



THE IRISH PENNANT



Naval ROTC

University of Notre Dame

Spring 2009

Battalion Hosts Annual Naval Leadership Weekend



Panel discusses "The Future of International Security"



NLW staff poses with the MCPON

MIDN 3/C Matthew Zak, USNR

Staff Writer

This year the battalion hosted its 14th annual Naval Leadership Weekend. NLW brings Midshipmen and Cadets representing 31 ROTC units from different schools together for three days of interactive leadership training. This event is full of inspiring lectures and discussions focused specifically on the practical applications of leadership and ethics for junior military officers. This year's NLW coordinator was 2/c Jen Malherek. She and her hardworking staff did an excellent job completing the large amount of work that was required to host one of the nation's largest midshipmen leadership conferences. This great weekend assembled a highly honored group of speakers including Navy and Marine Corps Flag officers, retired officers, and current Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West.

The weekend kicked off on Thursday, 19 MAR 2009. Arriving Midshipmen checked in and were given tours of the Notre Dame campus. Midshipmen stayed at the local Sacred Heart Parish Center, across from Moreau seminary. Friday began with a welcome address from the Captain Dale Nees, Notre Dame NROTC Commanding Officer, and was followed by the first symposium presentation: a lecture by Mr. Larry Wilkerson, a retired Army Colonel and former Chief of Staff to the Secretary of State Colin Powell. The second symposium was by Mr. Paul Charron, a senior Advisor to Warburg Pincus, former SWO, and CEO of Liz Claiborne. After lunch there were three more symposiums to finish the first day: USMC Lieutenant General John R. Allen, the Deputy Commander of USCENTCOM, Mr. Matthew Buckley, CEO of Options News Network and former Navy F/A-18 pilot, and Mr. Joseph Kernan the former Governor of Indiana, Navy NFO and Vietnam POW.

Saturday morning opened with a Panel Discussion featuring panelists Dr. Joseph Thomas, Dr. Emily Goldman, Dr. Sebastian Rosato, Dr. David Cortright, and Dr. Michael Desch. The topic of the discussion was Leadership and Ethics: The Future of International Security. This panel discussion challenged many of the midshipmen when Dr. Rosato suggested a dramatic shift and approach to US foreign policy that spurred many questions from midshipmen and other panel members. Overall the panel was considered one of the best in the history of NLW. After lunch there were group discussions and group leadership scenarios where midshipmen went through real experiences where a junior officer had to make critical leadership decisions. The final speaker was current Navy Seal, Vice Admiral Robert Harward. The weekend concluded with a dinner in the press box of Notre Dame Stadium, featuring MCPON Rick West. West talked about the shift from a blue water navy to a patrolling brown water maritime force. He also stressed listening and learning from young sailors and marines, "But most importantly, lead them." The 2009 NLW was a success on every level, and a Bravo Zulu goes out to every person who worked hard to make it happen.

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BCO's Words of Wisdom



MIDN 1/C Joseph Falvey, USMCR

Battalion Commanding Officer

Midshipmen, Americans, Friends: lend me your ears. Another semester has come and gone. This semester has featured a number of major battalion events: we discovered how much leadership advice could be crammed into one weekend at NLW, we outmarched the other services at Pass in Review, we celebrated the one-fight team at the first ever battalion-wide Warrior Night, and we will commission twenty-one seniors during graduation weekend. We capped off the semester on the last day of classes with the Awards Ceremony, our final battalion-wide event of the year. At this ceremony, the CO honored midshipmen who had distinguished themselves throughout the past year. Midshipmen received certificates, ribbons, and swords. It struck me, however, that many deserving midshipmen were not honored, particularly among the freshmen. Don't get me wrong – I don't think this is your first grade soccer team where everybody received a participation certificate, even if they cared more about the dandelions along the sidelines than the whereabouts of the soccer ball. Many of you did not deserve awards – work on that next year. That said, there were few days as BCO when I was not impressed with somebody going above and beyond the call of duty, putting in hours for the good of the battalion without recognition. To these unsung midshipmen, thank you. The battalion does not run without you.

To summarize the year, I'd like to leave you with the year's best quotes and the lessons learned from them:

LtGen Allen: "A man of character in peace is a man of courage in war." Lesson learned: although it is important to develop yourself mentally and physically, nothing is more important than developing yourself *morally*.

Maj Hart: "Martin, I'm going to choke you the f&@# out." Lesson learned: set high standards for yourself and others, then hold yourself and others accountable.

SgtMaj Barrett: "Are you countable?" Lesson learned: be somebody upon whom others can depend at all times

GySgt Macias: "Love is not blind. Love has rank." Lesson learned: don't fraternize.

1/C Martin: "Yut." Lesson learned: bring the enthusiasm, no matter how mindless the task.

The Irish Pennant Staff– Spring 2009

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A Message from the CO

CAPT Dale Nees, USN

CO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

As another academic year comes to a close and we get ready to send the battalion out for summer training, and even more importantly commission our latest group of Ensigns and Second Lieutenants, I'd like to review some of the accomplishments of the Battalion this past semester. First and foremost would be the leadership of our Battalion Staff, particularly the Battalion Commander MIDN 1/C Joseph Falvey, his second in command MIDN 1/C Jonathan Parry and the Battalion Operations Officer, MIDN 1/C Lynda Pearl. They did a tremendous job in organizing the Battalion activities and building esprit de corps in the unit throughout the spring semester. It was capped off with the first annual Battalion-wide Warrior Night celebration honoring all of our seniors or soon to be warriors. We were especially privileged to have USMC Officer Candidate School Sergeant Major Barrett as our guest speaker as well as several former and retired Marines and Sailors in attendance.



Perhaps the most significant event this semester involved the efforts of the Naval Leadership Weekend staff, especially MIDN 2/C Jennifer Malherek in hosting this event here at Notre Dame. This marked the 14th year of the NLW and was perhaps our best in terms of guest speakers. This year's theme of *Junior Officer Leadership in an Evolving International Security Environment* was highlighted by such speakers as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Lt Gen Allen, USMC, Deputy Commander US Central Command and VADM Robert Harward, USN, Deputy Commander US Joint Forces Command. This forum provided a unique opportunity not found at any other university, allowing over 200 Midshipmen representing half of the NROTC units around the country, to come together and hear as well as interact with 12 speakers and panelists on a wide array of leadership and ethical challenges facing our young future officers. We continue to receive praise on their efforts and even just this week I was handed a copy of *The Flagship* or Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Newspaper with the front page article, "Flexibility of Navy's capabilities, leadership expectations outlined at Notre Dame". In it the MCPON talks about his experience here at Notre Dame that weekend. In a personal note to me he expressed how he was inspired by the young men and women at Notre Dame who are serious about leading and serving their nation. It goes without saying that we all feel the same way about these young men and women.

It is only fitting that the President of the United States will be the commencement speaker for this year's graduating class. Just a few hours before he gives his speech, twenty-one Notre Dame NROTC seniors will raise their right hand and take an oath like no other in the world. An oath to support and defend our way of life (governed by the Constitution) and in doing so will be commissioned as Navy Ensigns or Marine Corps Second Lieutenants by the very man who will address them the next day, their new Commander in Chief. We all share in their pride and accomplishments and wish them fair winds and following seas. Keep Charging!

XO's Corner

CDR John Herman, USN

XO Notre Dame Naval ROTC Unit

Three years. 1095 days. To some it seems an eternity, and to others it goes by in the blink of an eye.

Three years. Our newly commissioned Ensigns and Second Lieutenants will be seasoned and experienced junior officers leading Sailors and Marines and running the Navy and Marine Corps like they never envisioned they could.

Three years. Our young, wide-eyed and enthusiastic freshmen who are now looking forward to CORTRAMID and their first taste of what the Navy and Marine Corps will be like will be commissioned and starting their long awaited careers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Three years. My first experience at Notre Dame three years ago was meeting our newly arriving freshmen and their parents. Those nervous, but excited, young men and women, kids really, are now ready to run the Battalion as first class midshipmen. I have been in the unique position to watch them grow and mature with each passing month into the future leaders of our Naval service. It truly has been something special that I will not forget.

My final semester at Notre Dame has seen our two traditional spring semester events, Naval Leadership Weekend and Warrior Night, soar to new levels of excellence. This year's Naval Leadership Weekend had the most impressive list of guest speakers in the 14 years of the event. Some of the noted guest speakers included: Lieutenant General John R. Allen, USMC - USCENTCOM Deputy Commander, Vice Admiral Robert Harward, USN - USJFCOM Deputy Commander, and MCPON Rick D. West, USN. Our students surpassed all expectations with this amazing lineup of talent and experience. And to close out the semester, Sergeant Major Mike Barrett, the Sergeant Major of Officer Candidate School, was the guest speaker for our Warrior Night. There is no one better to inspire and motivate our midshipmen (and the rest of us present) and to put into perspective exactly why they are here and what they will be needed to do in the future. These events will be something we all will remember for some time to come.

Three years. For me the last three years have gone by in the blink of an eye. Actually, the last 26 years of my Naval career have went by faster than I ever thought possible. As I prepare for a new career and a life outside the military, I hope the next three years are as exciting and rewarding as these last three years have been. I just hope they go by a little slower.



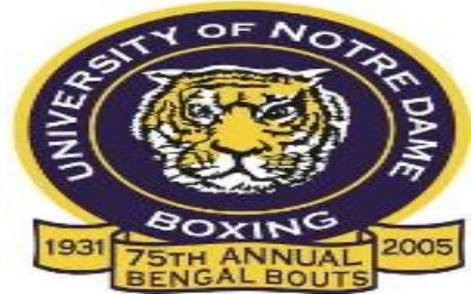
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Midshipmen Make Good Showing at Annual Bouts



MIDN 2/C Thomas Dudro, USMCR and MIDN 3/C John Horgan

Staff Writers

This year thirteen Notre Dame Midshipmen participated in the Baraka and Bengal Bouts. “Strong bodies fight; that weak bodies may be nourished.” The slogan of Notre Dame’s annual student boxing tournaments is as much a challenge as a motto and these midshipmen rose to it. For those not familiar with Notre Dame’s annual student boxing tradition, the proceeds of the women’s Baraka Bouts in November and the men’s Bengal Bouts in February go towards funding Holy Cross schools and outreach programs in East Africa and Bangladesh respectively. Bengal Bouts has been a university tradition since its founding by Knute Rockne in 1920 as a amateur inter-hall boxing tournament that doubled as an off-season training program for football athletes. The women’s equivalent, Baraka Bouts, was begun in 2004.

This year the NROTC unit had two midshipmen competing in the Baraka Bouts. Coming back for her second appearance in the Bouts, 2/C Jen Malherek was injured late in the training season and therefore was unable to compete in the October tournament. 4/C Kerry Olinger competed for the first time in the Bouts. Midshipman Olinger fought with determination in the first round, but unfortunately despite her protests to continue the fight, the contest was stopped by the referee when her nose refused to stop bleeding.

Eleven midshipmen represented the unit in the Bengal Bouts this year, including six first time boxers. Two of these five newcomers were eliminated in the first round of fights: 4/C Chapman in the 160 lb. weight class, and 4/C Gannatti in the 147 lb. weight class. 1/C Costanzo and 1/C McGill both made it to the quarterfinals of the 160 lb. and 155lb. weight classes respectively. 3/C Brennan made it to the finals in the 160 lb. weight class where he was matched against Midshipman 1st Class Duffy, however he was forced to concede the match due to a broken nose received in the semifinals.

Returning boxers included second year veterans 2/C Matthew Gray and 3/C Bernardo Garcia, third year veterans 1/C Alex Duffy and 1/C Andrew Lorenz, as well as four year veterans 1/C Jonathan Parry and 1/C Patrick Martin. 2/C Gray reached the quarterfinals of the 200lb. weight class. 3/C Garcia was crowned champion for the second straight year in the 170 lb. weight class and is now recognized as the possessor of the most wicked uppercut in the competition. First Class Duffy met up with 3/C Brennan in the 165 lb. class finals, winning the championship in a no contest after Brennan was forced to concede. 1/C Lorenz reached the semifinals in the 200 lb. weight class. Both of the fourth year competitors reached the quarterfinals, Martin the 160 lb. weight class and Parry in the 175 lb. weight class. Also of note, 2/C Alex Lough trained with the boxers until December, however was unable to fight in the Bouts while recovering from PRK eye surgery undergone over winter break in preparation for flight school.

One factor leading to the general success of the unit’s representatives in the Bouts was the addition of Major Hart to the unit staff. As a black belt instructor in the Marine Corp Martial Arts Program he took a keen interest in the development of the unit’s boxers, particularly the Marine Options. He helped them hone their techniques in practices before the Bouts and gave them tactical assistance in their corner during the fights. Another factor that may have helped was the atmosphere of enthusiastic support of the rest of the battalion, the great majority of whom attended many or all of the fights.

From the MOI's Desk

MAJ David Hart, USMC

Marine Officer Instructor

I have now been part of this unit for almost one year and I am as impressed today as I was when I joined you. You have performed extremely well during the past two semesters and should be proud of your many accomplishments. Let me give you a year in review from my perspective. The battalion shifted from a once a week physical training event to twice a week which equates to 52 Battalion physical training events, Marine Options double that number for your four times a week combat conditioning sessions. The physical training adjusted from traditional calisthenics and running to combat conditioning/cross fit type workouts. You conducted 24 battalion drill periods, participated in six special events (Navy/Marine Corps ball, Father Jenkins run, veterans day vigil, Naval Leadership Weekend, pass and review, and warrior night), and spent many additional hours preparing for those events. Additionally the Marine Options and some Navy Options participated in two Deployments For Training (DFT) to Fort Custer each consisting of two and a half days. When you do the approximate math (Engineer majors feel free to check me I know this will "amp" you up MIDN 1/C Parry) the battalion drills equate to 24 hours, the battalion physical training is 52 hours, Marine Options your physical training is 110 hours, the six special events are 35 hours, the two DFTs to Fort Custer are 120 hours. The total hours for a Navy Option Midshipmen are 111 hours and for the Marine Options (and those Navy Options that chose to conduct Marine Option physical training and the DFT's to Fort Custer) it is 341 hours. What is not included in the numbers are events like your individual counseling sessions with your class advisors, Naval Science courses, the Marine tactical decision games, and the plethora of other volunteer "opportunities" that most of you actively participate in.



My intent is to illustrate to you the time commitment associated with NROTC events that are in addition to your Notre Dame academic obligations. These NROTC events exist for one reason and that is to better prepare you to lead. You should be asking yourself the following questions: Is it enough? Do I feel like I am getting what I need from the unit to prepare myself (mentally, physically, and spiritually) to effectively lead Sailors and Marines in today's complex and dangerous world? What else should I be doing? Your answer should always be that there is not ever enough time or training and I need to do more. Your personal assessment should be that the physical training is not enough (even for the Marine Options) and more time is required, more personal reading is required about lessons learned from warriors of the past, and that you could always use more one on one time with your class advisors and NROTC staff. A solution to get you where you need to be is for you to develop a campaign plan and set attainable goals to assist you in becoming an effective and competent leader. The first time you are engaged in a fire fight or a stressful situation (as a Second Lieutenant or an Ensign) one of your initial thoughts (and there are many) will be your personal assessment of whether you are prepared and the answer will be yes as long as your personal prep for combat has consisted of dedicating yourself to your chosen profession which is that of a warrior. Your mind set should be that everything you do is prep for combat; you train your entire life for that one engagement so that you are prepared when that moment comes. You are not alone in your prep for combat that is why we (the NROTC staff) are here, challenge us. If you are not getting the leadership, coaching, teaching, and mentoring that you need let us know. Remember you are not learning for yourself, you are learning for the Sailors and Marines that you will have the privilege to serve and lead and that should be more than enough incentive to do the right things in order to be prepared.

Again I commend you on your chosen profession less than one percent of the population serves in our nation's military, you are an exceptional breed. I look forward to serving with you again upon your return in the fall and remember stay focused you owe that to the future young Americans and their families that you are going to serve. Semper Fidelis.

Marine Options Hone Their Skills on DFT

MIDN 4/C Kerry Olinger, USMCR

Staff Writer

Over Spring Break, 19 Marine Option midshipmen went up to Fort Custer in Michigan for our 2nd annual DFT (Deployment for Training). Equipped with cammies, boots, warming layers, sleeping bags, M-4 rifles and MREs, we drove to the Army base on Friday, the first day of break. Major Hart and GySgt Macias joined us, as usual. LT Hsu, a ND graduate with multiple combat tours, and the Major's friend Special Agent Wilson (DEA) also accompanied us. As our first DFT over Fall Break had been a success, we had high expectations for this one, especially with the addition of the M-4s.

Like before, we slept in the barracks. But this time we were in a different building, which was a bit on the dilapidated side compared to our first quarters. We were in the upstairs squad bay, sharing one highly unique head for both males and females, with decrepit racks, on which lay mattresses with mysterious stains. Even GySgt was prompted to remark on the state of our lodgings: "It could've been better...it was pretty nasty. The head was heinous, definitely not something to be desired." Eventually the downstairs squad bay was occupied by a reservist unit, with whom we also shared the head and facilities. But once they left the next day, we had the barracks, in all their outstanding glory, to ourselves.

As soon as we arrived on Friday afternoon we headed straight to the rifle range to take advantage of the remaining daylight. Half of us were taught to shoot with the A-COG scope, while the rest of us shot with the traditional iron sights. Aiming at a small black torso on a sheet of paper 30 meters away, we tried to group together three shots in the head or chest. Once it got dark, we did a safety check on the range and went back to the barracks for weapons cleaning.

The next day was spent doing land navigation in the woods for about four or five hours. Most of us got stuck in the rain half-way through our routes, and we soon went back to the range before the weather got worse. While we lay in the grass and mud, the Major made us a deal: if half of us got half of our shots in the black, then our hump for the next morning would be cancelled. Needless to say, this bet provided sufficient motivation for us to concentrate through the rain and cold. After some practice rounds, we far surpassed the Major's expectations. Next time he promised that his challenge would be much more difficult. Eventually we were forced off the range because of a thunderstorm, and once we succeeded in pushing one of the vans out of the mud, dried off at the barracks. Showers weren't exactly yearned for due to the state of the head.

For the final morning at Custer, we split into three groups to practice close quarters battle with the Major, GySgt, LT Hsu and Special Agent Wilson in the barracks. The Major took us through basic room clearing operations downstairs, and upstairs we practiced these techniques as a platoon with LT Hsu and GySgt rearranging the bunks to create rooms and hallways. Meanwhile, Special Agent Wilson's group learned how to clear stairwells properly, as he employed some very effective methods of psyching us out and forcing us to consider every possible action the enemy might take.

Once everyone had completed the three stations, we listened (very attentively) to a talk by Special Agent Wilson. After threatening to break both of 3/C Garcia's legs if he tried to beat him in a marathon, he spoke about the need to keep good company in life and to trust the people you're with at all times. We were very lucky to have him accompany us on the DFT, as well as LT Hsu, who taught us critical lessons about room-clearing and IEDs. Overall, the DFT went very well, and according to Major Hart, the most valuable aspect was "the CQB, because it opened up a lot of eyes to show how dangerous this could actually be. And the shooting was great too, that's a skill set that you'll always need." For the next DFT over Fall Break '09, we will be implementing a super squad competition, including the Leadership Reaction Course, shooting, hiking, CQB, land navigation, and (potentially) mortar exercises, all on a squad-size scale. As the Major said, the DFT "has evolved, and will continue to evolve every time we go."



Catching up with the ND-NROTC Class of 2008

MIDN 3/C Evan Possley, USNR

Staff Writer

As midshipmen, we spend a lot of effort preparing for the life that awaits us in the Navy and Marine Corps. As we get set to say “farewell to college joys” and join the fleet, it is important to know what awaits us as junior officers. I was lucky enough to be in contact with a few Ensigns who were commissioned from NROTC here at Notre Dame last year. They offer valuable insight into their lives in the Navy as well as the transition from Notre Dame to the fleet.

ENS Bruce Hill is serving aboard the USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) out of San Diego. He is a division officer for the Fire Control Techs, and has Antiterrorism/Force Protection as a collateral duty. Since Ensign Hill’s commissioning last spring, the ship has conducted an escort mission for the USS George Washington and underwent INSURV (a huge inspection). He has spent the last two months in the San Diego shipyards awaiting the Unit Level Training Cycle.

The transition from NROTC to the fleet is not an easy one, but Ensign Hill was ready for the challenge. On the massive amount of learning that must take place on the job, he has some sage advice. “I’ve noticed a big help to getting past the learning curve is to have a good attitude about it (even though you’re at the bottom on the food chain), be able to handle constructive criticism, and give everything an honest effort. Attitude and effort don’t go unnoticed.”

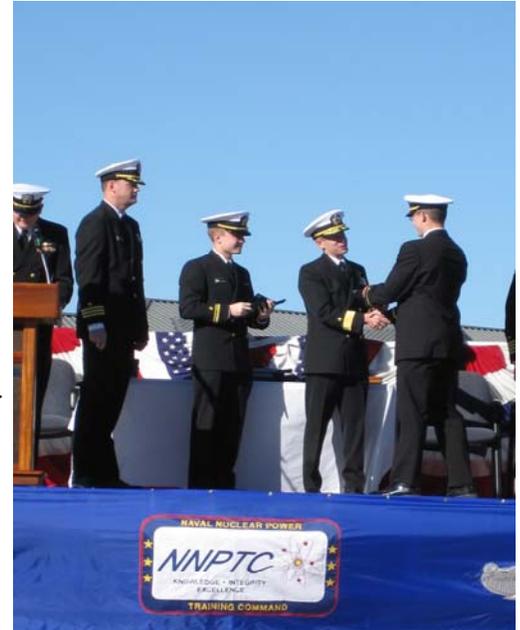
Ensign Hill also stresses the importance of keeping copies of paperwork from the Navy, such as certificates, medical records, orders, and Fitreps. “Your paperwork will get lost at some point, and you will suffer for it. You’ll just suffer less if you have it backed up for yourself.”

ENS Nick Possley graduated from Nuclear Power School in Charleston in February. Despite the rigor of learning how nuclear reactors work, he graduated with honors. He stayed in Charleston for Prototype, where he is currently learning how to stand watch on an actual nuclear sub.

ENS Dan Justice is also on the nuclear track. After working hard and learning a lot of material in Nuclear Power School, Ensign Justice is excited to join the fleet soon.

ENS Anna Pursley lives in San Diego and works aboard the USS Preble (DDG-88). She is currently underway on a six-month deployment, having already made port calls in Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Guam, Thailand, and Singapore. Despite the hard work, Ensign Pursley is enjoying the Navy life. She loves living in San Diego and recommends it to anyone selecting ships.

ENS Charlie Horn is dominating in the Navy’s medical realm. He is currently finishing his first year of medical school. This summer, he will be working with Army and Navy physicians at Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood, working on a synthetic matrix to help bones heal faster. For midshipmen training to join the fleet, Ensign Horn offers some words of wisdom: “Whatever you do, be a force multiplier. Best Navy word ever.”



ENS Nick Possley graduates from Nuclear Power School in Charleston.

Seniors Take Time to Reflect on Past Four Years

Several senior midshipmen contributed to the writing of this article

Ghost Writers

In February, graduating members of all the ROTC branches gathered at the Moreau Seminary for a weekend of discussion, examination and prayer. ROTC chaplain, Fr. Peter Rocca, C.S.C. led the retreat with help from several senior Cadets and Midshipmen including MIDN Ken Shamrell, Joe Falvey and Catherine Kane. The weekend presented seniors with a peaceful atmosphere in which they could reflect on their experiences at Notre Dame and prepare for their approaching commissions. Cadet Nathan Lloyd and MIDN Kane began the retreat with a pair of talks discussing personal lessons learned over the past four years and offering thoughts on applying these lessons in the future. After a period of discussion, the evening concluded with Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, along with the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Saturday appropriately began with Morning Prayer, followed by presentations from Air Force Officers COL Zenk (ret) and LTCOL Braue, who shared their journeys of faith while serving in the armed forces. Officers from the ROTC units, CAPT Nees, MAJ Hart, LTCOL Crist, and CAPT Harding also offered advice to the seniors at the cadre panel that afternoon. There was also plenty of time for recreation and socializing over the weekend, including basketball, movie watches, guitar playing, and talking over pizza and drinks. The retreat concluded with mass in which the seniors received blessed 2nd LT and Ensign bars that they would wear upon commissioning. All in attendance appreciated the opportunity to examine clearly their consciences and to reconnect with their classmates before graduation.

Outstanding Seniors Honored with Officer's Swords at Pass-in-Review



MIDN 1/C Kane shakes Fr. Jenkins' hand after receiving her sword from CAPT Nees.



Seniors pose with their swords after the ceremony.



Marine Options set up targets on the range during the DFT

Semester Highlights: Notre Dame's NROTC Battalion in Pictures



Midshipmen participate in the annual Pass-in-Review before Fr. Jenkins



MOs listen to a safety brief by Major Hart prior to shooting



More From Naval Leadership Weekend 2009

MIDN 3/C Arianna Cassani, USNR

Staff Writer

Naval Leadership Weekend 2009 was certainly a great experience for all the midshipmen that attended, but it also had a significant impact on those Notre Dame Midshipmen that had been preparing for the event since August. Being a NLW staff member is certainly a time commitment, but the hard work and dedication that was put in to making NLW 2009 a memorable event for everyone definitely has its rewards.

This year, the 2009 NLW staff consisted of eleven midshipmen and was headed by MIDN 2/C Jennifer Malherek. The preparation for the event was long and tedious, including sending out invitations, reserving speaker rooms, registering attendants, designing activities, and figuring out the driving schedule. Weekly meetings were held after drill to track the progress we were making up until the weekend. All of the hard work and long hours certainly paid off. NLW 2009 was a great success, and went off very smoothly.

The leadership experience that we all gained was extremely beneficial for the staff. Not only did we gain experience in military courtesy, but the staff had some once in a lifetime experiences. After the press box dinner, we all took a little tour up to the top of the Notre Dame press box with MCPON Rick D. West. Who else can say that they have done that? In addition, some of the staff members had the privilege to meet one on one with many of the guest speakers. They shared the experiences that defined their careers and offered advice they wish they had known when they were midshipmen or cadets. NLW 2009 was certainly a learning experience, and all of us will take away something memorable from the weekend.



Editor's Endnotes

MIDN 1/C Keaton Lambert, USNR

Irish Pennant Editor

For the second straight semester, I would just like to thank my staff and all others who helped with the production of the Irish Pennant. I certainly would not be able to do it without your help, so give yourselves a pat on the back when you read this. Also, I would like to say a big CONGRATULATIONS to the ND-NDOTC class of 2009 who will be graduating and commissioning in May. To my classmates and friends, congratulations on all that you have accomplished and good luck with your future endeavors. Thank you for being such a huge part of my four great years here at Our Lady's University. May you always have fair winds and following seas. Lastly, I would just like to thank all of the present and former ND-NROTC unit staff members from the past four years. Your knowledge, patience, and leadership has laid the foundation for all of us to be strong officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. May we always remember what you have taught us and apply it well, both in the fleet and the rest of our lives. May God bless and protect us as we begin our careers in the naval service.

Guess what we're doing this summer!



Thank you for
all your
support this
year !!



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