touchdown. They attempted a 2 point conversion and failed, leaving the game 7 – 6.

Notre Dame followed with another long scoring drive. Starting with a 16 yarder to 3/C Smith, 1/C Costanzo hit 4/C Looney twice for 24 and 26 yards, leaving us just short of the touchdown at the end of the first quarter. The 2nd Quarter started with a QB option to Sierawski for the touchdown followed by a pass to Smith for the extra point. Michigan's drive faltered from the start with a missed pass and poor run, culminating with an interception by 1/C Devine. Following a turnover on downs by Notre Dame, Michigan got the ball with little time left in the first half. Following several short quarterback runs and passes in the flat (a staple of the Michigan offense), the half ended with Notre Dame ahead 14 – 6.

Michigan began the 3rd quarter with the ball on their own 30. Their quarterback reached our end zone on the first play in a great run....but unfortunately 67 of those yards came after he was down. With 2/C Gray breaking up a run on 2nd down and 3/C Galiyas slamming into the quarterback on 3rd down, Michigan was forced to punt. ND capitalized on the opportunity with a 16 yard pass to Smith followed by a 35 yarder to Looney for the touchdown involving a dodged sack and a great catch in coverage. Smith caught the extra point with a tricky play and brought Notre Dame's lead up to 21 – 6.

The next drive by Michigan was short lived as 2/C Devine again picked off their quarterback, which may or may not have made him their leading receiver at this point in the game. Just as it appeared that ND would go 3 and out with an incompleting and sack, Costanzo and Lorenz put together a hook and ladder that ended 42 yards later in the Michigan end zone. While the extra point was no good, the lead was 27 – 6. On the next possession 3/C Galiyas sent a message with a sack for a 14 yard loss. Three brief plays later Michigan turned the ball over on downs. Notre Dame followed suit on their next drive, giving the ball right back. On defense our Trident shark had a brief stint as free safety before being removed from the game. 1/C Malherek made an interception on the following play, bringing the game to a close as darkness settled over the field. Notre Dame had won: 27 – 6.

While the game was hard fought on the field both units came together at the end to shake hands. It was a good game between two good teams, but stand out players on both sides of the ball assured the Notre Dame win.



Fr. Jenkins Supports Notre Dame's ROTC Units at Annual Tri-Military Run



MIDN 3/C Evan Possley, USNR

Staff Writer

Every year since he became the president of Notre Dame, Father Jenkins has taken the time to join the Navy, Air Force, and Army ROTC units in a run around campus. This year, the event took place at 0630 on the brisk morning of 30 SEP. The run itself consisted of approximately three miles at a lively nine minute per mile pace. The Air Force led the pack, with Army following and the Navy formation bringing up the rear.



Throughout the run, representatives from each unit called out motivational cadences. It was a great opportunity to show a unified front among the three branches.

Father Jenkins used the time after the run to address the cadets and midshipmen. He expressed his gratitude for our service to the country and our commitment to leadership. He also discussed Notre Dame's storied history with the armed forces. The midshipmen and cadets really seemed to appreciate hearing the president's words of support in recognition of their hard work. Overall, it was an extremely positive experience for everyone involved.



Editor's Endnotes

MIDN 1/C Keaton Lambert, USNR

Irish Pennant Editor

I would just like to take this small bit of space I have left to say a few words of my own. First, I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped put this edition of *The Irish Pennant* together. Unfortunately I don't have room to thank you all by name, but you know who you are and I certainly would not have been able to do it without you. I will, however, briefly thank my amazing staff and LT Fensterer for his guidance and patience throughout the semester. Secondly, I would like to congratulate my fellow 1/C midshipmen on officially receiving their Service Selections! We have spent a great three and a half years together and I pray that God may continue to bless and guide all of you in the years to come, wherever they may take you. Lastly, thank all of you for taking the time to read this. Without you I would not have a job, but would probably have a much easier life (just kidding). I hope that the *Pennant* this semester has been up to your usual standards and that next semester's edition might be even better. God bless and happy reading!

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