UT ROTC Remembers 9/11 Ceremony

By: MIDN 3/C Bishop

Earlier this semester, all three of the University of Texas’ Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) branches conducted a ceremony at the plaza south of the UT Tower to memorialize the attacks that took place on 11 September 2001. The collective ROTCs wanted to send a message that we have not forgotten, nor will we ever forget, the 2,977 Americans who lost their lives.

The ceremony consisted of a ship’s bell and a service member from one of the three ROTC branches. At each minute of significance from that tragic day, a service member would leave the position of attention and on the exact minute of importance, ring the bell, then salute the ensign as long as the bell resonated, and then return to the position of attention adjacent to the bell. To ensure tri-service participation, the service member tasked with ringing the bell would be relieved after each time the bell was rung. The entire ceremony lasted for just over two hours, including six different bell ringers and the six significant minutes for which the bell was rung.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Bell Ringer</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0746</td>
<td>Flight 11 hits North Tower</td>
<td>MIDN Sethu</td>
<td>Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0803</td>
<td>Flight 175 hits South Tower</td>
<td>Cadet Pala</td>
<td>Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0837</td>
<td>Flight 77 hits Pentagon</td>
<td>Cadet James</td>
<td>Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0858</td>
<td>South Tower falls</td>
<td>Cadet Gonzales</td>
<td>Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0903</td>
<td>Flight 93 crashes in PA field</td>
<td>Cadet Corti</td>
<td>Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0928</td>
<td>North Tower falls</td>
<td>SSgt Urban</td>
<td>Marine Corps</td>
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</tbody>
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Run To Dallas

By: MIDN 2/C Cochran

This year, after a yearlong break, UT NROTC participated in the Run to Dallas. The event started early in the week with small run groups running different legs of the event Monday through Wednesday. On Wednesday night, Midshipmen participated in the Torch Lighting Parade and Pep Rally. At the pep rally, Coach Strong talked about our event and then handed the Battalion Commander, SSgt Urban the game ball. As this was happening there was already one run group completing their leg of the event. The battalion was divided into four run groups for the Thursday run; the groups would take shifts, each running for one hour per shift. The groups ran throughout the day on Thursday, only stopping to eat lunch. We checked into the hotel in Dallas late Thursday evening and rested up for the eventful day to come. On Friday everyone was up early and back on the bus to the Texas State Fair to meet up with the OU NROTC. Once outside the gates, the two NROTC formed into columns of two, and began the run in cadence through the fairgrounds and up to the Cotton Bowl steps with their horns up, getting many cheers of approval from the people at the fair. After the photo shoot at the Cotton Bowl, the two NROTC units, packed up their stuff, and met up again on the flag football field. Unfortunately, after a long and eventful game, OU won by one point in overtime. The Battalion then packed up and hit the road for the long trip home. On Saturday the game ball was personally handed over to Coach Strong by our BNCO.

Thanks to MIDN 2/C Cochran, the event was a huge success. He spearheaded this event as the OIC and brought back a great tradition that is sure to continue for many years to come. The Battalion looks forward to next year’s event hoping to make it even bigger and bring back the flag football trophy to UT.
Birthday Ball
By: MIDN 3/C Mancilla

On 25 October 2014, the University of Texas Naval ROTC held their birthday ball in celebration of the 239th Birthday of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. With weeks of preparation by Midshipman 2/C Baker, the Officer in Charge, the ball was a huge success. The midshipmen worked hard to create a wonderful night to remember. Each guest receiving a souvenir glass mug with the unit logo on it. The Guest of Honor, Rear Admiral John Weldon Koenig delivered a touching speech reminiscing his college years. It was a humbling experience meeting an admiral who personally met the Father of the Nuclear Navy, Admiral Rickover. It was great hearing his experiences as a midshipman at UT. After the ceremonies, the midshipmen and their guests ended the night with dancing. Both young and old, enjoyed the ball: from remembering the years of Naval tradition, the men and women who have served before us, hearing both services’ birthday messages, and thinking about the years to come. It was a lasting experience for the 4/C, who celebrated their first ball as midshipmen, and the 1/C, who celebrated their last ball as midshipmen, along with everyone else in attendance.
This past semester I have had the opportunity to serve as the battalion Physical Training Instructor. This is a billet I have always wanted to hold, as a kinesiology major I am very interested in physical fitness and training. Though this semester has been challenging at times it has also been very rewarding. Based on the Mid-Term Physical Readiness Test (PRT) we were able to get everyone off of remedial PT and now every Midshipman has a passing PRT score. I am very happy with the results we have seen so far this semester and the final PRT’s results show how far we have come. This semester’s bi-annual President’s Cup Games are now over with the scores being Army: 23, Navy: 20, and Air Force: 14. Next semester’s games are quickly approaching and I am very confident in our abilities. We have solid teams competing in multiple events next semester and I strongly believe that we will beat Army and take home the President’s Cup. I am confident that the next PTI will be up to this task and I look forward to showing him the ropes later this semester.
On the 8th November, UT NROTC, the UT NROTC Alumni Foundation, and Midshipman’s Foundation conducted the annual Alumni Weekend celebration. This event connects current midshipmen with alumni of UT NROTC and recognizes the outstanding members of the battalion.

This year, the Midshipman’s Foundation awarded over $54,000 of scholarships and 4 swords to 29 battalion members in recognition of outstanding performance in academics, physical fitness, and leadership. UT NROTC is very unique in that it is one of the only units in the nation with such a generous and involved alumni organization. The battalion members recognize that they are lucky to be a part of this, and are appreciative of the constant support this unit receives from its alumni. During the awards ceremony, we had the privilege of hearing from two distinguished guests: University of Texas President Bill Powers, a U.S. Navy veteran, and VADM William Moran, the Chief of Naval Personnel. VADM Moran also presented the graduating 1/C with their warfare pins at the end of the ceremony.

After the ceremony, we held the annual alumni barbeque on the 5th deck of CLA. I always look forward to this particular event every year because of interesting stories the alumni always have about their service. Some of the stories contain valuable advice about leadership while others are downright hilarious. After the barbeque, the alumni attended the Texas football game at DKR stadium, where the Longhorns upset West Virginia, nicely capping off a successful weekend. The battalion is already looking forward to next year’s Alumni Weekend, filled with barbeque, football, and great company.
Leatherneck FEX

By: MIDN 3/C Beavers

The Fall Field Exercise (FEX) is a huge event for the Marine Option Midshipmen. This fall the FEX took place at Fort Hood from 14-16 November. The FEX gives Midshipmen the chance to learn and perfect important skills before heading off to Officer Candidate School. Months of planning went into this event to make it a successful evolution. With guidance from the AMOI, GySgt Reed, and the MOI, Maj Balke, this field exercise truly challenged and trained the midshipmen for the future.

The weekend kicked off with an early morning hike. Later that afternoon the vans were loaded up and left for Fort Hood. Night land navigation was conducted that evening, a skill that Midshipmen must master for Officer Candidate School. Land navigation was integrated into almost every part of this FEX and really put the midshipmen’s skills to the test.

The next morning began with the PT evolution where the fire teams navigated to a hill top. Once there, they received coordinates for different stations on the hill side. Each station presented a combat scenario that connected the objective to real world applications. Following the PT evolution were the small unit leadership exercises (SULE). The SULE’s provided Midshipmen with a taste of what to expect at Officer Candidate School. They allowed midshipmen a chance to combine all the skills they had learned throughout the year. Marine Option Midshipmen would receive an objective, from an Operations Order, brief their fire team and execute their plan. Different missions were assigned to each station, where marines would have to complete the objective and attack through enemy forces. The oppositional forces consisted of several motivated Navy Option volunteers. Both sides were equipped with airsoft rifles during the simulated fire fights. This evolution allowed the midshipmen to practice offensive combat techniques. The day concluded with a warrior dinner, where midshipmen barbequed burgers and ribs in celebration of a successful evolution. Cold, hungry, and tired, these midshipmen were really put to the test. This FEX was designed to challenge and develop these midshipmen, so one day they can become Marine Corps Officers.
Alumni Breakfast

By: MIDN 3/C Lewis

On the 21st of November, the UT NROTC Alumni hosted a breakfast for the second and first class midshipmen in the CLA classroom. The midshipmen had the pleasure of sitting down with some of our distinguished alumni and eating breakfast while listening to their sea stories. Near the end of the breakfast Bob Brown, Max Miller, Rear Admiral Koenig and Bob Collins all stood up and shared an important lesson of leadership from their past. Everyone truly enjoyed the breakfast and looks forward to it each semester.
Every semester, the battalion staff changes over and another group of midshipmen get to experience the glory as well as take on the challenge that comes with receiving a billet. The Battalion Member of the Month was also named for the month of December and after the ceremony there was a farewell bash that included coffee, tacos and a mustache measurement competition.

The Spring 2015 Battalion Staff are as follows:

- CO - MIDN 1/C Jbeily
- XO - MIDN 1/C Baugh
- SUPPO - MIDN 3/C Ross
- ADJ - MIDN 2/C Ledesma
- OPS - MIDN 2/C Conaghan
- AOPS - MIDN 3/C Bishop
- PAO - MIDN 3/C Lewis
- PTI - MIDN 3/C Guerra
- Leatherneck PC - MIDN 3/C Mancilla
- DIVO - MIDN 3/C Ebarguen
- DIVO - MIDN 3/C Martin