



## **Boilerman 2014-2015**

**Purdue University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps**



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## LETTER FROM THE BNCO

### FALL 2014

Fall 2014 was another successful semester for Purdue's Naval ROTC battalion. I, the Battalion Commander with the Battalion Executive Officer MIDN 1/C Ross (now ENS Ross) and MIDN 1/C Gaido, the Battalion Sergeant Major, had set three primary goals for the semester. They were as follows: to increase professionalism, increase accountability and increase involvement in the Lafayette community. Through the leadership of the student billet holders and efforts of all our midshipmen, I believe we were able to accomplish these goals among others.

We began the year with freshman orientation, during which incoming freshmen, both with and without government scholarships, received the initial training required to become 4/C Navy and Marine Corps Midshipmen. After the three rigorous days of training, we were glad to have inducted just over fifty new midshipmen into the Battalion. The training company, India Company, was led by a hand selected group of upperclassmen, most notably, MIDN 1/C Rieker, India Company Commander, MIDN 1/C Pawlik, India Company Executive Officer, and MIDN 1/C Wilker, India Company Chief Petty Officer. The entire evolution went incredibly smooth after having been carefully planned in its entirety by MIDN 1/C Pawlik over the summer months. The good order and discipline instilled in the new 4/C Midshipmen by our cadre billet holders really set the tone for the rest of the semester. As a result, the heightened level of intensity also instilled in our billet holders an increased sense of accountability for not only their actions, but the actions of the midshipmen under their charge.

MIDN 1/C Gaido oversaw the planning and coordination of many community service events over the course of the semester. Some of the most notable events we volunteered at were the Fall 2014 Honor Flight, Westminster Abby Retirement Home "Mess Night," and the Annual Tippecanoe Veteran's Stand Down. The Honor Flight Program flies WWII veterans from the Purdue airport out to Washington DC for the day, where they are chauffeured around the city to see the monuments, specifically the ones that honor their sacrifice. Our midshipmen saw them off the morning of their trip at the airport where we served them breakfast, socialized and provided a color guard to honor them as they left. Westminster Abby, an assisted living facility in town, invited our midshipmen to a dinner for which their chefs used a military cookbook from the 1950's. We sent about fifteen Midshipmen there to dine and socialize with the residents. Lastly, as in previous years, our Midshipmen once again participated at the Veterans Stand Down in Lafayette. At the event, homeless and neglected veterans were able to receive warm weather gear for the cold winter months, a hot meal, and free medical services. Our Midshipmen participated by helping hand out the coats and food. Some of our nurse options assisted in offering medical care.

Two final but very important events planned and executed by the students included our annual Birthday Ball and Mike Company's semester field training exercise. The field training exercise, planned by Mike Company's First Class, Marine Option Midshipmen, was a great success. The First Class and prior enlisted MECEP's proctored and graded many training events including both day and night land navigation, as well as small unit leadership exercises. These field training exercises are vital to the success of our Second Class Midshipmen who are bound for Officer Candidate School this coming summer.

The unit also celebrated the 238th birthday of both the Navy and Marine Corps on 01NOV, a date picked for its lying between the two services actual birthdays. MIDN 1/C Pawlik took the lead on the planning and did an excellent job. The celebration was held at the Beck Agricultural Center, was catered by West Point Steak House, and featured all the pomp and circumstance of a Birthday Ball in the fleet. We were even able to hire the Lafayette Highlanders to play bagpipe renditions of the Navy and Marine Corps Hymns. All in all it was a wonderful evening.

Overall, I believe the semester was a great success. The student billet holders performed their duties admirably and great effort was put forth by all the Midshipmen, whether they held a billet or not. Furthermore, and most importantly, I know I speak for all the Fall semester billet holders when I say we each took away some key lessons from our experiences in our individual positions of leadership that we were able to learn from and will hopefully fall back on once we hit the fleet. Leading the Navy and Marine Corps Boilermakers for a semester was an honor, and a privilege and I am proud to be commissioning alongside my peers who made our success this past fall possible.

Boiler Up and Semper Fi,  
MIDN 1/C James D. Ryan

## 4/C LETTER HOME

Dear Mom and Dad,

Purdue NROTC is unlike anything I experienced in high school. In High School a tardy was looked down upon by faculty and that was the extent of your consequence. When a Midshipman is late they receive a “UA” (unauthorized absence), which is far worse. You should expect to talk to four or five different midshipmen explaining why you were late and in return, you’ll get an earful about how a UA could affect you in the fleet. In my head I’m thinking “I was two minutes late, no one will die in two minutes”. Later, I realized that my irresponsibility and tardiness could put lives in jeopardy, especially as an officer.

The transition from my normal California life to Purdue University NROTC was not an easy one. College was a big step by itself, let alone the early mornings of physical training and drill. As a Marine option especially, we always acknowledge commands with a forceful “Aye Aye Sir!” In the beginning, it became tedious and exhausting, but as the semester went on, I began to realize that there was a purpose to this madness. Giving the greeting of the day or sounding off became instinctive and effortless.

Luckily, we were assigned mentors to guide us through the semester. I chose MIDN 1/C Gaido since we have the same major. We met weekly to discuss academics, physical readiness, and how manage stress. As the semester continued, I started to gain the respect of the upper-class as they saw me giving it my all during PT and constantly trying to improve myself.

Honestly, when I first came to ROTC I was skeptical if the military route was right for me. After training with the other Marine options and living in a ROTC learning community, I have learned a lot. Major Anklam gives us very motivational and inspirational talks after drill periods and physical training sessions, which has opened my eyes that this is truly the right path for me. Also, my mentor cleared up some of my misconceived knowledge of the military and helped me understand what kind of opportunities are available through the Marines.

This year has been life-changing and rewarding at the same time. I realize that all of the yelling and screaming at the end of the year was actually enforcing discipline and military doctrine. I am happy to say that I am part of Purdue NROTC program and will proudly serve in the United States Marine Corps.



MIDN 4/C Sandridge

# 1/C Letter Home

Dear Mom and Dad,

It's amazing to see how fast my senior year has flown by! I can't believe commissioning is creeping closer and my four-years here at Purdue are coming to an end. It's funny being an upperclassmen and watching all of the freshman grow and mature within the ROTC program. I can't believe I was once there. From learning how to shine my drill shoes to selecting my ship, I can say that my journey here at Purdue will always have a special place in my heart and I will always have all the great friendships and memories.

Being a part of the leadership in the battalion has taught me many key tools that I will take with me as I enter the fleet. I have developed my ethical and professional reasoning that will guide me as situations present themselves.

Even though a new chapter in my life is about to start, I am thankful in the training that I received here at Purdue within the unit, and I know I will leave here with a solid foundation to help me succeed in anything that I do in the future. I will write again soon!



Love,

Chloe M. Piña



## COTRAMID WEST 2014



COTRAMID, Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen, is a summer program designed to show rising Third Class Midshipmen the different career paths possible in the Navy and Marine Corps. While this is the largest and most defined goal in the COTRAMID mission statement, there is the more important side goal of giving ROTC midshipman across the country connections to each other that will span out into the fleet. Schools from coast to coast send ROTC midshipmen to COTRAMID and all of these midshipmen make friendships forged in

toil and fun that will last well into their professional lives and learn invaluable lessons that will start them on the greatest path of self-discovery of their lives.

COTRAMID West takes place primarily in Naval Base San Diego and all of its attached facilities including MCAS Miramar, NB Point Loma, NAS North Island, and MCB Camp Pendleton. Midshipman are moved through these area in waves, experiencing the best the Navy and Marine Corps have to offer. While going through the 4 week long training program midshipmen are exposed to every single possible community they could be commissioned to upon graduation from ROTC. Midshipman experience underway time aboard a surface ship and submarine, flight time in various training aircraft, as well as quality bonding time in the barracks and on the firing ranges of Camp Pendleton. Midshipmen are also exposed to the SEAL and EOD communities through quality group interaction with active service members.

The most important lessons midshipmen take away from COTRAMID are those not taught in classrooms or simulators. While the time in San Diego was sweet and savory until the last moment, we learned our first fundamental steps in becoming junior officers. Most of us found the lives we were going to live for the next decade. We made the friends that will support us through those professional endeavors. Above all, we learned that success is like respect, it is built and cultivated from positive relationships and a healthy leadership climate.

MIDN 3/C Zachary Fuerst

## Mountain Warfare Training Center



Established in 1951 in direct response to the need for realistic and rigorous mountain training for replacement Marines heading to Korea. The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MWTC), in Bridgeport, CA is the premier school of its type in the United States and a globally renowned asset used by American and allied forces alike. Units from the United States Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and

Army ranging from infantrymen to Tier 1 special operatives all use the rugged, volatile, and challenging terrain to hone their skills in conducting a wide variety of operations in mountainous terrain. Located in a 46,000 acre section of the Toiyabe National Forrest, elevation varies from 6,700 to 14,179 feet, with yearly temperatures seeing lows beyond negative 50 degrees Fahrenheit and highs in excess of 100.

Every year about two hundred select 3/C Midshipmen, particularly Marine Option, are invited to attend a ten day familiarization course at MWTC. They are joined by a handful of Naval Academy peers, and are exposed to introductory courses in mountain land navigation, survival techniques, river fording, rope skills, rock climbing, and the rigors of hiking under load across elevation, at relatively high altitude. To earn a Mountain Warfare summer cruise slot, a midshipman must be in high standing with his/her unit and also provide a 1st class PFT score. Scores above 250 are considered competitive. The varying climate, even in the temperate summer months, causes temperatures to fluctuate between 30 and 100 degrees, and the week's highest location at LZ Penguin lies above 10,000 feet altitude. Good aerobic fitness is crucial to gaining the most out of the Bridgeport cruise.

From the perspective of a midshipman, the week is jam-packed with excellent training, and for most is a first experience in a mountainous environment. Make no mistake, the



geography of MWTC is challenging, but breathtaking. While a great amount of time is spent on MWTC specific instruction, the cruise's main focus and lasting impression is presented by the NROTC officer and NCO staff, who are constantly engaged with trainees in less formal discussion. Midshipmen are presented with ample opportunities to ask questions regarding anything Marine Corps, each officer or NCO providing personal experience and expertise in a setting that allows for maximum comprehension. The most predominant topic covered by all staff members at MWTC 2014 was the enlisted-to-officer relationship, especially that of officer to SNCO. The AMOI's and MOI's present were fantastic learning platforms; after ten days of discussion and Q&A between training sessions there was hardly a question that hadn't already been answered.

MWTC is an excellent cruise, and should be pursued by all Marine Option Midshipmen. The skills learned, while basic, provide a baseline understanding of the realities of operating in a mountainous environment. Beyond mountain specific training, the instruction provided by NROTC staff on site is highly enriching, and greatly enhances the knowledge gained by Midshipmen back at their affiliated universities.



**MIDN 2/C NICHOLAS WEDDLE**

# 1/C Cruise



As an NROTC Midshipmen upper-classmen, when the summer approaches after our junior year, the Navy grants the opportunity for naval instruction at sea in the form of a summer cruise in the community of our choosing, which include: Submarine, Naval Aviation, EOD, Special Warfare, and periodically a Foreign Exchange Cruise. Regardless of the community selected, the firsthand knowledge and skill acquired during cruise are a once in a lifetime opportunity. For the summer of 2014, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to experience a 1/C Submarine Cruise

aboard the USS Louisville (SSN 724) Los Angeles Class Submarine commanded by CDR Robert D. Figgs. The purpose of these cruises is as follows:

- To prepare Midshipmen for commissioned service through active participation in the duties and responsibilities of a junior officer at sea
- To further the development of officer-like qualities and leadership skills
- To familiarize Midshipmen with warfare systems
- To emphasize Midshipmen with life at sea and to familiarize Midshipmen with

shipboard organization, ship systems, evolutions, and safety requirements at sea and in port. I was fortunate to accomplish all four training goals. My fellow 1/C Midshipmen and I were quick to get into the action. Right from the beginning we showed great interest in the Engineering Compartment and were treated to a complete tour by a LT and an Electronics Technician Chief who allowed us to witness the procedures for checking the chemical and mineral stability of the primary and secondary loops on the nuclear reactor. Afterward, we participated in “Chicken Suit” (Hazardous Material Suit) drills and finished out the weekend by observing an Ensign Officer qualify for Engineer Officer of the Watch.

Throughout the following days we all stood Sonar Under-Instruction, Contact Manager Under-Instruction, and Helmsman Under-Instruction. We observed the Watch Team track and simulate sinking a US Aircraft Carrier in a “Track and Attack” exercise, went step by step with the WEAPs Officer in “Water Slug” exercise, and spent a considerable amount of time with a couple of Missile Technicians who shared their personal views of the submarine service, their personal experiences in the Navy, advice for incoming Ensigns from an enlisted man’s perspective, and suggestions in making the most of a submarine career.

As many other Midshipmen, I wished the time out on cruise could have been longer. There was so much more to gain and experience on the ship, rotations to learn, and qualifications to complete.

However, the wait will not be long, as my fellow Midshipmen and I will soon be out in the fleet in a matter of months.

**MIDN 1/C Hernandez**



# 239<sup>th</sup> Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball

On November 1st 2014, Purdue Navy ROTC held the 239th Navy and Marine Corps birthday celebration. The event was held at the Beck Agricultural Center, a beautiful space located a few miles outside of Purdue's main campus. The night began with a cocktail hour in which the guests could mingle and talk to each other before the ceremony.

The guest of honor was Lieutenant Colonel Chris Norris, a good friend of Major Ankham. He spoke on a few principles that he felt would benefit any leader in the military and reflected upon the years spent at war in Afghanistan, as the final troops were to be coming home that same week. The rest of the ceremony went flawlessly. The sword detail was led by Midshipman 3/C Joseph Aiello, and the color guard by Midshipman 3/C Liam Wallace. The traditional birthday cake was cut by the oldest and youngest members of the battalion, Staff Sergeant Jacob Kerby and Midshipman 4/C Kyle Beeson.

Overall, the night was very successful and I am sure it was a memorable event for the guests.



MIDN 2/C Hallie Bonnicksen

## Honor Platoon Competition

This year we competed in the Honor Platoon Competition. The HPC consists the four different companies being graded in four main events: Battalion Commander Inspection, Professor of Naval Science Inspection, Drill Evaluation, and athletic events. The company that does the best in these events is declared the Honor Platoon. Every single year that I have been here, MIKE Company, which consists of aspiring Marine Officers, has won the title of Honor Platoon. This past semester we won every single inspection and event. We were presented the Honor Platoon trophy at that semester's Change of Command Ceremony.



MIDN 1/C Mark Gaido

## Commander's Cup

In the Fall 2014 semester, Purdue Midshipmen took advantage of an opportunity to participate in a fierce Tri-Service competition known as Commander's Cup. Events included basketball, dodgeball, football, indoor soccer, indoor volleyball, swimming, and ultimate frisbee. Both Midshipmen and Cadets gave their all in pursuit of claiming the coveted Commander's Cup.

Initially, each of the ROTC services proved to wield a distinct competitive advantage in a singular sport. The AROTC "Boiler Battalion" narrowly defeated the NROTC Midshipmen to claim first place in basketball. The AFROTC Cadets proved relentless in their determination to earn victory in the dodgeball tournament. Going into the last day of competition, only the narrowest of margins separated the first place Midshipmen and the second place AROTC Cadets. With three events that morning, having depth in more areas would overshadow heart and willpower as the determining factor.

Thursday morning commenced with the swimming competition, indoor soccer, and indoor volleyball. The NROTC Midshipmen easily routed all competitors in the volleyball court and proved to be undefeatable in the indoor soccer field. However, the AFROTC Cadets won a decisive victory in the pool. As such, after all the points were tallied up, the AROTC Cadets won the 2014 Commander's Cup, narrowly edging out the NROTC Midshipmen.

Through passionate competition, Tri-Service bonds grew strong and esprit de corps ran high. Though the Midshipmen were momentarily defeated, they relish the opportunity to once again compete on the field, in the pool, and on the court. GO NAVY!

MIDN 1/C Matthew Clausen



## NOTRE DAME FLYIN' IRISH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2015

During the weekend of February 24, 2015 the Purdue NROTC basketball team traveled up Notre Dame to compete in the 29th annual University of Notre Dame Flyin' Irish Basketball Tournament. Teams from across the nation, with various schools represented, participated in the tournament. The team was made up of twelve midshipmen ranging from freshman to senior. The team was able to practice for about a month before the tournament. In the first round of the tournament, the team faced a physical Marquette army team. Fortunately, the guys rose up to the level of competition and came out on top! With one win under the belt, the team faced a quick Notre Dame team. Again the game was rather physical, but with time running out, Purdue would prevail. The next day the team would face a strong University of Kentucky team. The focus of the game was to rotate as many player as possible into the game to allow those who had yet to play get some playing time and to rest players who would be playing in the bracket portion of the tournament. Purdue would fall seven points short making the team 2-1 going into bracket play. The team would draw Texas A&M for the bracket portion of the tournament. Purdue would lead much of the first half but would lose the lead a little after half time. In the end, Purdue would fight back, but came up 3 points short. Even though the team didn't win the tournament, the Purdue NROTC basketball team showed dedication, hard work, and teamwork throughout the tournament.



## 2015 Battalion Softball Team

At the start of the season, it looked like 2015 would be a rebuilding year for the Scallywags. With only one starter returning from last year's squad, the team quickly found themselves with a record of 0-2. However, due to the speedy acclimation of eight new 4/C, and the development of many other inexperienced players, the team captured its first victory in the final regular season game to improve to 1-2.

The Scallywags truly reached the peak of their play during the playoffs. Donning new red jerseys, the Scallywags proceeded to crush their opponent in the first round of the playoffs. In the second round, the Scallywags took on the top seeded team in the tournament and were unable to hold onto an early 3-1 lead, eventually falling by a score of 6-3. The season ended with a mediocre 2-3 record, but with 16 underclassmen returning and excellent team chemistry, the future is nothing but bright for the Scallywags.

### MIDN 2/C John Campbell



Scallywags after their first victory. (Not all members pictured)

## Polar Plunge 2015

In an effort to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics of Indiana, the NROTC Battalion participated in the Polar Plunge for the Lafayette/West Lafayette and surrounding area on 7FEB. Special Olympics of Indiana is a nonprofit organization devoted to giving children and adults the opportunity to participate in athletic competitions and possibly represent their respective states at the Special Olympics USA National Games which is held every four years and just had its third set of games this past year. Many other Polar Plunges are held across the state of Indiana throughout late January to early March, all serving as the primary fundraiser for the Special Olympics team of Indiana which provides training, equipment, and travel expenses for the team.

The battalion had 25 active fundraisers raising approximately \$4,500 that helped raise over \$60,000 for the Lafayette/West Lafayette Plunge. Fifteen midshipmen, including myself, took the plunge into the frigid pool of water, and let's just say we made it an expedited process as cold as it was. But it was still a great time, and the midshipmen present also helped with the opening ceremonies and escorted the flame to the front of Lambert Fieldhouse before the Plunge began. This is definitely something the battalion will help with in the years to come as support and awareness of special needs children and adults will become more prevalent.



**Team Captain:** MIDN 2/ Kyle Babiak



## Fall 2014 Change of Command

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 then MIDN 1/C James D. Ryan turned over command of the Battalion to MIDN 1/C Skye A. Pawlik. The ceremony oversaw the awarding of academic awards and scholarships to top performing midshipmen. Also honored were the commissioning seniors including four Navy Ensigns and one transferring Marine to naval submarines.



MIDN 4/C DONNELLY

## Michael Christian Scholarship



Each semester at the Battalion Change of Command Ceremony, awards and scholarships are presented to midshipman who have distinguished themselves throughout the semester. The awards range from Midshipman of the Semester to awards presented in honor of certain individuals. At the 2014 winter Change of Command Ceremony I had the honor of receiving the Michael Christian Scholarship along with Midshipman 3/C Ellis and Sergeant Chase. Michael Christian was a Naval Aviator who was imprisoned in the Hao Lo POW

Camp by the North Vietnamese. He spent 6 years there from 1967-1973. While there, he endured many beatings as well as torture. One day he found a white rag and overtime he crafted the rag into an American flag using any materials he could find. He did this in an effort to increase the morale of his fellow soldiers and also out of pride for his country. Eventually his flag was found and he was badly beaten because of it. However, within two weeks he began to make a new flag. The symbol of our nation was worth any sacrifice to him.

By: MIDN 3/C Macri



## Dorothy Stratton Memorial Scholarship Awardees

This memorial scholarship is named in honor of Captain Dorothy Stratton United States Coast Guard Reserve. A former Dean of Women Students at Purdue University at the request of President Roosevelt, Captain Stratton established the Women's Coast Guard Reserve, SPARs. These \$900 scholarships are presented to female Midshipmen who demonstrate good scholarship and commitment to service. For more information on the scholarship or on opportunities to support the fund call (765) 494-2055.



### MIDN 3/C Madison K. Mason, Alpha Company

With over 50 hours of volunteer work this semester and continued academic achievements, MIDN Mason has demonstrated the leadership qualities of a future naval officer. She is an active member in the battalion as a former Public Affairs Officer and a future Executive Officer of Alpha Company for Fall 2015. Studying Organizational Leadership and Supervision, with a minor in Spanish, she is a trustworthy and enthusiastic leader. Always ready to give support and guidance, she carries the Purdue battalion's reputation with pride and honor.

An aspiring Surface Warfare Officer, MIDN Mason will continue to be recognized as a leader in the classroom and later in the fleet.

### MIDN 3/C Rachel E. White, Charlie Company

As a future naval nurse, MIDN White has continually proved to be an outstanding leader in the battalion. Taking on roles such as the Medical Officer, and the Fiscal Officer, MIDN White is a reliable and responsible student. With a 290 Physical Fitness Assessment score, she is dedicated to keeping fit and understanding the importance of "Semper Fortis". She is a member of the NROTC Drill Team as well as the Purdue Crew Team. With outstanding academic accomplishments, MIDN White continues to strive for excellence in all aspects of life in and outside the NROTC battalion.

