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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Run to Dallas 6-11 Oct
- Birthday Ball 25 Oct
- Alumni Weekend 8-9 Nov
- President’s Cup 10-14 Nov
Freshman Orientation is always a memorable event for any midshipmen going through NROTC. It is the first of many steps to becoming a Naval Officer and is always a shock to those new 4/C midshipmen. Even the senior midshipmen will recall events that happened to them at their class’ orientation. In this year’s orientation training environments were less intense, and squad leaders and staff focus more on the role of mentorship. That being said most midshipmen still become quite rattled if they have never experienced basic drill or are new to the structure of a military environment.

During the four day event they received instruction via classroom briefings, drill with GySgt Reed, an Initial Strength Test, the Marine OCS Obstacle Course, pistol shoot, and culminating event as well as a trip to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg. In their final day, the midshipmen celebrated their induction into the program with a swearing-in ceremony as well as BBQ with their friends and family.
A WORD FROM THE 4/C PLATOON COMMANDER

I am MIDN 2/C Olivarez and I will be serving as the Fall 2014 4/C Platoon Commander along with MIDN 2/C Brock as my Platoon Sergeant. MIDN 3/C Guerra, Mancilla, and Bishop will be serving as my Squad Leaders. Throughout the orientation process we have seen the new 4/C midshipmen grow and take the first of many steps necessary to become Naval Officers. While they face a long and challenging road ahead of them, we are all confident that they will stand the test of time and earn their commissions. I am looking forward to a great upcoming semester and I am sure that I will learn just as much from them as they have learned from my staff and me. HOOK ‘EM !!!

Special thanks to all those who made this event such a success!
One of the best parts of NROTC and what makes it so unique is the summer cruise training we receive. First class midshipmen are partnered with officer running mates from a community of their choice. Second class midshipmen undergo the same training except their running mates are enlisted. Second Class Marine Options attend Mountain Warfare School near Bridgeport, California. Third class midshipmen participate in CORTRAMID where they get to “sample” each community. Nurse-options went on their own cruises, and we also had one midshipman attend Marine Corps OCS this summer.
In addition to the Navy’s training requirements, we had midshipmen participate in internships, and study abroad programs. Members of the battalion received the opportunity to travel all over the world this past summer, in countries such as: Thailand, Canada and China.

SUMMER CRUISE!

MIDN 3/C Lewis in front of an E-2 Hawkeye during Aviation Week.

MIDN 3/C Martin next to a LCAC during CORTRAMID.

MIDN 2/C Masters enjoying Thailand.

MIDN 2/C Slavin at Mountain Warfare School.

MIDN 2/C Baker on board the USS Ronald Reagan.
This summer, the University of Texas Naval ROTC sent eight Midshipmen on their 3/C cruise to San Diego, where they spent a week with each community of the Navy: Surface Warfare, Subs, Aviation and Marines. Diving into the different communities, allowed the midshipmen to get a taste of what the fleet is really like, and what they would like to do in the Navy or Marine Corps.

“Aviation week solidified my choice to become a Naval Aviator,” MIDN 3/C Bishop said. “Riding in the T-34 was one of the best experiences of my life and I can’t wait to fly again at flight school if I’m lucky enough to earn a spot.”

The midshipmen were able to experience things they might otherwise never get to do, such as going underway on a sub and getting to take the helm of the 2 billion dollar USS PENNSYLVANIA like MIDN 3/C Ross had the opportunity to do. Other opportunities like participating in the Wet Trainer, completing the SEAL Obstacle Course or going into the Infantry Immersion Trainer (IIT) during Marine week allowed the midshipmen to improve their team work and leadership skills. “Marine week challenged me both physically and mentally,” MIDN 3/C Guerra said. “I liked having the chance to lead in a combat like setting and I enjoyed learning new leadership skills while helping the Navy midshipmen who were new to how the Marine Corps operates in the field.”

Being Active Duty for the four weeks, allowed the midshipmen to really apply what they learned in their Naval Science classes and training during the school year. They were also able to explore, ask questions, and get to know more about fleet life as they interacted with men and women of both the officer and enlisted communities.

“Something I learned is that one of the best traits of a good leader is the ability to quickly respond to changes and think several steps ahead while still taking everything in stride,” MIDN 3/C Ross said. Though CORTRAMID is meant to provide an idea of what specific community the midshipmen would like to enter, the 3/C midshipmen also had a fun time no matter where they went. “I learned that an officer is less about where you are placed and more about what you do where you are placed,” MIDN 3/C Lewis said. “I found myself enjoying aspects of every community, so it was easy to see myself enjoying whichever one I may end up in.”
This Summer I traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii for a two week cruise on board the USS HAWAII. Unfortunately, after arriving in Hawaii, the submarine had maintenance issues so our departure was delayed for a week. Due to RIMPAC, the base could not accommodate the visiting midshipmen, so we stayed in a hotel in Honolulu. During this time we traveled to Waikiki beach, learned to surf, climbed Diamond Head crater, snorkeled with Sea Turtles in Hanauma Bay, and attended a Luau. All this time was spent with five other midshipmen who would all become lifelong friends. After a week in Honolulu, we boarded the USS HAWAII, a SSN-776 Virginia Class submarine. I was paired with Petty Officer Second Class Kuntz, a nuclear mechanic. He showed me the ropes of submarine life, new sleeping schedules, proper submarine etiquette, the difficulties of an eight hour watch, and most importantly, the mess hall. Submarine food lived up to its reputation and would become the most prominent reason to get out of the bunks. The first day I spent with MM2 Kuntz learning the routine of an eight hour watch and how to pass the time. The next couple of days I spent my time learning everything I could from everyone at each station. I participated in fire drills and hazardous chemical drills. I learned about sonar, radio, undersea navigation, testing water samples, and a multitude of other engine room duties. It was an enjoyable time and greatly increased my knowledge of submarine life, broadened my understanding of officer and crew relations, as well as introduced me to the thrills of Hawaii.
Thank you to all of those that have offered support for our battalion, especially our alumni. Without the assistance of our generous benefactors we wouldn't be able to accomplish many of the things we do. These contributions help our future Naval and Marine Corps officers become stronger leaders by giving us a broad range of opportunities for development. Your gifts also offer assistance for our young men and women who may struggle to afford the cost of living in Austin. Once again, thank you from all of us here at University of Texas Naval ROTC!