Duke University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

With Every End Comes a New Beginning

Duke University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

CAPT Puryear and CAPT Mats exchange salutes

During two ceremonies starting at 1500 on Friday 15 Sep 06, Captain Puryear handed over command of the North Carolina Piedmont Consortium to Captain Mats shortly before his own retirement ceremony. Duke University was generous enough to allow these ceremonies to take place in historic Cameron Indoor Stadium. Present were many of Captain Puryear’s friends and family, all there to see him retire after 29 years of service in the Navy. Also present were the MIDN from the three schools under Captain Puryear’s command: Duke, UNC, and NC State. All MIDN were dressed in pristine summer whites and standing either at attention or parade rest in formation throughout the ceremony. From a Midshipman’s perspective, being present at such an important ceremony was a very rare privilege. The two ceremonies lasted nearly an hour, and included a short speech from Captain Mats, a speech by Captain Puryear, and a presentation of gifts to Captain Puryear from his numerous grandchildren who came for the ceremony. After the ceremonies was a reception hosted by the Puryears where Midshipmen mingled with one another and senior officers who were present for Captain Puryear’s retirement. The officers who helped plan and the Midshipmen who helped prepare for this special event deserve congratulations for carrying out two successful ceremonies.

MIDN 3/C Hartzog

Presentation of the Colors

DUKE NROTC ALUMNI!!!

We need your help!

Check out Alumni Section, p.19!

Sun Gods and Such

Orientation 2006 marked our induction into the adult world of the United States military. We signed a thousand papers, were fitted for our Navy uniforms, and proudly accepted $150,000 scholarships. For all of us, this was a huge change: we had never had to assume so much responsibility or accountability for our actions. During our first four days of Navy ROTC, we sweated a lot, learned a lot, and even laughed a lot.

The first official event was evening mess. Oh wait, how could we forget all the unforgiving reinforcement of our lack of military bearing and etiquette from the upperclassmen? The main cause of this was generally our own unfortunate mistake in not studying our knowledge over the summer. Iron those railroad tracks out of your trousers and let’s get back to the mess hall! For all the poor, unfortunate left-handed Midshipmen, i.e. MIDN Steinhouse, eating was like a baby using a spoon for the first time. Motor skills were lacking in his right hand; it was hard to guide the jet onto the carrier deck, if you know what we mean. We might as well have come to Orientation (See ‘Orientation’ on page 3)

MIDN 4/C Gall and Steinhouse

Special points of interest:

- Three new Unit Staff members...
- Cruise Briefs: Check out where some of your fellow shipmates spent their summers
- Midshipman Abroad: Get the updates from across the globe
- Browse the all new Warfare Clubs and get involved!
- Where did ENS Powers go?

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Sir, what would you say are the highlights of your Navy career?

Probably the major highlight for me was the first time I got to stand Officer of the Deck. It was especially exciting because it was during a midwatch, which meant that the CO and XO were in bed, so I had complete control and responsibility, and it demonstrated the amount of trust my CO placed in me. Additionally, the first time I took my ship to sea as a CO was a great moment in my life. In fact, the entire CO tour was a great experience. Perhaps my most meaningful work was directly after the 9/11 attacks. I was stationed in DC and was assigned to take part in the strategic and tactical efforts to protect America from additional attacks; it was a great insight into the way that politicians, military, intelligence, and law enforcement personnel interfaced and supported each other in attaining a goal.

What most excites you about being in charge of the Duke/UNC/UNC State Consortium?

It’s the students, the Midshipmen. Young, intelligent, eager, and enthusiastic people make my job worthwhile. I get to feed off of their energy and get the opportunity to work with them and hopefully mold and shape the type of officer they will become.

What do you define as the major differences between being the CO of a nuclear submarine and being the CO of a consortium?

Being a CO on a submarine is a tactical position. There is a lot of short notice response and decision making. In the consortium, things are slower paced and more strategic, more long term.

What excites you the most about your new job as CO?

Working with the Midshipmen. I want to leave a bunch of proud, professional, squared away Naval officers who are going to go out there and inject new ideas into the US Navy to make it better for the country and for the sailors.

If you could give one piece of advice to Midshipmen, what would it be?

Be true to yourself and your shipmates in the Navy. Have fun.

Do you have any books you would recommend that all future Navy officers should read?

I read a lot. I can’t say that there is one book that encapsulates everything. For a professional Navy officer, I think it would be beneficial to read “Command at Sea.” Read it early, and don’t wait until you are ready to become a CO. It will help you to see what your Captain is thinking so that you can better support him or her. Also, read “The Little Prince” by Antoine de Saint Exupery and learn some life principles from it.

The new Executive Officer of the North Carolina Piedmont Consortium is LtCol Nichols, an Intelligence officer who has been in the Marine Corps since 1989. After attending The Basic School, LtCol Nichols’ initial MOS was as a Logistician. It was not until after a successful “career broadening” assignment as an Intelligence officer that he was able to switch into the MOS he had desired from the beginning. He enjoyed gathering and synthesizing data in order to help support the various missions he was part of.

During a tour with US Central Command, he served as the primary briefer for the Commander in Chief. LtCol Nichols recalls that “the Commander in Chief always wanted the brief to be presented in a certain way, which allowed him to ask questions”, and that he always had to “be on his toes” during those briefs, as well as for the briefs he gave to Senators and foreign leaders.

LtCol Nichols’ favorite assignment so far during his time with the Marine Corps was his six-month WESTPAC deployment with the 15th MEU(SOC), during which he conducted various exercises in foreign countries and helped to train their forces. The experience of being on the leading edge of the operational forces has been an aspect of his career that he always finds to be very exciting and extremely rewarding.

His advice to NROTC Midshipmen is to use their time in college to grow as an American and as an adult, and become a good person. Developing their integrity and intellect is of the utmost importance, because those things are the foundation upon which the Navy and Marine Corps can build good officers.
Danziger Receives Scholarship  MIDN 3/C Reilly

For most Duke students, double-majoring in engineering, working as an Emergency Medical Technician, librarian and tour guide, being in a Greek organization and playing on two club sports teams would probably seem like more than enough to keep busy. But Katherine Danziger decided her Duke experience was missing something.

“I had always been interested in the military in high school,” she says, noting that her high school, The Gunnery, sends several graduates to the Naval Academy each year. But that life just didn’t appeal to her. “I definitely wanted to go to college” as opposed to an academy, she said. Once at Duke University, the idea of doing ROTC came back to her as she met other Midshipmen in her freshman dorm and on the rugby team. She decided to take LT Bullaro’s Naval Science class last spring, which helped her decide that ROTC would be a good fit for her.

As a Pratt student, Danziger was an excellent candidate for the Tweedale scholarship, a full tuition NROTC scholarship designed for students in technical majors. Starting last spring and through the summer, the active duty staff helped her to quickly prepare the copious paperwork required to process the scholarship. “What takes months for people coming into the program from high school was done for me in a matter of weeks,” she commented. After the final step – an interview with the Commanding Officer – she was approved for the scholarship and became part of NROTC.

As the newest member of the 3rd class, Danziger has adapted quickly to life in the Battal-
ion, but has still run into obstacles, such as a lack of knowledge of information and customs that she would have been introduced to at Orientation. While she admits she has nothing to compare it to, she has nonetheless been impressed by the Midshipmen staff’s efforts to “make this a better unit,” in particular with the current focus on personal improvement. She also noted her appreciation for the generally helpful attitude she has found in her fellow Midshipmen.

On that note, let us officially welcome MIDN 3/C Kat Danziger to the Duke NROTC Battalion!

Orientation continued from page 1

blind. We had to learn the names of our superiors by listening to their voices, and we were often reminded for calling MIDN Pardue ‘First Sergeant’ or both MIDN Reilly and MIDN VanCott ‘MIDN Van Reilly.’ Once we perfected our thousand-yard stare, we formed up for PT in less than two minutes, enthusiastic about the sun gods to come (of note, when we were split into PT groups by ability, all five Dukies were placed in the faster running group). For a good portion of the day, Gunnery Sergeant taught us drill. Fortunately, he lightened the mood with his humor and impressions of fairies performing about-faces.

Throughout Orientation, we were frequently forced to ‘hydrate’ so much water that we had to use the head what seemed like every five minutes. We drank so much that we never stopped sweating, even in our sleep. Looking back, we realize now how important hydrating is for effective training. Luckily, none of us live in the Southgate dorm this year—after Orientation we were not subjected to the lingering odor of Midshipmen, who through their hard work had successfully completed their first Navy evolution.

Our favorite active duty was Staff Sergeant because of his infamous quote—“Hit it, Mikkelson.” This was Mikkelson’s cue to recite the meaning of discipline; we’re pretty sure he could still recite it in his sleep. Hoorah. At least our fellow 4/C didn’t show up with a moustache like one of the UNC freshmen. That ‘trash-stache’ was removed quickly since Gunnery Sergeant holds his Midshipman to the highest standards of appearance and uniformity. Another UNC Midshipman will always be remembered for his use of an ironing board as a firearm on watch one night as directed by MIDN Schweer in an attempt to test his military bearing. Luckily he had some tasty icing war paint to complement his weapon.

On a more serious note, Orientation 2006 gave the 4/C a chance to bond as a team. Whether we were doing relay races during PT or leading each other blindly through a reaction course, we learned to trust each other. Though the screaming and yelling got irritating by the second day, we heard a lot of informative briefs from experienced upperclassmen, and we even got pizza on the last night. All in all, those were the longest four days of our lives, but we’re glad we went because it was a great introduction to Navy life and the expectations of NROTC.

MOI: Captain Fleming, USMC  MIDN 4/C Mikkelsen

Captain Chad Fleming is a true lifelong Marine. Even as early as cub scouts, Capt Fleming knew that some day he would wear the proud title of a United States Marine. Second of three children and born in Iowa, the future Marine grew up in a Catholic school system. Too dedicated to wait a year for a Naval Academy slot, Fleming enlisted as soon as he turned 18 and shipped off to Parris Island for Basic Training. His parents were initially against his enlisting, but they eventually came around once they saw their boy in his new Marine Corps uniform. Emerging as a Private in signal intelligence, Fleming spent 8 years in the enlisted ranks before enrolling in the University of Colorado in order to transfer to the officer side of the Corps. As an enlisted Marine, Fleming’s favorite duty station was the Naval Station in Rota, Spain, where he spent a lot of time working alongside soldiers and sailors in a Joint Forces capacity. During this assignment, Fleming was part of a brand new ship’s premier crew and became a “plank owner,” and he still has the commemorative plaque in his office. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Political Science at Colorado and later a Master’s degree from the University of San Diego. Capt Fleming’s MOS is Air Intelligence. He has served two tours in Iraq, and his unit never lost a pilot during OIF-1, a feat of which he is tremendously proud. He has ‘pushed the envelope’ himself, and now seeks to push the Midshipmen of Duke University to their maximum potential.

Capt Fleming offered some great insight towards both his time here at Duke and towards his future in the Corps. At Duke, his primary mission is to leave the unit in better condition than he found it. Capt Fleming is expecting to pin on Major while stationed here as well. Looking into his future, Capt Fleming talked about his desire to move back into the Fleet Marine Force. His eyes are currently on a Joint Special Operations Intelligence position in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, where he would work alongside the Army Special Forces. Wherever the Marines send him, Capt Fleming is sure to be a powerful presence among those around him.

The Marine Corps has two missions: to fight our country’s wars, and to make Marines. Capt Fleming has proudly succeeded in the first, and will now undoubtedly succeed in “breeding the officers of tomorrow” here at Duke University.

WANTED: Orientation PLT SGT  MIDN 3/C Schweer

Early last Spring I was chosen to be a Squad Leader for the Duke/UNC Class of 2010 Orientation. All summer I was PTing and studying the Orientation Knowledge Pack in order to properly indoctrinate the freshmen. The first day back in Durham was fairly relaxed, but we still managed to get some work done. I even got to spend some time on Franklin Street with some UNC MIDN. The second day of Orientation was when the situation went downhill. MIDN 2/C Sauers was slated to be the 2nd Platoon PLT SGT. Unfortunately, MIDN Sauers was thought to have had the mumps. He was off the O-Staff and I was the new 2nd Platoon PLT SGT.

Orientation PLT SGT is not all that different from SQD LDR, it is just a lot less mentoring and a lot more intensity. Orientation XO best described the PLT SGT’s job when he told PLT SGT Bower and I that we needed to be “the hardest guys on the line” (with the notable exception of GySgt Hogancamp). I spent the second day of O-Staff training, getting organized, and learning to call basic drill.

The new 4/C were supposed to arrive on Saturday morning and training was to commence in the early afternoon. However, due to an error in the Orientation packets sent to the 4/C, less than 50% of them arrived on time. The O-Staff knew what had to be done so some ad hoc training commenced. The 4/C that arrived on time were subject to an extra couple of hours of yelling.

As the week progressed the staff became more and more tired. However, this lack of sleep made it easy to maintain intensity when indoctrinating the 4/C. The entire line staff and even some of the other staff kept a level of intensity that undoubtedly helped the 4/C progress. The new MIDN learned their Navy Knowledge, learned to be less “nasty”, and learned to deal with a high stress environment.

A bit of relief occurred at night immediately after lights out. During staff meetings, we had the chance to tell some of the more amusing stories that the 4/C had lived out during the day. The 4/C Fire Watches also provided some entertainment.

(see ‘Schweer’ on page 5)
Overall, this Orientation was a success despite several early setbacks. The entire staff gave the last part of their summers and gave 100% of their effort for the entire week. I am proud to have been a part of the 2006 Orientation staff. The class of 2010 and those that served on the staff are all better off for having experienced that one week in August.

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Service Selection

Service Selections for the 1/C:
- Welsch SWO
- McAneny SWO
- Barton Aviation—Pilot
- Henriques Aviation—NFO
- Lauzen USMC
- Fleming SWO
- Osman SWO-NUK
- Cullen Aviation
- Will Aviation—Pilot

Battalion Desired Service Selections
- Aviation: 42%
- Surface: 9%
- Medical: 6%
- SpecWar: 9%
- Subs: 9%
- USMC: 23%

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Carrie Shoemaker Memorial 5k

Presented by Duke University Navy ROTC
Alumni Weekend
April 14, 2007

Check out our website for more information!

Schweer continued from page 4

Orientation ended with the Duke/UNC NROTC class of 2010 successfully indoctrinated. While most of the line staff could relax around the 4/C easily, I was tired and not yet ready to be nice. I needed a couple days to unwind.
A Navy Summer: Cruise Briefs

VFA-102 Diamondbacks  MIDN 1/C Will

I got to spend one amazing month with a carrier-borne Super Hornet squadron while transiting between Singapore and Australia this past summer. While other Duke rising seniors were slaving away on Wall Street or studying for the LSAT, I spent time with some of the world’s finest pilots and witnessed the amazing action of carrier aviation. By the end of my cruise, I had flown in a Super Hornet, experienced a catapult shot and an arresting wire trap, and developed a sense of awe for what the United States Navy’s aviation strike platforms are capable of accomplishing.

Under the Sea  MIDN 1/C Henriches

For my 1/C summer cruise I was onboard the USS San Juan (SSN 751), which happens to be the third ship of the US Navy to be named for San Juan, Puerto Rico. The boat is homeported at Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut. I met the boat at Andros Island in the Bahamas on its way back to New London. Unfortunately I did not have time for leave in the Bahamas, but I got to see it from the airplane nevertheless. We got underway the morning after I got in, with myself and three other MIDN joining the crew. Being a fast attack submarine, the quarters are cramped to say the least, but certainly bearable. A few days were spent in Bahamian waters conducting exercises with another submarine and other surface contacts. After a day or so, officers in the Royal Navy and a US Navy Admiral also came onboard so both countries could gain a better understanding of each other’s tactical operations and procedures. This experience also allowed me to gain the perspective of an officer in a foreign navy and compare it to that of the US Navy officers onboard the boat. Other exciting opportunities I had on cruise included swim call and steel (see Henriches on page 8)

FOREX: Portugal  MIDN 1/C Welsch

This summer, I was lucky enough to take part in a FOREX cruise with the Portuguese Navy. For 28 days I was part of the officer wardroom aboard the NRP Sagres, a 295 foot-long tall ship used by the Portuguese Escola Naval (Naval Academy) for Midshipman training and VIP trips. While I was aboard, the ship was taking part in the 50th anniversary of the Tall Ships’ Races, sailing from Lisbon, Portugal to Cadiz, Spain, and from there up the coast of Portugal and Spain to La Coruna, Spain. As part of the Tall Ships’ regatta, Sagres was one of a fleet of 50-100 “big sailboats” at times and in every port the fleet was welcomed with festivities, parades, and fireworks—needless to say, a wonderful experience.

(see ‘FOREX’ on page 9)
The Eightballers MIDN 1/C Kurland

It’s not everyday that you get to take a ride in a helicopter off the flight deck of an aircraft carrier; it’s even rarer to get to take the controls, take off, and land it yourself. But that’s just what I spent my summer doing with HS-8 out of North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego.

“The Eightballers”, as they’re known, were already deployed with the rest of the Shogun air wing onboard John C. Stennis when I arrived in San Diego, so I took the next COD flight out to the ship. Facing backwards in the hot windowless airplane for an hour wasn’t the most comfortable experience, but I’ll say that I will never forget my first trip on a carrier—going from 120 to zero knots in 2 seconds is tough not to remember.

The officers in HS-8 got us acquainted with life onboard the carrier right away and were eager to show off their aircraft. Our first chance to get in the air came during a large strike exercise over a small island off the coast of Mexico called San Clemente. The squadron was going to practice a SEAL insertion but didn’t have any SEALS—being the versatile Midshipmen that we were, myself and two other 1/C got to play Navy SEAL for a few hours. We loaded into the helicopter and flew for an hour to the island. After the Hor-}

nets had struck their targets, it was our turn. Weaving in and around the mountains, we flew into our designated landing zone, touched down, jumped out, and they flew off. After a little while wandering around the island, our ride came back.

“The Eightballers” were a pretty ridiculous group of guys and had a lot of fun with helicopters continued. We got time in a simulator and then a flight at the controls—they certainly make it look easy, because it was not a simple task by any means. It was one of the most exciting things I’ve ever had the chance to do and truly made the summer one to remember.

“Best fake Navy SEALs ever.”

Although the HS-8 pilots were partial to helicopters, they did their best to get us flights in any aircraft they could. I was lucky enough to get shot off the carrier 3 times, twice in an S-3 Viking and once in an E-2C Hawkeye. The Viking flights gave me a chance to see an in-flight refueling and bombing runs, while the E-2 NFOs let me help out in their coordination of another strike exercise. All in all, it was a pretty great time onboard the ship.

John C. Stennis pulled in after 10 days and our fun with helicopters continued. We went in a simulator and then a flight at the controls—they certainly make it look easy, because it was not a simple task by any means. It was one of the most exciting things I’ve ever had the chance to do and truly made the summer one to remember.

Thailand and LCAC’s MIDN 2/C Ehlinger

My adventure this summer started off as most of yours did; sitting in the airport waiting for my plane to depart. I was setting out to Singapore. I was expecting third world, but their malls are ridiculously large and I think you could cross the world and the wealthiest in Asia. Their native language is—well—it’s English, so it wasn’t hard to adjust. We were in port there for a little over a week so there was a lot of sightseeing to be had. We spent 2 days at sea with the Singaporean Navy. Male citizens there have a mandatory service requirement, and it was pretty cool to see how capable they were. On board the USS Crommelin, I bunked with the OS’s. They were a pretty ridiculous group of guys and had a lot of fun. Being in port 23 out of the 28 days I was there, everyone was in high spirits. Singapore wasn’t a culture shock at all. Although I was finally about the average height of the citizens, with beer selling at $38 a pitcher it was time to move on to greener pastures.

And so we sailed 3 days up the Strait of Malacca to Thailand. Thailand was exactly as I pictured it. It’s a beautiful country with lush jungles, awesome mountains, and great beaches. I was fortunate to get a lot of time to visit the country side. We visited old temples, rode elephants, played with some sloths, relaxed on the beach, and ate some incredible seafood. There were lobster tails as big as your head, and for about $0.50 you could feed peanuts, bananas and loaves of bread to baby elephants which they’d eat right out of your hands. Little

known fact: elephants are vicious and rude. After almost taking off your hand trying to get your bananas, they’ll just blow their trunks all over you. It was awesome.

If you’re ever offered a ride in an LCAC, you should hide. I know what you’re thinking, and you’re wrong. It’s cool. Not the case. You can’t see anything, it’s pretty hot, and you just want to puke the whole time. Now if you have to go on the LCAC ride so you can catch the helo back to your own ship, then it’s worth it. Landing on the back of the frigate was pretty sweet. I don’t think I could have planned a better summer cruise. I learned a lot, did a lot, and got to see some crazy stuff. If you have to spend your summer cruise on a salvage ship to go to Thailand, do it.

John C. Stennis
This summer the rising third class once again braved commercial airline travel and bad boxed lunches to attend Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen, or CORTRAMID. For those just tuning in, CORTRAMID is a four week event held at two different times during the summer; one in Norfolk, Virginia, and the other in San Diego, CA. The goal is the orientation of Midshipmen to the Navy, much in the way the NROTC Orientation is an orientation to our unit, as well allowing a first taste of the decision that will have to be made come time for service selection. Out of the fourteen Midshipmen from Duke attending CORTRAMID this year, ten went to San Diego and the other four were in Norfolk. The cruise was split up into four weeks: Aviation, Marine Corps, Surface Warfare, and Subs.

Aviation week was exciting for most of the Midshipmen as all got flight time in both the T-34 and the H-60. A select few Midshipmen also got to get a ride in an F-18. In between these brief moments of exhilaration the Midshipmen got to inspect static displays and take in a multitude of briefs. So there was a lot of down time while waiting to fly, but the majority of Midshipmen seemed to think that it was worth it.

Marine Corps week, by contrast, had very little down time in it and had a lot of physical activity. Midshipmen learned how to take care on an M-16 while on the move, got to see how amphibious assault worked, and got to practice Hazmat procedures in the gas chamber. Everyone came out of the week with a greater appreciation for the busy lifestyle of the Marine Corps.

For surface week, one of the highlights was that everyone got to go underway for one or two days on different surface ships. Midshipmen were allowed to conn the ship and roam about looking for people to talk to. Many Midshipmen also got to fire the 50-cal’s off of the ship at targets placed in the water. Along with this underway experience, Midshipmen got to have a taste of firefighting at the firefighting school.

Finally, sub week featured both time underway on a sub and the damage control and dive simulators. Midshipmen were given almost 24 hours of underway time during which the goal of many was to avoid sleeping in order to get as much out of the experience as possible. Midshipmen were allowed to roam all about the ship and were encouraged to ask about anything they would like to know more about. Some of the highlights of underway activities were crawling to the end of the torpedo tubes and signing them, as well as driving the sub. On the USS Alaska for CORTRAMID West there was also pizza making, which was enjoyable for the Midshipmen but probably an annoyance for the crew as they had to eat pizza every night for a month. While on land, Midshipmen also got to combat flooding in the damage control simulator and do extreme angles and dangles in the dive trainer.

Overall, CORTRAMID was a great success this year. New knowledge and a general appreciation for the variety of jobs in the Navy were gained. Midshipmen were also exposed to one of the bigger Navy towns in the US and were given a taste of what liberty or living in these places might be like. It was a great experience and a cornerstone of the NROTC experience.
take time to remember and celebrate that history whenever possible. Proper protocol and dress uniform are always required in the wardroom, in which each meal is a formal three-course affair. We took part in several “hail and farewell” dinners and receptions, spent time with the Escola Naval underclassmen aboard, and celebrated the entire Portuguese Naval tradition with a special ceremony held directly off the coast of Point Sagres, the site of Henry the Navigator’s first school of navigation.

In addition to being aboard a tall ship, the Sagres experience was unique for a number of reasons. Being a woman on board was especially challenging as there have only been females in the Portuguese Navy for the last ten years; Sagres is entirely male-crewed, with only one regular female officer aboard. Alcohol is served aboard the ship, an interesting contrast to my last summer aboard an American LHD. All in all, however, this FOREX experience was one of a lifetime. Working and living with another country’s military forces has given me a unique perspective on the differences and strengths of our own Navy here at home. I would urge all 2/C MIDN to consider applying for a FOREX cruise—it’s an amazing experience.

Bulldog MIDN 1/C Lauzen

Officer Candidates School evaluates and screens male and female candidates who hope to become officers in the United States Marine Corps. It’s a six week program that tests physical ability, academic aptitude, and leadership potential. Through demanding exercise, reaction courses, confidence challenges, billet positions, and limited sleep, OCS creates a unique environment that challenges each candidate’s discipline, determination, and desire.

This summer, I was fortunate enough to take part in this leadership experience. While Navy Midshipmen went around the world to work on boats and airstrips, I arrived at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia to live in barracks, drill on Brownfield, run obstacle courses, complete long humps, and survive the Gunnery Sergeants. Every moment of each day was designed to test us in different situations and determine whether we could succeed under pressure.

During the different evolutions of OCS, the candidates who succeeded were those who expected the highest standards from themselves, helped other candidates, and supported unit success. This focus on teamwork and mission accomplishment created especially strong bonds between all of the members of the platoon. These bonds helped us build confidence and overcome challenges as a collective. As a result, we all came out of the six-week program with thirty close, trusted friends.

Although not “fun” at the time, I learned more about myself in the six short weeks of Officer Candidates School than I had throughout the rest of my entire life. OCS taught me and the other members of Golf Company, 2nd Platoon how to push our physical and mental limits. There were times that each of us questioned whether we could survive the coming day after only sleeping two hours over the last several days, or whether we could make it over the high obstacles with all of our equipment, or whether we would be able to pass certain leadership scenarios and inspections. Some of us did, and others did not – 40% of our company did not pass in review on graduation day. But for those of us who did, we’ve made a number of new close friends, learned a lot about ourselves, and accomplished something that others can only dream about.

“Although not ‘fun’ at the time, I learned more about myself in the six short weeks of Officer Candidates School than I had throughout the rest of my entire life.”
Midshipman Abroad Updates

Living in Czech

The Czech Republic: home to both decades of fascist and communist oppression and the highest annual beer consumption per capita. For four months, I call it home. It is hard to imagine Prague as a city under Soviet influence – the Disneyland-like, pristine beauty of the architecture, thousands of tourists, and costumed salespeople make for a vaguely surreal adventure into Old Town for classes. Nonetheless, the program here has provided a wealth of opportunities within the city, the Czech Republic, and in the region. The city is full of beautiful parks, delicious restaurants and cafes, all connected with one of the most comprehensive subway/tram systems imaginable. I get to take a varied assortment of classes – everything from Near and Middle East Politics to Topics in 20th Century Music. With the music classes offered here, I take lessons and perform in small ensembles. Through the NYU in Prague program, I’ve had the opportunity to attend operas, symphony performances, and hockey games, as well as travel to various regions of the country. The scenic beauty of the country is breathtaking, from spa towns like Karlovy Vary to the forested regions of the northern border with Germany and Poland. Once you see the beautiful, green rolling hills, it’s easy to understand why the region has been a battlefield of clashing empires for centuries. Being located right in the middle of the continent also allows for convenient travel options – Fall Break afforded me an opportunity to travel for 10 days across the Balkans, a region rich with history. In particular, Sarajevo, Bosnia, offered a gripping first hand look at the results of the longest siege in modern warfare – 4 years long, 11,000 dead, and 50,000 wounded. After hosting the Winter Olympics only a decade earlier, the city was targeted by numerous artillery posts and snipers on the hills that ring the city from 1992-95. Sarajevo was essentially a human cardboard for Serb attacks. The time I spent in the city served as an incredible inspiration, particularly when learning about the stoic resolve of the citizens.

During my semester here, I have also interned for Forum 2000, a foundation started by Vaclav Havel and Elie Wiesel in order to promote global dialogue. The annual conference took place in October under the theme “Dilemmas of Global Co-existence” and delegates included HRH Hassan bin Talal, Elie Wiesel, the Dalai Lama, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Kanan Makiya, Ernesto Zedillo, and numerous other eminent theologians, current, and former heads of state, and academics. As an intern, I make databases of Middle East water ministries, alphabetize nametags, escort delegates, and edit years of transcripts. It’s also been a great opportunity to work with many local political science students from local universities and different study abroad programs in the city. Ultimately, study abroad is an invaluable opportunity to learn about other parts of the world, take interesting classes, travel, and benefit from Navy funding. It is well worth the time and effort in planning that it takes for any Midshipman to do so.

Afternoon Tea

Cheers from London, England! Being abroad at Queen Mary, University of London has been a great experience so far. Although England has a very similar culture compared to the US, there are still many interesting cultural tidbits that I have learned thus far. For one thing, the British accent and slang take a while to get used to. As I am writing this (early October), school has only been in session for one week. This is because British schools start a lot later in the year than American schools. Also, classes will only have one assessment during the semester and this is usually a final exam at the end of the semester.

London is a huge, culturally diverse city with a million things to do. It has a large selection of fine restaurants, free museums, parks and famous monuments. I have visited many of the famous sites including Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey.

Outback: Just Right

Even if there were no other reason to go abroad than to get away from Duke for a breather, it would be worth it. However, since coming to Australia in July, I have found thousands of other justifications for being away yet another semester! Sydney has proved to be a beautiful city, from the stunning architecture to the diversity of the people. I’ve taken advantage of several opportunities here that I wouldn’t have gotten in Durham. I live in the heart of the city (which is always exciting) with 25 other female students (which makes it easy to understand why sororities don’t have housing). And while my classes are wonderful and captivating, I have enjoyed the weeks I’ve spent travelling much more than anything else. I spent time in Melbourne travelling the southern coast, stopping to feed kangaroos and watch the march of the miniature penguins. Then I took a bus tour up the east coast, enjoying my second summer of the year and marvelling at the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. My final trip will take me to the amazing, color-changing Ayers Rock and to the west coast in time to see the Red Bull Air Race on the Swan River in Perth. And although sometimes I consider staying here on some beach forever, I must admit it will be refreshing to get back to Duke, where punctuality is a priority and Mexican food abounds.
Pyramids and Sand MIDN 2/C Kramer

Walking down the streets of Cairo is quite the experience. Between the smell of exhaust fumes, the incessant honking of horns, and the crowds of women in full hijab and men in gallowbayas it becomes a sort of sensory overload. While in your walking, hope that you never have to cross a street, for there are no stoplights in Cairo, and even if there were, no one would pay them any attention. There are no traffic lanes; there are no traffic laws. Pedestrians do not have the right of way, and if you get hit, too bad for you.

In a country and culture so completely foreign to me, it took me a little while to adjust to life in Egypt. A very conservative culture, I would make the rough estimate that in downtown Cairo, around 85% of women are covered, and I definitely stick out as a foreigner. However, in general, I have felt welcomed and have encountered little to no animosity towards Americans. I have found Egyptians to be much more accommodating and accepting of Americans than I think Americans would be of most Middle Easterners. Shop owners may laugh at my attempts to stammer through an order in Arabic, but they are extremely helpful and happy that I am trying to learn the language. While I am nowhere near fluent, my Arabic has improved dramatically through such painful encounters.

I was fortunate to be here and experience the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, where Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. For an entire month, the city sleeps during the day and awakens at night, when everyone is out on the streets until 2 or 3 a.m. In my and my roommate’s attempts to immerse ourselves in the culture, we fasted for the month as well. Classes were shortened and moved to earlier times to enable everyone to get home for iftar, the huge meal at sunset that breaks the fast.

American University in Cairo (the school that I am studying at) is Egypt’s equivalent of Harvard or Princeton, and the disparity between the students wearing designer clothing that get dropped off at campus by a chauffeurs juxtaposed with the poor old women begging on the streets is at times heartbreaking. As in many countries, there is a large disconnect between the rich and the poor, but I have never seen it so apparent as in Egypt.

Bordering Sudan, there are a sizable number of Sudanese refugees in Cairo, and I have been fortunate enough to become involved in a program called STAR (Student Action for Refugees). Twice a week I teach English to a group of about 25 Sudanese refugees, and their desire to learn English is amazing and inspiring. They have all been through so much, and yet still yearn to better themselves and their situations in life.

Cairo is a city that is all at once beautiful and ugly, dirty, overcrowded, exhausting, and always full of surprises. I am thankful that I got the opportunity to study abroad in Egypt, and I highly recommend visiting and experiencing the culture.

Berets and Baguettes MIDN 2/C Smith

As ‘military’ and ‘motivating’ as the Land of the Language of Romance is, France is not relegated to the back burner of global importance just yet. Though I chose to study here in large part due to the finer points of life that Frenchmen regularly enjoy (wine, cheese, and some of the best cuisine in the Western world), I’ve come to view this nation as a conflicted international heavyweight struggling to maintain its significance, but with an always thriving and evolving culture.

Aside from my studies, I’ve experienced a fair amount of cultural adjustment as most students who go abroad do. I’ve had friends ask host families if it is legal to have “préservatifs” in wine (which translates into ‘condoms’), and others who inadvertently make lewd comments attempting to bargain with shopkeepers or discuss the weather. I am the proud owner of a genuine beret (which are occasionally found atop Frenchmen – though mostly the older generations) and I eat a baguette and enjoy wine almost daily. I’ve even discussed vocabulary like ‘hangover’ and the dozens of words the French have for ‘drunk’ with students to whom I teach English at local high schools. Suffice it to say, the French have been gracious hosts. The ‘Hexagon,’ as they refer to their country every so often, offers a rich lesson in Western roots and thought as well, as I sit in class in a “hôtel particulier” (private mansion) built in the 17th century. We watch with eagerness the future of the ever-expanding European Union and it’s implications for European sovereignty. Like a good European Union and it’s implications for European sovereignty. Like a good Frenchman, we’re captivated by the domestic politics that try so hard to preserve the benefits that the people of this large welfare state have worked so hard to achieve. Indeed, Americans would be envious (to say the least) of the French social security program and the protection the government extends to its citizens. Of course we can’t forget the problems we face, but the French are struggling with: integration of an immigrant community, an aging population, and a government which tries to satisfy but often seems to falter short. But I would be hard-pressed to point out an advanced Western state that isn’t taking a self-conscious look at itself.

But aside from the cultural and political differences that exist between my country and my host country this Fall, the underlying roots and values are more or less the same. We have the same values and ideals – after all, Voltaire and Montesquieu are at the basis of our Constitution and the constitution of the 5th French Republic.
Drill Team: Awarded annually to Midshipmen participating in drill team for the entire academic year.
3/C Thorner 3/C Wezeszcz

Color Guard Ribbon: Awarded annually to Midshipmen participating in color guard for the entire academic year.
1/C Osman 2/C Figgatt 3/C Gravely 3/C Schweer

Physical Fitness: Awarded to those with a score on the PRT of excellent-high or above.
1/C Henriques 1/C Kurland 1/C McAneny 1/C Welsch 1/C Will
3/C Schweer 3/C Wrzeszcz

Academic Star: Awarded each semester to Midshipmen with a semester G.P.A. greater than 3.5. The standard must be maintained each semester to continue wearing the star.
1/C Barton 1/C Fleming 1/C Kurland 1/C McAneny 1/C Osman
3/C Reilly 3/C Schweer

Academic Achievement: Awarded annually to Midshipmen with an academic year GPA greater than 3.5
1/C Kurland 1/C Lauzen 1/C McAneny 1/C Welsch 1/C Will

Community Service: Awarded to those recognized for meritorious services to the community.
1/C Welsch

MIDN Welsch was the coordinator of a weekly interaction program at nearby Hillcrest Convalescent Center developing relationships with many of the residents. She regularly gave up her time to participate in this unique program that the residents truly appreciate and enjoy.

Commendation Award: Awarded to Midshipmen for recognition of meritorious achievements.
1/C Welsch

MIDN Welsch is receiving this award for her outstanding performance as Squad Leader last semester after having been abroad for the Fall. Despite having been away from the Unit she went above and beyond the duties of Squad Leader further preparing and training her fourth class squad members. MIDN Welsch re-assimilated herself into the Unit quickly and always sought to go above and beyond the expectations of her Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. She was instrumental in planning platoon events and served as an example for the younger members of her platoon and the Battalion. MIDN Welsch’s academic performance, her performance as squad leader and general conduct throughout the semester are befitting of this Commendation Award.

3/C Schweer

MIDN Schweer consistently performed his duties as Orientation Platoon Sergeant, Bravo Platoon with little preparation, stepping into the role only one day before the fourth class midshipmen arrived after the original billet holder became incapacitated. MIDN Schweer worked extensively with
the First Sergeant and Platoon Sergeant of Alpha Platoon to ensure that he would be able to completely fulfill the duties and responsibilities of his billet. In his efforts, MIDN Schweer demonstrated meritorious conduct befitting the Commendation Award. His efforts were instrumental in support of the success of the indoctrination program, resulting in fourth class midshipmen who are now prepared to discharge the responsibilities and duties of their newly appointed office of Midshipman.

3/C Wrzeszcz
Throughout Orientation, MIDN Wrzeszcz tirelessly took the billet of Assistant Supply Officer and played an invaluable support role which directly contributed to the success of Orientation and completion of the many support-intensive evolutions demanded of the staff this year. MIDN Wrzeszcz’s inventive and spontaneous thinking undoubtedly contributed to the overall Orientation experience and also towards mission accomplishment for several evolutions, including check-in, daily PT, the leadership reaction course, and the swim qualification. MIDN Wrzeszcz was consistently given difficult tasks to carry out without the traditionally available resources with which to carry them out. Nonetheless, he still managed to accomplish all of his tasks and did so without once questioning his instructions or expressing concern for the difficult situations in which he was being placed. MIDN Wrzeszcz’s conduct throughout Orientation was meritorious and befitting the Commendation Award.

Leadership Award: Awarded to Midshipmen who have shown exemplary conduct and leadership while members of the staff.
1/C Osman
MIDN Osman is receiving this award for her work as Color Guard Commander last year. She attended nearly every game in which Duke NROTC presented the colors, and was a motivated instructor for underclassmen members of the Color Guard. All members of the Color Guard benefited from her expertise and devotion, and her enthusiasm in discharging her duties is an example for the entire Battalion.

1/C Will
MIDN Will is receiving this award for his performance as last semester’s Delta-Three Platoon Sergeant. His leadership of the platoon played an instrumental role in a successful semester, including a much improved drill performance and improvement in physical fitness for many Midshipman. MIDN Will balanced his academic and extracurricular duties in addition to serving as Platoon Sergeant and continuing to improve the caliber of the Battalion.

2/C Figgatt
MIDN Figgatt is receiving this award for his outstanding performance as platoon guide and being a PT leader for the Battalion. In addition, MIDN Figgatt also served as part of the Color Guard for the last year. His dedication, enthusiasm and work ethic served as an example for his platoon and the entire Battalion and are certainly deserving of the Leadership Award.

3/C Reilly
MIDN Reilly is receiving this award for her role as Squad Leader during this year’s 4/C Orientation. MIDN Reilly’s hardworking nature and willing attitude made her an effective part of the Orientation team. Also, her role as Commodore Club Treasurer placed additional responsibilities upon MIDN Reilly not usually expected of a 3/C squad leader. Her dedication to this time and labor-intensive program greatly contributed to the leadership training both for herself and for the newly indoctrinated 4/C midshipmen. Her conduct was exemplary and befitting of the Leadership Award.

All-Around Performance: Awarded to Midshipmen for the most outstanding performance in the field of academics, physical fitness training, community service, and military criteria.
3/C Reilly
MIDN 3/C Reilly is receiving this award for her excellent performance as a new member of Duke's NROTC Battalion throughout the entirety of last year. Her zealous efforts to achieve were exemplified both in the classroom and around campus in addition to her role as an ambitious member of her platoon. She earned a 3.875 GPA and made the Dean’s List with Distinction, an outstanding achievement for any freshman. In addition to academic excellence, she earned an excellent high on the PRT, showing a commitment to physical fitness as well as being active in extracurricular activities, a sorority, and in the community. Her performance throughout the year led to her selection as a Squad Leader for this year’s 4/C Orientation and as a Squad Leader and Commodore Club treasurer this Fall.
Pictures: When one just isn’t enough

Capt Fleming inspects Gravely

GySgt instructs on standing manual

“Platoon, at ease!”

PLT GDE—MIDN Wrzeszcz

Sea Trials Award Ceremony

“Great job MIDN Arnold.”

Congratulations Fourth Class!

USN Hymn at the POW Ceremony

Jack Lucas Medal of Honor Recognition Event Escorts

Battalion Photo at the POW Ceremony
Change of Command, Cameron Indoor Stadium
Orientation 2006
NROTC Clubs

Surface Warrior Club MIDN 3/C Beauregard

The Surface Warrior Club’s mission is to facilitate discussion of current events in the Surface Warfare Community and to prepare those 1/C Midshipmen who have service-selected the Surface Warfare Community for commissioning and life in the fleet. Membership in the Club is open to all members of the Battalion with an interest in the Surface Warfare Community.

The Fall semester is focused on discussing Surface Warfare issues. This semester we have had two informal dinners. LT Dave Alexander joined the Surface Warrior Club on 02 Nov 06 at Satisfaction’s Restaurant to discuss the current state of the Surface Warrior Community and Surface Warfare Officer life. Another dinner is planned in December to discuss the newly-completed Littoral Combat Ship Freedom.

The Spring semester is full of Surface Warrior Club activities. In addition to more discussions, two field trips, which include a trip to the Battleship USS North Carolina and to Marine Safety International in Norfolk, are planned. The North Carolina was constructed during World War II and served in every major offensive in the Pacific Ocean. The citizens of North Carolina saved her from scrapping in 1961. This will provide Surface Warrior Club members with a unique view into what naval life used to be like.

Marine Safety International provides hands-on experience with driving a ship in many different situations. This simulator is used by Commanding Officers in the fleet to train their men and women on proper ship-handling procedures. This will be a valuable tool to anyone going into the surface fleet.

The Surface Warrior Club is off to a great start this year. With the focus on professional development, we hope to create future officers with a broad knowledge of the Surface Warrior Community.

For more information, contact MIDN 3/C Beauregard at adam.beauregard@duke.edu

Aviation Club MIDN 3/C Rickoff

The purpose of the Aviation Club is to allow MIDN to build camaraderie around the central theme of Aviation. Our goals so far are to be able to get those MIDN interested in aviation ready for the ASTBs, as well as preparing them for what life for a JO aviator is like in the fleet. The overall objective of this club is to prepare future MIDN for their entrance into the Aviation community. It is our hope that future Aviation Club meetings will consist of events such as field trips to Naval Air Stations, as well as more hands-on learning not only of Naval Aviation but general aeronautical fields. The club had their first meeting in November 2006, and I hope that a few of our ideas are able to come to fruition next semester and in future years.

For more information, contact MIDN 3/C Rickoff at cfr5@duke.edu
Next semester, Duke NROTC will be bringing back the Running Club. Its goal will be to foster a community where midshipmen who excel at running can come and motivate each other. It will also be a place for these midshipmen to educate and drive other motivated midshipmen who want to improve their running abilities. It will meet bimonthly and will feature extended runs and participation in local running events. Other plans include arranging for a Duke Varsity Track Coach to come to a meeting and give us more innovative exercises to try and suggestions to improve our running technique. More details will be coming at the beginning of next semester.

Questions should be addressed to MIDN 3/C Haynsworth at pbh3@duke.edu

The option to attend the scuba diver course at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL is open to all midshipmen selected for submarines before they go to Nuclear Power School. This course offers newly commissioned ensigns the chance to become qualified as navy scuba divers before getting to their submarine so they can serve as divers and dive supervisors.

Divers are needed on board submarines for a variety of jobs. They dive on the sub each time it pulls into and out of port to do a security check and make sure nothing is amiss. They can also perform basic repairs to the sub while underway and further serve as rescue swimmers when the sub is on the surface.

In recognition of their special duties and skills, divers are paid an extra $200 per month and can wear the scuba bubble on their uniforms. However, the greatest part is being qualified as a military diver – it is quite an honor, and it takes a lot of hard work to get there. Divers are a proud brotherhood and if you think you’re good enough to join, this course is a great challenge to take.

The course itself is very physically challenging. It will be one of the hardest things you do in the navy.

So you’re hooked and want to become a scuba diver. What next? In order to apply for the training you need to pass both a medical and physical exam. If you’re smart and decide early on that you want to go this route, you can do the dive medical exam at the same time as your precommissioning physical – all it requires is one extra blood test. After you’ve been PQ’ed and selected for subs, then you should talk to the Submarine Lieutenant about taking the physical exam.

The best thing is to go into it with an open mind and just roll with it. There will be a lot of times when you’re feeling depressed, freezing cold, exhausted, on the verge of breaking down, and just plain beaten down, but you have to get through it and complete whatever inane task you’re doing, whether it be 4-man pushups or carrying scuba tanks around. The first week will likely be the longest week of your life – it never seems to end and you’re probably going to be the most sore, exhausted, bloody, and blistered you’ve ever been. But, it is a good time (once you get to week 5 – the first 4 are pretty rough), you’ll meet some amazing people, get the best dive training in the world, and you will pass. The biggest hurdle for people is medical – we had 9 people in my class drop out of 24, and 7 were for medical reasons and 1 was for academic (the instructors hated the last guy and beat him until he quit, don’t be that guy). So if you make it there, keep your head down and never quit; you’ll be fine. And if you find a hurdle that seems impossible to overcome, ask your buddies for help. You’ll all be helping each other out along the way, and no one makes it on their own.

For more information contact the Nuclear Power Officer.

For ENS Powers’ complete write-up, contact MIDN 2/C Sauers at bjs19@duke.edu.
Alumni Section

Remember all those good times you had with Duke NROTC? Well, you still can! Read on for more information...

DONATIONS

Duke NROTC needs your help! We are in need of money to help fund activities such as drill team and community clubs, new supplies for PT and other related evolutions, gifts, trips, and a renovation of the Midshipman Wardroom. Please send donations to our address, located on the back of this newsletter, ‘ATTN: ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICER’. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

ALUMNI DATABASE

Coming soon in Spring 2007, an all new online database to help us keep in touch with our alumni! Receive updates from the Unit, copies of the Dolphin, and aid Midshipmen in Service Selection by providing feedback and first hand expertise!

Please send your name and email address to the Spring 2007 Alumni Affairs Officer, MIDN 2/C Sauers, at bjs19@duke.edu, so you may be contacted when the site is up to fill out your information card and receive Duke NROTC updates!

Duke NROTC Ship Store

Duke NROTC Coin (coming soon!) $5.00
Duke NROTC Polo Shirt (all sizes) $40.00
Adidas ‘Climacool’ technology
Duke NROTC Sweatshirt (all sizes) $20.00
Duke NROTC T-Shirt (all sizes) $8.00
Duke NROTC Mesh Shorts (S,M,L,XL) $15.00
Duke NROTC Ball Cap (S,L) $12.00
Adjustable

To place an order…

Send a list of the items you would like to purchase, along with sizes, and a check made payable to ‘Duke NROTC Commodore Club’ to the Unit Address, found on the back of this newsletter, ‘ATTN: CC PRES’. 
What is NROTC?

The NROTC Program was established to educate and train qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve. As the largest single source of Navy and Marine Corps officers, the NROTC Scholarship Program plays an important role in preparing mature young men and women for leadership and management positions in an increasingly technical Navy and Marine Corps.

Selected applicants for the NROTC Scholarship Program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process, and receive full tuition, books, fees and other financial benefits at many of the country’s leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve.

The NROTC Scholarship Program is available to qualified students who graduate from high school before August 1 of the year they intend to start college.

Students selected for the NROTC Scholarship Program make their own arrangements for college enrollment and room and board, and take the normal course load required by the college or university for degree completion. Additionally, scholarship midshipmen are required to follow specific academic guidelines.

Full information concerning the NROTC Scholarship Program is available from any of the colleges and universities with NROTC units or from Navy and Marine Corps recruiters.